



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



May 2020 News

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



Our services:

**10:15 a.m. Sundays, online,
featuring both Joys and Concerns!**

So, we enter into our third month of online services. They have been received well by an understanding Fellowship. Mark Sorensen has added his voice as a speaker, joining Rev. Hutchison. Our continued thanks to Jen McMillin and all those others who have kept us streaming.

May 3: "Whitewashing a Strawberry Margarita" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

Cinco de Mayo has been canceled, again, first because of the ICE federal agency, now

Coronavirus. It is one of the first holidays enacted by people who didn't divide loyalties based on borders. Instead, they stood in solidarity with people different from them.



They understood that no one is free until we are all free.

May 10: To Be Announced. Watch your eBlasts and UUFD Facebook for details

May 17: "Trying to Believe We Are Endangered" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

NOTE ON JOYS AND CONCERNS: Please send your wishes by Friday each week to Jen@JenMcMillin.com or mcmillin.jen@gmail.com

Call it cosmological hermeneutics, That is "dividing the unbelievable by the undeniable," while a virus is sneezing in A-flat, weatherwise and otherwise.



May 24: "UUFD, As I Live and Breathe" with Dick Zaker

Making the case that our Fellowship is a living thing, one that is challenged (but not beaten) by the pandemic.

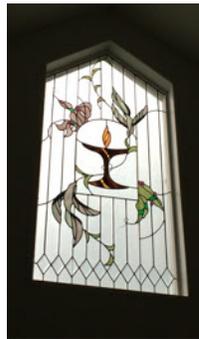
May 31: To Be Announced. Watch your eBlasts and UUFD Facebook for details



Pandemic throws monkey wrench into Fellowship's plans

COVID-19 has put the kaibosh on more than our regular style of Sunday services. The Pledge Drive and budgeting process, both crucial to the next church year, have been delayed.

report is read from the board of our Trust, and the coming year's budget is presented for approval.



Please watch for such contacts as eBlasts, newsletter, website, Facebook from UUFD for the announcement of the date.

So, too, is the case with the annual Congregational Meeting. Traditionally, the year's high points are reviewed, the slate of candidates for the next year's offices are announced and voted on, a

Now, all that is on hold. As soon as Gov. Pritzker removes restrictions on gatherings, the Board will set the date for the Congregational Meeting.

Thank you for your patience. We'll all have to "kick it up a notch", as chef Emeril Lagasse says, to re-energize congregational life when we get the go-ahead from Springfield.

So, who's in charge next year?

The Nominating Committee has this slate of officers for your approval:

- President – Pat Rossiter
- Vice President – Tim McMillin

- Secretary – Sarah Yeagle
- Treasurer – Amy Stockwell
- Past President – Lorelei Zaker
- Board Members-at-Large – Barbara Hannon, Kim Schwarz, Mark Sorensen



- Robert Prange – May 5
- Keaghan Brockway – May 8
- Carolynn Devore – May 12
- Walter Yeagle – May 16
- Julie Shields – May 19
- Carly Coates – May 19

Never fear, meeting lovers: between eBlasts and Facebook, we will pass along any dates and times for meetings.

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. June edition deadline: May 25.
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.



Lisa Coates

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.

For each week that we have to miss gathering in person, I will make sure to post something on our UUFD Family



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!

Facebook page. There you can join me for songs, stories and activity ideas so you can

A financial 'Plan B' well underway

As we share this time of uncertainty in all our lives, I wanted to let you know what is happening, re our Fellowship finances.

Your Finance Committee has been meeting (via Zoom), and we have



Amy Stockwell

postponed our normal fund-raising drive and pledge calendar for a few months while we collect additional information and hope that each of you resolves some of the uncertainties that you are facing.

As we work on the plan for the coming year, we certainly welcome any guidance you can give us about your continuing support of the Fellowship! In the meantime, many people have either given on-line via www.uufd.org/donate or have mailed checks to my home at 601 S. Monroe 62522.

Some people have even done both, and for all of these gifts I thank you from the bottom of my heart. "Community" matters more than ever, and your gifts help keep us together, even though we are apart. Many thanks!

Virtual General Assembly

Experience the 2020 GA from your computer screen.

Rooted, Inspired & Ready will be held from June 24 to 28. The online process will feature versions of the ceremonies, services, workshops and speakers that make up GA. The Ware Lecture speaker will be Naomi Klein of Rutgers University, an award-winning journalist and author.

The registration fee is \$150. For more information, go to <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>

Minister search continues, optimistically



The Ministerial Search Committee is hopeful that a candidate will be found before the upcoming year. It is a complex, competitive process, considering congregations around the country are working on the same pool of candidates.

Plans will be made to proceed with programs if we're still looking for a minister this fall.



The Herald & Review is showcasing creations from K-12 students. This drawing is from Grace Raleigh, Kathy & Mark Sorensen's granddaughter.

From the minister: You, Me and the Indifference

When I was in art school
 Duchamp was the rage.
 He gave his middle finger
 to the art world,
 turned a urinal upside down
 and called it art
 It was cool!!!
 Defiant indifference
 – cool was a thing

But by '68, "cool" wasn't, anymore
 So I didn't vote for Hubert H.
 Humphrey
 I was not wrong.
 The Vietnam War was wrong!!!
 He didn't think so.

When I think about why??
 I arrive at two fears I have:
 The fear of corners with no
 possibilities and shoelaces
 tied too tight
 – around the heart

So it's been six long weeks now!
 Been complaining for five
 And what about the cages
 along the Rio?? Where time
 drags through many long
 seasons with corners, borders

and walls of indifference

Hey! Are the corners moving inward
 now?? Or is it me??

Here's another thing!!
 This pandemic is a gateway,
 a gateway to realize hope,
 an opening to move past the
 walls of indifference,
 a passage around the corner
 of fears.

As Elie Wiesel was saying before,
 "The opposite of love is not hate,
 it's indifference.
 The opposite of art is not ugliness,
 It's indifference.

Yes, yes, let this be the year!!
 Revolutionary dice start rolling
 off the tongues of "the people"
 and poems become martyrs
 in the crosshairs of nightmares
 and indifference.

This is the year you put the
 cellphone down and "pitch-in"!!

*Peace
 Larry*

**Rev. Larry
 Hutchison**

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 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.**

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