



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



April 2020 News

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

**Our services: 10:15 a.m. Sundays, online,
but with 100% of the Adult Daily Requirement of spirit!**

You'll notice some changes! As we make our way through these stressful times, we need to stay together – even when we can't BE together. We hope you've noticed the online streaming services that started March 22. They're providing comforting and inspiring messages and give deeper meaning to "Fellowship". Right now, this is the method we'll be using throughout April, but this change is subject to change. (By the way, let the minister and Jen McMillin know how you feel about the messages and the video work they're doing.)

April 5: "Against Aloneness in the Web of Life" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

The art of turning forward in an uncertain world.

April 12: "At the Crossing of the Ways" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

A look at a beautiful hymn from the Dead Sea Scrolls about the Righteous Teacher as gardener. A message to grasp the particularity, richness and tension in the Easter story.

April 19: "The Economics of Love" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

"We who are strong in love" (Wordsworth). What matters is the sense of possibilities, of redemption, the excitement of a "we" ALL joining together to shape a new world.

April 26: "A Sacred Journey" with Farah Mahmood and Pati Ramsey

Join these women as they retrace their steps back to the holy city of Mecca – known as Bakkah in the Bible. The Hajj pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam, is the largest religious gathering in the world. Ramsey is a Caucasian convert to Islam, and Mahmood is a first-generation Pakistani-American. Kathy Sorensen is service leader.

Search begins for a minister to follow Larry Hutchison

It is with great sadness that we announce Larry Hutchison will not be renewing his contract for the 2020-2021 church year, which begins July 1. The board thanks Larry for his dedication to our Fellowship as a whole and many of us individually.

We look forward to the next few months of working with Larry to build on our

strengths as we continue our congregational growth.



So, the time has come to begin a search for a new minister. The Ministry

Search Committee has been approved by the Board and has begun work in earnest. The committee is composed of Dick Zaker,

Zepheniah Greenwell, Sarah Yeagle, Tim McMillin, and chaired by Sara Cothorn.

Sara says, "Our goal is to have a minister in place starting August 2020. We do not yet know if the current pool of candidates will allow for that possibility. Rest assured, we will work diligently to find the right person for our congregation."



Who knows what April will bring for life resuming as normal?

Between eBlasts and Facebook, we will pass along any dates and times for meetings.



Hunter Sekosky - April 2
 Faith/Kathy Vaught - April 3
 Stu Black - April 11
 Lisa Coates - April 19
 Kathy Sorensen - April 21
 Willa Hartman - April 28
 Pat Rossiter - April 29

Find us on the Internet

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

Submit items to
eblast_mgrs@uufd.org
 by Monday
 of each week.

Dick Zaker is Newsletter
 editor. May edition
 deadline: April 24.
Newsletter@uufd.org

Focusing on RE: Really miss being with you

Hello friends! What a wild time we're having! I've missed seeing everyone and having a regular RE class.

It was disappointing to not be able to perform our springtime puppet parade for our March intergenerational service. I have saved all of your creations though so you can share them with your family next time we meet.



Lisa Coates

For each week that we have to miss gathering in person, I will make sure to post something on our UUFD Family Facebook page. There you can join me for songs, stories and activity ideas so you can do RE at home!

I'm sending hugs and well wishes to all as we navigate this challenging experience. Please contact me if you need any support services, have questions, concerns or would like to just chat! I'm here for you.

Please tell your children hello and, I can't wait for us to gather again!

Kids loved Springfield trip

The UUFD Chalice Youth Group traveled to Springfield on Leap Day, Feb. 29, for a day of fellowship, worship and community service education.

RE students from Central Illinois gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Abraham Lincoln Congregation.

We began the day with some introspective art by creating affirmation boards. Next, students attended a class on the importance of voting. After a feast of lovely treats, the youth gathered for a worship circle in the sanctuary. Our very own Emma Greenwell was asked to light the very large chalice. We sang songs and enjoyed performances by other attendees. The day concluded with a visit from an animal rescue organization and a lesson on environmental awareness. Everyone had a spectacular day. As we drove home, we discussed how we want to host the next one at UUFD!

Emily's making a splash

Our Emily Steele contributed a good article on the Splash Cove water park in the latest Decatur magazine.

The six-acre attraction in Nelson Park is supposed to have its grand opening during Memorial

Day weekend, but that's likely up in the air. Splash Cove will join the Devon Lakeshore Amphitheater and Overlook Adventure Park as major features of a reimagined Nelson Park.

Anyway, Emily's writing is bright and concise, as usual.

Free to a good home

A UUFD member wants to give away a queen mattress, box springs and frame.

They're ready to be picked up, or a delivery could be arranged. Please call 433-5198 or email pmrsong@hotmail.com.

A recliner also is available.

Your financial support important now

(From Treasurer Amy Stockwell)

My greetings to everyone, in great appreciation of our community, even at a distance.

Many people are facing great hardship and uncertainty, while others are better situated. We are all trying to discover a "new normal" and find new patterns of daily life. In this quest, I hope you will consider — if you are able — to continue your generosity to the Fellowship.

We are continuing to pay our wonderful staff, and such fixed expenses

as heat and water continue, even though we are closed.

The best way to give is to send a check made out to UUFD to my home address: 601 S. Monroe, 62522.

Although I am completely locked down, I am able to deposit remotely and will do so just as soon as the mail is quarantined!

Mark will ensure that these deposits are credited to your account. Jen McMillin is working with me on setting up an online donation capability.

Stay well, stay safe, and keep in touch!

... donate, so we continue to 'flower'

(From Mark Sorensen, Finance Committee)

Hope you all are staying well and being safe.

There is a good chance that gatherings at UUFD will be restricted until Easter, if not beyond. However, 90% of our Fellowship's expenses continue.

For those who can, please consider mailing in donations or pledges during this time away from each other.

For those who might need help, let Rev. Hutchison know.

And for those who drive by the church, feel free to cut a dozen daffodils to take with you.

Past times of tragedy

(From Mark Sorensen)

Most of us were at Maine West High School in the early afternoon on Friday, Nov. 22, 1963. I was in "study hall" in the cafeteria (the school was crowded that year) sitting with Debbie Quinn when the Kennedy assassination news came over the P.A. system. Debbie cried.

On Sunday, Aug. 2, 1964, I was in my last two weeks of working at Boy Scout Camp Napowan when Dave Lueck and I heard that the U.S. was attacked at a place called "the Gulf of Tonkin." My late friend joined the Marines two years later and fought in 'nam.

Early Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, one of my secretaries came into my office at the Illinois State Archives and said a plane had hit one of the World Trade Towers in NYC. My first thought was, that's too bad, just like the July 28, 1945, army plane that accidentally hit the Empire State Building, causing 14 deaths. Not so.

Kathy and I just finished a week in New York City with our granddaughter as they shut down Broadway, worried about the coronavirus. The last site we visited was the 911 Memorial and Museum.

Just like our earlier shared experiences, be kind and take care of each other.