

Decorah ♦ Unitarian ♦ Universalist ♦ Fellowship

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to our September theme of Justice and our UU principle for a world community "with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Chalice Lighting *The Glories of Peace* They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; But they shall all sit under their own vines and fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid. ...Micah 4:3

Opening Song *Berta Berta* This song is sung during August Wilson's play *The Piano Lesson*, and evokes the reality of a maximum security prison in Mississippi known as Parchman Farm.

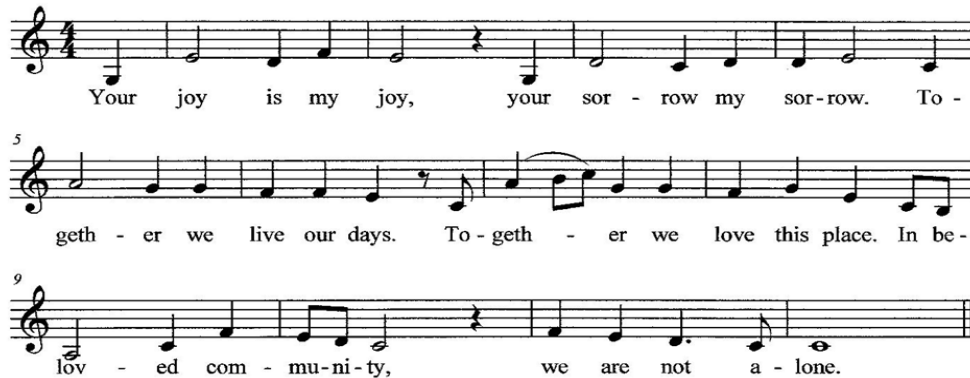
Land Acknowledgement

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

Reading The *Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop* helps teenagers charged and imprisoned as adults in the D.C. Jail and the federal prison system since 2002. It helps young men give voice to their experiences through poetry. The poets declined to use their last names since the poems were published while they were incarcerated. This one is from Demetrius and is entitled *I Bang the Poems*.

I bang the poems for all problems
In all shapes, sizes and forms
I bang the poems for all weather
Cold, hot, and sometimes warm
I bang the poems for the people
Who are looking for a sunny day
But can only find a storm
I bang the poems for the prison population
That's steadily growing
I bang the poems for the parents
Whose children get snatched off the streets

Without them even knowing
I bang the poems for all instruments
Tubas, drums and even French horns
I bang the poems for areas in poverty
Where everyday guns are drawn
I bang the poems for my friend Dawann
Who died of a gunshot hole
In the same spot where his hat was worn
I bang the poems to death
From the day I was born

You and the School to Prison Pipeline: What's Whiteness Got to Do with It?

Scott Hurley

Extinguishing the Chalice We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

...Elizabeth Selle Jones

Closing Song *The Midnight Special* Leadbelly recorded a version of the song at Angola Prison for the Lomaxes. They said that the Midnight Special was a train from Houston, shining its light into a cell in the Sugar Land Prison, where the light of the train is the light of salvation, which could take them out of prison. Author Carl Sandburg's view, however, was that the singer would rather be run over by a train than spend more time in jail.

Well, you wake up in the mornin', you hear the work bell ring
And they march you to the table, you see the same old thing
Ain't no food upon the table, and no pork up in the pan
But you better not complain, boy, you get in trouble with the man

Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me
Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me
Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me
Let the Midnight Special shine a ever lovin' light on me

Yonder come miss Rosie, how in the world did you know?
By the way she wears her apron, and the clothes she wore
Umbrella on her shoulder, piece of paper in her hand
She come to see the governor, she want to free her man

Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me
Let the Midnight Special shine a light on me
Let the Midnight...



Announcements

Thank you to our guest speaker this morning: **Scott Hurley** is an Assistant Professor in Religion and Paideia at Luther College. His research interests include new religions of China and Japan, early-mid twentieth century Chinese Buddhism, animal rights, and welfare issues. ❖ And thank you to **Karen Esterl**, our service leader today, and to **Nancy Barry** for service assistance. ❖ 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

October 4 - No service.

October 11 - *The Social Determinants of Health*. Luther College professor Maryna Bazylevych will speak about the intersections between health disparities and racism, and the overarching concept of social determinants of health. Dr. Bazylevych has been a professor in the Anthropology department and Women and Gender Studies program since 2010, focusing on the topics of medical anthropology, body and health, and post-socialism. Carol Hagen, service leader. Carolyn Corbin, service support.

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, contact carolyn@corbingroup.biz or littleredkayak@gmail.com.

Decorah UU Board of Trustees - The next meeting of the Board is Tuesday, October 6th, 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 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 online - For more information, please visit our website [Decorah UU](#) or our [Facebook](#) page.

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*.