

## May 2020

### Inside this issue:

In the Present Moment	1
Notes from the Board of Trustees	2
Some Good News From Your Religious Education	2
UUMAN Upcoming Events	3
The NFCC Food Pantry	4
Life Celebrations	5
A Month of Sundays	5



## In the Present Moment

The last “normal” Sunday service held at UUMAN was on March 8. The title of the service was “In the Streets as in the Sanctuaries.” We had a guest speaker who was brought here at the age of four by her mother over twenty years ago. I can remember the vivid story she told about how her mother put her on her shoulders as they waded across the Rio Grande. It was moving...and a bit surreal.

Although this service was just two months ago, it feels like a lifetime. And, just as I sometimes might find it difficult to recall the face of a friend or acquaintance I hadn’t seen since high school, I’m finding that I have to strain my brain to recall just what it felt like for us to be physically together on Sunday mornings. It feels a bit surreal.

This reminds me of the impermanence of all things...and, more importantly, of the preciousness of all things. It’s such a precious gift simply to be able to gather together on Sunday mornings in our beloved and beautiful sanctuary; sitting next to one another, singing songs together while sharing a hymnal, seeing the children up front during our wondering time story, shaking hands, or even bumping elbows during the hand of friendship, listening to Alex play and the choir sing....it goes on and on.

And then, after service, to have the freedom of choice as to what to do next: Coffee and Conversation or Adult Enrichment Class or Lunch Ministry or...? The preciousness of it all.

Impermanence usually carries with it negative connotations. If we dwell on impermanence we can become frightened... paralyzed...doing whatever we can to hold onto that which can’t be held onto; doing whatever we can to make permanent that which can’t ever be made permanent...as all things are change.

We aren’t meant to dwell on impermanence; we are meant to use it merely as a pointer to the preciousness of that which is in the present moment – now! Aha!

And although our building is closed and our Sunday mornings have changed, there is that which is in the present moment right now...and it too is precious...and it too is cause for joy. May we all discover that. Aha!

Take care,

Dave



# Notes from the Board of Trustees

First off I want to express my thanks to the entire UUMAN community for the opportunity to serve on the board as the Special Projects Trustee. I also want to thank the other board members I was honored to work with. UUMAN is very lucky to have so many talented people willing to serve.

It seems there is never enough time or money to do everything we want to do at UUMAN but things manage to happen. A generous member made the resources available for the hearing loop. A team came together to make needed floor repairs in Discovery Hall. Fellowship Hall looks great with the new floor. There is always more to do and with members who love UUMAN they will get done.

Aside from the discreet projects the biggest board accomplishment during my tenure was establishing an Infrastructure Depreciation line item in the budget. No, really. Our ability to do this reflects to improving financial health of UUMAN. Bob Popp was the treasurer who pushed for this and is due many thanks.

The current board has planted the seeds for a bright future at UUMAN. Our new Interim Director of Religious Education is a force of nature. Melinda will certainly reestablish a vibrant program for our children and youth. I am also excited that we have started the process to hire a membership professional. This is a needed step to make sure we are serving each person who steps through the doors and the wider community.

I want to close by encouraging everybody to say yes when you are asked to serve in a leadership position. You will find the time and you will find the experience fulfilling. The chance to serve with other members will only deepen your love for UUMAN.

Jim Nickens

## Some Good News From Your Religious Education Director

I hope all of you have checked out John Krasinski's Some Good News, on YouTube. It is literally the most heartwarming, entertaining thing around so take a few minutes and check it out if you have not.

We have good news to report as well:

Since we last gathered in person Mike Chambers and Miriam Patanian led a group of 4th and 5th graders in the completion of their OWL classes. They adapted quickly to the new format and did not lose one student. Bravo!

Our dedicated Sunday school teachers have been checking in on our children and youth every Sunday following the service and have been getting a good turnout. They will continue this through May 10. We will have a few Sundays off and will start our Summer Master Class Series for 1st – 12th grade on June 7th. Watch your announcements for the exciting topics covered!

You will notice that we are not having the Coming of Age service on May 17th. The reason for this is that the teachers and religious education leaders did not feel it did these teenagers justice to have such a moving ceremony on video. We all need to be physically together to celebrate their important transition. When we are together in-person we will celebrate the following 9th graders who are no longer children but are coming of age in this special community. Please send them and their parents good thoughts & prayers.

- ◆ Gracie Manafi
- ◆ Yasemine Manafi
- ◆ Stephen Seaver
- ◆ Troy van der Beek

We have been busy recruiting teachers for our fall lineup of classes and, as usual, so many talented and enthusiastic adults are ready to offer their time and talents to the young. They are an inspiration.

We also have some exciting things happening around the outside of UUMAN involving our youth and these projects will be shared during the congregational meeting.

Several people have been kind enough to ask how I am doing during the odd time of Covid-19 and I am happy to report that I, along with my family, are doing well. It is a strange time to join a congregation as I was just meeting all of you when we had to go home but through video chats, emails, texts and phone calls I am learning what a generous and kind group of people make up the family of UUMAN. And I especially look forward to seeing you from the neck down soon.

