

December 2021

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Chalica – A Holy (Wholly) UU Tradition

In UU101, our introductory course on Unitarian Universalism, we typically engage in an exercise where we give prospective members the opportunity to share their faith journeys. As reference points for those journeys, we generally ask how one conceptualizes a deity (e.g. theistic, atheistic, polytheistic, etc.) and whether one finds resonance with religious ritual. Many UU congregations engage in this exercise as part of their respective UU101 courses.

I remember that when I took UU101 in my home congregation back in 1993, very few of us voiced meaningful resonance with ritual. (I may have been one of those voices. I don't even remember how I responded to the exercise at the time.)

I can certainly understand such a response however. Many people come to Unitarian Universalism from other traditions where they either are simply no longer able, in good conscience, to believe in the beliefs of that tradition, or they are no longer able to connect with that tradition (e.g. values, theology, etc.) in a meaningful way.

Religious ritual can be a tool to help strengthen that connection to one's authentic faith tradition. It's not the only tool, yet it is perhaps the tool that best transcends, cuts through, short-circuits mental activity, culture and predispositions and helps us reconnect with our authentic selves, beliefs and values.

It might be natural for many newcomers to Unitarian Universalism to be suspicious of religious ritual because the rituals they've experienced are connected to a faith tradition that no longer resonates with them. That is understandable, yet we need not throw the baby out with the bathwater. As UUs, we would do well to establish rituals and tradi-

tions, as many as we can, to help us stay connected to, to be in tune with, the values that resonate with us AS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS!

You've probably heard a bit about Chalica recently. (You might even read about it elsewhere in this newsletter!) Chalica is a weeklong UU holiday; a celebration of our seven principles that takes place between Dec 6 – Dec 12.

Though we will together celebrate the majority of Chalica each night via our computers, we would like to begin a new tradition of celebrating the Saturday evening Chalica (Dec 11) with an all-ages, in-person event infused with intentional ritual and celebration.

The Worship Team will be leading this event, though you will likely be asked to help in some way.

We don't know what this will look like. We don't know how it will turn out. (Yet that's what will make it fun!) 🤔

Please plan to be at UUMAN on the evening of Dec 11 for the ritual of Chalica. It is my hope that this religious ritual will resonate with your values and your Unitarian Universalist faith.

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave

A New Home for Family Promise

Our friends at Family Promise of North Fulton-Dekalb recently moved into the Grove Way Community Center building in downtown Roswell. To celebrate their new offices, Family Promise hosted an open house on November 4th. Several UUMANites attended.



From left to right: Denise Donahue, Simone duBoise (friends of UUMAN), Donna Guile, Merri Beth Stephens, Andrea Brantley (Executive Director), Todd and Kelly Callen, Elizabeth Rohan, Doug Wilson. Not pictured: Dave Dunn, Rosie Popp

The Grove Way Community Center also houses the Homestretch offices, so Family Promise is excited about growing their relationship with Homestretch and being able to serve our community even better.

Family Promise keeps homeless husbands and wives together as a family with their children, sheltering with 15 congregations of different faiths in the North Fulton/Dekalb area, including UUMAN. Family Promise provides a 90-day shelter program that includes housing, meals, career counseling, and money management classes, as well as support services for homeless individuals who don't qualify for the shelter program.

The winter months are hard for neighbors suffering homelessness. Please consider donating to help Family Promise help those in need in our community.

<http://www.familypromisefnd.org/donate-now.html>

~ Mike Chambers



Harvest Moon 2021 Goods and Services Auction It's a Wrap!

Here is a peek at the 2021 Harvest Moon Auction **"by the numbers"**

\$17,139: Net Income from the Auction this year, and we are beyond grateful for your generosity!

145: Number of items including goods, services, and events donated in a wide variety of fun and creative categories. (Who knew a "wheelbarrow of wine" would be a thing!)

69: Number of Donors

66: Registered online Auction participants in Auctria, our online auction system

49: Active Bidders- People who won items, services or events

9: Members of the Auction team, who handled Publicity, Communications, Soliciting donors/donations, Collecting, tagging and organizing items, Data entry, Producing the catalog, Tech support, Live Auction planning, prep and production, Email communication to winners and Item distribution. WHEW! A Huge thanks to **Canedy Knowles, Carolyn Lee, Donna Guile, Martin Poteralski, Elizabeth Rohan, John Pruitt, Jane Soule, and Sue Greenspon.**

7: Days of the Auction Online, Noon November 7-14th

2: Days it took to reconcile the accounts and get ALL the Auction payments in! BRAVO-A UUMAN record!

1 ½: Hours of Live Auction show on Saturday 11/13. The show started with an SNL-style cold open with Randy graciously(?) handing over hosting duties to Canedy and featured several hilarious bits and recordings with cuts to Elizabeth, the "onsite reporter" interviewing very good sports and "VIPs" Nat and Jemille. It was an amazing evening and "The best show in town" according to J.R & G.H.

