

May 2012

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# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



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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



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## Upcoming Services

All Sunday services begin at 10:15 AM.

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

**May 6 - "Free Will and the Human Spirit"** Rev. Larry Hutchison

Introduction of New Members

Do scientific advances in neuroscience challenge the first principles that the majority of us believe provide the very foundation upon which our movement rests -- free will and the capacity to make moral choices? This is not an old rehash of old issues, but new considerations pressed on us from neuroscience.

**May 13 - "A Sacred Thread"** Rev. Larry Hutchison

Happy Mother's Day

Mothers represent "a sacred thread" that holds us naturally and bonds us gently. Mothers are two parts fabulous and one part extra-ordinary. This is a celebration!!

*Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.*

**May 20 - "Speaking the Truth in Love"** Kate Pyle, MDiv

A recent TED Talk discussed the idea of "authenticity" and how it has become something of a buzzword. I am glad to hear that there is a growing awareness around the idea of people being authentic and genuine – as opposed to manipulative and deceptive – in their relationships and lives. Still, I hope that, as a "buzzword," it doesn't just become something that we talk about and say that we are doing, that it doesn't just become "the thing to do." In my experience, personal authenticity, or, as I like to call it, "keeping it real," is the most important thing we can do to nurture our relationships, personal and professional, and to nurture our own souls. So, what does "keeping it real" look like? When I was in graduate school, I had a little sign that I made that hung on the inside of my front door that said: "Keeping it real (verb): To always speak and behave in a way that reflects my Truth, no matter how self-conscious I feel or how stupid I think I look." One of the most important ingredients – and certainly one of the most difficult – in keeping it real is speaking the truth in love...  
(see page 5 for Kate's biography)

*Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the service.*

**May 27 - "To Touch Deeply The Memories"** Rev. Larry Hutchison

As spring turns to summer, many will take this weekend to enjoy friends and families and take some time to remember. As tens of thousands flock to cemeteries and parades to honor those who fought and died and also to remember those close to us who lived and died. Long and deep are the memories.

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

## Calendar of Events

### **Wednesday, May 2**

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning  
Covenant Group

### **Wednesday, May 2**

7:00 p.m. — Humanist Discussion  
Group

### **Friday, May 4**

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Benny's  
Grill

### **Wednesday, May 9**

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

### **Wednesday, May 9**

6:30 p.m. - Women's Book Group

### **Friday, May 11**

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Benny's  
Grill

### **Sunday, May 13**

Outreach Project: Please bring personal  
care items for donation to the women at  
Grace House

### **Wednesday, May 16**

10:00 a.m. - Wednesday Morning  
Covenant Group

### **Wednesday, May 16**

6:00 p.m. — Decatur Vegetarian Society

### **Friday, May 18**

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Benny's  
Grill

### **Wednesday, May 23**

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

### **Friday, May 25**

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Benny's  
Grill

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

**Women's Book Group**— Women's Book Club meets on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Vicky Harbeck, and the book is *The Magician's Assistant* by Ann Patchett.

**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 Benny's Grill at 1:00 for lunch and conversation.

**Wednesday Morning Covenant Group** - This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All are welcome.

**Community Food Bank:** Please bring a donation of nonperishable food items for our local food banks to Sunday service on May 20.



## 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](mailto:lghutch@comcast.net)

Phone 352-949-1601 anytime Church phone 875-5442

Nancy Hutchison's new e-mail: [nanjhutch@gmail.com](mailto:nanjhutch@gmail.com)

## Rev. Larry Hutchison

### You, Me and the Homecoming

It's a happy day! A special day here at 2520. What seemed like forever, the nights were long, the days worrisome, but, finally, Nancy is home! And she's doing *great* this afternoon.

This month early spring moved on. Now the grass is green and the flowering trees have turned to leaves, putting out fresh oxygen. This time of year it's hard not to have faith in a seed, as vegetables, weeds, and flowers begin to grow. Of course, this year, I have faith and thanks and wonder exploding from my head in so many directions. Because Nancy came home today.

In the surgeons: who operated for eight hours, stayed up with her all night, and operated four hours again in the morning. To the nurses who never gave up through the long night. To the firemen and the ambulance: so gracious and knowledgeable and efficient. To the ER staff, who moved so quickly. To the blood bank and the blood donors who supplied her with 32 units of blood. To the daily nurses for their knowledge and faith and encouragement. To the cleaning crew who kept the ICU unit clean and put up with us in the waiting room. To the cafeteria who always had her food there. To family: the four girls and H, who were there day and night. And for all of you: for the food, and helping me through the long hours. To all of those who sent cards and flowers, thoughts and best wishes.

Oh, yes. I have faith in a seed.

Thoreau wrote: "I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."

I'm using "faith in a seed" as a metaphor for generous giving. In 1953, 16 people had faith in their common ideals, faith in an understanding of freedom, community, and hope for the future. It was faith in a seed, so began UUFD. Our giving is like planting seeds for this year and for the future of our Fellowship. I have witnessed people working together doing great things, in fact, saving lives, this year. We as a Fellowship are planting seeds with our generosity to accomplish great things as we work together for the future of our city and our way of thinking. Let us expect wonders this year.

Peace,  
Larry

# President's Message

## Greetings to Members and Friends

We have added four new members to our Fellowship. Welcome to Rex and Lynn Crow, Kim Hanneken, and Damon Patterozzi. We know you will enjoy the variety of sermons and discussions we have at UUFD.

