

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

[Call to Gather](#)

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words

Today's service relates to many of our principles and sources as we take part in our annual Days of Remembrance, honoring those who have gone before us.

Chalice Lighting We light this chalice honoring all the beloved ancestors who no longer walk this earth with us. Whether teachers, mentors, partners, parents, loved ones, or friends, they have loved us, nurtured us, and helped make it possible for us to become who we are. Blessed be their memory!

Opening Song *We Give Thanks* (call and response)

Land Acknowledgement

Reading *All Hallows Blessing*

...Jan Richardson

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; 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. ...Bruce Findlow/Patrick Rickey

Calling on All of our Ancestors

Sue Otte

Speak Their Names

Extinguishing the Chalice For those who walked with us, this is a prayer. For those who touched and tended us, who lingered with us while they lived, this is a thanksgiving. For those who journey with us, in the shadows of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams, this is a benediction. Let us part in peace, remembering there is no end to the circle of life.

Closing Music *Xochipitzahuatl "Flor Menudita"*

...traditional flower song

arranged and played by the *Tempus Quartet*;
dancing by the Folklore Ballet *Yacatecutli*



Announcements

Thank you to Decorah UU member Sue Otte for leading our service today. ❖ After our gathering, please treat yourself to a little something, and we'll be in touch again soon.

Share-the-Plate - Our plate recipient for September-October is the [Decorah Free Clinic](#). 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

November 7 - No service. (**Daylight Saving Time ends.** Set clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.)

November 14 - *UU's Connecting with Hispanic Community*, with Lupita Solis and Gisella Aitken-Shadle. Carolyn Corbin, service leader.

Decorah UU Gatherings in Person - The Decorah UU Board has approved resuming in-person services beginning in January. Details are yet to be determined (like whether we'll start with every other week), and safety protocols & recommendations will be developed as we get closer to January. The plan is to continue offering a remote option via Zoom.

Christmas Cheer - Carl Peterson and Ellen Macdonald will again coordinate the Christmas Cheer program for Decorah UU. Ellen will be the primary contact person this year. Carl will prepare signup materials and offer his garage as the drop-off spot. We have said that we will "adopt" one medium-size family, the same as last year. Please watch for details.

Decorah UU Benefit Auction - This year's auction will be held virtually at our December 12th Service. Each year we auction off our talents, services, homegrown vegetables, homemade goods, arts, crafts, and closet treasures to raise funds for our UU congregation and for our Low Income Heating Assistance Program. Please, start thinking about what you might donate to help raise these important funds. If you're cleaning out your garage, set aside (and photograph) your special treasures for the UU Auction. Or maybe you'd like to offer your services or an experience (meal, activity, help with chores, etc) - those are some of the highest priced items in the auction! **How to Submit Your Donation:**

1. Decide on a name for your item (keep it pretty short) along with a brief description. Take a photo of the item (or items - feel free to bundle several smaller items together).
2. Go to: <https://form.jotform.com/212765882763064>
3. Fill out the form. That's it!

But, if you can't get that to work for you, contact Julie Ohde at littleredkayak@gmail.com or Carolyn Corbin at carolyn@corbingroup.biz.

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.

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 was 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*.

