

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

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President:
Marge Evans

Vice President:
Rita Schwake

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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.

March 2 - "Liberty's Daughters" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

An inspiring story of twenty-one Unitarian and Universalist clergywomen today referred to as the "Prophetic Sisterhood" of the frontier. Walking behind this pioneer band and singing their song for them now, we hear an ongoing narrative of courageous struggle and inspiring human achievement.

March 10 - "Occupy the Future" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

Thich Nhat Hanh has said: "*For A Future to Be Possible*", we must live well with mindfulness, in the present moment. We must occupy "our hearts" in the present with the five precepts and three jewels as we become the future. The formula: the present is the future becoming. This is not an excuse, for not acting until we become perfect, but a reminder that we are always already becoming the future in our action. How would this work in our Decatur living?
Board Meeting at noon.

March 17 - "Two Continents & Two Cultures in One City" - Rex Crow

Traveling a bit over 7000 miles, we arrived in Istanbul Turkey to attend our daughter's wedding. We were anxious, excited and filled with uncertainty. Just ahead of us, we would meet and stay with our daughter's Turkish family. Join us to share the joy and surprises we encountered.

March 24 - "Bluegrass Theology" - Travis Stimeling

A distinctive American vernacular music, bluegrass music is frequently consumed with theology, from the southern gospel songs that provide a link to the music's Southern Christian roots to the heartbreaking love songs that express our fundamentally human longing for companionship and healing. With the Millikin University Big Bluegrass Band, Travis Stimeling will explore the theological underpinnings of bluegrass music from its early history to the present day and discuss how we might apply the lessons of these songs to our daily spiritual practice.

March 31 - "Rise Up! Rise Up! All Rise!" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

Happy Easter!! I have always felt Easter is more about spring and potentiality than about actuality. In fact, I've come to realize that the theme of "potentiality" is the theme of my philosophical thinking. I love potentiality! Of course, as Freud noted in "Notes on a Mystic Writing Pad", I can't think the same thing twice.

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

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

Saturday, March 2 - 7:00 p.m.
"Gasland" Environmental Film Series

Wed., March 6 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Wed., March 6 - 7:00 p.m.
Humanist Discussion Group

Friday, March 8 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., March 13 - 6:00 p.m.
Women's Book Group

Wed., March 13 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, March 15 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Saturday, March 16 - 7:00 p.m.
"Call of Life" and "Car of the Future"
Environmental Film Series

Wed., March 20 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Wed., March 20 - 6:30 p.m.
Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, March 22 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

Wed., March 27 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Fri. March 29 - 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 on Wednesday, March 13 at 6 p.m. at Eileen Ruski's home. The book is *The Lacuna*, by Barbara Kingsolver.

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 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 **March 17**.



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 Some More Weather....

Don't start with the weather: "the first rule of writing", but, everything starts with the weather, here in Decatur. Here on the corner, when I start thinking about the weather, I find myself under the influence of the sky. I feel the warm embrace of the sun's radiation, this morning, as this particular mound is orbiting the sun while rotating with a perfect tilt in its daily spinning winter dance. The location just near enough to and yet far enough from the sun to kick-start life and keep it going as the daffodils poke their heads up to have a look around.

Weather is how this corner and our planet behave in space. Yes, weather is local; it's how the sky behaves when it shows up at your window and here, on the mound: the distinctness of the dawn today, the way the wind picks up at 1:52 on a Valentines afternoon, "with love".

Weather brings us together; it joins us to everyone and everywhere, it shapes, changes and defines us. I harbor weather; I am made of it. I believe, this helps me understand the world. The world and I are weathered. Decatur and I are weathered, together.

For me, life lived under the influence of weather, mindful of it, is a life more fully lived. The days in which I am aware of what's going on in the sky, which way the wind blows, are the days I feel more lived in, in which life feels more ample. I'm not saying "The Answer Is Blowing In the Wind", I'm just saying I feel like a citizen of the real world again, and a part of a place, this place, this mound, this corner, this fellowship. I'm at peace with the weather and a piece of the weather.

