

Summer 2021

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The Age of Uncertainty

I'm always a bit suspicious when I hear people say things like, "These are unusual times" or "In this time of

unprecedented change," or "In this age of uncertainty," etc. I mean...isn't this always the case? We can easily come across such statements made throughout recorded history. In the Dark Ages, I can imagine Charlemagne saying, "In this quickly evolving world...."

It seems to me that evolution, change, uncertainty often out of control chaos are simply the norm – the status quo. SNAFU! 😊

It's likely normal for us to live in a state of mild denial about all this at times. Maybe this denial is an evolutionary mechanism we've developed so that we don't become completely overwhelmed with all this change and uncertainty; so that we don't spin completely out of control when faced with the chaos.

Buddhism encourages practitioners to rid themselves of this denial in an effort to see things as they are (i.e. seeing with wisdom) and that this reality of change, chaos and uncertainty is simply the nature of existence. The Buddhist practices of meditation, breathing and mindfulness (amongst others) help practitioners stay centered and balanced amongst this challenging reality. These practices are easier said than done however.

This practice can lead one to embody the quality of equanimity. Many describe equanimity as being balanced or centered but this

doesn't work for me. I think of equanimity as being voluminous; as having to do with mass and density. (Density is mass divided by volume.) Thinking of equanimity as a state of inertia amongst the chaos might also be useful. (Inertia isn't always bad...can you tell I have a science background?) 😊

Although I realize that there are still covid deniers out there amongst the general population, for us, the chaos of this global pandemic represents a threatening uncertainty that can't be denied. We seem to be close to reopening yet with the Delta variant spreading quickly, it feels as if we are in a new state of Delta uncertainty within a state of Covid uncertainty within a state of normal, every day uncertainty. With this, a state of equanimity might be difficult to come by!

Buddhist practices simply represent one path toward this state. There are others. What would I suggest that you do? Of course, I would rule out actions and behaviors that are either out of covenant, self-serving at the expense of others or unhealthy (e.g. addictive behaviors, etc.).

With this in mind, sometimes the simplest strategy, and what I would call a spiritual practice, is simply doing what you love.

May you patiently find those things in yourself, at UUMAN and in the world.

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

Dave



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

Each month a chosen recipient receives half of our offering designated as 50-50. The other half goes to UUMAN's general fund and supports the work that we do.

In May the recipient, Nourish Ecovillage, was chosen by our Senior Youth. UUMAN and the nonprofit split \$820.00; each receiving \$410.

June's recipient was Family Promise of North Fulton and Dekalb and their half was \$235.00.

Family Promise of North Fulton and Dekalb was also July's 50-50.

For August, Groveway Community Group was chosen by the Social Justice Committee. Groveway Community Center is located at 89 Groveway in Roswell.

The 501©3 nonprofit organization has a history of being civic-minded as evidenced by its efforts to provide resources to meet the community's needs, both big and small. GCG and its members actively seek to fulfill its mission in a myriad of ways, such as helping families in crisis situations, visiting nursing homes, and providing scholarships to deserving students. To learn about this organization, go to <http://www.grovewaycommunitygroup.com/>

You can contribute to 50-50 through the Givelify app or by mailing a check to UUMAN. If you mail a check, make sure that you write 50-50 on the memo line.

~ Michelle Liebergesell



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
7/3	Elizabeth R. is celebrating a birthday
7/7	Ilona W. and Randy J. are celebrating their anniversary of 25 years Kyson P. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
7/10	Lawton E. is celebrating a birthday
7/12	Dillon C. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
7/20	Marcia H. is celebrating a birthday
7/30	Benny B. is celebrating a birthday
8/1	Gillian P. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
8/5	Dave and Tammy D. are celebrating their anniversary of 32 years
8/7	Sue H. is celebrating a birthday
8/9	Josie B. (she) of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
8/12	Rick I. is celebrating a birthday Bev & Steve J. are celebrating their anniversary of 63 years
8/13	Reece B. (she) of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
8/17	Kelly C. is celebrating a birthday
8/19	Gillian P. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday Rosie Popp is celebrating a birthday
8/22	Lucia B. (she) of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
8/24	Abby A. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
8/26	Rebecca B. is celebrating a birthday
8/27	Vika K. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

UUMAN's Legacy Giving Fund (Endowment Fund) Update

A few months ago there was a detailed article in this newsletter regarding UUMAN's Legacy Giving Fund (formerly known as UUMAN's Endowment Fund). In addition to the history of how this fund was founded and what its purpose is, it included information on how to contribute to the fund and listed the subsequent benefits afforded to UUMAN from your generous gifts.

