



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## Upcoming Services

All Sunday services begin at **10:15 AM.**

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

Rev. Larry Hutchison  
Consulting Minister

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

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Rita Schwake

Vice President:  
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UUFD Trust Board:  
Ken Robertson  
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Dave Snoeyenbos



### **December 1 - "When Job Lost His Job" - Rev. Larry Hutchison**

Is there such a thing as cosmic justice? The book of Job is a story of loss, suffering and justice, the loss of a job, the loss of insurance, the loss of a child or loved one. Justice is conceived by a cosmic logic of retribution, you get what you deserve. Like when my little brother died at eleven months and someone said to my mother, "you must have done something terrible to deserve this."

### **December 8 - "Stand Up For Grace" - Prof. Pixie Fennessey.**

Pixie Fennessey is a full time professor of Psychology and Sociology at Richland Community College, and was selected "teacher of the year" in 2004. She has taken seven trips to Kenya to do volunteer teaching, mothering, and overall support work for By Grace Disabled and Orphans Centre.

*Board Meeting at noon.*

### **December 15 "A Religion of Perhaps" - Rev. Larry Hutchison**

I am learning how to say "perhaps".

I know, perhaps sounds like an anemic inability to affirm or deny, yet perhaps does not mean the difference of maybe-maybe-not but the hope harbored in what happens. Perhaps, I hope, perchance, there is a chance, a ghost of a chance in what is happening. Perhaps, could be the better way to say yes to the future.

### **December 22 - Christmas Eve Family Service 6:30pm**

Stories, songs, special music, a children's choir, the turning of the year, Solstice, candle light and DON'T FORGET THE COOKIES!!

A family celebration on a December night warmed by your smile and a candle:

- the birth of a child, every child
- the love of a mother, every mother
- the hope of a father, every father

### **December 29 - "For Love of the Earth," poetry with UUFD's Ron Shafer**

Ron has written poetry "off and on" most of his life resulting in the publication of a small volume "Winter Wolf" in 1991 and poems in the Moraine anthologies in the early nineties. A reviewer in "Illinois Writer" said "I always return to poets I like" when reviewing Ron's work in "Moraine Two" and added, "There is a deceptive simplicity about Shafer's poems." The poems in today's reading have been written during the past two years. They are distinctively different from his earlier work in style and depth. In general the poems fall into three categories: childhood, Earth and the Universe, and love for a woman. There is a spiritual content in almost all of Shafer's poetry. Please join Ron in a morning of praise for the Earth and the joy of living as we finish the year 2013.

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



**Wed., Dec. 4 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

**Wed., Dec. 4 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Humanist Group

**Fri., Dec, 6 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Wed., Dec. 11- 6:00 p.m.**  
Women's Book Group

**Wed., Dec. 11 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

**Friday, Dec. 13 -1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Wed., Dec. 18 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

**Wed., Dec. 18 - 6:30 p.m.**  
Decatur Vegetarian Society

**Friday, Dec, 20 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Friday, Dec. 27 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

## 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**— The Women's Book Club will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at Sally VanNatta's. She will give a presentation on her Artist-in-Residence experience in the tiny town of Tilting, Newfoundland.

**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

**Decatur Vegetarian Society (DVS)** --- The DVS group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. 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.

**Wednesday Morning Covenant Group** - This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We are discussing Eboo Patel's new book *Sacred Ground*.



### Food Bank Sunday

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items for local food banks to the Sunday service on December 15 .



**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](mailto:minister@uufd.org)

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

**YOU, ME, AND '13**

I've concluded,  
while sporting a new 'pacemaker'  
and traveling a very thankful year with you,  
The only way out of '13  
is through December.  
But what's ahead??

A gift is given,  
A card is sent,  
A child is born,  
A candle lit,  
The ways of being and giving  
are so many.

Here at the corner,  
among the four directions,  
Another year's passing  
is sufficient reason to feel deeply  
and hope among the bare trees.  
Yes, '13 is ending!  
Yet, '14 is arriving, I assume.

A year of giving and receiving,  
ending and beginning.  
A child is born  
A new beginning,  
another year  
And here at UUFD  
on Christmas eve,  
I'll be a Christmas kid again, again.

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!!!

Peace, Larry



## President's Message

Here's hoping you all had a good Thanksgiving holiday and are enjoying the start of the Holiday season! Butch & I drove to North Carolina for a few days with his son & family. As most of you have heard, we will again be providing gifts and food for two families suggested by the Decatur School District this year. The children in RE are doing the children's gifts part and the rest of us are asked to provide money or non-perishable food donations for their holiday meals. Please participate as you are able.

At our November board meeting, some of the things we discussed/dealt with were the emergency lights and other ceiling lights which have not been functioning properly, the need for a Committee to explore options for furnace replacement, news about the upcoming Annual Environmental Film Series, a Northwest Institute program to be given at Millikin University, and plans for our Holiday Programs here at UUFD. As you can see, things get VERY busy here at this time of year and many hands are needed! Don't forget to sign up for coffee hosting if you can and to volunteer for any other activities you may be able to assist with.

My Best Wishes for a peaceful Holiday and a prosperous, healthy New Year!  
See ya in church! Rita

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## News from Religious Education

It is an exciting time for RE! We are welcoming new teachers and enjoying lots of fun activities this month!

### December 1

Primary Class - Hanukah - Krystle Callarman

Intermediate Class - Hanukah and Judaism - Lorelei and possible guest speaker.

All practice singing.