1: Very generous congregation, who shows up and gives when asked

Thank you UUMAN!

~ The Harvest Moon Auction Team

Celebrating Chalica

Chalica is a week-long celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. The holiday first emerged in 2005 out of a wish to have a holiday organized around Unitarian Universalist values.

Chalica begins on Monday, December 6 and lasts seven days. Each day, a chalice is lit, and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. UUMAN will be celebrating Chalica this year via google meets. You will find a link on the website Monday through Friday and will be able to join at 7:00 PM. On Saturday, December 11, Rev. Dave will be holding an in-person celebration of the 6th principle and will end the Chalica celebration in service on Sunday, December 12.

~ Shelley Nagrani

Winter Solstice Celebration

As we move into the darker days and approach our holidays, we find comfort and joy in family and community. We are not the first to face troubled times, but we are the first to face life with our planet in peril.

It is important to celebrate life in all its diversity. Winter solstice is an expression of hope and new beginnings and offers us a chance to reflect on the wisdom of the ages. Humans here in North America have recognized and celebrated this marvelous celestial event as far into the distant past as there is memory, and did so, in fact, long before the more familiar gatherings at Stonehenge. Solstice is an expression of connection with the land, the universe and with all creation.



We pilgrims come from distant lands driven by various needs. The early ones came with a hunger for new beginnings, and for gold and for land. But this was a settled land with ancient civilizations and millions of people living in harmony with the earth. The strangers from abroad coveted what they found here. In their righteousness they dismissed the native wisdom and even the humanity of the people themselves.

From this land of vast resources, a new nation grew and became a guiding force across the globe. But the growth based on extraction and exploitation altered the land and the people, fouled the water and the air. Now we are awakening and beginning to recognize the limits of a finite planet and attempting to reestablish balance and harmony. It is wise to continue ancient celebrations that connect us with the universe, that bring us together and strengthen us for the work ahead. It is fitting too that we honor the wisdom of native peoples, that we specifically acknowledge their contributions to culture, to democracy and to ecology. Standing together on the darkest night we will see the coming of the light.



The celebration will take place on December 21st, the night of Winter Solstice at 6:00 at UUMAN. Bring your friends and come with stories, poems and your music that point us in the direction of the light. For more information, please contact Gus Hadorn at: gushadorn@gmail.com

Look for additional details under Upcoming Events on the UUMAN website at <https://www.uuman.org>.

~ Gus Hadorn

UUMAN Black Friday Hike



We had a great turnout for the UUMAN Earth Ministry Black Friday Hike on Friday, November 26. Perfect hiking weather. Plenty of fresh air!

~ Bob Popp

Go to Give, Not to Receive

The end of November and the month of December is my favorite time of year for as long as I can remember.

It is not because I was raised in a Lutheran Church or that Santa Claus delighted me as a child. It's certainly not the Family gatherings that always involve overindulgence in alcohol by most family members.

I participated in the overindulgence until I was 34 years old. 1993 was my first sober holiday season which was difficult with just 2 months of sobriety under my belt.

The holidays continued to be a trying time for many years to come as I worked to find my comfort level in sobriety.

We all have our thoughts on the holiday season. Some are deeply ingrained whether they be heartbreaking, joyous or an extremely conscious effort to not partake in anyway.

The holidays do however fill me with the Spirit of giving. I feel romance in the air and the aromas of the season are completely intoxicating to my senses.

Crackling warm fires, cozy blankets, twinkling of lights in the windows and the yards and the bouquet from the kitchen make my heart glow. The beauty and silence of snow, delicious hot apple cider, walking outside and enjoying the scent of fireplaces in the neighborhood add to the ambience of the season for me.

While I confess this is all wonderful in theory I do focus on "Go to Give, Not to Receive". These words serve me well with the dysfunctional family I was born into and has saved my mental state in oh so many ways. I do recognize I have quality problems here and not hardship.

Go to give and not to receive keeps front and center for me those who have less and families to which they provide.

This holiday season lets all give a little more, love a little more, hug a little more and go to give not to receive this holiday season.

I love you all and wish you a warm, kind and loving holiday season.

~ Tanya Romine, Treasurer



Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to membership-tech@uuman.org

| Date | Celebration |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/8 | Jim N. is celebrating a birthday |
| 12/9 | Presley C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday |
| 12/15 | Carole H. is celebrating a birthday |
| | Duco vdB. is celebrating a birthday |
| 12/17 | Bruce L. is celebrating a birthday |
| | Joaquin F. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday |
| 12/23 | McPatti L. is celebrating a birthday |
| 12/28 | Jacqueline G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday |
| 12/29 | Sue G. is celebrating a birthday |
| 12/31 | Marty H. is celebrating a birthday |

Would you consider becoming a coach at NFCC?

In May 2021, NFCC opened the Barbara Duffy Center and immediately started serving clients and students in person with case management and ESL and GED education tracks. As we worked to establish those programs coming out of Covid, distancing but still following Covid safety guidelines, we learned a lot and have continued to serve many.