Peace, Larry

Presidents Message

Hello again Good Folks,

The big news this month is the return of our Decatur Environmental Film Series brought to you thanks to the work of the Green Sanctuary Committee. *GASLAND* is the first film which will be shown - FREE - in the sanctuary on Saturday March 2nd beginning at 7:00 PM. Popcorn and healthy drinks will be sold for just \$1 each so you certainly will know you are at the movies! True to our custom, there will be discussion afterwards. Do come join in the fun! (Note: there is a complete list of the films elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Good news is that we will soon have a new water fountain. Do note as well a thorough description of the proposed new sign as approved by the Board.

Looking forward to April (aren't we all!) - we should see things popping up in the Tranquility Garden. Plans are jelling, too for the visit of Maham Kahn and Nicholas Cable from Eboo Patel's Interfaith Youth Core. They will be speaking at the Fellowship Sunday morning the 14th. Afterwards we'll include them in one of our famous "potlucks" before all are encouraged to move on to the Greek Orthodox Church and a panel including other faiths. Then to the Temple for another potluck and finally the day will climax in an Interfaith Celebration at the Millikin U Richards Treat Center featuring lots of music and song. Monday morning they will be at Richland Community College, Monday afternoon at the Decatur Public Library. You will hear more of these plans later, but I just wanted you all to have a "heads-up" so you can save those dates!

April will also bring the kick-off for the annual Pledge Drive, but first there will be the budget to consider. Oh my! But somehow we always seem to manage, thanks to all you generous folks who share dedication to UUFD!

Now to end with the happiest note of all: Larry-and Nancy, too- have agreed to give us their wonderful leadership and inspiration for another year!

Cheers! Marge

News from Religious Education



March is a fun month in RE!

Intermediate kids – ages 8 and up – will continue to work with Kate Pyle each Sunday, doing age-appropriate exploration of various spiritual themes.

Elementary kids – ages 7 and younger, will be doing a variety of activities with Jennifer Sekosky, Lorelei Zaker and other guest teachers.

March 3 –Earth-centered religions and spring – Kathy Kline

March 10 – Judaism/Passover – Lorelei

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day – Jennifer

March 24 – Palm Sunday – Lorelei

March 31 – Easter – Jennifer

Sign Committee

The UUFD Sign committee met February 17th and are closer to having a proposal for the board to consider at their March meeting. The board has agreed that it would be beneficial to replace the current static sign with a tasteful, dynamic LED sign. We look forward to presenting the proposal to the congregation at the May congregational meeting.

DECATUR AREA ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES 2013

LOCATION: 3773 N. MacArthur Rd.

SPONSOR: Green Sanctuary Committee of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



FREE TO PUBLIC

MARCH 2nd GASLAND

The largest domestic natural gas drilling boom in history has swept across the US. Hydraulic fracking has unlocked a “Saudi Arabia” of natural gas. Is it safe?

MARCH 16th CALL OF LIFE: FACING MASS EXTINCTION

Call of Life investigates the growing threat posed by the rapid and massive loss of biodiversity on the planet. Through interviews with eminent biologists and ecologists, the film examines the primary drivers of species loss.

CAR OF THE FUTURE

Tom and his brother Ray hit the road in this program for a lighthearted but shrewd take on America’s four-wheeled future. Noting that a quarter of all the oil ever consumed has been guzzled in the last decade, the brothers’ screwball auto odyssey doubles as a serious environmental wake-up call.

APRIL 6th GROW!

Grow! Profiles a new crop of idealistic young farmers who have turned to the fields for a more fulfilling life, driven by a strong desire to change how our food is grown.

FRESH

“Fresh” celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system. Forging healthier, sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet.

APRIL 20th DEEP DOWN

Deep in the Appalachian mountains of eastern Kentucky, where coal is king, Beverly and Terry find themselves at the center of a contentious community battle over a proposed mountaintop removal coal mine.

SHOWS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM Discussions follow led by leaders versed in each field.

Fresh popped popcorn and healthy drinks are available for \$1.00 each

DONATIONS ALSO ACCEPTED

March 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.

March Birthdays

Larry Hutchison	March 3
Mel Weinstein	March 7
Darwin Shroyer	March 15
Sue Weinstein	March 18
Evan Zaker	March 19
David Kent Coy	March 20
Mary Lovell	March 21

*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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