

UUMAN TIMES

Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North

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Campus Improvements at UUMAN

When we finally do return to UUMAN for in-person services and faith development, we'll find that much has

changed on campus.

The first thing you'll notice will be a wonderful new, secure fence enclosing most of Discovery Hall's front yard. This fence and its installation was paid for by the Premo school. Discovery Hall is the classroom space for their Lower School (i.e. younger children) and the newly enclosed front yard provides an excellent space for their children to safely romp and play. The Premo School also hired and paid to have the entire interior of DH freshly painted and have its deck and the Sanctuary portico walkway power washed.

UUMAN then hired professionals to have the exterior painted – with paint colors matching the Sanctuary! Finally, the extensive undergrowth of DH's beautiful front yard magnolia tree was cleared (Mike Liebergesell, Bob Popp, Dave Dunn) revealing wonderful sightlines of DH. (Probably the first time the words wonderful, sightlines and DH have ever appeared in the same sentence!)

The first thing you'll notice in Fellowship Hall is the professionally-installed new carpeting throughout the nursery and office area. (I believe the old carpet had been in place for over 20 years!) The entire area was also freshly painted with new molding in places (Rick Lakes, Pat Carter, Bob Popp, Mike and Michelle Liebergesell, Melinda Mischik,

Donna Melcher, John Pruitt, Bruce Langston). Don Groce used his seemingly endless supply of talent to construct a custom half doorway for the nursery (Rosie Popp consulted) and he then installed a wonderful closet door for the UUMAN mailbox area.

Krishan Bralley installed new lighting in Suzy Lamoree's office and replaced some lighting downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

We are also in the process of converting the minister's office to be a multi-use office/small group meeting space. Over the summer, Linda Etheridge graciously led a book sale of the many books from the ministers office. (All proceeds benefitted UUMAN...and I'm sure Lawton helped.) 😊

Last but not least, the parking lot was re-stripped by Rick Lakes, Pat Carter and Mike Liebergesell...and Bob and Rosie Popp organized this summer's Friday Night Garden Parties (i.e. a couple of hours working in the garden followed by a bring-your-own picnic dinner). In addition to Bob & Rosie Popp, other regular attendees included Donna Melcher, John Pruitt, Denise, Todd & Chris Wilson, Marc & Jane Soule, Dave Dunn, Ann & Dirk Bender, Michelle & Mike Liebergesell.

Thanks to all who've volunteered their time this summer to beautify our campus. It has never looked better!

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

~ Dave



UUMAN Sharing the Plate—50/50

Each month half of our designated 50-50 offering goes to a chosen non-profit organization or cause. The other half of the offering goes into our General Fund for the work that we do. The last recorded 50-50 amount was for July. The recipient, Family Promise of Dekalb and North Fulton was mailed a check for \$200.00.

This month, our **Partner Church in NE India, Mawsynjri** (pronounced Maw-sin-juh-ri) will be the recipient. Mawsynjri is located in the state of Meghalaya which is separate from the mainland of India, on an inland peninsula and located in the mountains. Meghalaya translates to “abode of the clouds”. The church is located in the Khasi Hills region of Meghalaya in the village of Kharang.

It is a fascinating story as to how Unitarianism was discovered in this remote region of India. Meghalaya is inhabited by tribes of indigenous peoples. During the British reign of India, the Calvinist missionaries came to the Hill Country to convert the pagans to Calvinism. A member of one of the tribes, Hajom Kissor Singh of the Khasi Tribe, questioned the teachings of the Protestant faith and was put in touch with a Unitarian missionary living in Calcutta.

Our partnership with Mawsynjri was initiated through the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC) which also fostered our relationships with the people of Mawsynjri through travel.

Our partnership was consummated with Mawsynjri in 2014 when UUMAN members, Rick Irwin, Paula Watson and Pat Lampert went with the Atlanta UUCA choir to the Khasi Hills to sing at various Unitarian churches in the region. Since that time we have hosted individuals from the Khasi Hills and some of us traveled to meet our sole mates there.

By sharing our offering with them and hosting informational dinners through the years, we have financed a bell tower, helped their families pay for school uniforms and other educational expenses and sponsored a student through college to earn her Bachelor’s Degree. In 2019 we sponsored a young adult member of UUMAN to go visit.

