

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, October 24, 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 annual theme: Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage ❖ our monthly theme: healing ❖ our second principle: Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations ❖ and our 2nd source: Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

Chalice Lighting from *A Flame to Light Our Path*

...[Debra Burrell](#)

Fire consumes, and casts a bright light. May our chalice flame consume our regrets for the past, our fears about the future, and our worries about today. May it light for us a path of joy and peace.

Opening Song *Eat What You Kill*

...Annie Humphrey

Land Acknowledgement As has been our practice, we acknowledge the traditional indigenous inhabitants of the land. In NE 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.

Joys and Concerns You may raise your virtual hand to share any joys or concerns with the Fellowship.

Silence/ Response **Your joy is my joy; your sorrow my sorrow. Together we live our days. Together we love this place. In beloved community, we are not alone.**

...Ellen Rockne

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.**

...Findlow/Rickey

Reading *This Is Our Home, But Not Just Ours*

...Laura Bogle

We gather here to remember this is our home, but not just ours.

This land we live on, this water we drink, this air we breathe;

These old mountains that hold us steady to our ground;

These forests that give us their healing green, these flowers that give us their beauty and fragrance, these fields that give us our daily bread, these stars that show us our place.

The wilderness and the tame backyards, all of it our home.

We remember the ancestors who have lived on this land, and who have shaped it.

We inherit their choices.

We honor the animals and creatures that have made their home in this land, the ones here now, and the ones that used to be here.

We envision the future generations who will live on this land, and let their voices fill our hearts.

We gather here to remember this is our home, but not just ours.

Meskwaki Restorative Work: From Colonization to Restoration

Shelley Buffalo

...Debra Burrell

Let us kindle new sparks within these walls and beyond.



Announcements

Local Elections - Remember to vote by November 2nd for City and School Board elections.

Call to Action - Please write your Senators now using the sample letter in the link, and ask them to support both the **Freedom to Vote Act** and the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**. Ask them to urge their Senate colleagues to support both bills as well and to not let the filibuster rules prevent them from passing. Please speak from your heart and insert your own words to express your concerns about voting.

Contact Person for IUUWAN - The IUUWAN is helping to organize social justice among fellowships across Iowa. If you are interested in being active in social justice and/or environmental justice action, and if you are willing to be a local contact person for the IUUWAN, please let Carolyn Corbin know at carolyn@corbingroup.biz.

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, November 11, 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please let Otter know so that we can send you the Zoom link.

Share-the-Plate Recipients - If you'd like to suggest a 501(c)(3) organization as a possible recipient for Share-the-Plate, please send your idea to any Board member or to Otter. Thank you.

Iowa UU Witness & Advocacy Network - This month, IUUWAN has two opportunities for UUs to connect with other Iowa UUs on the topic of Climate Justice, or our 7th Principle. (Flyers attached.) **The first event** is a five-week workshop called *Drawdown Solutions: Getting into Action*. Via Zoom, the group will explore viable solutions to climate change and will create a project addressing this change. This workshop started October 19th and meets at 7:00 p.m. To register, send an email to sallyahartman@hotmail.com. **The second event** is a Zoom presentation on Wednesday, October 27th at 6:30 by Brian Campbell, the executive director of Iowa Environmental Council. To register, contact IUUWAN at iowa.uuwan@gmail.com.

A Proposed 8th UU Principle - The Black Lives of UU (BLUU) Organizing Collective encourages all Unitarian Universalists to advocate for the formal adoption of an eighth principle articulating a commitment to the dismantling of white supremacy within the stated principles of the UU faith. You can find more information at 8thprincipleuu.org. If you'd like to share your thoughts about a possible 8th Principle, you may send them to Otter to distribute to the Fellowship for discussion.

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

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 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 Community Food Pantry - World Food Day on October 16th is a day to commit to ensuring that hunger is eradicated and to honor those who produce our food. There are many resources online for individuals and congregations to learn and pray about hunger throughout the world. Locally the Decorah Community Food Pantry makes food available to food insecure people in Northeast Iowa thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, staff, board members, and generous donors including the congregations. There are many ways that you can help. We need more volunteers especially on Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. You could bring 16 oz. bottles of ketchup and oil to the Pantry, and monetary donations are always welcome. For further information consult our website decorahpantry.org or call the Pantry during daytime hours at 563-202-0872.

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*.

