

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.

AUGUST 5 - "Bid The Passing Moment Stay" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

Recalling the famous wager in Goethe's Faust: if he says to any single moment, "please stay for a while, you are so fair", we will look at the restless, always becoming, perpetual metamorphosis of Faust from self to community; through the lens of his greatest 19th century advocate, the incredible Margaret Fuller.

Let me gather from the earth,
one full grown fragrant flower,
Let it bloom within my bosom
though its one blooming hour. M.F.

August 12 - "Green Technology Education - It's Happening at RCC" by Dr. Douglas Brauer, RCC VP

Dr. Brauer is Richland's Vice President of Economic Development & Innovative Workforce Solutions. He is responsible for numerous technical, career and adult education programs. He is very much involved in technical advances which will lead to an improved environment.

Board Meeting at Noon

AUGUST 19 - "To Have In Common" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

Is there any concern more pressing today than thinking what it means to have in common? From debates on biotechnology and shared gene pools, to the relation between the digital commons and public culture, to political and theological genealogies of the common and community, one of the most decisive questions for contemporary life concerns what having in common entails. Why? When did the common become a question and not a declaration?

Some thoughts on community.

August 26 - "Practicing Peace" - Kate Pyle, M. Div.

Peace is more than simply the absence of war: it is a daily practice of compassion, empathy and nonviolence, even--perhaps especially--in the midst of difference, confrontation and conflict. How do we, individually and communally, practice peace in our everyday lives?

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

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, August 1

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

Friday, August 3

Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Wednesday, August 8

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

Wednesday, August 8

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

Friday, August 10

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

Wednesday, August 15

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

Wednesday, August 15

6:30 p.m. -Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, August 17

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

Wednesday, August 22

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

Friday, August 24

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

Friday, August 31

1:00 - 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, August 8 at the home of Tina King, for potluck and discussion of the book *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isobel Wilkerson.

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



Food Bank Sunday

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items for local food banks to the Sunday service on August 19.



Rev. Larry Hutchison

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

President's Message

Shall we make a silk purse out of a sow's ear? Think we should try? For those of you who noticed the strings lying out under the maple trees, you may have guessed that dreams are afloat. One of the points of discussion at our Green Sanctuary meetings is the wish to turn that area into a beautiful tranquil place using plants that like to grow in the shade. I'll grant that it is a place of beauty at times—when the maples turn red and gold! -- in the spring when the daffodils are in their full glory, thanks to the work of Mark. He has labored over the years trying to get grass to grow to fill in those empty places and has planted hostas up in the shade of the Redbud trees, which are thriving despite the drought. Please thank him when you see him, for his dedication in beautifying the area.

During the "walk-about" June 24th we considered a solar fountain surrounded by fragrant herbs in a sunny area, and native flowering plants that attract butterflies and birds in the area behind the big sign. But the bare shady area by the walk seemed to be the place to begin. Our "sow's ear"! Your suggestions led to a plan. We envision islands of greenery and flowers with emphasis on native plants encircling a meditation bench a few steps from the walk. To hold the "islands" in place and to contain good soil, we are looking at interlocking bricks. Deonne and I measured the strings and came up with 266 bricks which are \$1.36 each at Lowe's. Wood chip mulch, which we can get free from the city, would be between the "islands". Sounds like work? Well, it all depends on the number of willing hands! With help from the Millikin student volunteers, who are scheduled for August 25th, the mulch just might get placed. Dreaming along, we thought some of you might like to "adopt a brick"! Maybe even contribute to make the bench inscribed as a memorial bench! Let us know what you think. Shall we try to make that "silk purse"?

Cheers from your dreamer, Marge

Do save August 25th for our big "sparkle and shine" day! There will be indoor opportunities as well.

News from Religious Education



Beginning in August, we will start having two RE classes available each Sunday. One will be geared to the younger children, and one for the older children, which will allow each group to pursue learning and engage in activities at a more appropriate level. We are very excited!

Kate Pyle will be teaching on a regular basis and we are very pleased to have her join the team. We'll post a schedule of class topics on the RE doors once it is finalized.

Bring the children in your life to RE! They'll have a great time and learn a lot!

Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

After reading *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel, founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core and on President Obama's Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships; the Wednesday Covenant group has begun steps to bring Eboo to Decatur. Contacts at Millikin and the Muslim community show interest in his Interfaith Youth Core. This remarkable book was recommended reading by UUA last year. A copy, which may be borrowed, is in the Fellowship office.

