

May 2023

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Minister's Sabbatical

As you may have heard, I plan on taking a sabbatical from February through May of 2024. UU ministers are entitled to sabbaticals after four years of service and are entitled to one month of sabbatical for each year of service. At the end of this church year, I will have completed seven years as UUMAN's minister.

A sabbatical leave offers an extended time for study, reflection, rest, and renewal—all ingredients for effective ministry. A sabbatical leave is part of the congregation's covenant agreement with the minister; and just as importantly, the congregation will benefit as I returns refreshed, filled with new ideas and with rekindled energy.

Amanda Bralley and I will serve as Co-Chairs of a newly formed Sabbatical Committee – which is a temporary Standing Committee, reporting to the Board of Trustees, that plans and prepares the congregation for a ministerial sabbatical. The committee consists of the two Co-Chairs and four other members of the congregation. Amanda will serve as the sole chair once I actually begin the sabbatical.

The Sabbatical Committee is charged with the following:

- Help schedule Sunday Service guest speakers three times per month
- Schedule "On Call" minister for Pastoral Care and any Rites of Passage rituals that may be necessary
- Communicate with the congregation before, during and after the sabbatical

- Assist Board of Trustees regarding any issues pertaining to staff supervision
- Assist the minister and congregation in the development of a re-entry and re-engagement program following the sabbatical

The other members of the sabbatical Committee are David Kroeber, Anu Mongia, Tina Alexander and Bruce Langston. Since the production of quality worship services in my absence will be a principal activity for the committee, I feel that we have the right people in place since they all either serve on the worship team, serve as worship associates, sing in the choir or serve on our technical/livestreaming crew.

Although we are just forming, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us. We can be reached as a team via email at sabbatical@uuman.org.

I know that UUMAN has had some history with ministers returning from sabbaticals and then shortly thereafter leaving the congregation. Even though UUMAN's ministerial contract states that the minister must continue at least one full year after any sabbatical, I am not interested in leaving UUMAN. I am finding that the shared ministry we do together to be most fulfilling. Although one of the purposes of the sabbatical is to give me time to generate new ideas and recharge my batteries, I still feel like I have ideas to share and energy with which to pursue them. That said, next spring is probably the right time for me to take this sabbatical.

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

~ Dave

Congregational Meeting May 21

The congregational meeting previously scheduled for May 7 has been moved to May 21, to allow time to complete the budget and other preparations. The meeting will be from 12 to 1 in the sanctuary, and food will be provided prior to the meeting.

This is an important meeting, as we'll be voting on new board members. It's very important that we have a quorum present. If you cannot attend, don't forget to send in your vote via proxy.

We'll also be saying thank you to outgoing board members, including Jennifer Ratcliffe (VP/President/Past President), Carla Rizatti (Special Projects), and Robin Day (Interim Secretary). We will provide updates on our progress in the past year and our financial status.

We need to determine the requirement for childcare during the meeting (from 12-1). If you will need childcare, please complete this form before April 29 to allow adequate time for childcare staff to be provided. If we do not receive any forms, we will assume no childcare is needed.

[Request for childcare](#)

-Mike Chambers

UUMAN Safety Committee Update

Early this year, when the board looked at the issue of safety at UUMAN, we realized this was an issue that needed more attention and a comprehensive approach. To that end, we formed a Safety Committee, tasked with creating and implementing a safety plan for our campus and congregation.

Partnering with Local Law Enforcement

One of our first steps was to invite the Roswell Police Department to visit UUMAN and conduct their Active Threat training. A large group of us met in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 21 to hear an officer speak about responding to an active threat on our grounds. Just recently, on April 26th, we met with a Roswell police officer to conduct a walkthrough and security assessment of our campus, to help us identify vulnerabilities and opportunities for improving security. We're fortunate to have excellent police and fire departments in Roswell, who serve as willing and able allies.

Partnering with Our Insurance

We discovered that our insurance company, Church Mutual, offers low-cost police alarms that use the same monitoring service we use for our water and temperature monitors. So we purchased two for our campus. These alarms work much like a fire alarm—you can pull them and the monitoring service alerts the police of a situation at UUMAN. While we have long had fire alarms onsite, this plugs a gap for us in police alarms.

Here are some other new initiatives we have begun:

- Held a fire drill for youth RE classes on 4-23
- Began locking and monitoring doors after service starts
- Met with Premo school to share ideas and concerns regarding safety
- Wrote a charter and policy for the Safety Committee
- Began collaborating on a detailed safety plan for UUMAN
- Began creating a team of Safety Guides to monitor doors and parking lots

Partnering with Each Other

We now post a Safety Guide at our doors to monitor the parking lot and entry doors during service. You can help by being vigilant and reporting any suspicious behavior you see in the parking lot or on campus. If you would like to volunteer to be a Safety Guide, contact;

vice-president@uuman.org

- Mike Chambers

Meet Your New Board Candidates

We have a great slate of candidates to fill board positions this year. We will vote on the new board members at the May congregational meeting. Thank you all for being willing to serve our church community.

~ Mike Chambers

VICE-PRESIDENT: MARTIN POTERALSKI



My wife Erin and I were married in a UU church, and were members of a UU church in suburban Richmond, Virginia for several years while our two children were young. In 2017, when we moved to Georgia, we also found a new spiritual home at UUMAN.

Since joining UUMAN, I have been involved with a few different committees including the annual Auction committee and Stewardship. Our children have been growing and learning through programs such as RE and OWL.

We especially value the connections we have made at UUMAN, and our impact on the community in which we live. I hope to build upon the great work others have done before as a member of the Board.

