

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to our monthly theme of Change.

Chalice Lighting *The Persistent Flame*

...Amy Brooks

Even as the days grow shorter, and our homes shrink smaller,
and our wicks burn lower, and our will to endure flickers,

we light this chalice to kindle a flame of warmth as a reminder
of the connection that draws us in
to a community that opens us up

in gratitude for the breath in our lungs
and the love in our hearts, for the gift of this day, Alive.



Opening Song #402 *From You I Receive*

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Words *Hope*

...Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Joys and Sorrows You may light a votive candle as you share any joys or concerns with the Fellowship.

Silent Meditation / Response

...Ellen Rockne



New Member Welcome

In the bonds of fellowship and love, we unite
To cultivate reverence,
To promote spiritual growth and ethical commitment,
To minister to each others needs and to those of humanity,
To celebrate the sacred moments of life's passage,
And to honor the holiness at the heart of being.

Offering / Response #128 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

Reading *In the Time of Pandemic*

...Kitty O'Meara

Blessings From the Pandemic

Shawn & Detra Dettmann

Closing Song #311 *Let It Be a Dance*

Extinguishing the Chalice *We Are One*
Never has it been more true than now:
We extinguish this flame,
But the sparks within us remain alight.
From each of us, in our supposed solitude,
The signals buzz and hum,
 sparkling through space one to another,
Connecting us invisibly
But palpably.
We are one. And from every window,
Our light shines.

...Amy Z. Morgenstern



Announcements

Thank you to our speakers today: **Shawn & Detra Dettmann**.

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.

Upcoming Sundays

October 23 - Disability Rights and Art Activism, with Julie Russell Steuart. Carolyn Corbin, service leader. Following the service, there will be an informal "memorial" social time to honor **Mona Quinn**.

October 30 - Touching the Roots of Our Ancestors, with Sue Otte.

New Member - Today we welcome Bronze Quinton to our Fellowship. In his own words: "Born in southeastern Indiana to fundamentalist Christians and farmers, I married at 19 and soon had three sons. After several attempts at college, I went into opticianry in my late 20s, while living in Colorado. My work life led me to move to Pennsylvania, then Ohio. At 32, married to my second wife, I discovered Thomas Paine's *Age of Reason* in the Parma, Ohio, public library. This book caused me to jettison my belief in all things which included "imaginary friends" and to embrace atheism as a life-stance. This change enabled me to live with greater authenticity and honesty, including accepting my sexuality. In 1993 I partnered with my now husband, Will Fellows. He and I spent 26 years in the Milwaukee area, where we were members of First Unitarian Society. In 2020 we sold our eyewear business and retired to our "little jewel-box home" in Decorah. I enjoy having time for playing piano, walking, reading, corresponding with friends and family, and enjoying the fruits of my long retail work life." Welcome, Bronze.

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 Thursday, November 3, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Maggie Hayden.

Interested in a part time job or know someone who is? - Decorah UU has openings for two paid positions: Fellowship Coordinator and Sunday Service Accompanist. The coordinator handles communications with members and friends; communications between Decorah UU and various entities; and prepares the space for our Sunday Services. This position is approximately 10 hours per week and we are looking for someone to start after October 16. The accompanist plays the piano at our Sunday services at the Lingonberry. For more information about these positions, please contact Julie Ohde (563-299-1854 or littleredkayak@gmail.com).

We Won't Go Back Rally - There will be a *We Won't Go Back Rally* on Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. at the Water Street Plaza in Decorah. To find out more, contact decorahaction@gmail.com.

Christmas Cheer – A message from Ellen Macdonald: “For many years, Decorah UU has participated in the Northeast Iowa Community Action Christmas Cheer program that distributes gifts to people that otherwise would have few or none. These are people who have not been given a fair deal by our society or have encountered bad luck. Our fellowship has been generous in doing our part for this well-run program. Carl Peterson and I have led this effort for some years. This year, neither of us is able to do so. In order to participate, a new leader or two must step forward. If we cannot commit to adopting a family by October 25, we will have to bow out of the program. I apologize for the short notice. Carl and I will be available to help you get started and Carl's garage can be a collection point.” If you are interested in this leadership role, please talk with Ellen or with a Board member.

FUUN Committee - You are cordially invited to attend the first official meeting of the FUUN Committee. **WHEN:** Monday, October 17th. **TIME:** 7:00 p.m. **WHERE:** The Landing (211 College Drive) **WHY:** To plan ways to bring fuun to our community. Please pass this message to anyone else you think might be interested. Please **RSVP** to Lyra McKnight at lyramcknight@gmail.com.

Remembering Mona Quinn (November 19, 1930-July 2, 2022) - Please join us, right after service, on Sunday, October 23, 2022, to enjoy food & fellowship while sharing memories of Mona. (Masks optional.)

Strategies of Hope and Resistance - a discussion series. Join us in conversations about radical caring with discussion of *Don't Reform Prisons, Abolish Them* - Ruth Wilson Gilmore and *Geographies of Racial Capitalism with Ruth Wilson Gilmore*, facilitated by Dr. Holly Moore. Wednesday October 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Lingonberry, 218 West Water St.

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.

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.

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 info.

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 a Board member know. We may be able to provide support or short term monetary assistance. Confidentiality will be respected.

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 **web-based giving page** and 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.

Decorah Community Food Pantry - A reminder from the Decorah Community Food Pantry: we are sponsoring a Food Walk on Sunday, October 23. You can participate in this family event by registering at the Pantry (110 Railroad St) at 1:00 PM with either a free will donation or a non-perishable food item or simply signing as a participant. We hope you'll join us in raising awareness about food insecurity in our county. The Pantry is in need of rice and pasta so if you can't walk with us, you can bring these items to the Pantry where there are volunteers to welcome you every day from 8:30 to 4:30. Another option is to mail a donation to PO Box 26 or use Pay Pal on our website decorahpantry.org.

Decorah UU online - For more information, please visit our [Decorah UU](#) website or our [facebook](#) page.

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*.

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.

