

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

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Decatur, IL 62526
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www.uufd.org

President:
Marge Evans

Vice President:
Rita Schwake

Past President:
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Barb Hannon

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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.

November 4 "Flat Tax and Fat Cats: The Case for Progressive Taxation" - Dr. Peter Wenz

Professor Wenz returns to UUFD to discuss ideas from his new book, **Take Back the Center: Progressive Taxation for a New Progressive Agenda** in which he controversially makes the case for what he believes is "a sane, reality-based politics that reclaims the center for progressive policies." The key, he argues, is taxing the wealthy at higher rates. He states the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans has declined from the mid-twentieth-century high of 91 percent to a twenty-first-century low of 36 percent--even as social programs are gutted and the gap between rich and poor widens dramatically. One book reviewer stated that Wenz has written a compelling new book on how to save America's system from the political right wing and its extremist anti-government, anti-tax ideology. Whether you agree or disagree, discussion will likely be lively as we count down to a heated Presidential election.

November 11 "Heralds Of A Liberal Faith " - Rev. Larry Hutchison

The fascinating story of Jenkin Lloyd Jones (1843-1918) and the Western Conference. Jones was a farmer, Unitarian minister, social reformer, peace activist, founder of the Abraham Lincoln Center (Chicago), leader of the Unitarian Western Conference (the western issue), editor of the weekly Unitarian publication "Unity" for forty years, an organizer of the World Parliament of Religion of 1893 and the uncle of Frank Lloyd Wright. He and William Channing Gannett were "heralds of the liberal faith" here in the mid-west.

Board meeting at noon.

November 18 "Creative Breakthroughs" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

Where does the unique originality we call "creativity" come from? Can anybody be creative? What causes some people to soar free of their limited lives and make astonishingly creative contributions? What creates the creative brain? An inspiring look at art and religion through art with artist.

November 25 "The Emotional Lives of Animals " - Mel Weinstein

This program falls under the UU seventh principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Do nonhuman animals have feelings? Do they have emotions? In this multimedia, interactive presentation, the controversial subject of animal emotions will be explored using personal stories and documented cases of both companion and wild animals. Science has only recently begun to investigate the field of animal emotions, but the data is building with some surprising results. Please come prepared to experience your own emotions as you witness the emotional lives of animals through pictures, sounds, and videos.

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

Friday, November 2

Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Wednesday, November 7

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

Wednesday, November 7

7:00 p.m. - Humanist Discussion Group

Friday, November 9

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

Wednesday, November 14

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

Wednesday, November 14

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

Friday, November 16

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

Wednesday, November 21

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

Wednesday, November 21

6:30 p.m. -Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, November 23

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

Wednesday, November 28

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

Friday, November 30

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon

Calendar of Events

Humanist Group—Humanist Discussion Group - Meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Dave Snoeyenbos at 865-2409.

Women's Book Group— Women's Book Club meets on Wednesday, November 14 at the home of Carolyn Devore for potluck and discussion of *The Dove Keepers* by Hoffman.

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 p.m. for lunch and conversation.

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



Food Bank Sunday

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items for local food banks to the Sunday service on November 18.



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

You, Me and A Maple Leaf,

Ursula Goodenough writes in her best selling book, *The Scared Depths Of Nature:* " the Epic of Evolution is a fantastic myth that happens to be true of the material Universe. We do have something of a story here, a true story, that we can work with religiously should we elect to do so. The Epic of Evolution is such a story, beautifully suited to anchor our search for planetary consensus, telling us our nature, our place, our context. Moreover, responses to this story -- what we are calling religious naturalism -- can yield deep and abiding spiritual experiences. And then, after that, we need other stories as well, human-centered stories, a mythos that embodies our ideals and our passions."

Mid-morning, here at the corner
A maple leaf, one in a thousand
Is blowing humbly on a west wind with splendor,
No less the Epic of Evolution.
(Or as Whitman wrote)
No less than the journey-work of the stars.
A scarlet leaf descending on me
Squaring some thoughts in a wave of distance
The Universe,
Singing its immense journey.
And I, who lifts the lid of a laptop to read of such myths
I too, celebrate a shared story of leaf and star
Celebrate a grand story, now
Standing on this mound pushed up by an ancient past,
Under a canopy of leaves quivering overhead,
Dropping large and melodious thoughts,
Say yes, for science! Now we know!
Thanks to Astronomers! For the big picture.
Hurrah for Physicists! It was I whose heart skipped a beat on a fall morning.
Come celebrate with us!
The rest of this story.

