

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

Past President:
Judy Thistlethwaite

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.

July 1 - Potluck Picnic at Friends Creek Park

Bring a dish to share. Table service and ice tea will be provided.

July 8 - "Compassion" - Ron Shafer

When asked what his religion was, The Dalai Lama replied "Compassion and Loving Kindness." We'll take a look at what compassion is in practical terms and the state of compassion in the United States today. Terry Ankrom will play the Tibetan Bowls.

Board Meeting at Noon

July 15 - "Our Next Door Neighbors" - Vern Thistlewaite

Vern & Judy have recently traveled with a group to Cuba. Vern will relate his impressions and insights about the country

July 22 - "Education" - Julie Fane

Julie will be speaking about changes in the education practices at District 61, including Summer programming.

July 29 "A Time to Raze" - Kate Pyle

As New Mexico is being ravaged by the largest forest fire in the state's history, my heart breaks at the thought of the thousands of acres of beautiful trees and other plant life that have burned, the wildlife that have lost their habitat, and the humans who have lost or could potentially lose their homes and surroundings. But there is a silver lining behind the smoke: in order to continue living and growing, forests *must* occasionally burn. Over time, forests build up vegetation that can prevent seed germination and stop new trees from growing. In addition, if this vegetation and undergrowth is not burned off every so often, it becomes additional fuel for an even hotter and more destructive fire in the future. For these reasons, fire scientists regularly prescribe controlled burns, in an effort to both keep forests healthy and prevent wildfires from destroying more is necessary. This idea of destruction (and re-growth) applies to the human experience of life as well....

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

Calendar of Events

Friday, July 6

Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Wednesday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 11

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

Friday, July 13

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

Wednesday, July 18

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

Wednesday, July 18

6:30 p.m. -Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, July 20

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

Wednesday, July 25

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

Friday, July 27

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

Humanist Group—Humanist Discussion Group - No meetings in July or August. Meetings will resume in September 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, July 11 at the home of Sharon Zimmerman, for potluck and discussion of the book *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

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 July 15.



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: minister@uufd.org

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

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

Rev. Larry Hutchison

You, me and July,

By the time you read this Nancy and I will be swimming through the summer heat of Florida. There is no July in my contracts.

This year ends June 30 and next year starts August 1. But July is not missing here at the Fellowship, you have great programs scheduled for the month.

We sold our home and shop in Florida so we will be there dealing with our stuff. This stuff, where does it all come from? Have we lived that long, in such a short time? And this stuff is wrapped so carefully in such pleasant memories.

Does one need the stuff to hold onto the memory? Or is that why memories move away from us as we grow older so we downsize?

Yet, before we leave I'm feeling a warm breeze of gratitude filling my cup. A heart felt thank you for our year together here in Decatur. Sure, there may be places of more glamour but not better people, or more generous hearts, or richer memories. THANK YOU!!

We had a good year because we appreciate and give thanks to one another each and always for efforts large and small. Someone wrote that thankfulness is the beginning of wisdom, it is also the foundation of a stronger community.

To everyone, from board members to committee chairs to everyone and anyone just saying thank you, THANK YOU!!

Don't miss July and I will see you in August

Does anyone want some stuff??

Peace, Larry

President's Message

Hello good members and friends of UUFD!

As time rolls on, you now will find yourselves with a new president. Perhaps you might say a "new old president"! (You can say it –"in more ways than one!") Anyway, here I am delighted and privileged to serve you again. Our year is off to a jumping new start with a great team of committee chairs.

Building and Grounds*	Darwin Shroyer	lindashroyer@att.net
Finance	Mark Sorensen	sorens1@comcast.net
Fund Raising*	Kathy Vaught	faithvaught@comcast.net
Green Sanctuary*	Deonne Orvis and Kathy Kline	kkline923@aol.com
Hospitality*	Kathy Sorensen	kathysorensen1@comcast.net
Membership-Outreach*	Linda Shroyer	lindashroyer@att.net
Music*	Jane Brooks	mjb936@live.com
Newsletter	Kathy Kline	newsletter@uufd.org
Program*	Rita Schwake	programs@uufd.org
Religious Education*	Lorelei Zaker	lorza@comcast.net
Website	Tim Rooney	timothysrooney@hotmail.com

The committees with a * are the ones that could REALLY use some help. These are committees that just can't function with one person alone. Please go over your priorities and see if you might lend a hand somewhere. Contact them or me and we'll fit you into your niche. Thanks!

