



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



May 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

May 5: "Dorothy Day - Writer, Activist, Social Reformer and Modern-day Saint and How She Changed My Life"

with Christine L. Sipula

After graduating from Illinois State University Christine was influenced by the Catholic Worker Movement and in 1978 opened Clare House in Bloomington as a refuge for women fleeing domestic abuse. Clare House transitioned to a haven for homeless women and their children and added a food pantry. She also opened Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen in Bloomington in the 1980s. Mark Sorensen is service leader



May 12: "In Search of Clarity"

with Rev. Larry Hutchison

To see clearly, so as to be able to respond to circumstances in a positive and healthy way; to think clearly, so as to act with wisdom and compassion; to feel

clearly, so as to live kindness and to avoid damaging attachments. Happy Mother's Day!!

May 19: "Sprouts of Virtue"

with Rev. Larry Hutchison

"Though I do believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders." – **Henry David Thoreau**



Also: 11:30 a.m., UUFDF Annual Congregational Meeting

May 26: "The Paradox of Remembering"

with Rev. Larry Hutchison

Paradoxes are questions that suspend us between too many possible answers, such as the call of loss and the call for peace.

Your voice improves our Fellowship's 'harmony'

Why stick around for the Congregational Meeting at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 19? After all, you could be getting a head start on lunch instead.

What's in it for you to be at this gathering? For one,

you can get a good look at what donations (including yours) are going for.

Also, members can see and vote for the people who will be making all kinds of decisions on how to keep our Fellowship

headed in the right direction.

Finally, you can acknowledge the hard work done to create a budget and recruit new officers.

Please join us.



Greater Decatur Humanists – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, UUFD; topic: progress in artificial wombs.

UUFD Board – noon Sunday, May 5

UU Men's Lunch – 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, Coney McKane's

Women's Book Group – 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, home of Vicky Harbeck. The book is "The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window" by Jonas Jonasson. Bring a dish to share for dinner. Contact Kathysorensen1@comcast.net for more information.

Positively Plant Based for Life – 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 14, UUFD

Macon County Progressives – 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 23, UUFD

Soul Support – 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23

UU Women's Lunch – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, New Moon Cafe

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.



Here's Steve John and Travis Stimeling, jamming in our Sanctuary on April 6. The range of their musical knowledge was impressive, as was their ability to meld their talents right away.

Just mention "Take Me Home Country Roads" to anyone who was there, and you'll get a smile of recognition.

Professor Stimeling began the evening by describing his project at West Virginia University to expose students in each county in the state to Appalachian music. It was easy to feel his warmth and dedication as he detailed this labor of love.

He also talked about his efforts to reach out to some of the legends of this style. Sometimes, he just recorded interviews for posterity, and sometimes he gained their performances.

Again, on April 7, Travis was featured in a service that explored the future of Appalachia.

It was a marvelous homecoming to enjoy.

You, me and the beautiful around us

Beauty has come to visit,
 here at the corner,
 once again.
 As the daffodils bid good-
 by,
 the redbuds are giving a
 glorious
 hello!
 And beauty surrounds a
 cheerful robin in the flower
 garden.
 Yet words are difficult this
 morning,
 you see,
 on the inside of my mind
 I'm holding a rummage
 sale
 of winter ideas,
 old, dusty & discolored.
 And then, I realize,
 if I step outside
 I, too, could break into
 blossom.
 I'm thinking, take
 everything outside,
 gather the ideas into fresh
 piles.

<p>Rev. Larry Hutchison lghutch@yahoo.com or minister@uufd.org 352-949-1601</p>	
<p>Office hours Tues. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wed. 6 - 9 p.m. Thurs. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>	<p>time to meet or email, text or Facebook message.</p>
<p>Call first or drop in if you see my car. Or call to set up a</p>	<p>Always happy to hear from you.</p>

Let the sun bleach through
 them.
 As if that would make this
 a poem
 or clean up a life.
 But, you know,
 most cherished dreams
 aren't harps & fugues &
 feathers
 but rather arrested action;
 like, while walking through

the Sanctuary,
 I was hypnotized by tiny
 sun-signals exchanged
 across the blinds, "spring
 vespers",
 and for a long moment,
 "almost heaven".
 May you walk in beauty.

*Love,
 Larry*



Julie Shields,
 May 19

*Please share your
 birthday by emailing
newsletter@uufd.org*

UUFd prides itself on doing
 everything we can to be
 environmentally sound.
 There are well-marked
 recycling bins at UUFd, one in
 RE and another in the kitchen.
 These bins crave only clean
 Decatur recyclables, including
 used orders of service.
 Please keep tissues, napkins,
 dirty plates and food out of
 those bins. Help keep
 recyclables out of the trash,
 and trash out of the
 recyclables. Thanks for helping.

Proposed slate of officers

Here is the slate of officers
 that will be proposed on May
 19: President - Lorelei
 Zaker; Vice President - Pat
 Rossiter; Treasurer - Amy
 Stockwell; Secretary - Tim
 McMillin; At-Large Board
 Members - Mary Lovell and
 Barbara Hannon (Mark
 Sorensen will continue his
 present term as at-large,
 and Kathy Vaught will stay
 on the Board as Past
 President)

Focusing on mindfulness, positive influences in our lives

The RE staff is very grateful for the fellowship support. Easter Sunday



Lisa Coates

was a glorious event. Thank you all for joining us outside for the festivities!

