



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



June-July 2019 News

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

Our services: 10:15 a.m., with religious education and child care

June 2: "Quandaries of Writing Life"

with Robert Grindy

Drawing from his experiences in writing his novel "Iced", Richland Community College instructor Grindy discusses the challenges of transforming true lives and real places into fictional art. For a writer or any artist, where lies the greatest moral obligation: to truth or Truth, to art or humans? Dick Zaker is the service leader.



I know from my encounters with believers, agnostics, atheists and seekers that what matters in UU community involves much more than what we believe or what we do not believe.



June 23: "General Assembly in Session" Hope to have Sunday service streaming. Details to come.

June 30: "The Year That Was!! Intergenerational Celebration"

With Rev. Larry Hutchison, Lisa Coates and Michael Duling

We'll enjoy an all-Fellowship potluck picnic in Cresthaven Park, following the service. Cresthaven is north on MacArthur through the stoplight and on the left at the next stop sign.

June 9: "Beliefs for the Common Good"

with Rev. Larry Hutchison

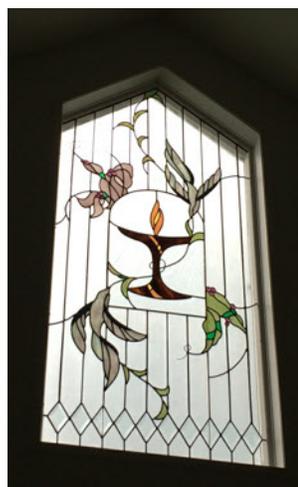
A belief is a mental state of how we interpret the world, whether we are consciously aware of it or not. They become our assumed truth, so it does matter what we believe.

June 16: "Reflection in Community"

with Rev. Larry Hutchison

NOTE: We will NOT be having services in July.

Come one, come all to the big picnic, marking the end of RE year at Cresthaven Park after the June 30 service. Potluck food, games and cool treats featured!



Read about how our iconic sanctuary window came about

page 5



Timely notes

Rev. Larry needs to replenish his Minister's Discretionary Fund. Any amount you can donate would help others in need.

Help keep recyclables out of the trash, and trash out of the recyclables.
Thanks for helping.

People and organizations using the church building are asked to give the details to Rev. Larry and put them on the wall calendar in the kitchen.

Many of us fondly remember Joan Brown from years attending UUFD. Her birthday comes up June 30. If you want to send a card or note, she's reachable in care of Mike Brown, 154 Prophet Drive, Lafayette, IN 47906.

Find us on the Internet

Facebook page: UUFD - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, IL
Web site: uufd.org

Publish your event or meeting in the weekly e-Blast – submit items to eblast_mgrs@uufd.org by Monday of each week.

Dick Zaker is Newsletter editor.
Deadline for August edition:
July 26 Newsletter@uufd.org

Greater Decatur Humanists – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, UUFD. Dave Snoeyenbos will present on "Synthetic Biology - How a recent gene manipulation process will allow us to remake ourselves, animals, plants and microorganisms. Good or Bad?"

UUFD Board – noon Sunday, June 9

Positively Plant Based for Life – 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 11, UUFD

UU Men's Lunch – 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, Tuscany restaurant

Women's Book Group – 6 p.m., Wednesday, June 12, home of Sally Van Natta. Book is "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Bring a dish to share. Contact kathysorensen1@comcast.net to RSVP and for address and directions.

Women's Lunch – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, at Beach House

Getting personal

Please remember those in facilities, including:

John Regan, Hickory Point Christian Village, Room 204.

Mary Cleave, Primrose Retirement Community, Room 103.

John Hays, Heritage Health, 1225 Woodland Dr., Mount Zion, 62549.

Let's all help maintain UUFD's 'ups'

As your new congregation president, I am energized thinking about what our 2019-2020 year will bring.



Lorelei Zaker

My family and I have attended UUFD for 26 years! As with all entities, there have been ups and downs. But with my long historical perspective, I would say

we're certainly having an "up" right now!

We have a well-liked, energetic minister with a spouse who also is dedicated to the congregation. Thanks to DRE Lisa Coates, our RE program is running smoothly, serving our families by having classes for different age groups and child care for babies.

Joyce Throneburg and her Program Group have done a great job planning

interesting lay services. And Mark Sorensen always makes sure our building is in impeccable shape! (That's in addition to his other duties, of course.)

We have way too many volunteers for me to mention everyone here. But we always need more help. I hope if I call on you this year that you'll pitch in and keep UUFD in an "up"!

