

Decorah ♦ Unitarian ♦ Universalist ♦ Fellowship

Sunday, February 28, 2021
Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

Gathering virtually since 2020!

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

Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to our monthly theme: **Covenant**

Chalice Lighting Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law. This is our covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, to serve human need, and to help one another.

...James Vila Blake, adapted

Covenantal, Not Creedal

Karen Esterl

Opening Song [Right Here](#)

...Sam Turton

We traveled long, we traveled far
To be right here where we are.
Reach out a hand, no need to fear,
'Cause all we need is right here.

CHORUS: All we need, all we need, all we need is right here. (2x)

The night was dark but the day is bright.
Together we can lift our eyes
To all we love and we hold dear
'Cause all we need is right here. CHORUS

Land Acknowledgement As has been our practice, we acknowledge the traditional indigenous inhabitants of the land. In northeast Iowa, we acknowledge this area was home to

- the Ioway (whose traditional name is Baxoje)
- the Sac and Fox (the Fox's traditional name is Meskwaki)
- the Dakota
- and the Ho-Chunk

peoples whose relationship to this land continues today. Acknowledgment is a critical public intervention, a necessary step toward honoring Native communities and enacting the much larger project of decolonization and reconciliation. I invite you to take a moment for reflection upon the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that have shaped our presence here today and to adopt an attitude of reverence and gratitude for the ongoing resilience of this place and the people who have called it home.

Scarcity and Beanie Babies

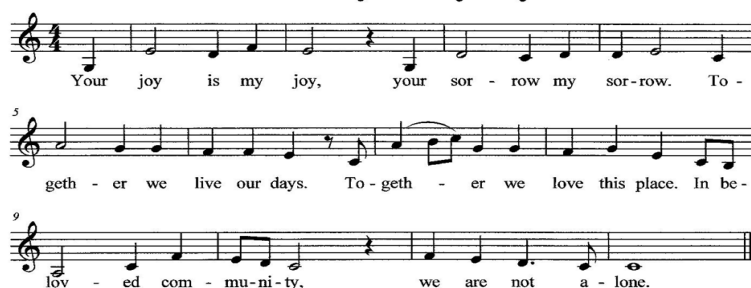
a video featuring the Rev. Ellis Arnold

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



Reading

...from a paper to the Prairie Group by the Rev. Roy Phillips

We share a common human journey, and so we covenant to value what is common among us over what separates and divides us.

Each of us has unique dignity and gifts, and so we covenant to recognize and celebrate the dignity and gifts among us in the common life we share.

We have a responsibility to envision and create a better world, and so we covenant to support and encourage our individual and common efforts towards its attainment.

Despite the mystery that surrounds our ultimate destiny as a human race, our lives are worthy of praise, and so we covenant to help each other engage the mystery with praise.

Religion is a human response to the mysterious otherness we encounter in our lives, and so we covenant to cultivate and explore the religious response among us as a defining and ennobling activity of the human race.

Offering

Offertory *Magic Penny*

...Malvina Reynolds

CHORUS: Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor. CHORUS

Money's dandy and we like to use it,
But love is better if you don't refuse it.
It's a treasure and you'll never lose it
Unless you lock up your door. CHORUS

So let's go dancing till the break of day,
And if there's a piper, we can pay.
For love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more. CHORUS

Stone Soup

a folk tale

Decorah UU: Our Acts of Abundance and Our Covenant

Beth Wahlberg

Closing Song medley of parodies offered in fun

...sung by Karen Esterl
lyrics from uua.org

Get Me to the Church on Time from *My Fair Lady*, music by Frederick Loewe
Words by Bill Donovan, General Assembly '92, Calgary AB, APF Song Book

We're going to canvass you some Sunday,
Our church needs each and every dime.
Spare us the stall points,
Pullout your ball points,
And get your pledge to us on time!

We've got to have a balanced budget,
Income and outgo gotta rhyme,
If not, we'll rue it,
You all can do it!
Just get your pledge to us on time!

When we come calling, unlatch your door,
You'll make us happy, just by pledging more.

Yes, we're going to canvass you some Sunday,
Income and outgo gotta rhyme,
Spruce up your juices,
Make no excuses,
And get your pledge to us ...
Get your pledge to us ...
For Pete's sake get your pledge to us on time!

Summertime from *Porgy and Bess*, music by George Gershwin
Lyricist unknown

Budget time, and the livin' ain't easy;
Costs are jumpin', and inflation is high.
Oh, your church ain't rich,
And there's things that need fixin';
And every committee wants a piece of the pie.

