

March 2022

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Breeze – Church Management Software

You're probably going to hear a lot about Breeze in the coming months. (You're probably going to hear about it elsewhere in this month's Newsletter!) 😊

Although it's hard to pin down a starting point for all this, for me, this starting point took place during a conversation Carla Kapeskas and I had with a professor at Georgia Tech. We were asking him if he had some interns who would be interested in helping us with some programming that would enable us to understand just what is going on at UUMAN and how people are being served by our programs. Nonchalantly, he said something like, "Well your CRM software should be able to help you with those very basic tasks."

"CRM software? What's CRM software," I said to myself (feeling like an idiot). I googled CRM and found that it stands for Customer Relationship Management software. CRM software is used by businesses to help serve their clients. And, as it turns out, there are several CRMs tailored specifically for churches – Church Management Software (CMS). And, again, as it turns out, UUMAN already had a CMS in place – Icon. (Idiot feelings validated!) 😊

Although Icon did some things well, it was universally difficult to use. It had the ability to generate great reports but it was incredibly difficult to get data into the system to create those reports.

Great Reporting Capability + No Data = Nothing to Report 😞

After much study, conversation with experts and demonstrations, we've decided to replace Icon with Breeze. Although I'm sure there will be difficult parts to Breeze, you will likely find it much easier to work with.

Although Breeze can do many things, it will help us better understand how our programs are serving our members, what programs are serving our members, who is attending what programming, who is drifting away from UUMAN, etc.

And...it will help us to better communicate with our members as that can be done internally through Breeze!!!

Also...one more thing.... Please understand that this move is to help UUMAN stay vibrant and sustainable into the future. Breeze is not a "big brother" program. We are not selling any personal information to anybody. All the personal information in Breeze was imported from information that was already in Icon.

Breeze will help us to better understand membership engagement (and visitor engagement) as we move into the future.

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

Dave

Junior Youth Winter Project - A Long and Winding Road

Hi UUMAN -

We had a bit of a challenge finding a homeless organization that would take our items. Family Promise received many care packages from another church, so they politely declined. The Atlanta Mission initially said yes, and then they called me back a couple weeks later and told me they had changed their policy on donations, no longer taking care packages. (It's a long story, but suffice it to say they are trying their best to meet the needs of the homeless population in Atlanta without inadvertently aiding criminal activity.)

So the search continued. We found a homeless shelter in Gainesville called Good News at Noon, and they were thrilled to get our care packages.

A special thank you to Kelly Callen and Ashok Nagrani for driving all the way to Gainesville today to give the packages to Good News at Noon! Kelly assures me that they needed our gifts and will put them to good use. This shelter only has 16 beds, but they offer showers, food, care and clothing to many more.

Check out their website below. And thanks again for your generosity!

Stephen, Sam and Merry Beth

[Good News at Noon | Good News at Noon](#)



UUMAN OWLs, the Birds and the Bees MLK, Jr. Day of Service

When you think about sexual education, do you think of church...? For some of you, that's probably a silly question. What does sex and religion have to do with each other?

But really, why wouldn't they? Our morals and desires are all part of our own spirituality as sexual beings.

Sexual education is more than the birds and bees talk you may (or may not) have had with your parents or a sideshow in a class room. It's the five circles of sexuality. And a deeper level of knowledge about one's self. And a fundamental understanding of anatomy and reproductive health. It's "safer" sex and knowing yourself enough to decide if you should be having intercourse in the first place.

For me, as an OWL alumni, it's a huge part of my own spirituality. When I was 5, my family moved back to Roswell and we started attending church again. After I turned 25, I jumped at the opportunity to teach OWL. It's humbling to share the same teachings that played such a huge part in my own life with a new generation, not to mention a ton of fun! I remembered experiencing OWL as a teen and all the good memories I made along with all the, sometimes uncomfortable, topics. I cannot wait to make so many more awesome memories as an instructor.

OWL alumni,

Lexie Brown

by Elizabeth Rohan

UUMAN had a great turnout on February 12th for our (belated) MLK, Jr. Day of Service at the Dunwoody Nature Center. It was a beautiful day, although we were assigned indoor duties in their pavilion/event space. Our multigenerational group worked hard, scrubbing tables, folding and hanging tablecloths, and touching up paint on wooden chairs. The event manager told us he was shocked at all we accomplished, stating, "I never expected you to actually finish all of this work."

