

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to our 5th UU Principle The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Chalice Lighting This light we kindle is set in the lamp of our history. We inherit this free faith from the brave and gentle, fierce and outspoken hearts and minds that have come before us. Let us be worthy inheritors of this faith and through our good works, pass it boldly to a new generation.

...Audette Fulbright Fulson

Opening Song *Finlandia*

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is.
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

...music: Jean Sibelius; lyrics: Lloyd Stone
performed by Indigo Girls

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover-leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

Land Acknowledgement As a blog on the Unitarian Universalist Association website states, "The enormous wealth of the United States is based on the theft of Indigenous land and the enslavement of people of African descent." On this day, the 4th of July, a day on which our nation has traditionally celebrated its independence from British rule, let us not forget that neither the colonists nor their descendants were the first to live in the country we currently know as the United States of America.

We acknowledge that northeast Iowa 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 – of genocide, forced removal, forced assimilation, broken treaties, and bloodshed. In keeping with the Action of Immediate Witness passed at the 2020 General Assembly, let us also profess our solidarity with all Indigenous peoples struggling to preserve their lands, waters, peoples, sacred sites, and sovereignty.

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

Your Joy Is My Joy

Ellen Rockne

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

Exploring U.S. Independence through Children's Books Anne Glenn-White

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. ...The Rev. Maureen Killoran

Closing Song *This Land Is Your Land* ...music: based on Carter Family tune *When the World's on Fire*

This land is your land, this land is my land lyrics: Woody Guthrie
 From California, well to the New York Island performed by Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings
 From the redwood forest, to the Gulf Stream waters
 I tell you, this land was made for you and me

As I went walking down the ribbon of a highway
 I saw above me oh that endless skyway
 Now I saw below me that golden valley
 And I said, this land was made for you and me

As I was walking now they tried to stop me
 They put up a sign that said, Oh, it said, "PRIVATE PROPERTY"
 Well on the back side, you know, it said nothing
 So it must be that side was made for you and me

One bright sunny morning, well, in the shadow of a steeple
 Down by the welfare office, I saw my people
 You know now they stood hungry, I stood wondering
 I was wondering if this land was made for you and me

This land is your land, this land is my land
 From Riverside, California, oh, to Staten Island
 Well on down to Augusta, Georgia, oh don't forget Philadelphia
 Oh, we move on down to Mississippi, oh Houston, Texas, oh LA
 Yeah, you know this land is your land, this land is my land
 This land is your land
 You got to believe, oh, it's my land
 This land was made for you and me, yeah



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 service support. ❖ After our gathering today, please treat yourself to a little something and we'll be in touch again soon.

Share-the-Plate – Our plate recipient for July-August is [Sunflower Child Development Center](#). 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

July 11 – No service.

July 18 – *How and Why to Speak Up About Racism, or Standing Up Against Racism Starts with Self-love and Acceptance*, with Maria Lietz. Carolyn Corbin, service support. At Phelps Park, Shelter #1.

July 25 – No service.

Decorah UU Board of Trustees - Board members for 2021-2022 are Beth Wahlberg (treasurer), Maggie Hayden, Julie Ohde, Lynn Pleggenkuhle and Lyra McKnight.

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**.

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.

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*.

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 Community Food Pantry – The Decorah Community Food Pantry will reopen to client in-person shopping on Monday, July 12. New hours will be 1:00 to 3:00 every day and Thursday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. When possible, clients should make appointments by using [shopdecorahpantry](#) or by calling 563-202-0872. We are grateful for the continued support of the faith congregations and if someone wishes to donate, toothbrushes and toothpaste would be very helpful. Volunteers are always needed and to sign up, use the website [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](#). 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 our [facebook](#) page.