By request our contact, Barishisha Mukhim has collected needs from Mawsynjri’s congregation for this month's 50-50.

These are as follow:

(A) Needs for Church:

- (1) Bell (Old one broken)
- (2) Church Roof (Woods of existing roof are damaged, might collapsed)
- (3) Khasi Drum & Guitar
- (4) Fencing

- (5) Teacher’s salary
- (B) Needs for School
 - (i) Computer & Printer
 - (ii) Electricity connection
 - (iii) Additional classroom for Pre Nursery
 - (iv) School Office

You can donate to these needs through the end of September through the Givelify App (select 50-50) or by mailing a check to UUMAN. Make the check payable to UUMAN and make sure that you write “50-50” on the memo line so that Mawsynjri gets half.

~ 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
9/9	Dirk and Ann B. are celebrating their anniversary of 31 years
9/10	Luc G. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday
9/18	Nelson and Marcia H. are celebrating their anniversary of 11 years
9/22	Carolina P. and Sam F. are celebrating their anniversary of 21 years
9/28	Troy vdB. of our MCY program is celebrating a birthday

Witness Trees

My favorite image from a recent visit to Monticello is that of a young Sycamore growing out of the massive stump of its mother, a witness tree that in its youth greeted Thomas Jefferson every day of his life when he was home. New life growing from the living roots of the old is a powerful testament to parenting, to eldership and to the potential we hold.



Our people have sown many seeds. Some roots probed deep finding the rivers of truth, justice, equality, and human rights. Others tapped darker veins. The fruits of both are on the vines. And now my fellow citizens it is harvest time.

There will always be forces on either side of the divide. Sadly perhaps, the way ahead will likely be determined by those distracted and perhaps reluctant to engage. I have seen the places at Gettysburg and Antietam where brave men once lay crowded in death. Those dark days came because a few wealthy and powerful people ruthlessly stirred violence to ensure their privilege. Here survivors we stand, yet unwilling to embrace each other as brothers and sisters, hesitant yet to raise our voices for life and for justice.

Only the ignorant and the selfish wish to travel those dark roads again. There is light from and beyond COVID and division, should we choose to see, and do the work. Things are complicated. They always have been. Distractions claim our time, and we are driven, it seems, to want more, and in turn, work more, to maintain that steady flow of what we perhaps don't really need, while what we do need is slipping away.

Those that deny climate change at this point are hardened fools. The rest of us must either rise to the occasion or surrender to the selfish and careless forces that are destroying life on this beautiful planet.

The western fires have reached the eastern skies. Traveling Skyline Drive recently I was stunned by the smog and the smoke obscuring once spectacular views making visible now only the air we breathe. The waters of the Chesapeake and the sea beyond are no longer clean and teeming with the fish and birds of legend. A common story across the land. In my early days as a farmer, I once viewed green fields and cattle as a counterweight to urban sprawl. Today green fields

no longer hold promise but have become themselves a destructive force. Small farmers have yielded to corporate agricultural entities whose only interest is extraction for dollars. Their chemicals, antibiotics, and monocrops have depleted the soil and wreaked havoc on our health and on the habitat of the indigenous insects and animals critical to our survival. Tragically and mindlessly, we do much the same in our yards.

For these observations, I traveled the roads contributing to the problem. We can now travel to distant places, if we can survive the semi trucks that dominate the interstates, transporting from great distances products both useful and useless. Much of the landscape we, at a distance, imagine has now been altered beyond recognition. Our love affair with the automobile is destroying our home and we are the enablers. At 76 I remember what was. The impact I have seen on the land and the living is disturbing. Equally concerning is our acceptance and our complicity. We once inherited so much beauty.

Can we reestablish the balance? Yes, if we recognize that we are one with the natural world, and that we are the only species capable of preserving it. The equation is simple, growth is limited on a finite planet. We must quickly align ourselves with that reality and make the hard choices to create the serious changes that must happen. We must demand change and we must do the work locally, personally, and in our own backyard. Drifting as we are is a choice. Allowing life to slip away is our greatest sin. If that is our choosing, I offer only this prayer 'God help our children'.