SECRETARY: LAURIE WHEELER

Like many people, my husband Mark and I began attending UUMAN when our children were young and we were looking for a spiritual home for our family. When I discovered Unitarian Universalism, I felt at home immediately, and jumped right in to the life of the congregation. Our two children grew up at UUMAN, attending RE and OWL classes, and are now young adults. I have served in many roles at UUMAN, including chairing and participating in a variety of committees, serving on the board, teaching RE, singing in the choir, and directing the family choir.

Ours is a faith community that calls us to live our principles, and I am thankful to have found my spiritual home at UUMAN, where I am challenged, supported, and surrounded by this beloved community as I strive to grow and to live my faith.



SPECIAL PROJECTS: MARGRIET VAN DE STEEG

We became members of UUMAN in 2009 after moving from Canada. We are still very happy we found UUMAN to be able to connect with a liberal faith community. We loved seeing our four kids (Duco, Maud, Lara, and Troy) go through the UUMAN Religious Education and OWL programs. The UUMAN community and the programs have supported us in raising our kids to be (more) confident in who they are and what they stand for.



I have served on the Personnel Committee and Nomination Committee and look forward to being actively involved in the UUMAN Community and serving on the Board. Since leaving the corporate world in 2019, where I worked as CFO and HR Manager, I went “back to school,” graduated with an MSc in Financial Planning from UGA last August, and became an Accredited Financial Counselor. I am providing Financial Coaching and Counseling through my new company, Financial Clarity, and through non-profits.

If you are wondering where my accent comes from, I was born and raised in the Netherlands. With being Dutch comes directness, conscientiousness, and (some) stubbornness.

Religious Exploration News

What this month MAY hold...

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

The month of May has some important events!

5/7/23- Bridging Ceremony- Three Youth from Coming of Age (Emmy Poteralski, Jacob Patanian and Sasha Greyenbuhl) will present their credos to the congregation so they MAY be seen and welcomed for their individual beliefs and values. Troy Van Der Beek will be Bridging from Senior Youth to the Young Adult Group. And we will honor the youth who completed their OWL program this year. There will be no playgroup (as we encourage all children and youth to attend service), or 2nd hour RE offerings.

5/14/23- NADAI- Parents everywhere have the day off to spend with their families. There will be no playgroup or 2nd hour youth offerings.

5/21/23- RE end of the year 2nd hour Pizza Party - Celebrate the start of Summer and end of RE curriculum. Parents, children, youth and RE instructors are invited to join us for games and food. Last day of Playgroup until 23-24 RE curriculum starts in August.



Followed by **Congregational Meeting** - Child care available, complete this form to sign-up for your children and youth <https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/2d3c3e>

5/28/23- Break for Memorial Day weekend - nothing

June- Summer Programming Starts! - There are still spots available! Follow this link or talk to Lexie T. Brown to learn more! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094bacad2aa46-uuman#/>



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Religious Exploration News

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

Saying Goodbye to April

Easter Sunday

RE had a great multigen day with plenty of children and adult volunteers. We went on a nature walk, collected materials, searched for our UU principles, then made beautifully decorated recycled eggs.



Youth Outing April 16, 2023

UUMAN's Senior & Junior youth had a team-building exercise at Main Event in Alpharetta. Eleven youth and four adults (Elizabeth Rohan, Lexie T. Brown, Stephen Shanahan, and Dave Prigel) attended.

Two teams were formed: The Winning Team, and the DESTROYers. They participated in basketball, air hockey, skeeball, laser tag, and more.

At the end of the team-building, Main Event officials presented certificates to the teams and individuals, recognizing their accomplishments.

Feedback is the youth want this to be a recurring event as part of the Youth RE program.

-Dave Prigel



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Religious Exploration News

The Month of March...

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

Youth Outing April 16, 2023 (continued)



UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. We are thrilled to see that the counties in which the majority of us live are in the Low Risk category. Masks are optional for indoor activities, and indoor congregational singing can occur at this time. We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted—thank you for doing your part to keep our risk as low as possible!

May 2023: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
5/7	UUMAN Rites of Passage Join us for our annual Rites of Passage service. We will honor our Coming of Age youth as they bridge to Youth Group and our senior Youth as the bridge to Young Adults	Rev. Dave Dunn Lexie T. Brown
5/14	Mother's Day Service Join us as we celebrate all the mothers in our lives, whether the ones of our birth families or	Randy Blasch
5/21	The Quandary of Emergence “Emergence” is the spontaneous creation of something new, something unexpected, something that doesn't necessarily even have the properties of the things from which it emerged. Do you allow for emergence in your life? In the life of the congregation? Although it may sound refreshing, exciting and new, are you prepared for the unknown, unpredictable spontaneity that emerges?	Rev. Dave Dunn
5/28	Hembree Park Service Join us at Roswell's Hembree Park pavilion for an end of the church year service.	Rev. Dave Dunn



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
5/5	Kurt B. is celebrating a birthday.
	Ann C. is celebrating a birthday.
5/15	Paula W. is celebrating a birthday.
5/19	Laura K. is celebrating a birthday.
5/20	Addison G. is celebrating a birthday.
	Amy M. is celebrating a birthday.
	Emerson P. is celebrating a birthday.
	Erin and Martin P. are celebrating their anniversary of 19 years.
5/26	Timothy W. Jr. is celebrating a birthday.
	Elizabeth R. and Stephen S. are celebrating their anniversary of 21 years.
5/27	Rick I. and Paula W. are celebrating their anniversary of 44 years.
5/31	John P. is celebrating a birthday.

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