Since that article, we have had new contributors: Todd and Kelly Callen. They have generously included UUMAN in their estate planning. Once we are back in person, they will be added to the plaque of contributors that currently resides in the narthex between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

If anyone has recently added UUMAN to their wills or sent in a gift for the Legacy Fund in the last few months, but haven't alerted us to your contribution, please contact me at carolynlee@bellsouth.net. There is a small form to fill out for our records and we certainly want to include you on the wall as well!

If you missed the article in the newsletter and want more information, email me at the above address and I will be happy to send it to you.

Thank you to all that have contributed to UUMAN's Legacy Giving Fund so far – past and present. We at UUMAN, greatly appreciate you!

Carolyn Lee

Legacy Fund Administrator

Planting the Future



Well, Friends, our Planting the Future brainstorming sessions have come to a close, and we heard from over 60 voices (including Youth) with an inspiring look at UUMAN's fu-

ture. We came to know ourselves better by speaking UUMAN's strengths and weaknesses. We asked ourselves questions about what has COVID taught us about how we might go about our mission and vision differently and how we will stay resilient and adaptable in this changing world. Mainly, we connected, yes virtually, but we connected our voices, our minds and our hearts to the wellbeing of each other and our Beloved Community.

Now, it is time for all of us to hear these good words and water the seeds we are planting. We have prepared a summary of our ministry areas and Key Messages, Recommendations, and Goals that we feel are important to share in an "All Congregation Meeting".

Want to hear some great ideas from our Youth about what to do when we get stressed out? Come! Or how about ideas from the Justice Ministry for organizing and prioritizing our justice work? Come! Maybe you would like to hear from our Spiritual Arts Ministry about their main priorities. Come! Or why is FUN capitalized in the Care Ministry Recommendations? Come! Or maybe Outreach/Communications is your gig; Come!

This will also be a good time for newish members to see what area of ministry might interest you and where you can "plug in". Come!

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, August 22 at from 2:00-3:00. We will wait a little longer to determine logistics, so a formal invitation will come in mid-August with more details.

Again, I would like to thank our core team and co-facilitators for being so generous with their time and talents to bring us forward into the future. Come, let us grow together!

~Donna J. Melcher

Our Beautiful Campus

As with everything in the physical world our UUMAN campus buildings are getting older and beginning to show their age. Luckily about 5 years ago at the urging of our Operations team the Board started including in the yearly budget an “infrastructure depreciation” line item. This money has been kept in reserve to be used for longer term maintenance items like painting buildings, replacing HVAC systems, and replacing building roofs. We used that money earlier in 2021 to replace two of our aging HVAC systems with higher efficiency, more environmentally friendly units which will save us money on utilities over time.

We also used the reserve fund in July to paint and make Discovery Hall more visible.

I’m sure you will agree that these upgrades were long overdue and make it look more like part of our UUMAN campus and not a separate building hidden from view.

Also, in July our nursery and administrative office were painted, and new carpet installed in preparation for us returning to in person services, events, and gatherings very soon.

However, our reserve fund for major capital maintenance items has its limits as we learned this past week when we found out that the portico roof on the front of our Sanctuary is leaking in multiple locations. These leaks cannot just be repaired, and the roof needs to be replaced as soon as possible so the damage is contained. We are also concerned about the Sanctuary roof itself which is 18 years old. It needs to be replaced very soon before any issues develop that cause damage to the interior of the building.

Operations and Finance are evaluating options for raising the capital funds to replace the sanctuary and portico roof. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

Thank for your generosity and for being good stewards of our beloved UUMAN!

~ Bob Popp



The Future at our Doorstep

I hope you're enjoying a relaxing summer and a celebrated a festive Fourth of July. As the new President of the Board of Trustees at UUMAN I want to invite you to another new church year, starting July 1st. Together we can dream big. The work of the Board will be transparent and receptive to your thoughts and your feedback. We have big plans for the coming year and will keep you informed of our goals, as well as accomplishments and blunders.

