

# Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Gathering virtually since 2020!

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

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## Welcome and Announcements

**Today's service relates to our 2<sup>nd</sup> UU Principle** Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

**Chalice Lighting** In times of darkness, we stumble toward the tiny flame. In times of cold we seek the warming fire. In times of repression, we reach for the lamp of truth. In times of loss, we pray for the comforting light. In times of joy, we light a candle of celebration. Spirit of Life, as we kindle this flame, help us find what we need this day.  
...Brian Kiely

**Opening Song** *Swimming to the Other Side* ...Pat Humphries

We are living 'neath the Great Big Dipper, we are washed by the very same rain.  
We are swimming in the stream together, some in power and some in pain.  
We can worship this ground we walk on, cherishing the beings that we live beside.  
Loving spirits will live forever, we're all swimming to the other side.

I am alone and I am searching, hungering for answers in my time.  
I am balanced at the brink of wisdom, I'm impatient to receive a sign.  
I move forward with my senses open, Imperfection it be my crime.  
In humility I will listen, We're all swimming to the other side.

On this journey through thoughts and feelings, binding intuition, my head my heart,  
I am gathering the tools together, I'm preparing to do my part.  
All of those who have come before me, band together and be my guide  
Loving lessons that I will follow, We're all swimming to the other side.

When we get there we'll discover all of the gifts we've been given to share  
Have been with us since life's beginning, and we never noticed they were there.  
We can balance on the brink of wisdom, Never recognizing we've arrived.  
Loving spirits will live together, We're all swimming to the other side

We are living 'neath the Great Big Dipper, we are washed by the very same rain.  
We are swimming in the stream together, some in power and some in pain  
We can worship this ground we walk on, cherishing the beings that we live beside.  
Loving spirits will live forever, we're all swimming to the other side.

**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.

**Joys and Sorrows** Please raise your Zoom hand to share any personal joy or concern with the Fellowship.



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

## Loss, Stress, and Stolen Pleasure: Reflections on a Pandemic Year

Sue Otte

Closing Song *There is More Love Somewhere*

...African American  
Wilson Choir, high school seniors, 2020

Extinguishing the Chalice As we weather winds of change, may we have wisdom to cherish moments of stillness. As we recollect times of challenge and of pain, may we remember also the graceful blessings of our lives. As we look to future unknowns, may we have the boldness to trust that there is unimagined Good yet to come.

...Maureen Killoran



### Announcements

**Thank you** to **Sue Otte**, our presenter and service leader today, and to **Carolyn Corbin** 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 May-June is *Horse and Soul Ranch*, therapeutic riding. 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

**May 30** - No service.

**June 6** - *Flower Communion*, with Beth Wahlberg. Outdoors at Phelps Park, Shelter #1.

**June 13** - No service.

**June 20** - *Member Story*, with Ellen Macdonald. Outdoors at Phelps Park, Shelter #1.

**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, May 27, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Decorah UU online** – For more information, please visit our website [Decorah UU](#) or our [facebook](#) page.

**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.

**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](mailto: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](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**.

**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 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](http://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 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](http://decorahpantry.org).

**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](http://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.

**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*.

