

# Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Gathering virtually since 2020!

[decorahuu.org](http://decorahuu.org)

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## Welcome and Announcements

### Opening Song *Call Down a Blessing*

Chorus: Call down a blessing, Call down a blessing, Call down a blessing, Call down.

Today's service brings meaning to both our 7<sup>th</sup> principle Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and our 6<sup>th</sup> Source Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

### Honoring the Gifts of Air, Fire, Water, and Earth

Chalice Lighting We light our fire this morning knowing that we stand on holy ground, because each land is sacred land, a gift to us from the ancestors to hold in trust for our descendants. As we care for the land, we care also for the community that ultimately depends on it, the human community, and all living organisms that form the web of life that sustains us all.

### Land Acknowledgement

Earth Chants Please join in with the chant found in your bulletin.

Joys and Concerns We invite anyone who wishes to share a joy, concern, or milestone to light a match and place it in the fire.

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. ...Findlow / Rickey

## Ingathering

**You and I and all of us have blown about with the winds of summer,**

*Following the sun and finding rest in the cool stillness of shadows.*

**Now is the time for gathering in. We come together at this time and this place on the bridge of autumn.**

*We meet with eagerness and delight, ready to share our joys and sorrows, open to discovering new ways of being in the world, and willing to listen, learn, and love.*

**Today we come together in gladness, once more the unique community we call church,**

*A community of all ages, that sings its songs, tells its stories, asks its questions, and searches together with courage and love.*

The Gathering of Waters Life is always flowing on...we cannot stop it. It is good to see this truth in front of us as we return to the earth water gathered last year, and fill our bowl again with the hopes and dreams of our present lives.

Water Ritual You are invited to pour your water into the community bowl and tell us your summer story. What does this water mean or represent to you?

Response May this water bring forth a blessing upon us in the coming year. May it remind us that we are entwined in ways we may not fully understand.

**Extinguishing the Chalice Fire** May we go from this place renewed by the beauty of our Mother Earth, ready to engage with each other and the needs of the world, and willing to humbly seek the truth as we journey together. It is a blessing to be; It is a blessing to be here; It is a blessing to be here now; It is a blessing to be here now together. Blessed Be.



**Announcements**

**Thank you to Sue Otte**, our service leader today. A founding member of Decorah UU, Sue loves to create service rituals which respect our heritage while remaining relevant to our ever changing present. She believes that imagining new ways of being in the world will allow us to honor our history, acknowledge past mistakes, and reach out to make our circle wider still.

**Share-the-Plate** - Our plate recipient for September-October is **Meskwaki Language Preservation**. To donate to the recipient, simply designate so on your check or offering envelope, or place in the labeled envelope in the offering plate.

**Decorah UU Board of Trustees** - Board members for 2022-2023 are Julie Ohde (Chair), Maggie Hayden (Treasurer), Lyra McKnight, Lynn Pleggenkuhle and Shawn Dettmann. The next meeting of the Board is October 13, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Maggie Hayden.

**Next Sunday, September 25 - *It's Our Revival***. Join us as we listen to the words of activist and writer adrienne maree brown, who gave a sermon entitled "It's Our Revival" as part of a ritual for personal and collective liberation in celebration of Juneteenth and Pride month earlier this year in New York City. The words of brown are particularly resonant as we will have just celebrated Bisexuality Day as well as Native American Day on September 23, are about to celebrate Decorah Pride September 29-October 1, and will observe October as LGBT History Month.

**Decorah UU Holiday Benefit Auction** - As you are cleaning closets and garages, set aside your special treasures for the UU auction.

**Strategies of Hope and Resistance** - A discussion series. Join us for a discussion on September 28 led by Dr. Holly Moore on "It's Our Revival" by adrienne maree brown. "I believe that all organizing is science fiction - that we are shaping the future we long for and have not yet experienced." - adrienne maree brown. Time: Fourth Wednesdays, September 28 & October 26, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Location: Lingonberry, 218 West Water Street, Decorah.

**Decorah UU Greeters** - We would like to have a greeter at each service, and more sign-up dates are available. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please complete the **Greeter Sign-Up form**. Greeter duties are detailed in **Decorah UU Greeters**. (There are links for both documents in *This Week at Decorah UU*.) If you have any questions, please contact Beth Wahlberg or Julie Ohde.

**Growing relationships between Decorah and Meskwaki Folks** - the Meskwaki Nation opens Language Preservation to Decorah friends. The Meskwaki Language Primer was first printed in the 1980's. Due to the thriving language program, it is time for a reprinting of the Language Primer book. Those interested in building relations with the Meskwaki Nation can contribute to this project with cash contributions to Meskwaki Language Preservation. "This book is a treasure on so many levels and I think our Meskwaki Language learners will enjoy it," language learner, Shelley Buffalo. See *This Week at Decorah UU* for more info.

**ICWA** - The Indigenous Child Welfare Act will be considered by the Supreme Court this fall. Just like the undoing of *Roe v. Wade*, chopping ICWA's power to protect Indigenous Children is part of a larger strategy to undermine Democracy. To learn more, see the link in upcoming Decorah UU newsletters for an Indigenous perspective on this topic. If the spirit moves you, you can write a letter to your representatives with a request to ban tear gas use. Read the article to see why this is a strategic request.

**Benefit Concert for Ukraine War Relief** - Music from & about Ukraine, Sunday, September 18, 12:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. All proceeds to benefit the volunteer group, Zahyst. Zahyst is located in Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, Maryna Bazylevych Nading's hometown. Zahyst's focus is on supporting soldiers, civilians on the frontline, and the internally displaced.

