

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

www.decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator/Musician

387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements

Today's Service relates to the 3rd UU Principle Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

Chalice Lighting *In Time of Silver Rain*

...Langston Hughes

In time of silver rain

The earth puts forth new life again,

Green grasses grow

And flowers lift their heads,

And over all the plain

The wonder spreads

Of life, Of life, Of life.

In time of silver rain

The butterflies lift silken wings

To catch a rainbow cry

And trees put forth

New leaves to sing

In joy beneath the sky.

When spring

And life

Are new.



Opening Song *Still, I Rise*

...Maya Angelou

Reading *Poetry and the News*

...Scott Gregory

Joys and Sorrows Please raise your Zoom hand to share any personal joy or concern with the Fellowship.

Silence Meditation / Sung Response Your joy is my joy; your sorrow, my sorrow. Together we live our days, together we love this place. In beloved community, we are not alone.

...Ellen Rockne

Offering / Offertory For all that is our life, we sing our thanks and praise; for all life is a gift that we are called to use to build the common good, and make our own days glad.

...Bruce Findlow

A Shared Collection of Poems in Celebration of National Poetry Month

Nancy Barry, Members & Friends

Closing Song *This Land is Your Land*

...Woody Guthrie

Extinguishing the Chalice

We clasp the hands of those that go before us, and the hands of those who come after us. We enter the little circle of each other's arms. And the larger circle of lovers, whose hands are joined in a dance. And the larger circle of all poets, passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance, to a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it... except in fragments.

...Wendell Berry



Announcements

Thank you to our service leader today, Decorah UU member Nancy Barry. After the service, please treat yourself to a little something, and we'll be in virtual touch soon. Take care, all!

Share-the-Plate - Our plate recipient for March-April is [NAMI NE Iowa](#), the National Alliance on Mental Illness, providing education, support and advocacy.

Next Sunday, April 19 - Earth Day: Marching On. Rowan Collins will explore the history of Earth Day and its continued legacy. Carol Hagen, service leader.

Decorah UU Support - As we continue to find our way through this challenging time, please remember: **if you need help, let us know.** While we might establish a more structured format for supporting one another in this way (picking up groceries or prescriptions, etc.), for now, simply let Otter know via phone 563-387-6050 or email otterdreaming@gmail.com. From there, we'll look for someone who can help out while observing current health & safety recommendations, as well as observing confidentiality. We'll all need support of one kind or another during this time. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Decorah UU Giving - Decorah UU has set up online payment primarily for donations you might otherwise make in person at fellowship. Go to our [Decorah UU](#) homepage and click on the "Give Online" button, which will take you to the Giving page. There, you'll find the "Donate" button which will send your payment through PayPal. You do NOT need a PayPal account. You'll be asked to choose whether your donation is for **Share-the-Plate** or for **Decorah UU**. You can only choose one, so if you want to donate to both, you will have to repeat the process. You can use a debit or credit card. Below the "Donate" button on the Giving page, you may also consider two options for recurring donations. **Please note:** We deeply appreciate the gracious gifts of our members and friends, whether given on a weekly, monthly, or annual basis. We understand that present circumstances and uncertainty may affect your ability to make a financial commitment to Decorah UU. Know that we value your "gracious gifts" to our fellowship, in whatever form they may be.

Decorah UU Circles - Decorah UU Circles are happening! Sometime this coming week you may be contacted by a member of our Fellowship who has agreed to help us stay connected while we are practicing physical distancing. Several Circles have been created with groups of 6 or 7 each, small enough to keep in touch easily. Whether you just make a phone call every so often, or decide to meet via Zoom, or exchange emails about books you are reading, gardens you're planting, or what's for dinner, we can help each other get through this time. When you are contacted, you can find out how you can help. This is a great chance for us to minister to one another in any way we can. (questions: contact sueotte@gmail.com, or call at 563-419-5396)

Decorah UU Service Archive - Did you miss a service we conducted by Zoom? Or did you attend but would like to watch it again? You can! Go to [Decorah UU](#). There are two links to our new YouTube channel: a small YouTube icon in the upper right and a button in the middle that says "Watch past services on YouTube." Once on the YouTube channel page, you can choose the service you want to watch. We will try to post the link within one week of each service. Tip: If you want to see the bulletin or other information about the service, you can click on the SERVICE ARCHIVE button on the homepage. From there you can click on a service and then the "read more" link.

Decorah Community Food Pantry - The Decorah Community Food Pantry remains open during this time of crisis with clients receiving pre-selected bags of food. All older volunteers have been replaced with younger ones to reduce risk, and a temporary director has been hired. These moves add to operational costs. The need to stay open is clear: just during the week of March 16th, the Pantry served 109 clients with 296 family members, 16 of these being new clients. The numbers are growing as more and more people are laid off. If you can help financially, please send a check to PO Box 26, Decorah, or donate through decorahpantry.org.

Unitarian Universalists in Solidarity with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe - On March 27, the Bureau of Indian Affairs informed the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts of a U.S. Department of the Interior order to disestablish the tribe's reservation and remove its land-in-trust status. Vice Chair Jessie Little Doe Baird says that the order will terminate the Tribe's ability to self-govern, strip the Tribe of their reservation lands, and effectively terminate them as a recognized people. The UUA unequivocally affirms our support for the Mashpee Wampanoag People's sovereignty and right to their ancestral territory, and condemns the government's blatantly illegal and morally reprehensible attempt to strip the Tribe of their rights and their homelands. In keeping with the UU General Assembly's **responsive resolution** to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, we urge Unitarian Universalists to act now in solidarity with the Mashpee Wampanoag people to defend their sovereignty and push back against this latest aggression on behalf of the federal government.

Member Emergency Fund - Unforeseen troubles come our way from time to time. If you or someone you know in the fellowship could use some help, please let Otter know. We may be able to provide support or short term monetary assistance. Confidentiality will be respected.

Decorah UU online - For more information, please visit our website **Decorah UU** or go to our **facebook** page.

Your Joy Is My Joy

Ellen Rockne



The Peace of Wild Things

...Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Why I Wake Early

...Mary Oliver

Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who make the morning
and spread it over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips
and the nodding morning glories,
and into the windows of, even, the
miserable and crotchety---

best preacher that ever was,
dear star, that just happens
to be where you are in the universe
to keep us from ever darkness,
to ease us with warm touching,
to hold us in the great hands of light---
good morning, good morning, good morning.

Watch, now, how I start the day
in happiness and kindness.

My Spirit Guide is a Dandelion

...Mia Howell (2011)

The neighbors are relieved that I finally weeded the front drive,
I had not the heart to do it before.
Sent out to scout, rogue milkweed, crabgrass, fescue
lodge in the tiniest of sidewalk cracks --
sometimes the root is only a hair, sometimes straight into concrete.
They are the mail cutters, breaking up the ice
so that the rest of the natural world may follow.
We have poured out glaciers of concrete,
we are trapped frozen within,
but there will come dandelions in every small crack.
We have poured out black asphalt lava,
we are trapped ashen within,
but there will come crabgrass in every minute pore.
Then arrives the pill bug, the ant colony, the spider,
the new bit of earth, soon a tree sprouting --
the widening of the crack and the loosening of our bonds.
Yet how we resist being saved when we count our folly --
this pavement,
as our only foundation,
discounting the entire planet it rests upon.
The neighbors are relieved that I finally weeded the front drive;
I'm relieved that I'll have to keep doing it again and again.