



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.

December 2 - "Living Our Principles: What We Do In R.E."

Our Religious Education kids have had a ton of fun experiences so far this year. We've learned about other cultures, other faiths and especially about our own UU principles. Come, see - and share what we've been up to. You just won't want to miss the kids' rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine"!

December 9 - Rev. Miley Palmer We have just been through another harrowing election season, in which the major issues (never mind the underlying themes of racism and elitism) seemed to revolve around the proper role of government versus rampant individualism. The question now is to explore what is really needed, and it's a question applied equally well to a community as well as the nation, and to each of us as individuals. It was raised around 2800 years ago in ancient Israel by a variety of remarkable prophets. Let's explore the simple but profound answer proposed by one of those prophets, a man named Micah. Rev. Palmer is a retired Methodist minister who is well known to our Fellowship. He gives one or two talks here each year.

DECEMBER 16 - "Doing What You Can" Rev. Larry Hutchison

"She hath done what she could" (Mark 14:8). This is the story of the man from Shelbyville, Jasper Douthit, Taken from his long autobiography and the Jasper Douthit Project. Whether at the Congregational Unitarian Church of Shelbyville or the Unitarian Church in Mattoon, Mode, Jordan, Jacksonville, Effingham, Salem or the Chautauqua at Lithia Springs, he did what he could. Jasper Douthit's pioneering story of early Unitarianism in our area is as inspiring a story as any I have read, so from behind his pulpit, in his own words, the Jasper Douthit story.

Board meeting at noon.

DECEMBER 23 - NO SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE 6:30pm SUNDAY EVENING

Singing Carols, telling stories, special music, candle light, with our youth participating, we will be celebrating and sharing our Holiday joy, and wishing everyone a most Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas. We pause in a quiet moment to celebrate the birth of a child every child, the love of a mother every mother, the hope of a father every father.
AND Don't forget to bring the COOKIES!!!

--A little snack of cookies and cider after the service---

DECEMBER 30 - "Retelling Stories" Rev. Larry Hutchison

It's an old story: the ticking of the clock, the turning of the seasons, the ending of a good year, the beginning of the new.... What's that coming down the track?? Come celebrate our past year together and share what you see in the year to come.

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH AND EVERYONE!!!

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

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 5

7:00 p.m. - Humanist Discussion Group

Friday, December 7

Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Wednesday, December 12

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

Wednesday, December 12

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

Friday, December 14

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

Wednesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 19

6:30 p.m. -Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, December 21

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

Wednesday, December 26

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

Friday, December 28

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon 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— Women's Book Club meets on Wednesday, December 12 at the home of Barb Hannon for potluck and readings of poetry and stories.

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 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 December 16.



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 The Turning of the Seasons,

What happened to the time, this time? As I write this it is before Thanksgiving, a time to enjoy the cool fresh mornings of fall, to take a lingering yawn, a deep breath of thankfulness; gratitude being in the cells of strong character and all. However, by the time you read this our stomachs will be stretched and our hearts will be warm with Thanksgiving, and the earth will be moving into winter with the coming Holidays. "Funny how Time slips Away"? Yesterday? Yes, the Holidays will be rushing in on all thoroughfares. But writing about winter, Christmas and a new year before Thanksgiving just isn't right. One needs the short, still but beautiful fall afternoons, a momentary pause, a brief reflection of the good times here at the Fellowship. That's all I'm asking.

Our Fellowship is a community of LIVES. It is a book of men and women, young and old "living" rather than a membership book, of people "believing" rather than a book of beliefs, of everyday people falling short and forgiving and righting ourselves rather than a book of ethics. It is a congregation, too, of you and me caring with compassion and love: it is full of faces turned towards faces rather than a calendar of events.

So please, know this, from a beautiful fall afternoon that I am deeply enjoying: Nancy and I wish each and everyone of you a most HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!!

Full of warmth and celebration and love

May your gifts be friendship

May you walk in snow drifts of compassion

And may peace surround you!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Larry



Presidents Message

Hi Good Folks,

The last leaf has fallen, the garden with its flowers and veggies is a memory; and the lawn mower too, has gone to rest for the winter. Perhaps now is the time to check out one or two of the activities that give a buzz to our UU fellowship outside the services. You may notice there are two covenant groups that meet regularly. What is a covenant group? Folks just like you who meet to share mind and spirit. Visitors are always welcome. I can speak for the Wednesday Morning one. Meeting every first and third Wednesday from 10 to 12 we have read and discussed a number of inspiring books. Lately it was Eboo Patel's *Acts of Faith*; now we are on his latest book *Sacred Ground*. Sometimes we have discussed articles in the UU World. We often enjoy lunch together afterwards. The Spiritual Journey Covenant Group meets the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Because those of us come from so many different religious backgrounds, our "journeys" are never the same –always interesting, and lead to good discussions. The Humanist Discussion Group usually meets on the first Wednesday at 7:00. Their discussions are mind-stretching! The UU Men's group meets every Friday at Benny's Grill and I suspect it is much like the Women's Book group—it's just fun to meet. Those of us who look forward to the Women's Book Group do try to read a book a month so we can discuss it but I can assure you, the potlucks are fabulous! Note what is explained under the Vegetarian Society—I wish I could go to that activity, too. Maybe sometime I'll find the time. I hope those of you who also haven't found the time will be able to check out one of these activities this winter.

