

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to our UU Source Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life.

Chalice Lighting

...Dag Hammarskjold

Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back.

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Song *Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control.
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship and are freed.

Reading *Stumbling over Grace*, excerpts

...Rev. William Schulz

Joys and Sorrows You may light a votive candle as you share a personal joy or concern.

Silence / Response *Your Joy Is My Joy*

...Ellen Rockne

Three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Your joy is my joy, your sor - row my sor-row. To - geth - er we live our days. To - geth - er we love this place. In be - lov - ed com - mu - ni - ty, we are not a - lone.

Reading *The Gold Coin*, a retelling of an old story

...Anonymous

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

Readings from the Common Bowl

Discussion Questions

1. How do you understand grace? Is it part of your vocabulary or a term that has little or no relevance? Why?
2. What are the ways in which you have been surprised by life? Which of these surprises were gifts? How did these experiences of grace impact you?
3. Some people consider grace to be a gift of God, while others view it as a gift of Life. What is the source for you?
4. When have you been an instrument of grace through random kindness, senseless acts of beauty, working for justice, or just loving others?
5. Are you open to grace, to the gifts that surprise, or do you struggle? How might you be more receptive?

Closing Song *Unknown Blessings*

Extinguishing the Chalice And now as we extinguish the chalice and take our leave, may each of us bring happiness into another's life; may we each be surprised by the gifts that surround us; may each of us be enlivened by constant curiosity, always open to grace. Blessed Be. ...Rev. Barbara Cheatham, adapt.



Announcements

Thank you to Sue Otte, our service leader today. ❖ Please treat yourself to a little something after our gathering. And we'll be in touch again soon.

Share-the-Plate - Our plate recipient for May-June is the **Humane Society of Northeast Iowa**. To donate to the recipient, simply designate so on your check or offering envelope. Loose cash in the offering plate goes to Decorah UU.

It's time for some FUUN! - Our newly created FUUN Committee is organizing its first event: a Summer Solstice celebration. The Committee is looking for a few volunteers to help plan the event. Please contact Lyra McKnight for more information: (651) 955-3192 or lyramcknight@gmail.com.

Decorah UU Covenant Renewal - Another sign of spring...it is Covenant Renewal time at Decorah UU! Please fill out the Covenant Renewal form indicating the ways you wish to support our fellowship in the coming year. If possible, please use the online **Google Form** for simplicity. The paper form is also available if necessary. Both forms are available via recent Decorah UU emails & newsletters, and both will be sent again in the coming week. Thank you - from your Decorah UU Board of Trustees.

Immigration Working Group - The Guatemalan Basics initiative delivers 50 pound bags of rice and 25 pounds of beans and corn flour tortilla mix to our immigrant families in need. The funding for this program is currently running low. You can help to keep this vital effort going by giving online with credit/debit card through Decorah UCC's website, selecting "Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Guatemalan Basics Fund" from the dropdown menu of funds. To send a check, write it payable to Decorah UCC with "Guatemalan Basics" in the memo line, and send it to Decorah UCC, PO Box 470, Decorah, IA 52101.