May 20 is this year's Congregational Meeting. We will try to start the meeting immediately after the service. Please try to attend. During the meeting we will elect new officers, adopt a budget, hear about the trust fund, and discuss issues important to the Fellowship. We need and welcome your input. Mark that day on your calendar.

The Film Series was a big hit this year. Thanks go to Mel Weinstein and his committee for all their work. It is a great outreach to the community.

We have replaced the water heater that quit working after 30 years. The drinking fountain is broken also, but we put that on hold.

As we continue to attract new people into the Fellowship, remember that we are all greeters. Introduce yourself to guests. Make them feel welcome.

Thanks for all you do for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Judy Thistlethwaite

## News from Religious Education

May 6 Make Mother's Day gifts, Lorelei Zaker.  
May 13 Mother's Day activities, Jennifer Sekosky.  
May 20 End-of Year Celebration, Lorelei Zaker.  
May 27 TBA



We are looking forward to summer RE. We are planning lots of fun activities for the kids for June and August! However, we are taking a break from RE in July. We will still have a babysitter for children under five on those July Sundays though. The RE Committee plans some reorganizing -- maybe having two classes in the fall. If you can help by being a teacher (every other week) or coming in to do music or other activities with the kids, please let Lorelei Zaker, Linda Shroyer, or Jennifer Sekosky know! Remember -- our fellowship cannot continue to exist if we don't attract and keep younger people! Please help us to do that!

## Social Action Project

On Sunday, May 13, in honor of Mothers' Day, we will collect women's personal products for distribution at the Grace House, a women's domestic violence shelter. These women often leave home with nothing and all contributions will be greatly appreciated!  
Rita Schwake, Outreach Chair

## **Biography - Kate Pyle**

Kate Pyle, MDiv., was born and raised in Decatur. In 1997, she headed west for college at the University of New Mexico. Shortly after graduating in 2002, she moved once again to New York City, where she worked for the International Planned Parenthood Federation. One day, a Unitarian Universalist minister came to speak to the staff there. While listening to her speak positively about spirituality/religion *and* reproductive rights and justice, Kate experienced her first "call to ministry." Two years later, Kate left NYC for Cambridge, MA, to attend Harvard Divinity School. While there, she was turned on to hospital chaplaincy, and, after graduating with a Master of Divinity in 2010, Kate relocated once again to Bloomington, IL, for a Clinical Pastoral Education residency at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. After completing her residency in late 2011, Kate returned to Decatur for personal reasons. Kate is passionate about many issues related to peace and social justice, including reproductive health and rights, domestic violence awareness and prevention, marriage equality, poverty and homelessness, environmental justice, and many others. She is currently working for Decatur Memorial Hospital as a per diem chaplain and exploring other opportunities for ministry and community involvement.

## **Summing Up the 2012 Environmental Film Series**

By every measure, the 2012 Environmental Film Series (EFS) was a success this year. (1) The documentaries that were shown were top-notch; (2) We had notable, local members of the community available for discussion after three of the films including Debra Garrett (Director of Macon County Environmental Management, Sue Hemp (Director of Decatur Is Growing Gardeners), and Ron Shumaker (President of Midwest Fiber Recycling). Marge Evans was actively involved in securing the discussion leaders for this year's films; (3) The Green Sanctuary Committee raised more money for the EFS than was spent on videos, supplies, and other ancillary expenses; (4) We continued to receive the financial support of two, local environmental organizations: Audubon Society of Decatur and the Community Environmental Council; (5) For the first four films, we had an estimated, total attendance of 164 people, many of whom were from outside the Fellowship; and (6) We had a substantial amount of help from Fellowship volunteers. Kudos go out to a great staff, which included Marge Evans (popcorn queen), Barb Hannon (publicity), Linda Shroyer (greeter) Darwin Shroyer (greeter, cleanup, and popcorn apprentice), Kathy Kline (concessions), Larry Hutchinson (greeter, cleanup), Chelso Frescura (greeter, cleanup), Tim Rooney (greeter), Bill Harbeck (concessions, cleanup), and Vern Thistlethwaite (concessions). Also, a shout-out goes to Vern for locating a rolling cabinet for the popcorn machine, which he generously donated to the Fellowship. And, finally, thanks to the members of the Fellowship whose patronage helped support the EFS as well. We look forward to having another successful film series in 2013.

>< Mel Weinstein

## **Change of location for Men's Lunch**

Due to the closing of Tuscany's, the group is now meeting at Benny's Grill, 1770 E. Pershing Rd. Men are welcome to join in at 1 pm on Fridays for lunch and conversation.

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

May 2012



## Fellowship Mission

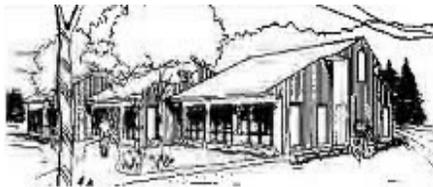
**In a nurturing environment of openness, mutual respect, and friendship, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur is a welcoming, diverse congregation. We share values and seek to celebrate life and support one another in our inward and outward searches for spiritual meaning, provide a liberal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

## May Birthdays

Julie Pajer                      May 19

Terry Hogg                      May 28

*Want to see your name on the birthday list?  
Send e-mail to [newsletter@uufd.org](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org)*



**minister@uufd.org (Rev. Larry Hutchison)  
president@uufd.org (Judy Thistlethwaite)  
vicepresident@uufd.org (Marge Evans)  
treasurer@uufd.org (Mark Sorensen)  
secretary@uufd.org (Mary C Lovell)  
programs@uufd.org (Mark Sorensen)  
newsletter@uufd.org (Kathy Kline and Terry Ankrom)**