UUMAN, as you know, is part of the greater world-wide Unitarian Universalist faith and we're strengthened by the association's support and advances. For the first time in our church's history, we "sent" four delegates to the 60th General Assembly—our minister, Dave Dunn, our President, Bob Popp, myself as vice-president and Noel Leman, as a UUMAN-sponsored new minister. Though we participated from the comfort of our couches, it was exciting to be part of this greater UU world, along with over four thousand UU's from around the US and the world.

Unitarian Universalism is a vibrant and active denomination. During this General Assembly, with the aid of technology, every day we could attend worship services featuring lively speakers and inspiring music. And we were able to participate and connect with others through many invigorating informal and formal events.

The keynote speakers at this year's Ware Lecture were Stacey Abrams and Donald Meade. Everyone knows Stacey. Donald is a lightning rod in Florida politics, well known as an advocate for civil rights and voting rights. He was once incarcerated but earned a law degree and is now a major advocate for restoring voting privileges to previously incarcerated citizens. It was a powerful event. You can watch it here.

We, delegates of the assembly, approved budgets and reports, attended workshops, amended by-laws and elected new officers. UU's adopted three actions of immediate witness, a statement of conscience and two responsive resolutions that dictate policy and priorities for the association and guide congregations in the work of being involved with others, morally, spiritually and politically.

I am sharing the work of General Assembly to make you aware of what is most important to Unitarian Universalists at the national level. The agreed-upon tenets at the convention include the following:

- ✓ defending and advocating for transgender, non-binary and intersex communities
- ✓ addressing extreme inequity in medicine and public health during the pandemic
- ✓ stopping voter suppression and partner for a multi-racial democracy
- ✓ undoing intersectional white supremacy
- ✓ including systemic anti-racism in our Seven Principles
- ✓ divesting from companies involved with pipelines

- ✓ create a more just future by investing in young people

And I am sharing to remind us that we are not alone in the work of this church. We form a circle with strangers and friends that care as much as we do at UUMAN.

And lastly, because the work never stops. The summer is a good time to take a break, wet our toes in salt water, or hike in a forest. These breaks are important to renew our energy and commitment to continue working towards a more just and equitable world, where nature is protected, and our differences are celebrated.

I look forward to a new year full of creative energy and endless possibilities. I hope you will join me in this unfolding adventure as we take new steps for a vibrant and active community. See you in person very soon!

Jennifer Ratcliffe

La Presidenta

Sunday Worship Service and many other activities are available online for the health and safety of all our members and guests.

We are now at PHASE YELLOW and certain inside events are allowed starting June 5.

Read [the following update](#) for further information.

August 2021: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
8/1	To be announced	Lay Led
8/8	<p>Water Communion Ingathering Service</p> <p>Join us as we celebrate our annual ingathering with our traditional water communion service. Please bring a sample of your sacred waters gathered from the summer. (If you forgot to collect water this summer; no worries, we will have some symbolic water for you to share.)</p> <p>Multigenerational Service – No RE</p> <p>HONOR NATIVE PEOPLES</p>	<p>Rev. Dave Dunn and Ayanna Kafi Stringer</p>
8/15	<p>Beginner's Mind</p> <p>We tend to place a high value on expertise through education and learning. Though there is nothing inherently wrong with education and learning, is there sometimes a price to be paid? Can something be lost along the way?</p>	<p>Rev. Dave Dunn</p>
8/22	<p>Don't Ask, Don't Tell</p> <p>As Unitarian Universalists, do we have a "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding our personal and communal theologies? Each year we ask our Coming of Age students to share their belief statements. Are we willing to share our own...and just what do we believe anyway? (This Harvest Moon Service Auction sermon was purchased by Carla Kapeskas.)</p>	<p>Rev. Dave Dunn</p>
8/29	<p>The Slippery Slope</p> <p>During some type of argument or discussion, we've all likely heard someone invoke "the slippery slope." (I've done it myself!)... but thinking more deeply, just what does it mean? Do slippery slopes truly exist? Are they ubiquitous? And most importantly, what do they signify for us and our community?</p>	<p>Rev. Dave Dunn</p>

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