

November 2011

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

3773 N. MacArthur Rd.
Decatur, IL 62526
Phone: (217) 875-5442
www.uufd.org

President:
Judy Thistlethwaite

Vice President:
Marge Evans

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Mark Sorensen

Secretary:
Mary Lovell

Board Members at
Large:
Carolynn Devore
Mel Weinstein
Joyce Throneburg

UUFD Trust Board:
Ken Robertson
Vern Thistlethwaite
Dave Snoeyenbos



Upcoming Services

All Sunday services begin at 10:15 AM.

We offer religious education for children and child care for babies.

November 6 - "No One is Illegal" Rev. Larry Hutchison

We will be looking for a moral foundation to a good immigration policy. We will begin with and build on an idea of universal hospitality moving through some phobias and gates into our seven UU principles as a pretty good foundation.

November 13 - "Loitering in Religion" Rev. Larry Hutchison

Loitering is a particular way of spending time - To loiter is to linger, apparently unnecessarily. The act is not restricted to a certain type of space, and with a little practice you can learn to loiter not just on a street corner, but in a UU space. Of course the question is why we or anyone should learn to loiter.

Board Meeting at noon.

November 20 - "The Soul of a Tree" Rev. Larry Hutchison

"There is grandeur in this view of life..." (Darwin) I am awed by the nobility of a tree, its eternal patience, its suffering caused by humankind and sometimes by nature, its witness to thousands of years of history, its creations of beauty. Its endless good works of giving off oxygen while absorbing gases harmful to other living creatures. Its fruits feed us, its branches shade us. And finally, when time and weather brings it down, its body offers timber for our homes and in the hands of an artist beauty for all to enjoy. The tree lives on.

November 27 - "Kirtan" Terry Ankrom

Kirtan is "call and response" devotional chanting from India and from some Buddhist traditions. We will explore how kirtan is being practiced in America today. Videos of various contemporary kirtan practitioners and leaders will be presented.

All activities take place at the Fellowship, unless otherwise noted. Visitors are always welcome!

Wednesday, November 2

7:00 p.m. — Humanist Discussion Group

Friday, November 4

1:00 p.m.— Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Wednesday, November 9

7:00 p.m. — Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Wednesday, November 9

6:30 p.m.—Women's Book Group

Friday, November 11

1:00 p.m.— Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Wednesday, November 16

6:30 p.m. — Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, November 18

1:00 p.m. — Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Wednesday, November 23

7:00 p.m. — Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, November 25

1:00 p.m. — Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Calendar of Events

Group discussion topics:

Humanist Group—Humanist Discussion Group meets 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Dave Snoeyenbos at 865-2409.

Women's Book Group—This month the group will meet at the home of Anne Reeser for potluck and discussion of "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain.

Spiritual Journey Covenant Group—The Spiritual Journey Covenant Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at UUFD from 7:00-8:30. For further information contact Ron Shafer at ron.shafer52@gmail.com or 865-2527.

Decatur Vegetarian Society (DVS) --- The DVS group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm for a vegetarian potluck dinner, followed by a live or video presentation at 8:00 pm. The meetings are open to the public. If you interested in participating in a potluck, please either (1) bring a vegetarian or vegan dish with a list of ingredients or (2) donate \$5. Also, you should bring your own eating utensils. Contact Mel Weinstein (763-0509) for additional information.

UUFD Men's Group- This group meets every Friday at Tuscany at 1:00 for lunch and conversation.

Community Food Bank: Please bring a donation of nonperishable food items for our local food banks to Sunday services.



Minister's Message

You, Me, & O.K.

Is there anything as beautiful, as wonderful as these fall days we are having here in Decatur? Could I enjoy anything anymore than these first few weeks here at the Fellowship? I know! What's wrong with me? Am I O.K.? (And there is the fact that I loved Detroit and wanted to move out of Florida.) Should I be feeling guilty about loving life so much - here in Decatur - here at the Fellowship? Oh I know, Decatur has some issues, and some are big for a small city, I know Illinois is moving too much pollution into the beauty of our fall days. I know there are not enough jobs. I know there is child abuse and spouse abuse in the home and crime in the streets. And I know there are challenges here in the Fellowship. I know, too small, too old, too this, too that and the other thing. Really, should I feel guilty? Well forgive me, but let's look at it from my side - It gives us something to do together - to enjoy each others gifts of love, compassion and hope, but also joys and sorrows, as we come together for these great endeavors. "You may call me a dreamer, but I'm not the only one." (Lennon) Let us together, take up the challenges, dream the possibilities, live in the reality, rest in the atmosphere of a journey together. Oh! I couldn't be enjoying these beautiful days more and we are in the midst of them.

Peace, Larry

Rev. Hutchison's Office Hours:

Monday	day off
Tuesday	10 - 12
Wednesday	10 - 12 & 6 - 8
Thursday	10 - 12
Friday	Study at Home

E-mail - lghutch@comcast.net

Phone - 352-949-1601 anytime

Church Phone - 875-5442

President's Message

Greetings to Members and Friends,

Welcome to Jonathan Cruz who is our pianist. He is a junior at Millikin. His music enhances our services. We are glad you are joining us.

Mary Cleave is now sending cards and notes for the Hospitality Committee. She would appreciate you letting her know of members and friends that have joys or concerns.

The Membership Committee has set up a greeter for each Sunday. That person will greet new friends and have them sign the register book. However, we should all be greeters. You can help out by introducing yourself to the new friends before service, after the service, or during refreshments. Let's all do a better job of making everyone feel welcome.

Tim Rooney has been working hard to get our website up and running. He states that it is getting more "hits". Be sure to check it out.

Thanks for all you do.

Judy Thistlethwaite

News from Religious Education

Nov. 6 Buddhism Part 2, taught by John Wylder.

Nov. 13 Islam, taught by Lorelei Zaker.

Nov. 20 Thanksgiving, taught by Jennifer Sekosky.

Nov. 27 To be decided - Fun "Winter is Coming" activity!



News Item

By Ron Shafer

On Wednesday, November 9 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm a Spirituality Workshop will be offered in the Dining Room on the second floor of First Presbyterian Church. John Churchman will speak about "Spirituality, What Is It?" with some definitions from the sages, "The Spiritual Path, Life's Journey," and "The Gift of Life, Spiritual Growth in the NOW." The workshop is sponsored by the Pink Smoke spirituality group which meets at First Presbyterian Church. Handicapped attendees may use the elevator on the west side of the building. Bring friends. Refreshments will be served. A free will offering will be taken. You may learn about the presenter on his website www.torchlake.com/poetman.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

November 2011

Thanksgiving

Fellowship Mission

In a nurturing environment of openness, mutual respect, and friendship, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur is a welcoming, diverse congregation. We share values and seek to celebrate life and support one another in our inward and outward searches for spiritual meaning, provide a liberal religious presence, and strive for compassion and justice in our community and our world.

November Birthdays

Terry Ankrom Nov. 19

Barbara French Nov. 29

*Want to see your name on the birthday list?
Send e-mail to newsletter@uufd.org*



**minister@uufd.org (Rev. Larry Hutchison)
president@uufd.org (Judy Thistlethwaite)
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