I would like to take a moment to thank publicly the RE team that stepped up to keep things going this past fall. They really need to take a deep bow. Rosie Popp, Merilee Hufnagel, Laurie Wheeler and Mike Chambers have put in more hours than anyone can probably imagine so that the children and youth programs stayed vital. And we are so lucky to have the leadership of Dave Dunn and the board. (I think we have all learned how important good leadership is recently, haven't we?) On the behalf of all the children and youth, I thank you for your support.

~Melinda Mischik, Interim Director of Religious Education

## UUMAN Upcoming Events

Date	Event
<b>Every Sunday</b> <b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Youth Sunday School</b> Children and Youth 1st-12th grade are invited to class via an email to their parents from the Sunday School teachers during the week.  Email Melinda Mischik at DRE@UUMAN.org for the Meeting Link if you haven't received one yet.
<b>Every Sunday</b> <b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversation</b> Gather together with your fellow congregants to check in with each other, chat, and even have some show and tell time.  Here is the link for Coffee and Conversation at 11:15: (It can also be accessed from the UUMAN home page.)  Google Meet <a href="https://meet.google.com/ajw-teyx-iio">meet.google.com/ajw-teyx-iio</a>  Phone Numbers (US)+1 860-470-6397  PIN: 229 991 635#
<b>Sundays</b> <b>May 3 and 10</b> <b>12-1 p.m.</b>	<b>Gnosticism and Unorthodox Christianities</b>  Course Description: "Jesus said, 'Be passers-by.' (Gospel of Thomas, 42)" What could this mean? Prior to the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D., many wildly diverse versions of "Christianity" existed. After this Council, orthodox Christianity was sanctioned and all other versions were considered heretical. Some of these heretical movements established churches that lasted for centuries throughout the Middle East and northern Africa. What became of them? Why were they suppressed? Was it because they had "gnosis" – special knowledge of God? Did Mary Magdalene, and the Gospel According to Mary, represent a threat to the apostle Peter's position in orthodoxy? Was the serpent actually trying to help Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? Is the God of the Old Testament an imposter? Why did orthodox Christianity develop and sometimes incorporate unorthodox ideas?  Instructor: Rev. Dave Dunn Sign Up Link: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/">https://www.signupgenius.com/</a>

Date	Event
<b>First and Third Sundays</b> <b>12 -1 p.m.</b>	<b>Cancer Support Group</b>  Open to survivors of cancer and their caretakers. Contact Kim Palmer for the meeting link at: <a href="mailto:kpalmer01@gmail.com">kpalmer01@gmail.com</a>

## The NFCC Food Pantry Operations During COVID-19



## Life Celebrations

Due to COVID-19, the North Fulton Community Charities moved food pantry services to a drive-thru option to minimize social interactions and allow us to operate with limited staff members.

- All food pantry orders will be placed online. Clients will be emailed with an appointment time to come pick up their order in our drive-thru.
- Existing NFCC Clients will fill out the [Food Pantry Order Form](#).
- New families to NFCC will start by using our [Get Help Form](#) for all services including food. Please share this link with anyone that finds themselves needing services for the first time.
- Emergency financial assistance for housing or utilities has been moved online ONLY. Clients should also fill out an [Appointment Request Form](#) for any emergency financial assistance.
- The Education Center and Thrift Shop remain CLOSED until further notice.
- We have suspended ALL volunteers at this point.

Thank you for the outpouring of support we've received and the offers to come help, but we are following public health officials advice to keep interactions to as few people as possible. We will let you know when this changes.

Financial donations are still the best way to help at this point. They allow us to help the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time. It also allows us to be flexible in the services we provide to families that need it.

- NFCC

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

[communications-chair@uuman.org](mailto:communications-chair@uuman.org)

Date	Celebration
5/1	Emerson P. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/5	Ann Creech is celebrating a birthday
5/15	Thomas Seaver is celebrating his 22st birthday
	Paula Watson is celebrating a birthday
5/20	Isabella Dunn is celebrating a birthday
	Addy G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
	Drew H, of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
5/25	Marjorie Pomper is celebrating a birthday
5/26	Elizabeth Rohan and Stephen Shanahan are celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary!
5/27	Rick Irwin and Paula Watson are celebrating their 41st anniversary!
	Melane Sibley is celebrating a birthday

## A Month of Sundays

All in-person Sunday services and any meetings or groups at UUMAN are canceled until further notice. See [this page](#) for more details.

We plan to continue live-streaming Sunday services on [YouTube](#).

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
5/3	<p>Active Hope</p> <p>The amazing video we saw on Earth Day from Joanna Macy and ideas she presented were taken from a book she co-authored with Chris Johnstone called "Active Hope". It lays out a plan we can all use to turn our hopes into action and I will present, what I think, is the perfect example of what "Active</p>	Randy Blasch
5/10	<p>All of Who We Are</p> <p>Unitarian Universalism recognizes that there is a wide variety of gender experience in the world, not just men and women. What aspects of UUMAN could be more welcoming to "all of who we are" as persons? We explore this through personal vignettes and learning experiences about the transgender journey.</p>	Rev. Dave Dunn
5/17	To be determined...	
5/24	To be determined...	
5/31	To be determined...	

**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](mailto:newsletter@uuman.org)