

June 2012

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

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

President:
Marge Evans

Vice President:
Rita Schwake

Treasurer:
Mark Sorensen

Secretary:
Barb Hannon

Board Members at
Large:
Mel Weinstein
Mary Cleave
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.

June 3 - "Remember to Live" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

In remembrance of the great poet, Goethe, who rarely spent a day without heeding a simple lesson; "Remember to Live." Not simply remembering to persevere, not even remembering to enjoy, but remembering to live! To express ourselves based on our own unique perspectives. To find the holy throughout all of nature, To make a positive difference in the lives of others.

June 10 - My Kenyan Experience - Dr. Benjamin Brooks

Dr. Benjamin Brooks, a Decatur pediatrician, will be sharing his Kenyan experiences on June 10th. He has just returned from a medical mission trip sponsored by the First Christian Church to aid children and adults in rural Kenya.

Board Meeting at Noon

June 17 - "Love your Neighbor" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

Did St. Paul lay the foundations of Universalism as philosopher, Alain Badiou maintains? What is the political theology of the neighbor in Paul's text? Is this a radical departure from the Gospels?

Special Music by the Salty Strings, a folk duo.

June 24 - "Spaces of Meaning" Rev. Larry Hutchison

We all wish to live in a meaningful way, to live a life that matters, to flourish, to achieve eudaimonia, to sing Spirit of Life, Come Unto Me. In an era when extremists are hogging the microphone,, we wish to understand the deep compatibility of the human quest for scientific truth and spiritual meaning..

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

Calendar of Events

Friday, June 1

Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Wednesday, June 6

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning
Covenant Group

Wednesday, June 6

7:00 p.m. — Humanist Discussion
Group

Friday, June 8

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

Wednesday, June 13

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

Wednesday, June 13

6:00 p.m. - Women's Book Group

Friday, June 15

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

Wednesday, June 20

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

Wednesday, June 20

6:30 p.m. - Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, June 22

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

Wednesday, June 27

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

Friday, June 29

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, June 13 at the home of Sally Van Natta, for potluck and discussion of the book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder.

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 June 17.



Minister's Message

Rev. Larry Hutchison

You, Me and Vespers,

Beauty has us covered
here at the corner
The warm sun rests in comfort at the top
of the tall trees
falling slowly this morning
While a fresh fragrance
kisses the window panes
As the grass grows in the backyard
expecting an early butterfly
Yet, words limp about
the inside of my mind
Perhaps, I should have a rummage sale
of winter ideas
Suddenly I realized
if I stepped outside
I'd break into blossom
I'm thinking, take everything outside
gather the ideas into fresh piles
let the sun bleach through them
And then
while walking through our meeting space
I was hypnotized by tiny sun-signals
exchanged across the blinds
Venetian Vespers!
In that moment
Refreshed!
May you ever walk
in the vespers of beauty

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

Nancy Hutchison's new e-mail: nanjhutch@gmail.com

President's Message

Greetings to Members and Friends

During one of the first services Rev. Larry Hutchison conducted at our Fellowship, he listed accomplishments of the UUA. I want to share with you just some of the accomplishments this Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur has done during this past year.

First we hired a great fellow Rev. Larry Hutchison for a minister. He brought his wife and together they have been a whirlwind, visiting homes, calling on all of us, and getting to know everyone. Great job.

Before Larry arrived, we wanted to "spruce up" the building. UUFD utilized the services of Millikin University students to help on our clean-up day. What a great job the students did in a short time. A few UUFD members have also met several times with MU students developing a relationship to help both UUFD and MU. The MU students provided us with a Sunday morning program we all enjoyed.

Our insurance has been updated. The board is better covered and so is the membership. The Website was updated as well as Facebook. The Members and Friends list of phone numbers and e-mails has been updated. Ask if you need a copy.

There was a Flea Market in our parking lot as a fundraiser. Also, Bergner's coupon books were sold. Not much income, but some. There is a new refrigerator and water heater. New compost containers are available for kitchen use. There was a birthday celebration for a 101 year old member.

The program committee has done an excellent job. We have had a variety of very interesting programs. There was a great night before Christmas Eve service. Attendance was up for that service and others during the year. Visitors now receive a packet of information to take home with them including a current newsletter. This packet includes information on UUA and UUFD. We have had several become new members of the Fellowship. Welcome again.

The Outreach work of our Fellowship has greatly increased with the Christmas basket and gifts, baskets for Mother's Day and Father's Day, soup lunch, and a line item of giving is on the proposed budget. The film series was fantastic. Another outreach, for more nonUUs attended, than UUs.

Several Members have been in and out of the hospital, but we are glad to report that most are showing improvement. Other members have done a great job supporting those in need.

The Trust Fund is growing, thanks to your donations. Monies came in over and beyond the budget amount. Thank you for those extra dollars. We didn't have to take from the Trust for everyday operational costs this year.

RE has had children every Sunday and their numbers seem to be growing. The activities always look as though there's a lot of fun going on with their learning.

The newsletter continues to be something we all are proud of. Keep sending in the good articles. The music person didn't work out well, but canned music has been just fine to help us stay on key. Several services were enhanced by live music from members.

There are books on the "cookie counter" where you can bring a book you have enjoyed and take one to read. This book exchange was such a great idea. Be sure to share other ideas with board members.

Many of our members see that our sign is changed weekly, water plants, keep our yard in good shape, keep in touch with the homebound members, put up and change pictures in the foyer, buy the coffee, paper towels and other necessities, keep the ad going in the newspaper and I could go on and on.

What a group we have!! Our numbers may be small, but we do a huge job. We have a great slate of officers to continue the work. Thank you everyone for all your ideas, your work, and your financial support. We have done a great job this year.

Judy Thistlethwaite

News from Religious Education



Summer fun is awaiting you at RE in June! We'll be having a class for all ages and babysitting every week. However, in July we are taking a break from RE -- although there will still be babysitting for babies.

Card Shower

Longtime member June Allison is having a birthday June 28, and we're throwing her a card shower! Please send June a card -- maybe a little note also -- close to her birthday. Her address is 2134 W. Ridgeview Dr., Decatur, IL 62521. If you have any questions, ask Lorelei Zaker, LorCZa@comcast.net or 330-6761.

June would also appreciate a few visits/phone calls during the day. Please call the Fellowship if you need her address/phone.

Social Action Project

In honor of Father's Day, we will be collecting personal items for men to donate to one of the men's shelters in town. Needed items include: disposable razors, shaving cream, aftershave, deodorant, toothpaste/tooth brushes combs/hairbrushes, lip balm, sunscreen, etc. Once again, we will have a basket in the foyer to place donations into beginning the First of June and will collect thru Father's Day. I'm sure these items will be much appreciated by the recipients.

Rita Schwake, Outreach Chair

General Assembly 2012 June 20-24, Phoenix, Arizona

**This is a historic moment.
Be part of the story.**

General Assembly 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations. More information: www.uua.org/ga/

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

June 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.

June Birthdays

June Allison	June 29
Joan Brown	June 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 (Marge Evans)
vicepresident@uufd.org (Rita Schwake)
treasurer@uufd.org (Mark Sorensen)
secretary@uufd.org (Barb Hannon)
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