It was wonderful to reconnect with old friends (and to meet a few new ones) while we served others. Thank you, volunteers!!



Back Row/from left: Todd Wilson, Chris Wilson, Denise Wilson, Laurie Wheeler, Mark Wheeler, Jennifer Ratcliffe, Amanda Williams, Timothy Williams

Front row/from left: Raffaella Shanahan, Aspen Mille, Vika Kapeskas, Hope Thompson, Elizabeth Rohan, Stephen Shanahan, Joel Shanahan, Rev. Dave Dunn

On Leadership

Y'all, I'm in a funk, and I realize this is not the most appropriate sentence to open up an article from the Board. On leadership. From the person who will become your President in less than four months. But here I am. And I'm not alone. And that's ok.

As I was reflecting on our most recent Board meeting, I was reminded that we are a community that rises up to support those who find themselves in a funk. We love UUMAN, we want to build each other up, and we want to transform our world. We will all have our turn when we need a bit more support from our family, our friends, our community.

Having been on the Board as Vice President for the past 8 months, I have learned so much from the other Board members, from our staff, and from you—our community. I've been witness to some excellent displays of leadership from our Membership Committee, Worship Team, our Senior Youth, the Streaming Team, RE teachers, the Board, and Dave—there are others, too. I want to acknowledge our leaders—we see you, we appreciate everything you do.

I've benefited from several great leadership courses offered through the UUA over the years. And as I've been sitting with this funk of mine, I know there are actions I can take to climb out of it. One action I'll be taking is to sign up to take another leadership course through the UU Institute: [Centered Leadership, Part 2](#). I took the first part of the training last year with Jennifer Ratcliffe, Carla Kapeskas, and Amanda Bralley—the gift of that training was that we were able to discuss the lessons in the context of our shared experiences at UUMAN. I'd love the opportunity to do that with you; will you join me?

Centered Leadership, Part 2, is for new and seasoned leaders alike and it doesn't require that you take Part 1 beforehand. The lessons, that I'll spread over four sessions, will explore:

- dynamics of the interconnection of human relationships in congregations
- how congregations can develop ways of developing the collective creative and emotional intelligence of the members as a system
- how your own sense of purpose and your centered presence can have a positive impact
- how a shared sense of purpose and group emotional intelligence can unleash creative synergy
- how to reflect on your own spiritual center
- how to develop some intercultural agility

I will facilitate these sessions via Zoom on April 11, 18, 25 (Mondays), and May 3 (Tuesday) from 7-8:30p. Please reach out to me if you're interested: vice-president@uuman.org

~ Miriam Patanian



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@uuman.org.

Date	Celebration
3/12	Claire C. is celebrating a birthday
3/15	Judy D. is celebrating a birthday
3/20	Marc L. is celebrating a birthday
3/23	Todd W. is celebrating a birthday
3/26	Lori A. is celebrating a birthday
	Dirk B. is celebrating a birthday
	Diantha H. is celebrating a birthday
3/29	Danielle B. is celebrating a birthday
3/31	Janet L. is celebrating a birthday
	Stephen S. is celebrating a birthday

In collaboration with our Covid Task Force, UUMAN has opened up our campus for in-person worship services each Sunday at 10 am. Please contact us at board@uuman.org with any concerns or questions.

March 2022: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
3/6	The Essence of Everything Might there be a common essence to everything? Might there be a common denominator? Is it energy? Matter? Dark Matter? Suffering? Fear? Love?	Rev. Dave Dunn
3/13	The Festival of Holi Holi is the Hindu "Festival of Colors" (sometimes called the "Festival of Love") celebrates the arrival of spring and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. What can we learn from this holiday?	Rev. Dave Dunn
3/20	Youth Group Service Come join us as UUMAN's Youth Group presents their annual Sunday service. We probably don't need to tell you but...come prepared for some surprises.	Youth Group
3/27	The World Needs You...Yes You! By definition, in a completely interdependent, interconnected universe, we all have a role to play. What is our role supposed to be? Might there be a role destined for us? Can we discover it?	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