

# Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

[decorahuu.org](http://decorahuu.org)

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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## Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to our first UU Principle, *The inherent worth and dignity of every person*. Our theme for November is *Grace*.

Chalice Lighting This is a congregation that gathers in faith. Not faith in one religion or one god or any one way. We gather in faith of the power of diversity, the power of love, and the hope of a world transformed by our care. We gather in faith in ourselves and those around us. Not a faith that requires perfection or rightness in one another. Rather, a faith that in our shared imperfection we may learn to stumble and fall together. Faith that we will help one another to rise and to try again and again. We are Unitarian Universalists. ...Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe

Opening Song #349 We Gather Together ...music, 1626; words, Dorothy & Robert Senghas  
We gather together in joyful thanksgiving,  
acclaiming creation, whose bounty we share;  
    both sorrow and gladness we find now in our living,  
    we sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.

We gather together to join in the journey,  
confirming, committing our passage to be  
    a true affirmation, in joy and tribulation,  
    when bound to human care and hope - then we are free.

## Land Acknowledgement

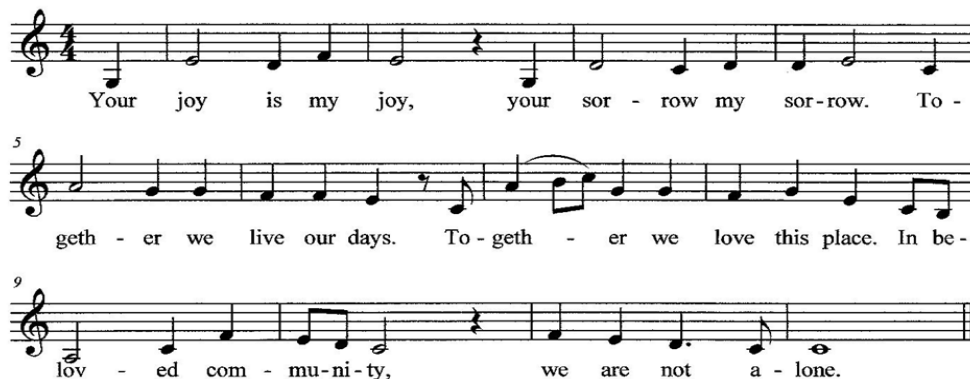
Reading #733 A Place of Meeting (excerpt) ...Eileen B. Karpeles; Steve Grove, reader

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



Your joy is my joy, your sor - row my sor - row. To -  
geth - er we live our days. To - geth - er we love this place. In be -  
lov - ed com - mu - ni - ty, we are not a - lone.

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 *A Light in the Attic*

...Shel Silverstein; Bob McKnight, reader

## I Long for a Time: Member Story

Lyra McKnight

Closing Song *Amazing Grace*

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



### Announcements

**Thank you** to our speaker this morning: Decorah UU member **Lyra McKnight**. "I was born and raised in Decorah. I've lived in the Twin Cities for 30+ years, where my daughters and granddaughter still live. I moved back last winter to help take care of my mom." ❖ Thank you also to **Ellen Macdonald**, service leader, and to **Karen Esterl** for service support. ❖ 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 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 Sundays**

**November 29** - No service.

**December 6** - *Decorah UU Annual Benefit Auction*.

**Mona Quinn's new address** - Mona sends her heartfelt thanks to all who've sent cards recently or who have kept her in their thoughts. She misses her Decorah UU family and is settling in well in her new home. Her full address is:

Grancare Nursing Center

Room #120

1555 Dousman Street

Green Bay, WI 54303

**Holiday Gift Program** - Continuing our tradition of many years, Decorah UU will be participating in the NE IA Community Action Corporation's 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; drop-off dates 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.

**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](mailto: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.

**Decorah UU Board of Trustees** - The next meeting of the Board is Tuesday, December 1, 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.

**Request for Items for the Decorah UU Annual Auction** - Hopefully you have been thinking about your donation to the annual fundraising auction (which benefits both our Fellowship and the Low Income Heating Assistance Program). Now it is time to get that information to the auction team. This year's fundraising auction will be virtual (of course, it's 2020)! We are still working out details on when bidding will open and close but we do know that our annual auction service will take place on **Sunday, December 6**. It will feature some part of the auction, but most will take place on an online auction site.

**How to Donate an Item or Experience**

- We will be more restricted on how many items we can offer - **consider bundling items or making a "basket" of related items**
- Take a photo of the item(s) and get it onto your phone or computer\*
- Think of a name for the item (not too long)
- Jot down a description - include sizes, measurements, anything a buyer might want to know
- Enter the above information into our online submission form. You can enter up to 3 items.
- **Here's a link to the form.**

\*If you can't get the photo from your phone uploaded in the submission form (or need other help), email Julie Ohde - littleredkayak@gmail.com or Carolyn Corbin - carolyn@corbingroup.biz.

**Get Creative with your Donation!!!** If you don't have an item to donate, what else could you offer (really, experiences are what brings in the most money anyway!). It will be tougher to think of experiences in the time of Covid but you'll have a year to make good on your promise!

**Make a request for a donation from someone else!** Is there something you'd be willing to pay for someone else to do (rake leaves, sing a song, make you some lefse)? Is there someone specifically you wish would offer an experience? Email Julie at littleredkayak@gmail.com and we'll see what we can do!

**How will you get the items from donor to buyer?** We aren't sure but we hope you'll work together to accomplish that. The auction team will help!

**Service follow-up** - Carol Hagen sends this follow-up to our November 8th service: **Loren Toussaint** was interviewed for a BBC News story. The story is entitled, "[What other cultures can teach us about forgiveness](#)." This story considers emotional and decisional forgiveness across cultures and also discusses cultural forms of forgiveness such as ubuntu, ho'oponopono, and fambul tok.

**Defending the Democratic Process: A Faith Community Call to Awareness and Action** - At their meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 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](mailto: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 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 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](mailto:sueotte@gmail.com), or 563-419-5396.

**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*.

