



Rev. Larry Hutchison  
Consulting Minister

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# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## Upcoming Services

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

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

### **AUGUST 4 "Good Country People and Wingless Chickens"**

Rev. Larry Hutchison and Terry Ankrom

"Wingless chickens" are bred that way so there will be more meat and they don't really need wings anymore since technology has provided new and improved cages to live out their lives in total nihilism. This is a fun (?) tour through Flannery O'Connor's powerful stories. And what about us? Do our spirits need to soar? Do we remember why the caged bird sings?

### **August 11 "Considering Emerson"** Kate Pyle, MDiv

Mid-nineteenth century thinker and writer Ralph Waldo Emerson is an important figure in UU history, particularly the Unitarian branch of UU history. This presentation will reflect on his ideas and writings, as well as his place in American religious history.

*Board Meeting at Noon*

### **August 18 "Burma: Searching for Peace"** Brett Johnston

Burma is the second-most isolated country in the world, having won independence in 1948. Since then, Burma has had one of the longest-running civil wars. Now tensions are high between the Buddhists and Muslims living in Burma, leading to anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence. What can bring peace amidst all this conflict in a country home to more Buddhist monks than anywhere else? In addition to a brief history of Burma, we will hear the ideas of the first American to be ordained as a Burmese monk, Alan Clements. Clements is now an activist and the author of several books. Brett has ties to Burma through her Buddhist guru, who has been sent to America by The Venerable Chanmyay Sayadaw of Burma to teach at Chanmyay Satipatthana Vihara in Springfield, IL.

### **August 25 "Epiphanies Are Not Permanent"** Rev. Larry Hutchison

The fact that there's a brevity to human connection and human empathy - the fact that it goes away - might make you feel that we should not make a big deal of it. But of course we can't do that. We have to value these moments of such grace.

A continuation of Flannery O'Connor, but with the addition of Walker Percy.

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

## Calendar of Events

**Friday, August 2 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Wed., August 7 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

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

**Thurs., August 8 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Discussion of Flannery O'Connor

**Friday, August 9 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Wed., August 14 - 6:00 p.m.**  
Women's Book Group

**Wed., August 14 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

**Thurs., August 15 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Discussion of Flannery O'Connor

**Friday, August 16 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Wed., August 21 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

**Wed., August 21 - 6:30 p.m.**  
Decatur Vegetarian Society

**Thurs., August 22 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Discussion of Flannery O'Connor

**Friday, August 23 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Wed., August 28 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

**Friday, August 30 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**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 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14 at Heather Stoa's and the book is *Freeman* by Leonard Pitts.

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

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

**You, me and HOMECOMING ON THE PRAIRIE!!**

I was born on the prairie and the milk of its wheat, the red of its clover,  
the eyes of its women, gave me a song and a slogan.  
Carl Sandburg

We came in the spirit of love - love for our friends and our neighbors -  
here on the prairie. Hope walked with us to 243 S. Water, at high noon in  
the 90 degree heat, to ask for immigration reform and a pathway to citizenship  
from our U.S. Representative Rodney Davis.

Our hearts are heavy with the stories of Karen and Ruby and Benito. An afternoon, eight years  
ago when Karen was 14 and her parents were working, her brother 18, was handcuffed and  
taken from their home. She has not seen her brother since. Stories of loving families torn apart,  
families that walk in fear and dwell in the under corners of our neighborhoods -day in and day  
out, always, already and so young. Stories of nightmares but not of dreams here on the prairie,  
here in the land of Lincoln.

Give us a mending of the tear! We say.  
Give us a word! Give us a vote! Give us a path! We say.  
A path of mending, a path of justice, a path from nightmare to dream, a path to citizenship!  
Here among the beans and clover. Here a homecoming on the prairie that includes all  
God's children. Here a prairie celebration.

PRAIRIE HOMECOMING FOR UUFDF WILL BE SEPTEMBER 8th at the service. Bring the whole  
Prairie. See you then and before.

Peace, Larry

## President's Message

Many thanks to the Throneburgs for hosting the potluck picnic last month. It was fantastic to see the prairie area in bloom and the big snapping turtle who decided to come out on one of the paths for our viewing pleasure. As usual, the food and the fellowship were also wonderful.

August has always been a month of endings and beginnings for me. It is birthday month in my family, as well as preparation for a new academic year. Our dedicated RE people are busily planning a new year beginning soon. Plan to join us on Sundays and during any of our many other events and activities listed in the Calendar of Events!

See you in Church!, Rita

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## News from Religious Education

Welcome back RE kids!!



August 4 – no RE; babysitting provided

August 11 we will begin Religious Education classes again – please join us!

August 11 – Leader: Jennifer Sekosky

August 18 – Leader: Kate Pyle

August 25 – Leader: Lorelei Zaker

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## NEW!!! NEW!!! DISCUSSIONS OF FLANNERY O'CONNOR (Short Stories)

August Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30pm

Rev. Larry Hutchison & Terry Ankrom

AUGUST 8 (7:00-8:30) (Reading) "Good Country People" and "Revelation"

AUGUST 15 (7-8:30) (Reading) We will pick which stories to read on the 8th

AUGUST 22 (7-8:30) (Reading) Picked the week before This is for fun! All are welcome!!  
We will love to hear what you think!!

## "MEALS ON WHEELS ...helping end senior hunger, one meal at a time

Our Fellowship will be volunteering to assist *Meals on Wheels* with deliveries the week of August 5-9, 2013. We are splitting this responsibility with the *Illinois National Guard*, who will also be volunteering to help that week. We are looking for about 5-8 volunteers that would be interested in delivering meals.

### *What is Meals on Wheels?*

- Community service which provides the delivery of a hot nourishing noon meal to an individual in the comfort and privacy of their own home
- Menus are planned and prepared under the supervision of a registered dietician at DMH, and provide 1/3 of clients' daily nutritional needs
- Sponsored by Catholic Charities

### *What is Required If I Want to Volunteer?*

- Must be available between the hours of 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Must have a valid drivers license (or partner with someone who does), as volunteers use their own cars to deliver meals
- Deliver meals with care and compassion
- Complete a Volunteer Packet

Judy Thistlethwaite and Lorelei Zaker are coordinating our effort to help *Meals on Wheels*. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Judy at [jthistle@comcast.net](mailto:jthistle@comcast.net) or call 429-5923.

A signup sheet will also be available at the church on July 28.



## August 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.**

### 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](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org)*



**minister@uufd.org (Rev. Larry Hutchison)  
president@uufd.org (Rita Schwake)  
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***September Newsletter Deadline: August 15***