

Decorah ♦ Unitarian ♦ Universalist ♦ Fellowship

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words

Today's service relates to many of our principles and sources: it is our annual celebration remembering departed loved ones.

Chalice Lighting We light this chalice in honor of all who no longer walk this earth with us: teachers, mentors, partners, parents, loved ones, and friends who have loved and nurtured us, making it possible for us to become who we are. Blessed be their memory.

Opening Song *Walk With Me*

...Maggie Wheeler

Land Acknowledgement

Reading *Lest We Forget*

...Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

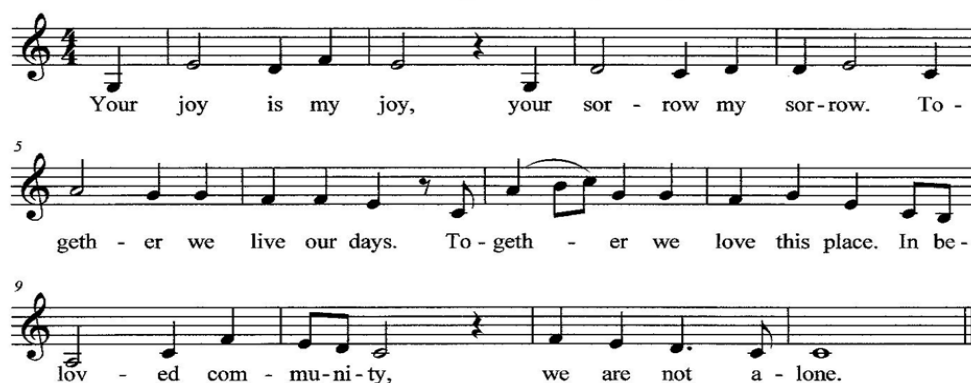
What do the living owe to the dead? Every tribute that we offer to those who have been our teachers and guides, those who have loved us and made it possible to become who we are, falls short of paying the debt that we owe them. I am inclined to believe that what we owe them is this: that we live fully, and do not forget. What the dead deserve from us, is that we should create lives of courage and character lives profound and resonant and abundant. For the awareness that life is short gives our lives a poignant urgency, and bids us fill our days with the work and love, with the beauty and memory that matter most. Lest we forget how much we owe. Lest we forget how brief we are. Lest we forget.

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

Silence/Response

Your Joy Is My Joy

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/Patrick Rickey

Welcoming Our Ghosts: A Service of Remembrance

Sue Otte

Crossing the Marigold Bridge a short clip from the movie *Coco*

Speak their Names

Extinguishing the Chalice For those who walked with us, this is a prayer. For those who touched and tended us, who lingered with us while they lived, this is a thanksgiving. For those who journey with us, in the shadows of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams, this is a bene-diction. Let us depart in peace, remembering, There is no end to the Circle of Life.

...Jan Richardson, adapted

Closing Song *No End to the Circle*

...Starhawk, Reclaiming and Friends

For You can see Me in your eyes When they are mirrored by a friend
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end

For I am the power to begin I dream and bring to birth what's never been
There is no end to Freedom, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end

And you can hear Me in your voice And feel Me in each breath that you breath in
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end

For I am the power to sustain I am the ripened fruit and growing grain
There is no end to My abundance, no end There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end

And you can feel Me in your heart When it beats with the heart of a friend
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end

And I am the power to end I am the crone who cuts the cord that I spin
Though all things that are born must die again There is no end to life, there is no end
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end

For all proceeds from Me, and all returns All that returns to Me comes forth again
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end

I am the honey taste of passion's heat The fear running through your heartbeat
I am dancing through your life and heartbeat Desire so fierce and love so sweet
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end
There is no end to the Circle, no end There is no end to Life, there is no end



Announcements

Thank you to our speaker this morning, Decorah UU member **Sue Otte**. A founding member of Decorah UU, Sue loves to create rituals which respect our heritage, while remaining relevant to our present. Reimagining new ways of being in the world allows us to honor all that we still love about our past, while acknowledging our mistakes and drawing more people into our wider circle. ❖ Thank you also to **Karen Esterl** for service assistance today. ❖ After our gathering, please treat yourself to a little something, and we'll be in touch again soon.