Now we are at a new juncture in our program and service development. We are going to offer employment and financial coaching to NFCC households starting January 2022. We have invested much time in discovering new tools and updated methodology which have been incorporated into an outstanding, relevant coaching orientation that will equip coaches with effective strategies to really offer a lasting opportunity for families to achieve stability.

We hope you will consider the role.

Financial Coaching

NFCC will offer one-on-one financial coaching and peer-group workshops using a curriculum that includes: money values and goals, banking, credit reports and scores, making housing decisions, building and maintaining financial security.

- ♦ Sessions meet for one hour, and clients attend a minimum of four sessions.
- ♦ Registration begins with completing the Interest Form on our website at www.nfcchelp.org

Job Coaching

NFCC will offer individual job coaching to assist with identifying employment opportunities, preparing applications, resumes, cover letters, interviewing and experiencing occupational success.

- ♦ Registration begins with completing the Interest Form on our website at www.nfcchelp.org

Please note:

- ♦ Due to limited capacity, preference is given to applicants in the North Fulton district.
- ♦ Registrations are ongoing throughout the year

Thank you for your past service to NFCC and furthering its mission. Volunteers are the heartbeat of our client care and support. We hope to see you in early 2022!

We have scheduled training opportunities for the week of January 17, 2022 with more details to follow. We are working together to open this programming, please reach out to us if you are interested in being a coach.

nfcchelp.org
North Fulton Community Charities
11270 Elkins Rd.
Roswell, Ga. 30076



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

A non-profit organization is selected each month to receive half of the designated 50-50 offering. In October, Lost-n-Found Youth received \$437.50.

This month our recipient is Foster Care Support Foundation. The organization serves the displaced children of Georgia. As of 2021, over 15,000 children in Georgia are placed in foster care, not including hundreds of thousands of children being raised by thousands of grandparents, relatives, or fictive kin. Foster Care Support Organization aims to support these children by providing vital, basic needs, but they cannot achieve our goals alone. Go to www.fostercare.org to learn how you can volunteer or donate.

You can donate through the Givify app (select 50-50) or by mailing a check to UUMAN. If you mail a check, make it payable to UUMAN and write 50-50 on the memo line.

~ Michelle Liebergesell

UUMAN welcomes you back for in-person service. Here's a link to [a YouTube video with more information](#).

Sunday Worship Service and many other activities will continue to be made available online for the health and safety of all our members and guests. Please check [our calendar](#) for more detailed information about availability.

December 2021: A Month of Sundays

| Date | Topic | Service Leaders | Date | Topic | Service Leader |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 12/5 | <p>What's the Meaning of Life? (A Reprise!)</p> <p>If you ask Alexa, "What's the meaning of life?" she'll give you an answer. How is that answer informed? Who is at the wheel? What are the ethics and morality in play? Could there be an agenda? (I am doing a reprise of this message as we experienced some technical difficulties when it was originally done on September 26.)</p> <p>PANSEXUAL PRIDE DAY – DEC 8</p> <p>(HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – DEC 10)</p> <p>HOLIDAY CELEBRATION</p> | Rev. Dave Dunn | 12/26 | <p>I Dream of Black Rest</p> <p>If you're like me, you've noticed that UUism is seriously lacking Black folx. And the ones that this faith attracts and retains tend to be the embodiment of Black Excellence. Black UUs can burn brightly as dedicated volunteers, board presidents, church leaders, and the heads of UU organizations, but can face equally dramatic burn out. This is both a spiritual and a justice issue. Can a Black American centered holiday be part of the solution? Together we'll explore what Kwanzaa is, beyond what you can find on a simple Google search, what makes it so soul quenching, and what it can do for UUism.</p> | Raffaella Shanahan |
| 12/12 | <p>The Seventh Principle (Last Day of Chalica)</p> <p>Today (and tonight) is the final day of our UU Chalica holiday. On each evening of this seven-day holiday, we focus on one of our seven principles. Today we focus on our 7th UU Principle: Respect for the Interdependent Web All of Existence of Which We are a Part."</p> | Rev. Dave Dunn | | | |
| 12/19 | <p>Just What is the Story of Christmas Anyway?</p> <p>The New Testament has differing stories of the birth of Jesus. What's the story? And why? More importantly, what are the stories supposed to mean and signify? Can we live with, and appreciate, the mystery?</p> | Rev. Dave Dunn | | | |
| 12/24 | <p>Multigenerational Christmas Pageant (4PM) This year's pageant is a modernized version of the original story of Jesus's birth written and directed by the UUMAN youth.</p> <p>Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (7PM) Let us share the warmth of this holiday season in joyful celebration. May the glow of our candles symbolize the hope that will sustain us through the dark times of winter and throughout the coming year.</p> | Raffaella Shanahan Rev. Dave Dunn | | | |

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org