

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to our 2nd UU Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Chalice Lighting Blessed is the fire that burns deep in the soul. It is the flame of the human spirit touched into being by the mystery of life. It is the fire of reason; the fire of compassion; the fire of community; the fire of justice; the fire of faith. It is the fire of love burning deep in the human heart; the divine glow in every life. ...[Eric A. Heller-Wagner](#)

Land Acknowledgement With this Land Acknowledgement, our congregation is engaging in a practice of truth telling and reconciliation. ❖ Northeast Iowa was first home to the Iowa or Baxoje, the Sac and Fox or Meskwaki, The Dakota, and the Ho-Chunk. We recognize the ongoing relationship of Indigenous people to this land and follow their lead as we endeavor to be stewards as we go forward. ❖ Please pause with me for a moment as we commit our hearts to uplifting, standing with, listening to, and following the lead of Black, Indigenous, & People of Color as we endeavor to create the world in which we want to live.

Opening Readings *Beatitudes for Justice Builders*

...Lindi Ramsden

Blessed are you who offer thanks and praise five-fold for every critique; *your children will want to visit after they are grown, people will want to serve on your committees, and friends will be interested in your opinions.*

Blessed are you who study the rhythms of history; *you will have knowledge with which to shape the future.*

Blessed are you who work in coalition rather than in principled isolation; *you will meet great people, learn things you didn't realize you needed to know, and have partners for the journey when you are in the lead, or in need.*

Blessed are you who volunteer to be secretary and take good minutes; *your words will become history, and your efforts will move steadily forward rather than running absent-mindedly over thoroughly discussed ground.*

Blessed are you who discover, train and encourage young leaders; *you will see your work expand and grow beyond your own time and talent.*

Blessed are you who can change your mind; *you are still alive.*

Blessed are you who will not let the perfect be the enemy of the good; *you will see progress in your lifetime.*

Blessed are you with an active spiritual life; *you will find perspective and comfort in times of loss and betrayal, and will rise without cynicism to meet the challenges of a new day.*

Blessed are you who live from a place of gratitude; *for you will know the meaning of Life.*

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

Antiracist Food Systems

Hannah Breckbill

Closing Song *Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries*

Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries.

Don't take it serious, Life's too mysterious

You work, you save, you worry so,
But you can't take your dough when you go, go, go.

So, keep repeating it's the berries.
The strongest oak must fall.

The sweet things in life to you were just loaned.
So, how can you lose what you've never owned?

Life is just a bowl of cherries
So live and laugh at it all.

...music: Ray Henderson; lyrics: Lew Brown
performed by Lalie Madriguera

Extinguishing the Chalice We extinguish this chalice flame, daring to carry forward the vision of this free faith, that freedom, reason and justice will one day prevail in this nation and across the earth.

...[Maureen Killoran](#)



Announcements

Thank you to our guest presenter today: **Hannah Breckbill** is a first-generation, young, sustainable farmer who grows food for Decorah along with her co-farmers at Humble Hands Harvest. Her experience of confronting the barriers to starting a farm over the past decade has led her ever deeper into advocacy for land access and equity for emerging, diverse farmers. A large part of her advocacy has been public experimentation with alternative and anti-capitalist business structures and financing. Most recently, she was honored with the 2021 Changemaker award from the Midwest Organic farming community. ❖ Thank you also to **Carolyn Corbin**, our service leader today; and to **Lalie Madriguera**, for 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 March-April is [ArtHaus](#) for the development of a Dye Garden featuring a brick path engraved with names of supporters. To donate to the plate recipient, see Decorah UU Giving, below. Or, if sending a check, please note “Share the Plate” in the memo line. Donations may be mailed to Decorah UU, PO Box 382, Decorah, IA 52101.

Upcoming Sundays

April 4 - *No service.*

April 11 - Guest speaker **Charlie Langton**. Nancy Barry, service leader.

April 18 - *No service.*

April 25 - *Decorah UU Annual Meeting.*

Decorah UU Board of Trustees – Board members for 2020-2021 are Matthew Alexander (chair), Beth Wahlberg (treasurer), Maggie Hayden, Julie Ohde and Lynn Pleggenkuhle. The next meeting of the Board is Thursday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Covenant Renewal – This is the time of year at Decorah UU when we ask our members to renew their covenant with our fellowship. As part of our planning for the upcoming year (July '21-June '22) please fill out the Covenant Renewal form that was recently emailed to you. How might your talents, interests and resources benefit Decorah UU in the coming year? Please return your completed form by April 15th via email (bethwahlberg@gmail.com) or USPS (Decorah UU, P.O. Box 382, Decorah). If have questions, you can email Beth or call her at 563-379-2847. If you need a paper copy of the form, please contact Beth or Otter.

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.

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.

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**.

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, or 563-419-5396.

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.

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 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*.