Gus Hadorn

Universalist Convocation Attendees

UUMANITES Attending Universalist Convocation Last Month at Northwest UU



John Burkhart, Dave Dunn, Michelle Liebergesell, Shannon Holland, Susan Wilson, Rollin Mathis

(not pictured Pat Carter, Rick Lakes, Ann and Joe Creech)



Harvest Moon Auction Team needs YOU!

WOO HOO! Mark your calendars NOW for UUMAN's biggest fundraiser of the year:

The 2021 Harvest Moon Goods and Services Auction will be NOVEMBER 13th at 7:00!*

(*Silent Auction online through Auctria platform again, "live" event likely online as well. Thanks Covid.)

The Auction team is forming now, and we could really use your help! This is a short term commitment from now through the Auction, and the time commitment can be as much or as little time as you can spare. Here are some volunteer opportunities:

PROCUREMENT: (Gathering the goods!) Soliciting donations from members, friends and outside establishments. Collecting and organizing items at UUMAN beforehand, helping distribute items won afterwards. Lots of folks needed!

DATA ENTRY: (making it enticing!) Entering pictures and descriptions of donations into the online catalog

TECH SUPPORT:(we need help!) Working with the committee setting up the online platform and website (Auctria is very user friendly), helping folks get registered, creating online donation forms, helping with checkout when the auction closes

PRODUCTION CREW: (showtime!) Night of the live* event support-running the livestream or zoom, planning and/or hosting a portion of the event.

ADVERTISING: (keeping everyone in the loop!) Announcements, newsletter, social media, email blasts

As you can see, we have MANY volunteer opportunities, and we would love to have YOU join our FUNdraising auction team. Please reply to this email and let us know how you can help.

MANY THANKS!!

Laurie Wheeler

Under the Harvest Moon Goods and Services Auction Team

The Next UU 101 Classes Coming Soon

The next UU 101 will be held September 26, 11:15am-12:30pm and October 3, 11:15-12:30pm. Led by our new membership professional Ayanna Kafi Stringer, this 2-session class is for visitors, active non-members or even long time members - anyone who wants to learn more about our faith or who is considering becoming a member. You will learn about Unitarian Universalism, our welcoming culture and long history of social justice. You will learn all about UUMAN and our great programs. You will even get a virtual tour of our campus. We hold this class three times a year, so if you can't make it this time, we will look forward to having you attend later in the year. If you have questions about the class or about becoming a member, feel free to email the Membership Committee at membership@uuman.org.

Here are the dates for the Fall UU101 class sessions and the link to sign up:

Session 1: Sunday, September 26, 11:15am-12:30pm

Session 2: Sunday, October 3, 11:15am-12:30pm

[Class Sign Up](#)

~ Laura Keck

If you haven't heard . . .



A NEW UUMAN Human is on the way!!!

Lisa & Christian Greyenbuhl are expecting their 4th child, a baby boy, on September 16th!

If you have not had the pleasure of meeting this AWESOME UUMAN family yet they moved to Georgia right before the pandemic began last year. While they have only been with us a short time they have been very involved in the RE program and have participated in the Harvest Moon as well anywhere else they could plug in along with their 3 children:

Jacqueline 15

Sasha 13

Etienne 5

As you can imagine, it's not easy having a baby during a pandemic. So we are trying to make it a little more FUN! I'm inviting you to share in welcoming this new UUMAN Human by sharing Lisa's baby registry. If you would like to participate, either by sending a gift or gift card. You can click this link. It allows you to ship your gift directly to them.

[Baby Registry](#)

Sending Joy, Peace & Gratitude!

~ Kelly

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

UUMAN responds to the Delta variant and our vaccination rate with PHASE RED V+. No indoor gatherings for now, limited outdoor gatherings. Read [this update](#) for further information.

September 2021: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
9/5	Blessing of the Animals Please join us in our annual Blessing of the Animals service. We will bless your furried, feathered, crawling friends in one way or another. Keep on the lookout on our website, Facebook page and UUMAN Announcements as to how our worship team will pull this service off.	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/12	Radical Forgiveness Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement begins at sundown on Wednesday. It is the holiest day of the year in Judaism; a day when atonement is sought for wrongs committed. How do you seek forgiveness? To what extent are you willing to go to get it? To give it?	Rev. Dave Dunn
9/19	TBD :	Lay Led
9/26	Alexa, What's the Meaning of Life? 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?	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