
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

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Decatur, IL 62526
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www.uufd.org

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Rita Schwake

Vice President:
Bernadette Lundeen

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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.

July 7 "Poland": A Personal Perspective" Bernadette Lundeen

UUFD's new vice-President, Bernie Lundeen will discuss her experiences as a dual citizen of the U.S. and Poland. Her talk will contain many illustrations from her recent trip to Poland. What can we learn from this very patriotic and Catholic country that was dominated by communism and Russian occupation for nearly 50 years? Why does Illinois have a huge Polish population? Other UUFD members have also recently traveled to Poland and will participate in the program. Bernadette Lundeen currently works as a microbiology technician at Akorn Pharmaceuticals in Decatur.

July 14 "Am I Over-Optimistic?" Rev Larry Hutchison

Coming back from our General Assembly, it's hard not to be optimistic. Are we UU's too optimistic about the human spirit? In the art of flourishing are our expectations just too high? Was Emerson over-optimistic about human reason? The we, this us that is UUFD will have many differing feelings and opinions as always, which makes me optimistic about the discussion. Yes I am optimistic about our future.

Board Meeting at noon.

July 21 No Service

July 28 "Images by a Myopic Photographer, or Finally I Get to Take Pictures I want to Take " Steve Pyle

Steve ran Landmark Studios from September of 1981 to June 2011 officially, and owned and ran Tiger Photo for three years before starting Landmark Studios. He will be discussing 18-20 images and how, where, why, and when he took each one. He will have his camera set up with a special panoramic head, and allow people to see what it does to allow him to work in the field.

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

Calendar of Events

Wed., July 3 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Friday, July 5 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., July 10 - 6:00 p.m.
Women's Book Group

Wed., July 10 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, July 12 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., July 17 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Wed., July 17 - 6:30 p.m.
Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, July 19 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Wed., July 24 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, July 26 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Humanist Group—Humanist Discussion Group - Normally meets on the first Wednesday of the month, but July 2013 meeting canceled. Contact Dave Snoeyenbos at 865-2409.

Women's Book Group— The Women's Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10 at Barb Hannon's and the book is *Inferno* by Dan Brown.

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 July 14.



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 Magic of Reality",

I was upset and not a little! A blank white virus cut through to the back of my nerves. Waiting!! I had been waiting over five hours for AT&T, here at the Fellowship. Waiting: waiting for u-verse? Fiber-optics? Godot? Why? Why would a phone company never answer their phone? And did Godot ever show up at the Fellowship?

Jason, the installation man, only shrugged, as if to say: "all you been doing for the last five hours is waiting; while I have been over-booked all day." And it's Friday!! Besides, and perhaps even more irritating, his manner was most pleasant.

As we were leaving, the victims of the giant AT&T policies, a robin, enjoying her perch in the young crab apple tree just outside the door, began to scold me in a rather loud and harsh voice - over and over. As I walked down the walk she sang louder and louder!! So loud it startled me from my self inflicted fog of irritation, that white fog that had sliced into a deep part of my head. Yes, She was singing over and over, in one and then another key, I'm sure of it now, these beautiful lines from e e cummings:

I thank you god for most this amazing
day: for leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is YES

YES, there is magic in a young crab apple, magic in a robin's voice, a tranquility garden, magic here, always and already waiting at the corner for anyone, anytime. Even, the "waiting" could be a kind of magic mindfulness, I suppose.

I who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and of wings:... e e cummings

Of course, "The Magic of Reality" is the title of a Richard Dawkins' book written for young people. Dawkins states: "I want to show you that the real world, as understood scientifically, has magic of its own - the kind I call poetic magic: an inspiring beauty which is all the more magical because we can understand how it works... The magic of reality is -quite simply- WONDERFUL."

Peace, Larry

President's Message

June seems to have melted away in the rain! Let's hope for some bluer skies in July! There is always something going on at the Fellowship, no matter the season, and we hope you will find something appealing in our summer programming. Be sure to read about our Summer Picnic Potluck at the Throneburg's farm near Assumption on Saturday, July 20. Their restored, eco-friendly home is a treat to see and we hope to also enjoy the outdoors; however, in case of rain, we can move inside. Remember, there will be no service on Sunday, the 21st.

See ya in church! Rita

News from Religious Education

Summer RE

Through the month of July and August 4, there will be no RE classes. Child care will be provided for children under 5.