### December 8

Primary Class - Winter Solstice - Kathy Kline

Intermediate Class - Winter Solstice - Bernadette and Lorelei

All practice singing with Christina.

### December 15

Primary Class - Christmas, Jennifer

Intermediate Class - Christmas, Christina.

All practice singing.



### December 22 6:30 p.m.

No A.M. service; Christmas Eve Service in evening. Kids sing!!! Come early to practice!

### December 29

Combined Class - New Year's traditions

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**Professor Pixie Hennessey**  
**(UUFd speaker on December 8)**

Most recently Pixie was in Kenya for nine months on professional leave. While on leave she did research for Richland Community College to enhance curriculum in the areas of social problems and globalization. While in Kenya she continued her volunteer teaching at By Grace. She also raises donations and sponsors several children at the orphanage. She continues to do presentations and engage in fundraising for By Grace Disabled and Orphans Centre. She is President and one of the founders of Stand Up For Grace.

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**Hanukkah Celebration**

The temple will hold a Latke Dinner and Hanukkah celebration at 5:30 pm. Sunday, Dec. 8. If you wish to come, call the temple office, 429-5740, or email Diane Pyle at [dptemple@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dptemple@sbcglobal.net)

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**Slideshow Available**

Delores Logue and Ron Shafer have created a multi-media slide show (photography, music, and poetry) to demonstrate **the importance or water to all life on planet Earth**. It is a wake-up call and a celebration. The slide show runs approximately thirty-five to forty minutes and requires a darkened room. If any UUFd members know of any groups that would be interested in a showing, please contact Ron at [865-2527](tel:865-2527)/[ron.shafer52@gmail.com](mailto:ron.shafer52@gmail.com) or Delores at [delores.logue5@gmail.com](mailto:delores.logue5@gmail.com). The slide show has been shown to two UUFd groups and will be shown at the Audubon meeting in December.

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## Humanists Are Not All The Same

On Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 7:00 pm, the Greater Decatur Humanists all met at the UUFD. Everyone at the meeting considered him or herself a Humanist, but did everyone there mean the same thing? Maybe one version of Humanism differed from another? The group examined three major subdivisions of Humanism in our discussion. What general groupings can be made for Humanism? The three examined divisions discussed were Secular Humanism, Religious Humanism, and Congregational Humanism.

How to distinguish among these three related perspectives? Doug started things off with a look at Secular Humanism, the "traditional" humanist perspective. Since this branch traces its roots to the start of the Humanist movement, it is the branch most often identified as Humanism. With the history of this branch spanning the longest time, Doug began with a general history of Humanism. This culminated in the drafting of the Humanist Manifesto in the 1930s. This was also when the Religious Humanist movement began. Doug then related some of the major issues addressed by Secular Humanism: separation of church and state, school vouchers, human rights (minorities, women, abortion, gay marriage), and the promotion of teaching true science. Finally, Doug noted one more major difference or characteristic of humanists compared with religious believers—humanists serve humanity while believers serve god.

Doug's reference to the foundation of Religious Humanism in the 1930s provided the perfect segway for Kieth to relate what Religious Humanism means. Kieth began by citing one of his major sources for the information he presented--the writings of William R. Murray, former president of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. To begin the discussion, Kieth noted the difference between the words 'religion' and 'religious'. The term 'religion' references a religious organization. So what about 'religious'? That relates to quality of life or providing meaning, direction, or value to life. With these distinctions clarified, Kieth noted that Humanism is 'religious' when it binds people together. The 'religious' of Religious Humanism does not need to be supernatural but only provide meaning or value to life. Furthermore, Religious Humanism emphasizes belonging to community, finding friends, working and celebrating together, hungering for deeper personal relationships, and finding awe and wonder in the natural world. The Religious Humanist places high value on emotional and personal experience. Emphasis in Religious Humanism centers on reason, critical thinking, compassion, love, and social justice. The Secular Humanist perspective may have a negative overtone, but the Religious Humanist perspective is positive and reaffirming.

Finally, Leroy described Congregational Humanism. This group has a great parallel here in Decatur, the "Good People" group (<https://www.facebook.com/goodpeoplemu>) at Millikin University. The idea behind Congregational Humanism is that everything we do as a community is essential to human existence. Traditionally, Humanism has been adamant about NOT supporting religion. Instead, Congregational Humanism focuses on bringing people together, uniting everyone under a cause or purpose. Gretta Vosper was mentioned as a key figure in this movement. Perhaps the subtitle of her book **With Or Without God** is an excellent phrase describing this Congregational Humanism: "Why the way we live is more important than what we believe." Instead of separating Humanists, though, we wrapped up with one of the exciting challenges that could unite all those disparate Humanists. For each Humanist, an individual definition of "doing good" must be constructed--there's no book or authority to tell the humanist what "doing good" means.

Perhaps you would like to explore this "doing good" with us? If so, join us at the next Humanist meeting, Wednesday December 04, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the UUFD. Please bring along your favorite Humanist holiday story or poem to share as we celebrate the upcoming winter festivities!

## December 2013



### 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.**

### December Birthdays

Judy Thistlethwaite	Dec. 4
Dick Zaker	Dec. 4
Lorelei Zaker	Dec. 30

*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 (Rita Schwake)**  
**vicepresident@uufd.org (Bernadette Lundeen)**  
**treasurer@uufd.org (Mark Sorensen)**  
**secretary@uufd.org (Barb Hannon)**  
**programs@uufd.org (Bernadette Lundeen)**  
**newsletter@uufd.org (Kathy Kline and Terry Ankrom)**

***January Newsletter Deadline: December 20***