

December 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

Treasurer:
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.

December 4 - "Universalism" Rev. Larry Hutchison

From "Not Hell, but hope" to
"The prominent heresy of our times" to
"Improve the property or move off the premises" to
"We do not stand, we move" to
A bold fresh beginning of the liberal spirit" -
A short,short history of Universalism.

December 11- "When the Chocolate Runs Out" Dr. Kim Hanneken
A talk based on a book of that title by Lama Yeshe about attachment,
watching mind, spiritual realities, karma etc...
"chocolate comes, chocolate goes, chocolate disappears."

December 18 - "Can We Still Be Generous?" Rev. Larry Hutchison
...A gift giving virtue is the highest virtue.
- Nietzsche

Like the bee that has gathered too much honey or the cup that needs to
overflow or as rainfall is the perfect gift to our dry land, we will celebrate
gifts and giving in the human family, Dove, and the greater Decatur
community.

December 23 - "Holiday Celebration, 7:00 PM"

The Friday evening before Christmas eve will be our UU family celebration
of story and song!

There will be stories, special music, children singing, and a cookie sharing
so bring your favorite cookies.

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

Friday, December 2

1:00 - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Wednesday, December 7

7:00 p.m. — Humanist Discussion Group

Thursday, December 8

7:00 p.m. - CUUPS Group

Friday, December 9

1:00 p.m.— Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Wednesday, December 14

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

Wednesday, December 14

6:30 p.m.—Women's Book Group

Friday, December 16

1:00 p.m. — Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 p.m. - Winter Solstice Celebration

Wednesday, December 21

6:30 p.m. — Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, December 23

1:00 p.m. — Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Wednesday, December 28

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

Friday, December 30

1:00 - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Calendar of Events

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

CUUPS Group - Meets the second Thursdays for study of Earth-Centered Spiritualities; and planning for seasonal celebrations.

Women's Book Group— Meets in December at the home of Heather Stoa. Please bring a dish to share and a favorite poem or passage to read aloud.

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 p.m. 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

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

You, Me, & Friendship Bread,

As the stronger winds of Autumn have begun to blow here in Decatur, our leaves having showered us with a rainbow of brilliance, have nearly all left reaching for the soil for another life of nurture. On the coldest day so far this fall, we ventured over to Arthur with Barbara Hannon. Those long fields of amber waves are bare now with only the cuts of anhydrous plows showing, but the stories of growing up on a farm with cows and pigs and chickens and Amish for neighbors were rich in warmth and memories. We remembered small farms, animals with barns, gardens, and orchards; running through clothes hanging on a line, rotten egg fights, and hay rides. We remembered small tractors and even a team or two of horses, so visiting Amish country near Arthur looks a little more like yesterday. We visited several Amish and Mennonite stores, wood working, antique, health food, grocery and produce, Yoder this and Yoder that and a bulk food store where we bought a loaf of friendship bread. Yoder makes the best friendship bread in the whole land.

As we travel to visit family and old friends this holiday season, we will be taking the gift of friendship. I'm thinking with the cooler winds of December, what greater gift to give than the warmth of friendship, for the longer nights what greater gift than the light of friendship, for the shorter days and closing year what greater gift than the long memory of friendship.

Nancy and I wish you all at UUFD the gift of deep friendship this holiday season.

Peace, Larry

President's Message

Greetings to Members and Friends,

The UUFD Board gives a special "thank you" to Eric Devore for researching insurance issues for us. On Eric's recommendation, the Board voted to use Church Mutual as our insurance provider starting Dec. 1, 2011. Church Mutual will provide a comprehensive coverage plan for our Fellowship. Church Mutual specializes in serving churches.

Kathy Sorensen and I will be asking you to help provide a needy family with a Christmas basket of food and gifts for the family. I am very excited about this project during the holiday season. The family will come from a list compiled by DOVE and Northeast Community Fund.

The Membership/Outreach committee has many issues to work on this year. The committee is in need of more members willing to serve on this committee. If you have the time to work in this area, please contact Rita Schwalke.

Happy Holidays!

Judy Thistlethwaite

News from Religious Education



Dec. 4 Judaism and Hanukkah, taught by Jennifer Sekosky.

Dec. 11 Winter Solstice, [taught by](#) Kathy Kline.

Dec. 18 Christmas, taught by Jennifer Sekosky [and Lorelei Zaker](#). Lesson and party.

Dec. 23 Christmas Eve service. Children will sing!

Community Project

UUFDF is collecting food and gifts for a Christmas basket for one area family in need. We have collected quite a bit of non-perishable items, but we will need your cash donations to buy the meat and other perishable items at the last minute. As soon as we know the ages of the children, we will also be asking for toys or donations to purchase the toys. If you put extra money in the collection plate, please label it for the "Christmas Basket", or turn in to Kathy Sorensen. This project is coordinated by the Northeast Community Fund and DOVE, Inc.

From The Treasurer

I was one of the original Trustees when we set up the UUFDF Trust in 1989 and felt that we were fortunate over the years to have had several members who gave us large endowments. Although a gift of \$80,000 is always welcome, you can help maintain and increase the Trust with a more modest donation each year. Please consider a gift to the Trust this month in any amount of cash or stocks. Your generosity will be appreciated now and in the future. For information about how to execute this, contact Vern Thistlethwaite or Ken Robertson. Thanks - Mark Sorensen

Membership/Outreach/Publicity Committee

If you have any ideas or opinions for the good of the Fellowship IN ANY AREA, please forward them to me at swakrita@gmail.com for consideration by our committee, Membership/Outreach/Publicity. We value your ideas and suggestions and will give serious consideration to all of them, and, if appropriate, we will forward them to others, such as our President, Rev. Hutchison or others.

Winter Solstice/Yule Celebration

Join us on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m. for ritual, meditation, poetry, music, drumming and feasting! Please bring, as you are able: a candle with holder, finger food to share, drums - rhythm instruments.

UUFDF Sacred Pathways CUUPS Group

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

December 2011



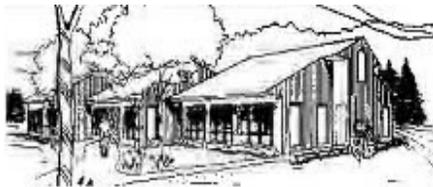
Fellowship Mission

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.

December Birthdays

Bruce Bledsaw	Dec. 2
Judy Thistlethwaite	Dec. 4
Dick Zaker	Dec. 4
Lorelei Zaker	Dec. 30
Tammy Bledsaw	Dec. 30

*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)
vicepresident@uufd.org (Marge Evans)
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