



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



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

Happy Newly Broken-in Year!

Upcoming Services

at 10:15 a.m.

 Do you like it warm? Do you like it cool? Do you like it neat? Dry? Bright?

If so, give a nod to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which largely consists of Darwin Shroyer. He, Mark Sorensen, Marge Evans and others really pay attention to the condition of our building and landscaping and its needs. So, our January salute goes to Darwin, et al.

If you have someone you'd like to salute, please contact the Newsletter editor.

Jan. 4 – “New Leaves” with Rev. Elaine Gehrmann

As we begin a new year it is a long-standing tradition to reflect upon the old ways and look to new changes we might want to make in the future.

Jan. 11 – “Understanding the Impact of Teen Birth Rates for Our Community, Our Teens and Their Children” with Mary Garrison

Garrison, associate professor of social work at Millikin University, will explore the history, impact and prevention strategies of teen birth rates in Macon County.

Jan. 18 – “#Black Lives Matter” with Rev. Elaine Gehrmann

Recent events have brought racial disparities back into the national spotlight, and this Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, we will explore the current state of race in America.

Jan. 25 – “Decatur – A Food Desert on the World’s Finest Soil” with David McLaughlin

Professor McLaughlin has been on the Richland Community College faculty since 2002 and teaches agribusiness and horticulture courses. He was instrumental in establishing the RCC Saturday Produce Market as part of his commitment to using our abundant local resources to feed our population.



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Calendar of Events

Sun. Jan. 4 – noon

UUFD Board; it's your business

Wed., Jan. 7 – 7 p.m.

Greater Decatur Humanists, UUFD

Wed., Jan. 14 – 10 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Covenant Group, UUFD

Wednesday, Jan. 14 – 6 p.m.

Women's Book Group, Kathy Sorensen's home, 2980 S. Amelia Ave.

Sun., Jan. 18 – at service

Food donations accepted for Northeast Community Fund

Wed., Jan. 21 – 6:30 p.m.

Decatur Vegetarian Society, UUFD

MLK Jr. Annual Freedom March

On Monday, Jan. 19, you will have the opportunity to

demonstrate your appreciation of the doctrines Dr. King lived for.



The freedom March will begin at noon from two locations at opposite

ends of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive: Mueller Park and Hess Park/Harris School.

Elaine will be happy to march with other UUFD members and friends. Let's plan to meet at 11:45 a.m. at Hess Park.

Greater Decatur Humanists

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, the group will discuss "happiness". What does it mean to you? What must you do to achieve this? What must society do? Join us to learn what might help you in your journey to happiness!

In December, "the American Dream" dominated discussion. After sharing views on its definition, Dave Snoeyenbos described threats to achieving it through the consolidation of the world's wealth in few hands.

Alternatives to the status quo, such as a German model of spreading workloads and rewards, were discussed.

By the way, "Chasing the American Dream" by Mark Rank was used as a key reference point

For more on this local humanist group, go to www.gdhumanists.org

Decatur Vegetarian Society (DVS)

A potluck dinner is followed each month by a presentation at 8 p.m. Bring a vegetarian or vegan dish with a recipe or donate \$5. Contact Mel Weinstein (mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com) for more information.



Women's Book Club

On Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. at the home of Kathy Sorensen, 2980 S. Amelia Ave., the women will chew over "Jesus Land: A Memoir" by Julia Scheeres.

Please bring a dish to share and call Kathy at 620-6850 to RSVP.

A Fellowship Thank-You: UUFD supported two families with holiday donations. Each family has children in Dennis School and are in great need.

Fellowship members contributed \$360 in cash, plus other food and hundreds of dollars worth of gifts. Each family received gifts of new clothing, musical instruments, games and toys as per their wish list; a complete special holiday meal; household and laundry supplies; another week's worth plus of groceries; and a \$70 Walmart gift card.

Thank you for taking the time to donate, shop, wrap presents and deliver the goods to these families.

Along the lane with Elaine

2015! This sounds to me like a date from a science fiction novel or movie, when we all have personal robots and flying cars! In many ways, the "future" has turned out to be both more mundane and more miraculous than I could have imagined! While I don't have a robot, my iPhone does tend to many of my immediate needs, and while my car doesn't quite fly, it does get pretty great mileage. I look forward to seeing what new wonders the coming year will bring!



I will continue the Third Thursday brownbags, and invite you to join me on Thursday Jan. 15 at noon. I will continue to hold my Tuesday afternoon hours (1-3 p.m.) at Starbucks. Please consider stopping by if you're available.

I will be leading two new discussion groups beginning this month: The first is a book discussion group on this year's UUA Common Read, "Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square" by Paul Rasor (Skinner House Books, 2013), which will begin Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at UUFD, and meet second Tuesday evenings.

