

# Decorah ♦ Unitarian ♦ Universalist ♦ Fellowship

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

Gathering virtually since 2020!

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

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## Welcome and Announcements

**Today's service relates to our UU Principles 1, 2 & 6** 1) The inherent worth and dignity of every person; 2) Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; 6) The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

**Chalice Lighting** We light this chalice – symbol of our faith alive in this world – naming our vision of collective liberation, and daring to re-member each other into beloved community.

...Deanna Vandiver

## Opening Words

### Opening Song *The President Sang Amazing Grace*

...Zoe Mulford

performed by Joan Baez; animation by Jeff Scher

A young man came to a house of prayer  
They did not ask what brought him there  
He was not friend; he was not kin  
But they opened the door and let him in

And for an hour the stranger stayed  
He sat with them, and he seemed to pray  
But then the young man drew a gun  
And killed nine people, old and young

In Charleston in the month of June  
The mourners gathered in a room  
The President came to speak some words  
And the cameras rolled and the nation heard

But no words could say what must be said  
For all the living and the dead  
So on that day and in that place  
The President sang Amazing Grace  
The President sang Amazing Grace

We argued where to lay the blame  
On one man's hate or our nation's shame  
Some sickness of the mind or soul  
And how the wounds might be made whole

But no words could say what must be said  
For all the living and the dead  
So on that day and in that place  
The President sang Amazing Grace  
My President sang Amazing Grace

## 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

1  
Your joy is my joy, your sor - row my sor-row. To -  
5  
geth - er we live our days. To - geth - er we love this place. In be -  
9  
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

# Honoring MLK: Exploring Racial Justice and Civil Rights through Children's Books

Anne Glenn-White

Closing Song Amazing Grace

...words by John Newton

sung by Karen Esterl and Sue Otte

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Extinguishing the Chalice It is our work, shared with each other in covenant,  
That creates and sustains this beloved community.

We extinguish this chalice, but its light lives on in the directions we have chosen today.  
The light of this faith lives on in us, together, in our hearts, minds, bodies and spirits.

Amen and Blessed Be.

...The Rev. Krista Taves



## Announcements

Thank you to our presenter today, Decorah UU member **Anne Glenn-White**. Anne has an MA in Early Childhood, Special Education, with emphasis on children with physical disabilities as spina bifida, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, autism, hearing and visual impairment, etc. In Muncie, IN, she taught at a private Easter Seals classroom, which became connected with Ball State University; and her classroom became the Practicum requirement for Special Ed majors. She then became a faculty member in the Special Education department, which included the pre-school summer demonstration program for special needs children. She loved it! After closing the door on classroom education, she affiliated with a training company in Chicago, working with Head Start families in a 3-state area and with the US Navy Recruitment Training Center at Great Lakes. Does she miss teaching? Probably not, but she does miss the learning from her children, their families, and the Navy recruits. ♦ Thank you also to **Karen Esterl**, service leader, and **Carolyn Corbin**, service support. ♦ After our gathering, please treat yourself to a little something and we'll be in touch soon.

**Share-the-Plate** – Our plate recipient for January-February is *Thunder Rode*, therapeutic riding. 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

**January 10** – No service.

**January 17** – *Drawdown: Reversing Global Warming*, with Sally Hartman, Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN). Imagine a moment in the future when the amount of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere starts to decrease. This is called drawdown. Two members of the Green Sanctuary Team at the Coralville UU Society will present an introduction to Drawdown, an environmental project addressing global warming. The presentation includes several descriptions of the 100 scientifically researched solutions that Project Drawdown has rank ordered. A short discussion on what UUs can do for our planet will follow the service.

**Burning Bright Community Benefit Concert 2020: A World of Difference** – Thank you to all who participated in any way in this year's concert: those who performed, who listened, who filmed & edited, who donated to our beneficiaries – **Decorah Community Food Pantry, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and Path to Citizenship**. There were over a thousand viewings of our Youtube post by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We hope the concert offered a bit of light and warmth in these wintry times.

**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](http://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](http://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](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.

**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 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](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 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 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 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*.