Peace,
Larry

Presidents Message

Hi good folks,

Is it the crisp fall air or my imagination? I feel a surge of energy! So many good things are happening. Thanks to Rev. Larry, even stoicism seemed understandable and somewhat attractive. Our potlucks have been not only great taste teasers but also fun times to visit with one another.. Then the rains came and took the concern out of getting our new gardens started. A new bench, in memory of Rosemary Idleman, will soon be in place by the walk. Made by Amish carpenters, it is sturdy and welcoming—just like Rosemary. Sit, rest, visit or just reflect on both of our new benches.

I feel energy radiating from steps being taken to understand other faiths. Thanks to Larry for bringing this message. You have read how the energy from reading *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel has led the Wednesday morning covenant group to seek speakers from his *Interfaith Youth Corp*. Maham Kham and Nicolas Cable will be coming April 14th and 15th. Save the dates! They will speak at UU first, then take their message of pluralism, understanding and appreciation of other faiths to the youth in our community. Stay posted for more details. Rev. Larry has been a real mover for us in getting the plans underway.

By the way, Eboo Patel will be speaking at the UU General Assembly in Louisville, KY June 19-23. I'm picturing a busload from Decatur making the short trip down to hear him. Are you aboard?

My best to all, Marge

News from Religious Education

We are going to be hosting a service in December, so we will begin working on our songs and presentation during RE time, throughout the month of November.

November 4 –

Little's – Discussing elections – Jennifer

Bigs – Election focus – Kate

November 11 –

Little's – Veterans Day – Lorelei

Bigs – Veterans Day / UU History and Famous UU's– Kate

November 18 –

Little's – Thanksgiving / Guest at our Table –Jennifer

Bigs - Guest at our Table / UU History and Famous UU's– Kate

November 25 –

Little's & Bigs together – rehearse songs and presentation for December service



Spiritual Explorations

In November, the Spiritual Journey Covenant Group will be discussing "Does the Soul Exist" led by Mike Kuzola (Wednesday, November 14, 7:00pm) and "Mental Telepathy" led by Nancy Hutchison (Wednesday, November 28, 7:00 pm). Please note that these topics are subject to change based on the desires of the group during the month. In the following months, we may cover humor and spirituality, the importance of a guru, what is non-dual thinking, and other highly profound subjects. Meetings are open to all members, friends, and guests of the Fellowship

What's New at Our Website?

"Have you seen the UUFD website? That place is so cool! It's got all kinds of snazzy graphics and all the information about service on Sunday. Good stuff!" Turns out, this isn't all that's on the website. There is some "hidden" stuff that only members can see. What is that? Where is that? If I mentioned what it was, that would spoil the secret. I can mention where all this extra stuff is hiding, though. It's all tucked away in the Members section of the website.

"What? There's a members section to the website?" Sure enough, there is. From the website's homepage, the upper right hand item in the menu bar reads Members. Give this text a click and you are directed to a login screen.

"So I have to login with a username and password, right? How can I get that?" Sure enough, to get access to the members section of the website, you do need to have a username and password. So how can you get those values? Just send a request my way! Let me know on Sunday and I can make a note of that. Furthermore, if you have a particular username you would like to use, let me know what that should be as well. I can setup that username for you, and you will be able to login to the website to change your password to whatever value you choose.

"But what if I'm not a member? Is there some way for me to get a username?" If you are not officially a member of the UUFD but just a regular visitor or good friend, please also send a request my way. If you're a trustworthy source, I'll have no problem giving you access to that information and the Members website.

"Neat! There's all kinds of good information here. But what if I wanted to see..." Let me know! This is your website! What extra information do you desire? What else can we do to enhance the UUFD interface to the world? Sure, we can add things to the Members section. We can also add or modify things in the public website. Let me know what you think or what you'd like. Feedback is always appreciated. Send those suggestions or ideas—along with username requests—to timothysrooney@hotmail.com and I'll get your Members access setup. Until I get word from you, enjoy the public parts of the website and just imagine the mysterious, compelling things hidden behind the Members section!

November 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.

November Birthdays

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|----------------|---------|
| Terry Ankrom | Nov. 19 |
| Barbara French | Nov. 29 |

*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)
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