

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements

Chalice Lighting

...Rev. Dawn Skjei Cooley

We light our chalice this morning, grateful for the love that we experience in this beloved community. May the flame light the way for all who seek such abundance.

Land Acknowledgement

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

Auction Intro

LIVE Auction

Extinguishing the Chalice

...Krista Taves

It is our work, shared with each other in covenant, That creates and sustains this beloved community. We extinguish this chalice, but its light lives on in the directions we have chosen today. The light of this faith lives on in us, together, in our hearts, minds, bodies and spirits.



Announcements

Thank you to Julie Ohde, Carolyn Corbin & Beth Wahlberg for putting together today's auction and for leading the service. ❖ 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 November-December is the [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Des Moines](#). USCRI Des Moines "welcomed their first Afghan family from Kabul in August. With support, we can prepare to welcome more families as they arrive in Central Iowa, providing them with the housing, education, and employment opportunities necessary to rebuild lives and restore hope." (At this time, there are no plans to resettle Afghans outside of the 100-mile service radius.) 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.

Christmas Cheer - Carl Peterson and Ellen Macdonald are coordinating the Christmas Cheer program for Decorah UU. Details are in recent emails.

Upcoming Sundays

December 19 - No service.

December 26 - Winter Play: *The Scottish Shepherd's Story*. The Rev. Brian G. Eslinger, minister emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames, Iowa, wrote six plays to offer different ways to approach a winter celebration, each with a sense of humanity, heart, and humor. In 2017, our congregation performed *La Befana* from Eslinger's collection. This year we do a dramatic reading of *The Scottish Shepherd's Story*, which begins with an angelic proclamation to the wrong shepherd and concludes with insights as to what and why we celebrate at this time of year. **We need readers! Are you interested? Contact Karen Esterl** (contact information in our "Decorah UU Member-Friend Directory"). She will share a script that you can review ahead of time, and the words will be on the screen during the service. We have an abundance of roles, including 3 Wise Ones, multiple shepherds, barnyard animals, and various other folks!

Burning Bright Community Benefit Concerts - *Share Your Light*, December 18, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Returning to in-person performances this year, with strict safety protocols, including, but not limited to: tickets by advance purchase only; assigned seating at less than half-capacity; audience members must be fully vaccinated & masked. **Last day:** tickets available only at the Lingonberry, Saturday, December 11, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Concerts to benefit the Community Food Pantry, Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Path to Citizenship.

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.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee - Carolyn Corbin invites others to join her in the creation of a *Decorah UU Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee*. If you are interested, please email Carolyn at carolyn@corbingroup.biz.

Chalica Reminder - The annual week-long celebration of UU principles, Chalica, began the first Monday of the month, December 6th. You are encouraged to celebrate this holiday at home, lighting a chalice every day, reflecting on that day's principle, and even doing a good deed that honors that principle. Check out our [Celebrating Chalica](#) guide.

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, February 10**, 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.

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 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 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 - Thanks to our generous donors, the Pantry was able to give over 100 Thanksgiving dinners to our clients. Now in this season of preparation for the Christmas holidays, we are asking again for donations to help with Christmas Day dinners. We have a limited number of donated hams or turkeys. When they run out, we'd like to give gift certificates to any of the local grocery stores. If you purchase one or two \$10 gift certificates, we'll give these to our clients to help purchase Christmas meat. We have side dishes for clients when they pick up gift cards. In addition, we'll offer our clients a package of personal items, many of which have been donated. We still need boxes of tissue which can be dropped off at 110 Railroad Street. Gift cards or donations can be mailed to PO Box 26 or donations through our website decorahpantry.org. We are always grateful for the generosity of the faith communities that help support us.

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.

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*.