Mary Cleave

Spiritual Explorations

In August, the Spiritual Journey Covenant Group will be discussing "The Awakening Experience" led by Bill Harbeck with a guest presenter (Wednesday, August 8, 7:00pm) and "The Definition of Mysticism" led by Ron Shafer (Wednesday, August 22, 7:00 pm). In the following months, we will examine lucid dreaming, the afterlife(?), the existence of the soul(?), personal spiritual transformations, the importance of a guru, and other highly profound subjects. Meetings are open to all members, friends, and guests of the Fellowship.

Heads Up for an Exciting Program in September

We have invited a national speaker to the UUFD for Sunday September 16th. Dr. Will Tuttle will present the Sunday morning program and also perform a piano concert at the Fellowship in the evening. Details will be published in the September newsletter. Also, we are planning a plant-based potluck for friends and members of the Fellowship prior to the concert. There will be a full-menu of events for that Sunday.

Dr. Will Tuttle, author, educator, pianist, and composer, has lectured and performed widely throughout North America and Europe. Author of the acclaimed Amazon #1 best-seller *The World Peace Diet*, he is a recipient of the Peace Abbey's Courage of Conscience Award, and is the creator of several wellness training programs. His Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, focused on educating intuition and altruism in adults, and he has taught college courses in creativity, humanities, mythology, religion, and philosophy. A former Zen monk as well as a 30-year vegan, he is devoted to cultural healing and awakening, and has created eight CD albums of original piano music. Traveling full-time with his spouse Madeleine, a Swiss visionary artist, in their solar-powered RV, he presents over 150 lectures, retreats, workshops, and concerts per year.

UUFD Sunday Picnic a Success!

On Sunday, July 01, the normal UUFD service had a change from the usual routine. Instead of the customary Sunday Service on MacArthur Road, the congregation met for a picnic at Friends Creek Conservation Area near Cisco, IL (<http://www.maconcountyconservation.org/friendscreek.php>). What a great experience this was! The drive from Decatur to Friends Creek was a picturesque excursion along some country roads. This was only the later part of the drive, though. Most of the trip was on I-72 east to Champaign. Once off the interstate, I did have to navigate some narrow roads through corn and soybean fields. This was well worth the trip, though, considering the beautiful forest and wooded areas that compose much of Friends Creek Conservation Area.

I arrived to find some UUFD members already there and setting up for the picnic. The picnic tables within the small pavilion had been covered with green plastic sheeting. This easily made for a clean eating surface. A picnic basket was already on top of the table, both anchoring the table covering and holding some of the delicious treats available to all the UUFD members that would arrive.

Looking around the park, one could catch nature's beauty along with the conveniences added to make the park more accessible to the human visitors. Although we had our choice of pavilions, Marge Evans wisely selected the smaller of the two pavilions. Since the larger pavilion had a wall on one side of the structure, this would stop the breeze that made our Sunday sojourn so pleasant. That breeze and shade made the warm morning much more enjoyable.

The delicious food also helped make the outing a success! With fried chicken, green bean salad, chips, dip, corn bread, cookies, frozen fruit cups, and cheese cake, there was plenty of food for all tastes. I enjoyed several trips through the line, and the tall glasses of lemonade really made for a wonderful morning and afternoon.

Beyond the beautiful grounds and delectable dining, there was the wonderful company you would expect at any UUFD event! The Sorensen family brought many of the utensils and service items necessary to dish out the foodstuffs. Rita Schwake brought and put out the table covering for the picnic tables. Beyond supplies, the Shroyer family brought tales of a new house. It was exciting to hear of the new place on the lake. It even has a boat dock--a MUST for the grandkids!

The morning drifted into afternoon with conversations about UUFD work to beautify our grounds. Other chatter drifted to the usual diversity of topics you'd hear at any UUFD gathering. As the afternoon progressed, everyone had finished lunch and dessert--that cheesecake sure was good! Since it was getting warmer and nobody had brought a fan, we all collected our stuff, disposed of our trash, and headed home.

But was this the end? For this year, yes, but hopefully not for next year! As I noted above, the pavilions were wired for convenience so fans could easily be placed near the picnic tables to provide an even more comforting, consistent breeze. The shade, lunch, and company were quite enjoyable. With the addition of fans and more attendees, I eagerly anticipate this excursion again next year. Will that happen? I hope so, but it could be helped by another month with five Sundays--one of the reasons we scheduled a Sunday service picnic this year.

Aha! What a pleasant surprise to find five Sundays in June of 2013! Perhaps that's something to look forward to in June of next year? Hopefully we can arrange that and have a great turnout this time next year!

Tim Rooney

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

August 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.

August Birthdays

Rita Schwake Aug. 16
Vern Thistlethwaite Aug. 21

*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)
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