Looking beyond the holidays, two more neat things are coming. On Saturday January 12th the course "Hungry For Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability" will begin. This three-session discussion course from the NORTHWEST EARTH INSTITUTE will explore the interconnected nature of food systems and our relationships with them. The books will be arriving soon and they will be in the foyer so you can check it out. More will follow.

Secondly, January will bring "Dinners For Eight" (7,8 or 9). These dinners have always been a fun time to visit informally. Save the date: January 26th! Again, more will follow.

Thanksgiving may be over, but I'll close with some extra thanks. Thanks for Larry and Nancy who bring so much inspiration to our Fellowship. Thanks for my family. Thanks for a warm home and the good veggies waiting in the freezer despite the drought last summer. Thanks for the ever-growing pines and balsams. Thanks for the quiet woods where I find peace. And a huge thanks to all of you- my dear friends.

Marge



News from Religious Education

Religious Education is warming up for December! We'll start by leading an intergenerational service on Dec. 2. Then we'll focus on holidays. Hanukkah will be studied and celebrated on Dec. 9, the Winter Solstice on Dec. 16, and Kwanzaa on Dec. 30. (No UUFD during the day on the 23rd. The Christmas Eve service will be that evening.) Come and enjoy the fun and the variety of holiday topics! There are two RE classes -- pre-K through second, and third grade and older.



Spiritual Explorations

In December, the Spiritual Journey Covenant Group will be discussing "Mental Telepathy" led by Nancy Hutchison (Wednesday, December 12, 7:00pm) and "Humor & Spirituality" shared by the group (Wednesday, December 26, 7:00 pm). Due to the holiday, there is a possibility that we may not meet on the 26th, but this is subject to a group consensus. 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 the importance of a guru, what is non-dual thinking, why the fascination with death, non-dual mental state, and other highly profound subjects. Meetings are open to all members, friends, and guests of the Fellowship.

Humanism and Education Around the World



After months of delays, the UUFD Humanism group reconvened in November. With so much time away, would the group easily pick up where it left off? Sure enough, we did! We were even fortunate enough to have a few new faces in the group. Even more reassuring, the core group of regulars was mostly there so the UUFD Humanists have retained the usual attendees.

Our topic for November was much more timely when it was originally scheduled for September. With the start of school across the nation, it seemed like a good topic: Education in America. Unfortunately, we met with delays for September and October so the topic couldn't be presented until November. That didn't stop our group, though!

The meeting started out with the usual pleasant exchanges, and then we tossed about ideas for our next meeting. Some possibilities were suggested, but we decided to wait until the November meeting finished before we made a commitment to a plan. Perhaps through the course of discussion, someone would be inspired to explore a subject we hadn't considered?

To begin the education discussion, the group first examined the nine types of intelligence as promoted by Howard Earl Gardner, an American developmental psychologist and Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education at Harvard University. With this background knowledge and breakdown, we next explored the purpose of education. With that framework in place, the group began discussion. Different ideas were suggested; problems and solutions were presented; educational hopes and desires were explored. After enough time was spent on that, we moved on to other educational topics.

For the second section of the evening, the different educational systems from around the world were presented. This mostly explored European and Australian educational systems. Some scant details were presented about the school systems in Asia, but the majority of details came from Europe and Australia. When that presentation completed, we again began discussion. Are these alternative systems better? Is tracking at such a young age good? Why is education in Europe free? (Yes, it's paid for by taxes, but European students don't graduate from university with five or six figures of debt.) How do businesses in Europe fund apprenticeships? Why can't America do that?

When enough time had passed there, a third topic was presented. We examined industry in America, and there were some surprises for several people at our meeting. Some of us were astonished to discover (or perhaps only be reminded) that America is still the world's largest manufacturing economy, producing 21 percent of global manufactured products. Where was all this industry? Could we sustain it? The alternative to industry is service jobs. We then looked at what defines a service job. How can we classify work as a "service?" Could we sustain an economy that produces no products and only provides services?

The discussion wrapped up, and we realized there was still much more to address. Let's continue this next month! Sure enough, we'll continue discussing education in December. The usual meeting, the first Wednesday of each month, will be December 05, 2012 at the UUFD. Hopefully we'll see some new faces there as you can easily join us without having made the first discussion from November. Come connect with the UUFD Humanists to welcome December and the holiday season.

Tim Rooney

December 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.

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*



**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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