

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song *We Shall Be Known*

...MaMuse

We shall be known by the company we keep
by the ones who circle round to tend these fires.
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
the seeds of change alive from deep within the earth.
It is time now. It is time now that we thrive.
It is time we lead ourselves into the well.
It is time now, and what a time to be alive.
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.
In this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.

Today's service relates to our UU Principle #7 Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Chalice Lighting We Come to this time and this place: to rediscover the wondrous gift of free religious community; to renew our faith in the holiness, goodness, and beauty of life; to reaffirm the way of the open mind and full heart; to rekindle the flame of memory and hope; and to reclaim the vision of an earth made fair, with all her people one.

...David C. Pohl

Land Acknowledgement

Reading *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*

...Robin Wall Kimmerer

Joys and Sorrows Please raise your Zoom hand to share a 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

Gratitude: The Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

Leader: Nancy Barry

Readers: Carolyn Corbin, Julie Fischer, Maggie Hayden, Lalie Madriguera, Sue Otte, Lyra McKnight

Extinguishing the Chalice If you get down on your knees, you'll see anthills, no bigger than a quarter. . . . The grasses feed the ants with seeds and the ants feed the grasses with soil. They hand off life to one another. They understand their interconnections; they understand that the life of one is dependent on the life of all. Leaf by leaf, root by root, the trees, the berries, the grasses are joining forces, and so there are birds and deer and bugs that have come to join them. And so the world is made.

...Robin Wall Kimmerer

Closing Music *My Joy Is Heavy*

...The Bengsons

Announcements

Thank you to Nancy Barry and all who helped with today's 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.

Upcoming Sundays

December 5 - No service.

December 12 - *Decorah UU Annual Benefit Auction* to benefit both the Fellowship and NE Iowa Community Action's Low-income Heating Assistance Program. **Questions?** Contact Julie Ohde at littleredkayak@gmail.com or Carolyn Corbin at carolyn@corbingroup.biz.

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.

Mona Quinn - Mona sends her greetings to all her Decorah UU friends. Her daughter sent a message to Carl Peterson saying that Mona happily celebrated her 91st birthday and Thanksgiving with all 4 of her children last weekend.

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. Details have been recently sent out via email.

Chalica Reminder - The annual week-long celebration of UU principles, Chalica, begins the first Monday of December (12-6). 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.

Burning Bright Community Benefit Concerts - 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; masks required. More information coming soon.

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, December 9, 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 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 - 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.

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*.