What a great time to be president!



JUNE

Elizabeth Jeffery - June 20

JULY

- Linda Shroyer - July 6
- John Hays - July 21
- Al Brumett - July 31

Share your birthday by emailing newsletter@uufd.org

A heartfelt thank you

(from Nancy and Larry Hutchison)

Dear Friends at UUFD, thank so much for your cards, calls and condolences during the loss of our son-in-law, Steve Sturgeon! Many of you remember our daughter, Heidi, and how she stayed by my side during my AAA surgery! She did the same with Steve during

his last six weeks in the hospital, even though he barely came to after heart surgery! Daughter Carrie was in Florida with her sister! Family and friends are so important during times like this and help us during these difficult times! UUFD friends helped us, and we are very grateful!

Rev. Larry Hutchison



lghutch@yahoo.com or minister@uufd.org 352-949-1601

**OFFICE HOURS
Tues. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Wed. 6 - 9 p.m.

Thurs. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Drop in if you see my car. Or call to set up a time to meet or email, text or Facebook message.

Always happy to hear from you.

Focusing on Ramadan, Summer Solstice and celebration

School is out, and we are ready to party! June will be a month of celebrations!



Lisa Coates

We will begin with a lesson on Ramadan, as the Islamic holiday enters its final week. Students will learn about the traditions of this holy month.

Quick to follow will be Litha or Summer Solstice.



We will study the longest day of the year from a pagan point of view. I will work alongside some volunteers from our congregation while exploring this joyous day!

We will wrap up our year of RE with a big final picnic at Cresthaven Park on June

30. We'll gather after our intergenerational service for food, games and cool treats!

I will continue to post information on our UFD Families Facebook page so we can have some meet ups and stay in touch while we are off in July.

Everything will resume in August for a new school year. Have a wonderful summer!

Humanist Group delves into controversial artificial womb

Every person alive was born from a mother's womb. But will that always be the case?

In 2017, Alan Flake announced the creation of the artificial uterus for lambs. The device consisted of "what look(s) like oversized Ziploc bags strewn with tubes of blood and fluid." Flake suggested a similar device for humans could be available by 2020.

Why was there a need for this? Getting a fetus beyond

the point of having working lungs develop is a crucial step. Second, research on human embryos is limited to 14 days by international agreement. Maybe the lung underdevelopment would not be an issue, but we cannot determine this since no human embryonic cells can be sustained beyond 14 days.

What would an artificial uterus mean for the rights of the mothers? Maybe a state agency could argue

a fetus needed to be removed from a mother who smoked or was an alcoholic? That fetus would be transferred to an artificial uterus.

Thus, we have the capability to make this advance, but perhaps not the moral or ethical foundations to deal with such power. Flake acknowledged he had no intention of extending his invention to work for humans. Furthermore, his invention worked for sheep that were already one-third of

the way through pregnancy. He had no intention of allowing such a device to work for the entire pregnancy.

What rights would apply to the first artificial uterus baby? Is that infant a "person" anymore since the fetus was not brought to term in a human womb? Since the procedure removes a physical "mother" from the development of a fetus, would the anti-abortion faction oppose this technology?



Window creator Charla Hathaway and her mother, Phyllis.

How our chalice window came to be

It catches your eye, yet again, as your gaze wanders above the pulpit. Two doves, visiting flowers, with mauve plants in the background. A chalice shines in the middle, light dappling its base. Our stained glass window just *belongs* there.

Yet, the artwork wasn't part of the building's debut in 1983. It was eight years later that Charla Hathaway created it out of memories of her time in the Fellowship's RE.

"I wanted to give back to the church that has given me so much", she told the Herald & Review in 1991. Her parents, Robert Hathaway and Phyllis Read, financed the \$575 project.

Charla pieced together the 200 parts of the window over two weeks. The piece measures 6 feet by 3 feet.

Her concept was for the careful distortions in the glass to cast rainbows and make the trees and clouds outside appear to dance.

"Through our own deeds, we have the potential to spread rainbows, the same way a beveled piece of glass does, to the world around us and make it more beautiful", she said.



The final steps to secure the work of beauty!



The cover created to darken the sanctuary for the fine arts film series conducted at UFD is removed to prepare for window installation.

Charla visited Decatur a few years ago from Texas and attended an activity in Fairview Park.

We have the opportunity to enjoy her rainbow-casting artwork each week and are in her debt.

(Photos donated by Bret Robertson; thanks to Mark Sorensen for research)