The book is available from the UUA bookstore, or I will have several copies that I can lend out. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

The second group is a discussion group, "Race Conversations", which will begin Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 6:30 p.m., and will meet the fourth Tuesday evening of each month. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

I hope to see many of you at our services and discussions this month, and please consider bringing a friend who might appreciate our UU ways of worship and conversation. Happy New Year!! Elaine

My general **office hours** are:
 Tuesday 10 a.m.-noon, and
 1-3 p.m. (at Starbucks)
 Wednesday 10 a.m.-noon and
 4-6 p.m.
 Thursday 10 a.m.-noon
 And other times by appointment

The best ways to reach me
 are: e-mail,
minister@uufd.org, or by
 phone: Home 217-344-2335,
 Cell 217-358-9412, or
 Church 217-875-5442. Don't
 hesitate to be in touch!

From the Green Sanctuary Committee

"SEEING SYSTEMS: Peace, Justice and Sustainability" is the title of the new discussion course from the Northwest Earth Institute.

The current plan is to run it every other Saturday at 9:30 a.m., starting Jan. 24 and running to Feb 21. We will meet at UUFD, with some folks from Millikin University joining us there.

A sample copy of the book will be in the foyer – look interesting?? There will be a sign up sheet there, too, so books can be ordered. Happy New Year!

Who says January
 is dull?

Jan. 23:
 Measure
 Your Feet
 Day



Jan. 25:
 World
 Religions
 Day



Jan. 27:
 Chocolate
 Cake
 Day



In "the Pod"

This month's classes

Oh yes, it'll be busy! The RE leaders need magazines with pictures of nature and people by Jan. 11 for making collages about the Seven Principles. We'll also be reviewing the Principles for participation in a service in February.

Also in January, we will be making valentines for shut-ins. If you have anybody who'd be cheered by such a greeting, please contact Lorelei Zaker, lorcza@comcast.net.



Manger time: In December, the RE kids had the chance to learn about the Nativity by making their own mangers, from some creative choices.



Marking UU anniversaries

2015 will see milestones for some UUFD members. For example, Jackie Snoeyenbos signed our current member book 35 years ago (although her membership almost certainly predates that date.)

Ken Robertson joined UUFD 60 years ago, according to our best information. Kathy and Mark Sorensen are marking 35 years,, as is Dave Snoeyenbos.

Vern and Judy Thistlethwaite have been members 30 years now. Kathy Vaught has been with us for 25 years, and Amy Stockwell is a 20-year veteran. Pat Rossiter's membership goes back 10 years.

Congratulations to all these good people, and thank you for all you've done for UUFD!



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Thanks to Marge Evans for the beautiful tree for our sanctuary, and to all the VVFD "elves" who helped to decorate it!



Face it: You'd be so disappointed if we didn't have this page.

The "officials"

President: Bernadette Lundeen
(president@uufd.org)

Co-Vice Presidents: Joyce Throneburg
and Mary Lovell
(vice_president@uufd.org)

Past President: Rita Schwake

Treasurer: Mark Sorensen
(treasurer@uufd.org)

Secretary: Kathy Kline
(secretary@uufd.org)

Board Members at Large: Eric DeVore,
Tatiana Isakovski, Dick Zaker

UUFD Trust Board: Ken Robertson,
Dave Snoeyenbos, Vern Thistlethwaite

The birthdays

Denise Lohrenz-Renfro	Jan. 6
Jasmyn Zaker	Jan. 8
Ada Elder	Jan. 15
Mark Sorensen	Jan. 20
Caius Pajer	Jan. 21
Hadrian Pajer	Jan. 21
Amy Stockwell	Jan. 22
Mary Cleave	Jan. 31



YOU HAVE A BIRTHDAY, DON'T YOU?
Send e-mail with your natal day to
newsletter@uufd.org

The deadline

Please have your items in
by Jan. 20, either at
newsletter@uufd.org or the
Newsletter mailbox in the
Fellowship office

Want a laugh?



Some Unitarian
Universalists think that life
after death is one big
annual congregational
meeting, but they are not
sure whether the meeting
is in heaven or hell.

The children in a UU church school
class were drawing pictures. The
teacher asked one, "What are you
drawing a picture of?" "I'm drawing a
picture of God," was the reply. "But
nobody knows what God looks like,"
objected the teacher. "They will," said
the UU child, "when I get my picture
done."

"I know my humor is outrageous
when it makes the Unitarians so mad
they burn a question mark on my
front lawn." — Lenny Bruce

The minister's office hours

Tuesday: 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m. (at
Starbucks)

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - noon, 4-6
p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m.-noon

The 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.