

# Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, August 29, 2021  
Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

Gathering virtually since 2020!

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## Welcome and Announcements

**Today's service relates to our 7<sup>th</sup> UU Principle** Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## Community Connections

...Lora Friest, *Sunflower Child Development Center*

**Chalice Lighting** These roses under my window make no reference to former roses or to better ones; they are for what they are; they exist with God today. There is no time to them. There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence. ...Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Opening Song** *'Tis a Gift to Be Simple* ...American Shaker Tune, words by Joseph Bracket, 18<sup>th</sup> c.  
'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,  
and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.  
To turn, turn will be our delight, 'till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

**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** You may light a votive candle as you share any joys or concerns 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

## Reading *How to Practice*

...Ann Patchett, *The New Yorker*, March 1, 2021

Karl had been living in our house for twenty-five years. I'd been there for sixteen – the longest I'd ever lived anywhere, by more than a decade. Ours was a marriage of like-minded neatness. Karl's suit jacket went directly onto a hanger. I wiped down the kitchen counters before going to bed. Our never-ending stream of house guests frequently commented on the tranquility of our surroundings, and I told them that the secret was not having much stuff.

But we had plenty of stuff. It's a big house, and over time the closets and drawers had filled with things we never touched and, in many cases, had completely forgotten we owned. Karl said that he was game for a deep excavation. He was working from home. I had stopped travelling. If we were ever going to do this, now was the time.

I started in the kitchen, a room that's friendly and overly familiar, sitting on the floor, in order to address the lower cabinets first. The plastic soup containers were easy—I'd held on to too many of those. At some point, I'd bought new bread pans without letting the old ones go. I had four colanders. Cabinet by cabinet, I pulled out the contents, assessed, divided, wiped down, replaced. I filled the laundry basket with the things I didn't want or need and carried those discards to the basement. I made the decision to wait until we'd finished with the entire house before trying to find a place for the things we were getting rid of. This was a lesson I'd picked up from my work: writing must be separate from editing, and if you try to do both at the same time nothing will get done. I would not stop the work at hand in order to imagine who might want the square green serving dish I'd bought fifteen years before and never put on the table.

## Having and Being Had

Nancy Barry

A meditation on what we acquire, why we acquire it, and whether there is simply too much stuff in our lives. This talk is based on a book entitled *Having and Being Had* by the essayist Eula Biss (2021). I am also indebted to Harvey Benson's column *Live Simply so Others May Simply Live*, published in *Decorah Public Opinion*, Aug. 19, 2021.

### Closing Song *Amazing Grace*

...Columbus Harmony, 1829

**Amazing Grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

...John Newton

**Extinguishing the Chalice We clasp the hands of those that go before us, and the hands of those who come after us. We enter the little circle of each other's arms. And the larger circle of lovers, whose hands are joined in a dance. And the larger circle of all poets, passing in and out of life, who move also in a dance, to a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it ... except in fragments.** ...Wendell Berry



### Announcements

**Thank you** to our presenter today, **Nancy Barry**, and to our service leader, **Beth Wahlberg**. ❖ And thank you to **Janet Snider** for providing after-service coffee.

**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**

**September 5** - No service.

**September 12** - *Ingathering* at Twin Springs Park with Sue Otte. Whether you have traveled to favorite vacation or family places or stayed closer to home this summer, please bring some water to add to our common bowl and share a memory of your summer. We always look forward to beginning another year of fellowship, and spending time in this very beautiful and meaningful place.

**Collective Action for Racial Equity** will be holding dialogue workshops on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 16<sup>th</sup>. Ask Carolyn Corbin for details.

**Decorah UU Board of Trustees** - Board members for 2021-2022 are Julie Ohde (chair), Beth Wahlberg (treasurer), Maggie Hayden, Lynn Pleggenkuhle and Lyra McKnight. The next meeting of the Board is Thursday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**Invite a friend to UU Services** - It's easier now than ever to attend a Decorah UU service because we are (sometimes!) 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 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://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 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://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.

**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](http://Decorah UU) or go to our [facebook](#) page.

**UUMUAC Monthly "Third Wednesday" Worship Service** - 7:00 p.m. Central Time. The Religious Professionals Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council is sponsoring "Third Wednesday" evening worship services on the third Wednesday of each month. On September 15 Rev. Ken Phifer will be the officiant.

**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 Community Food Pantry** - Decorah Food Pantry volunteers have received inquiries about the availability of school supplies and we want to offer them to our clients. So once again we are relying on the generosity of the congregations. Members can help by bringing school supplies to the Pantry at 110 Railroad Street every weekday from 8:00 to 3:00 or Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Individual teachers have preferences for supplies, but pens, pencils, folders, three ring binders, notebooks etc are always useful. Donations, designating school supplies, can be sent to PO Box 56, Decorah or at [decorahfoodpantry.org](http://decorahfoodpantry.org).

