

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, January 17, 2021
Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org
387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements

Today's service brings meaning to two of our UU Principles

- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Chalice Lighting We are Unitarian Universalists, with minds that think, hearts that love, and hands that are ready to serve. Together we care for our Earth, and work for friendship and peace to our world.

...Aisha Hauser and Susan Lawrence

Opening Song *Keepers of the Earth*

Land Acknowledgement

Reading *Hieroglyphic Stairway*

...Drew Dellinger

it's 3:23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep
my great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do while the planet was plundered?
what did you do when the earth was unraveling?

surely you did something
when the seasons started failing?

as the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?

did you fill the streets with protest
when democracy was stolen?

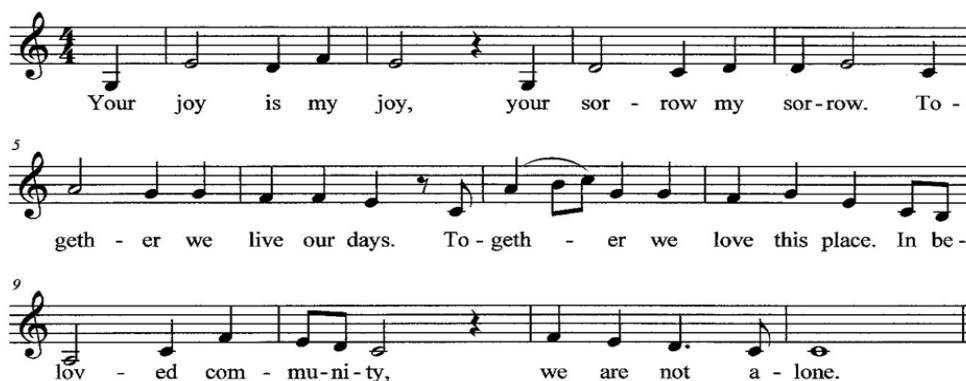
what did you do
once
you
knew?

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

Climate Drawdown

Sally Hartman & Paul Pomrehn

Imagine a moment in the future when the amount of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere starts to decrease. This is called drawdown.

Closing Song *Wake Now My Senses*

...music: trad. Irish; text: Thomas J. S. Mikelson

Extinguishing the Chalice We extinguish this flame, but carry its promise into the world. We go from this beloved community, open to life, expecting to love, and prepared to serve.



Announcements

Thank you to our presenters today, **Sally Hartman** and **Paul Pomrehn**. As a member of the Green Sanctuary and the Social Justice Teams at the Unitarian Universalist Society, Sally is involved in issues of income inequality, immigration and environmental justice. She is retired from her job as a school psychologist. As president of the Iowa UU Witness and Advocacy Network (IUUWAN), Sally hopes to connect UUs statewide for social justice. Paul has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Society since 1982. He retired from his faculty position in Psychiatry and Public Health this year. He was introduced to Drawdown in an introductory course given by the Pachamama Alliance. He participated in Sally's seminar on ways to promote Drawdown solutions in communities. He also received training through Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. ❖ Thank you also to **Carl Peterson**, 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 24 - No service.

January 31 - *Imagining the Tree of Life*. Madison McClendon, a candidate for ordination in the American Baptist Churches, USA, will be speaking. During his presentation, we will work together to imagine the vibrancy of the natural world and explore how these imaginations can give us conviction and inspiration for our daily living in the here and now. By engaging with historic and contemporary "fantasies" and images of Trees of Life--from Yggdrasil to the Garden of Eden--we can root, inspire, and ready ourselves to do the work of building a just world in a time when fantasy has, in the words of J.R.R. Tolkien, often veered into the "morbid delusions" and "idols" of white supremacist and fascist violence. Karen Esterl, service leader. Carolyn Corbin, service support.

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**.

Send us your photos! - Would you please send us a photo of yourself and/or your clan? You can take a selfie, or have a friend in your bubble photograph you doing something interesting, or send an older photo. We want to share your photos in upcoming services. You can send photos directly to carolyn@corbingroup.biz.

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, February 2, 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 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.

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*.