May is here, can you believe it? This year has flown by! As we close the school year, I am going to pack in some important lessons. April focused on Passover, Easter with concepts of death and loss.

I am going to continue these discussions into this month because of their depth. This is a huge topic that leads into another important concept, gratitude.

May brings flowers. Flowers bring cheer and hope. Every day, we have many things to be grateful for. Despite struggles, we can look for those signs.

This month, we will practice mindfulness in our meditations and focus on those positive influences in

our lives. Mother's Day and Memorial Day celebrations will fit nicely into these discussions.

Please join us May 5 after church for an RE Committee meeting. Bring a sack lunch and meet the RE staff and committee to create plans, discuss current matters and share thoughts. Everyone is welcome, and child care will be provided. If you cannot attend but have questions or ideas to share, please contact me.

The mechanics of pledging and donating to your Fellowship

Pledge packets are circulating among members and friends of UUFD at this time. Our next fiscal year starts on July 1 and ends on June 30, 2020. We ask as many of you as possible to make a realistic monetary pledge for the coming fiscal year to help the Board plan our church budget and seek alternative revenue sources if needed.

If you made a pledge for the current fiscal year and

still have a balance due, please try to finish fulfilling your pledge by June 30. If you pledged and have already met or exceeded you pledged amount you may 1) give additional funds this fiscal year; 2) stop giving until July 1, 2019; or 3) keep giving and mark checks with "new pledge 2020".

Please give or mail all pledge cards to Mark Sorensen at the

Fellowship. If you know you can't pledge, indicate this on your card, and we will not follow up with a future reminder.

It will be very helpful if all pledge cards are returned by **May 12**. If you wish to make your pledge using stocks or want to donate extra funds to our Fellowship's Trust, please contact Joyce Throneburg.

Treasuring the moments: Please show your support

With the lovely memories of Easter Sunday/Pledge Sunday (music! eggs! pictures! bubbles! inspiring words!) so fresh, I hope that you have considered what UUFD means to you and have returned your



Amy Stockwell

pledge card to Mark Sorensen.

All your gifts of presence, time, attention and spirit are essential to keeping our Fellowship growing—and we also need your financial support (Ameren insists on cash!).

When you fill out your pledge card, think how much Larry Hutchison, Lisa

Coates and her RE team, and Michael Duling have enriched all our lives. Now it's our turn to thank them by showing them our support!

Remember our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, May 19, when the budget will be presented and adopted.

Getting on Board: Money news, new seminar approved

At the April 14 Board meeting:

- Heard that donations are running ahead of the budgeted level
- Learned that just \$6,000 has been withdrawn from the Trust for operations, with \$36,000 having been budgeted (that \$6,000 also may be the last amount needing to be taken this budget year). This good fortune is thanks to extra contributions from a longtime member.

- Rev. Larry plans to hold a New Member Class in June. More details to come

- A program called "Seven Candles", to be conducted by JD Stillwater of Science for a Deeper Spirituality on July 28-29, was approved

- \$300 was donated for sponsorship of Decatur PrideFest in October. UUFD also will provide space for the PrideFest planning committee meetings from 6-8 p.m. on the second

and fourth Wednesdays of each month

- Rev. Larry announced he would attend Gamaliel Training by the Faith Coalition for the Common Good in November to learn organizing techniques to fight for social justice

- Board members urged that any person or organization using the church building give the details to Rev. Larry and put them on the wall calendar in the kitchen

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

Find us on the Internet

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

Dick Zaker is Newsletter editor.
Next edition will cover June and
July. Deadline: May 25.
Newsletter@uufd.org

ACTIVITIES

			1	2	3	4
			Humanists, 6:30 p.m.			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Service- "Dorothy Day"; board meeting			Men's lunch, 1 p.m., Coney McKane; Women's book group, 6 p.m.			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Service- "In Search of Clarity"		Positively Plant-Based, 7 p.m.				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
"Sprouts of Virtue" and Annual Meeting			Women's lunch, 11:30, New Moon Cafe	Macon Co. Progress- ives, 6:30; Soul Support, 7 p.m.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Service- "Paradox of Remembering"						

Pape Cisse laid his own form of "inconvenient truth" on us on April 14. The AmeriCorps volunteer described a pattern of European imperialism over countless centuries that has crushed most African nations' attempts to succeed.

Cisse is working on his master's degree from Western Illinois University. For his talk to the Fellowship, he centered his attention on his parents' native country of Senegal. The Western African nation has been independent since the 1960s, and its Wikipedia entry talks of its "rich French colonial heritage". However, tucked into the details of the Senegal government are financial and cultural requirements that keep the country as a colony in all but name. Opposing any of these rules would bring a visit from the French army, Cisse insists.



In the photo above, Cisse tells the children how he came upon his name. The Senegalese traditions differ from ours, including the fact that parents can have several days to decide on a baby's name.