One of these mornings,
We'll have more outgo than income,
And we'll watch our bills,
As they climb to the sky;
So keep that mornin'
Off our calendar this year,
When canvassers call, and ask to stop by.

Modern Major-General from *The Pirates of Penzance*, music by Arthur Sullivan
Words by Elisabeth J. McGregor, Unitarian Church of Sharon, MA, a UUA trustee

I am the very model of a modern Unitarian
Far broader than a Catholic, Hindu, Jew or Presbyterian.
I know the world's religions and can trace their roots historical,
From Moses up to Channing, all in order categorical.
I'm very well acquainted, too, with theories theological,
On existential questions, I am always wholly logical,
About most any problem, I am teeming with a lot of views,
I'm full off fine ideas that should fill the church's empty pews.

I quote from Freud and lung and all the experts psychological,
I'm anti-nuke, I don't pollute, I'm chastely ecological.
I'm short in matters spir-ri-tu-al, ethical, material,
I am the very model of today's religious liberal.

I use the latest language: God is never Father or the Lord,
But Ground of Being, Source of Life, or almost any other word.
I never pray, I meditate, I'm leery about worshiping,
I serve on ten committees, none of which accomplish anything!
I give to worthy causes and I drive a gas-conserving car,
I have good UU principles (although I don't remember what they are).
I'm open to opinions of profound and broad variety,
Unless they're too conservative or smack of righteous piety.

I can formulate agendas and discuss 'em with the best of 'em,
But don't ask me to implement; I leave that to the rest of 'em.
In short, in matters spir-ri-tu-al, ethical, material,
I am the very model of today's religious liberal.

I'm on the lists of charities and PACs and causes by the score,
So I plead poverty when UU canvassers come to my door .
I have to want to give, for I'm impervious to guilt and fear;
I hate to deal with pleas for funds that I don't really want to hear.
Words like "duty," "pledge," and "vision" make my skin begin to crawl,
And "mission," "sacrifice," and "tithing" drive me up the wall.
You know I'd never leave our fine Association in the lurch;
I put five dollars in the plate 'most every time I come to church!

I'm active in my congregation, generous with my advice,
It's hard to make commitments, and I hope intentions will suffice,
If I could shed these hang-ups, both of spirit and material,
I'd be the very model of a true religious liberal.

Extinguishing the Chalice Cheered by our community, blessed by our covenant, uplifted in mind, and renewed in spirit, go forth with courage and in peace to meet the days to come. Amen.

...The Rev. Burton D. Carley



Announcements

Thank you to Karen Esterl for today's service. Sometime after our gathering this morning, please ponder the following questions:

While a contract has the force of law, a covenant has the force of love. What are some of the covenants you have made whether implicit or explicit?

The Rev. Preston Moore observes that when we fail to keep our covenant, as we do from time to time, we ask, "How shall we recover from this failure? How shall we keep going?" How does a covenant become stronger by overcoming failure?

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker writes, "We receive who we are before we choose who we will become." The truth is that we are born into the middle of a story. In the same way, she writes, "We inherit covenant before we create covenant." What story were you born into? How did it influence you? What covenants have you inherited? What covenants have you created?

The Rev. Victoria Safford quotes someone who said, "Covenant is a promise I keep to myself, about the kind of person I want to be, the kind of life I mean to have, together with other people, and with all other living things." Why is this important? Do you have a covenant with yourself? If yes, how does it inform your actions? If no, could such a covenant bring clarity to who you are and what you do? How?

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

March 7 - *No service.*

March 14 - *Imagining Worlds of Justice through Science Fiction.* Professor Andy Hageman will introduce how the literature/film of Afrofuturism, Africanfuturism, Indigenous Futurisms, and others help us imagine what a more just world can look like and how to get there from here. Andy teaches literature and film studies at Luther College. Carolyn Corbin, service leader.

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.

Decorah UU Board of Trustees – The next meeting of the Board is Thursday, March 4, 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 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](https://decorahuu.org). 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 – 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](https://decorahuu.org) 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 online – For more information, please visit our website [Decorah UU](#) or go to our [facebook](#) page.

Decorah Community Food Pantry – In 2020, the Decorah Community Food Pantry hosted 4,964 client visits, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. These visits allowed the pantry to provide food for 14,062 children and adults. This accomplishment was made possible through the dedication of many people and organizations including local congregations and their members. At this time donations of paper towels would be welcome. For further information or to donate, see the website [decorahpantry.org](#).

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*.