Share-the-Plate – Our plate recipient for September-October is *NE IA Community Action Corporation* (NEICAC). To donate to the plate recipient, see Decorah UU Giving, below. Or if you prefer to mail a check, please note “Share the Plate” in the memo line, and mail to PO Box 382, Decorah, IA 52101.

Upcoming Sundays

November 1 – No service.

November 8 – *Forgiveness and Race in America*, with Loren Toussaint. Loren's talk will describe forgiveness of others and self-forgiveness in the context of current racial tensions and a history of racial prejudices and discrimination in the United States. Ironically, both kinds of forgiveness can be both good and bad if misunderstood or misapplied. His remarks will be focused on raising issues and questions for discussion. Carol Hagen, service leader. Carolyn Corbin, service support.

November 15 – No service.

November 22 – *Member Story*, with Lyra McKnight.

Holiday Gift Program – Continuing our tradition of many years, Decorah UU will be participating in the Helping Services Holiday Gift Program – COVID-style. While we don't have details yet, we know it will be for one Decorah-area family with multiple children. When we get the family information, we will also be assigned a drop-off date, which are being staggered to reduce COVID risks for everyone involved. We will provide the list of requested gift items electronically, and you will have options of indicating your choice of gift recipient items either electronically or by calling Ellen Macdonald or Carl Peterson, who are coordinating this venture.

Save your treasures for the UU Auction – If you're cleaning out your garage, set aside (and photograph) your special treasures for the UU Auction coming later this year. Each year we auction off our talents, services, homegrown vegetables, homemade goods, arts, crafts, and closet treasures to raise funds for our UU congregation and for our Low Income Heating Assistance Program. This year's auction will be online. For questions: Carolyn Corbin at carolyn@corbingroup.biz or Julie Ohde at littleredkayak@gmail.com.

Use Your UU Voice – If you're interested in recording a story, poem, or song for upcoming UU services, Carolyn is happy to help you with tech support. Contact carolyn@corbingroup.biz. Ideas: Original songs, stories, or poetry related to UU Principles. Songs, stories, or poems by favorite artists related to UU Principles. Children's stories that relate to UU Principles.

Defending the Democratic Process: A Faith Community Call to Awareness and Action – At their meeting on October 13th, the Decorah UU Board of Trustees voted to add Decorah UU's name to an inter-faith statement calling for a peaceful transfer of power. The statement, originally from thirteen Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders, is also available [here](#) for individuals to sign.

Decorah UU Board of Trustees – The next meeting of the Board is Tuesday, November 13th, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Board members for 2020-2021 are Matthew Alexander (chair), Beth Wahlberg (treasurer), Maggie Hayden, Julie Ohde and Lynn Pleggenkuhle.

Decorah UU Support – As we continue to find our way through this challenging time, please remember: **if you need help**, let Otter know via phone 563-387-6050 or email otterdreaming@gmail.com. We'll all need support of one kind or another during this time. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Decorah UU Circles – We are practicing physical distancing to stay safe in these times, but that doesn't mean we must be disconnected socially. Check in with folks in your Circle or others as well, and know that together we care for our UU family and friends. Contact Sue Otte if you have questions or comments: sueotte@gmail.com or 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 UU online – For more information, please visit our website [Decorah UU](#) or our [Facebook](#) page.

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.

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 Community Food Pantry – With continuing unemployment and underemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Pantry has seen a significant increase in usage. Volunteers and monetary donations are needed to help meet the need. The best way to give money is to write a check to "Decorah Community Food Pantry" and mail it to the Decorah Community Food Pantry, PO Box 26, Decorah, IA 52101 or visit decorahpantry.org. There is a need for diapers, menstrual hygiene products and toiletries. To volunteer, go to [volunteer](#).

Mail Cheer – Green Iowa Americorps has made a program for people who feel isolated during the pandemic. To give or receive these friendly letters, call *Green Iowa Americorps* at 563-293-5075, or visit the *Decorah & Winneshiek County Mutual Aid Network*.

