

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to UU Principle 3 Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

Chalice Lighting

...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.

Land Acknowledgement Land acknowledgment is a critical public intervention, a necessary step toward honoring Native communities and enacting the much larger project of decolonization and reconciliation. We offer this acknowledgement, building upon text offered by Luther professors Holly Moore, Anna Peterson, and David Faldet as well as by the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture in partnership with indigenous peoples. We acknowledge that northeast Iowa 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. 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.

Opening Words

Opening Song

Reading *Next Year's Words*

...Tim Atkins

Joys and Sorrows

Silent Meditation/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

Fire Communion Reflect on the year behind you. Consider what you might leave behind today, burning it brightly so that it changes form and disappears. ❖ What parts of our lives – what things, ideas, people, ways of living – have become obstacles to our becoming the people we want to be, the people we need to be? ❖ What events from the past year would you like to put behind you –

- disappointments, losses, failures, unwelcome burdens
- things you said or did that you wish you hadn't said or done
- things you didn't say or do that you wish you *had*
- angers and fears
- hopes unfulfilled

What might you burn away? What will you relinquish?

Reading *Nurture This Precious Light*

...Naomi King

How shall we begin to live out our free faith?

Nurture this precious light.

When we do, we are beacons of freedom, creating a safe place to rest, explore, and innovate.

Nurture this precious light!

How we keep this lamp of truth and justice affects how and whether we are transforming inequity through witness and action.

Nurture this precious light.

As we nurture this precious light together, we become a light of hope turning isolation into community, anguish into peace, sorrow into joy.

Nurture this precious light.

As we do, our faith burns a steady flame of innovation banishing illusion, creating a new and renewing way together.

Nurture this precious light!

With our living connections, with our glowing stories, with our flame of freedom moving hand to hand, we.

Nurture this precious light.

Together, we turn this world from bleak to bright
one flame, one fire, one light at a time.

Closing Song

Extinguishing the Chalice

...Lois Van Leer

Having let go,
Set our intentions,
Named our curiosity,
Committed our energies,
And given ourselves over to lives of balance, purpose and meaning,
Let us begin again
In love



Announcements

Thank you to Nancy Barry, our service leader today, and to Karen Esterl for service support. ❖ 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 January-February is [The Raptor Resource Project](#). RRP's mission is to preserve and strengthen raptor populations, expand participation in raptor preservation, and help foster the next generation of preservationists. 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.

Decorah UU Covid Precautions for In-Person Services

- Masks are required for everyone at this time.
- Please join the service remotely if you:
 - are unvaccinated;
 - have any signs of illness now or in the last five days (feeling "bad," cough, runny nose, fever, headache, body aches, intestinal symptoms, loss of taste or smell, etc.);
 - have known exposure within the last week
 - have increased vulnerability;
 - are uncomfortable gathering in public.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact a Decorah UU Board member. Board members for 2021-2022 are Julie Ohde (Chair), Beth Wahlberg (Treasurer), Maggie Hayden, Lynn Pleggenkuhle, and Lyra McKnight.

Upcoming Sundays

January 16 - No service.

January 23 - *The History and Memory of Holocaust Perpetrators*. In observation of International Holocaust Memorial Day, Anna Peterson, Associate Professor of History at Luther College, will speak about how "ordinary" people participated in the murder of Jews and how this scholarship has led to important developments in the public portrayals and remembrance of the Holocaust. Karen Esterl, service leader.

January 30 - No service.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee - Carolyn 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.

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 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 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.

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](#) or go to our [facebook](#) page.

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*.