July is the month that Larry and Nancy Hutchison will be taking a vacation. But never fear-- you will see from the program schedule that we have some exceptional speakers and programs lined up for the month. The first of July is the date for our annual picnic. This year it will be up in a pavilion in Friends Creek. Bring a dish to share; iced tea and plates & utensils will be furnished. Seems we never have enough time to visit during our "breaks", so let's make up for those mini-times!

For those of you wondering, Friends Creek Conservation Area is just off where 48 and 36 intersect north of Argenta. I like to take 48 northeast; after leaving Argenta, in about a mile, you will intersect with Friends Creek Road. Go north (left) a couple miles and you are there. Or if you take 72 NE, take the Argenta exit. The Conservation District has good signs.

Come welcome Larry back in the pulpit on August 5th. Aren't we lucky to have him!

Cheers to you all and have many happy sunny loafy summer days! Marge



News from Religious Education

For the month of July, we will have babysitting available for younger children during the service, but no RE. Children will have opportunities to do crafts, play individually and as a group, and play outside as weather permits.

Specific lessons divided by age group will begin in August when we introduce our new teacher – Kate Pyle!

Humanism Taking Off Summer--Back in September

As disappointing as the headline appears--no meetings in July or August--we will be back in September. What can one look forward to in September? Before September arrives, examine how we finished with our June meeting!

Ron Shafer, an active and involved member of the Humanist group, presented a topic for us. He examined the growing power and influence of religious fundamentalism in society today and how that has affected the world. As you might expect, Ron did extensive research and prepared an abundance of information. He had two handouts for everyone at the meeting. The first provided the core contents of the discussion. The second handout was something to take home and examine.

One of the first things to study was the sources used to gather this information. Ron cited the sources he used so anyone could pursue further investigation outside of the group if desired. With references out of the way, Ron began with a definition: what was the meaning of fundamentalism. Since a concise definition was not comprehensive, Ron then listed some traits and characteristics of fundamentalism. Everyone listened and someone would occasionally respond with a comment or personal example to add a concrete experience to the general point Ron was discussing.

Next, Ron examined the historical context of fundamentalism. Where and when did this start? How did it start? The Calvinistic philosophy was noted as a strong contributor to fundamentalism. Although this was a start for the fundamentalist movement, it certainly wasn't the end! Ron then examined how the Fundamentalist movement has changed. The first big change was in the mid 20th century when the Fundamentalism movement embraced "dominionism: politically active conservative Christians that are believed to conspire and seek influence or control over secular civil government through political action, especially in the United States, with the goal of either a nation governed by Christians or a nation governed by a conservative Christian understanding of biblical law." With this term introduced, Ron then presented the biblical passage (Genesis 1:28) that is cited as basis for this perspective.

Next, Ron examined the Dominionist theology and presented several of the preachers and fundamentalists that have made this popular today. We looked at how these preachers are influencing society—television programs, radio programs, political donations, rallies, Tea Party membership, and lobbyists. Of course we couldn't examine every position of influence, but Ron mentioned enough items to clearly demonstrate the power and influence the Fundamentalist movement wields in society today.

To wrap up the discussion, Ron presented five "real life" cases where we could easily examine the Fundamentalist influence. We looked at the Dover, Pennsylvania school board and text book selection, the Creation Museum of Kentucky, the Mississippi judge that insisted on hanging the Ten Commandments in his courtroom, the Terry Shiavo case, and the birth control hearings in the United States Congress.

Everyone was able to comment on these issues and we could all relate to some real world examples. As the discussion drew to a close, Ron presented what we can do to illuminate the rest of society to the darkness being spread by these Fundamentalists. Ron writes, "We must never be afraid to speak out in support of our values, no matter how unpopular they may be."

What is in store for September? No topic has been presented yet, but I hope there is something to note in the August newsletter. Regardless of the content for the September discussion, rest assured you will be entertained and challenged by the discussion, company, and delicious treats and drinks!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

July 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.

July Birthdays

Linda Shroyer	July 6
John Hays	July 21
Jo Caulkins	July 25
Ron Shafer	July 25

*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)
programs@uufd.org (Rita Schwake)
newsletter@uufd.org (Kathy Kline and Terry Ankrom)**