

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

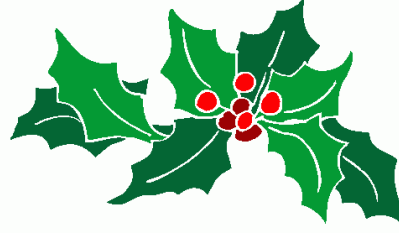
387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements

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

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice on the brink of a new year
Letting go of what has been
Open and hopeful for what may come
Renewed, restored, ready
To live Life fully anew
May we move forward with intention.



...Lois Van Leer

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Words

Opening Song *The Latke Song*

...Debbie Friedman

I am so mixed up that I cannot tell you.
I'm sitting in this blender turning brown.
I've made friends with the onions & the flour,
& the cooks are scouting oil in the town.
I sit here wondering what will come of me.
I can't be eaten looking as I do.
I need someone to take me out & cook me,
Or I'll really end up in a royal stew.

CHORUS

*I am a latke. I'm a latke,
& I am waiting for Chanukah to come. (2x)*

Every holiday has foods so special.
I'd like to have that same attention, too.
I do not want to spend life in this blender,
Wondering what I'm supposed to do.
Matza & choroset are for Pesach;
Chopped liver & challah, for Shabbat.
Blintzes on Shavuot are delicious,
& gefilte fish no holiday's without.

CHORUS

It's important that I have an understanding
Of what it is that I'm supposed to do.
You see, there are many who are homeless,
With no jobs, no clothes & very little food.
It's so important that we all remember
That, while we have most of the things we need,
We must remember those who have so little.
We must help them. We must be the ones to feed.

CHORUS

Reading *The Gifts of the Journey*, a play by Kathy Schmitz, adapted by Karen Esterl, featuring, in order of appearance:

Sue Otte
Carl Peterson
Lalie Madriguera
Beth Wahlberg
Janet Snider

Steve Grove
Lyra McKnight [pronounced LEE-rah]
Nancy Barry
Ellen Macdonald
Carolyn Corbin

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy



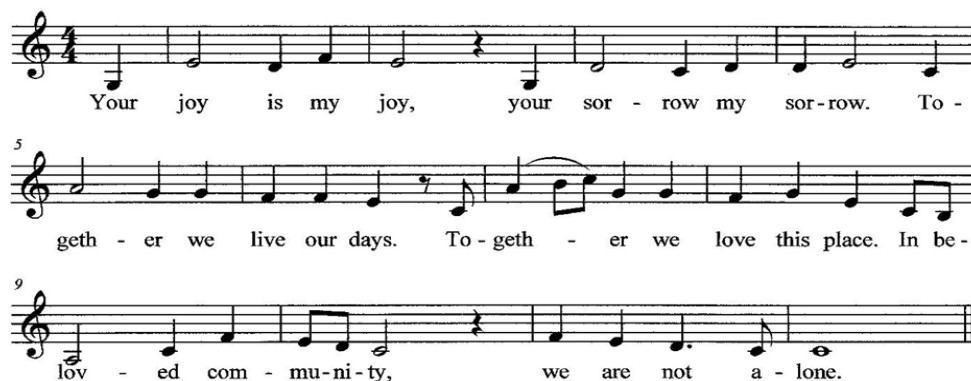
He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

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

Fire Communion

Reading *Out of the Flames*

...Sara Eileen LaWall

Out of the flames of fear
We rise with courage of our deepest convictions
to stand for justice, inclusion and peace

Out of the flames of scrutiny
We rise to proclaim our faith
With hope to heal a fractured and hurting world

Out of the flames of doubt
We rise to embrace the mystery, wonder and awe
of all there is and all that is yet to be

Out of the flames of hate
We rise with the force of love
Love that celebrates our shared humanity

Out of the flames we rise

Closing Song *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.



Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Give to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Extinguishing the Chalice If the past year held joy and growth for you, may that sweetness continue to bless you. If the past year held pain and bitterness, may you be relieved of those burdens and renewed for the journey ahead. Let us look to the new with hope, with curiosity about its many unknowns, and with faith in our strength to navigate it with grace.

...Erika A. Hewitt



Announcements

Thank you to Carl Peterson and Karen Esterl and all who contributed to our service today. ❖ After our gathering, please treat yourself to a little something. We'll be in touch soon!

Share-the-Plate – Our plate recipient for November-December is *Friends of the Decorah Public Library*. 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

Sunday, December 27 – No service.

Decorah UU Annual Benefit Auction - The annual auction raised a total of \$3,212.50! A big thank you to all who donated items and made purchases. Invoices are headed your way via email along with information on how to retrieve your treasures. The money will be split between Decorah UU and NE IA Community Action Corporation's heating assistance program.

Burning Bright Community Benefit Concert: A World of Difference - Our annual benefit concert will be a virtual affair, posted to Youtube on **Wednesday, December 23rd** at 7:00 p.m. You can link to it via tinyurl.com/DecorahBurningBright. The concert will be available until December 31st. We hope you can tune in to enjoy the music, to consider donating to our beneficiaries, and to witness how determined our community is to find ways to connect and create. This year's participants include folks as far away as France and as close as some of our Decorah UU living rooms. So... joy to the world!

Chalica - Did you know that Unitarian Universalists have a week-long celebration of our principles and that its name is Chalica? Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day a chalice is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. We managed to let the first Monday of December go by without saying anything about this as a congregation, but as UUs we are hardly sticklers for tradition! Therefore, we say, "If you want to celebrate Chalica, it's not too late!" You can access [Chalica Materials](#) online. This is a holiday that could truly be celebrated any month of the year.

Invite a friend to UU Services - It's easier now than ever to attend a Decorah UU service because we are on Zoom! Friends and family can join you on zoom with their video off and watch the services like television. Guests can also join services through chat and video if they wish! We meet every other Sunday. To receive our weekly electronic newsletter as well as invitations to services, sign up via our website, decorahuu.org, clicking on the **Contact Us** link. If someone does not want to sign up for email but does want to attend a live service, they can do so directly from our website, decorahuu.org, clicking on **Zoom Details for Sunday Services** under **Recent News**.

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 - 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 Giving - 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 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. Donations can also be mailed to PO Box 382, Decorah, IA 52101.

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.

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.

Decorah Community Food Pantry - The Decorah Community Food Pantry Volunteers and Board members extend their gratitude to the many congregations and members who have donated financially to the Food Pantry. Such generosity allows us to keep serving those in need. In September there were 356 client visits with 1024 family members. Currently we are in need of small bottles of cooking oil and dish soap and we stress *small*. Because many congregations are not meeting onsite, please bring your items directly to the Food Pantry any day between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 110 Railroad Street. Donations can be sent to PO Box 26, Decorah.

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*.