Saturday, July 20th Throneburg Potluck

Monte and Joyce Throneburg are hosting a potluck starting at 5pm Saturday, July 20th at their farm east of Assumption. Bring a dish to share, lawn chair and your own table service. Drinks will be provided. Note: if time or ability doesn't allow you to bring food please come anyway. There will be plenty.

If you fish, bring poles and bait. There are woods to explore and our prairie should be nearing its summer blooming peak. Yes, there are mosquitos and occasionally we find tics so bring spray or ointment if nervous about either. Our home is accessible. We don't have air conditioning but unless it has been dreadfully hot for several days prior, our home is generally comfortable.

GPS doesn't work well for our country Assumption address of 1078 East 2100 North. Our farm is just off the blacktop that runs between Assumption and Findlay (the Shelby County portion is 2100 North road). There is a 4 lane bi-pass being constructed around Assumption and the signs are not very good yet. Just prior to the 'Findlay blacktop' you will see green highway signs saying Assumption to the right, Lake Shelbyville to the left. Take the road to Lake Shelbyville. Five miles east of Rt 51 on that blacktop, there is a 4-way stop. Continue east and in the next mile a church is on the south side of the road. Our lane runs along the east side of that church. At the end of our lane, there are two houses – look for the red barns. Ph# is 254-3235 or 226-3235 if you need help.

Rain or shine, we'll have a good time. Hope you can join us.

Humanist Discussion Group

Thoughts on Human Behavior

Why does he always do that? I wonder what makes her react that way? What would he do if I just ignored him? Where does she come up with those emotional responses? These are some of the many "behavior questions" one might ask, going about daily activities. To fully explore these ideas, though, Doug did ask these questions along with many others. Those queries were presented and investigated in another one of his self-published books, **Thoughts On Human Behavior**. The Humanism group met at the UUFD on Wednesday, June 5 to discuss these ideas.

Doug began the discussion with the question "How many of you got to read my e-mail?" Of course almost everyone raised a hand. (Sorry, Doug! I was the only one that didn't get your entire document read, but I did cover a few chapters!) This makes for a very informed group and really encourages conversation.

First, we had to define "human behavior." What did this mean? How much does this cover? We agreed to consider "human behavior" as anything a human does, thinks, values, or "feels" (emotions).

Randy then proposed that behavior was influenced more by genetics and less by how one was raised--nature dominates nurture. Randy also suggested, though, that much of our behavior has to do with group affiliation and humans seeking group approval or status.

Steve then related a family story about his father. Steve's father was raised with a very right-wing, religious perspective. But in a liberal college, Steve's father started asking questions and began his journey to his current state as an atheist. Why? Steve suggested his father's genetic makeup was largely to account for this change. Randy suggested this new group (college students and professors) contributed to the change.

Tina then brought up a scientific study of baboons where blood analysis was used to measure stress. When the alpha-males (dominant, aggressive) suddenly died, the behavior of all members of the group changed. The dominant, aggressive behavior formerly demonstrated by the alpha-males was no longer tolerated. Any baboon exhibiting such behaviors was no longer allowed in the group, and the new behavior of all in the group became kind, friendly, and peaceful.

At this point, discussion shifted a bit to biology and the genetic makeup of people and animals. The human (and animal) sex drive is genetic. Next, what defines "maleness" or "femaleness?" For men, it is largely testosterone and for women, oxytocin. Perhaps society today has too much "testosterone?" But in the early years of humanity, all that testosterone was necessary so human species could survive. Doug suggested that perhaps now, all this testosterone is doing more harm than good?

Randy then suggested that religion's purpose was to allow groups to unite. Steve responded that some people "feel" what is right. Those people don't rely on science or analysis when evaluating a situation, they just "feel" the correct and appropriate response.

Lenard then asked where the "ought" originates? What tells people what "ought to" or "should" be done? Doug suggested the answer is "to make the world better for future generations."

Glancing at the clock, we noticed it was already 9:00 and the customary end of the meeting. But the book was only half finished! With this in mind, our next meeting will finish examining Doug's book. We will discuss religion and politics and how those influence human behavior. But we won't be doing this in July! With the first Wednesday in July being the 3rd, we all agreed it was too close to the 4th to attempt a meeting. But August was available! With this in mind, the Humanist group will meet on Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00 at the UUFD. And even if you haven't read Doug's writings, please join us for the conversation!

July 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.

July Birthdays

Linda Shroyer	July 6
John Hays	July 21
Ron Shafer	July 25
Al Brumett	July 31

*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 (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)

August Newsletter Deadline: July 15