

# Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, November 14, 2021  
Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

Gathering virtually since 2020!

[decorahuu.org](http://decorahuu.org)  
387-6050 or otterdreaming@gmail.com

Opening Song *We Give Thanks*

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words

Today's service relates to many of our principles and sources as we take part in our annual Days of Remembrance, honoring those who have gone before us.

Chalice Lighting **With humility and courage born of our history, we are called as Unitarian Universalists to build the Beloved Community where all souls are welcome as blessings, and the human family lives whole and reconciled. With this vision in our hearts and minds, we light our chalice.**

...*A vision for Unitarian Universalism in a multicultural world*, by the UUA Leadership Council, adopted October 1, 2008; adapted as a chalice lighting May 2009

Opening Reading *We Are One*

...Hope Johnson

Land Acknowledgement

Reading *All Hallows Blessing*

...Jan Richardson

Joys and Sorrows Please raise your Zoom hand to share any personal 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

**Connecting with our Latinx neighbors** Gisella Aitken-Shadle & Lupita Solis

Extinguishing the Chalice **As we weather winds of change, may we have wisdom to cherish moments of stillness. As we recollect times of challenge and of pain, may we remember also the graceful blessings of our lives. As we look to future unknowns, may we have the boldness to trust that there is unimagined Good yet to come.**

...Maureen Killoran

Closing Music *One Foot in Front of the Other / Lead with Love*

...Melanie DeMore



## Announcements

**Thank you to Lupita Solis and Gisella Aitken-Shadle** for being our guest speakers today! Lupita and Gisella helped form the volunteer led group *Latino Empowerment & Development*. To connect with and help the Latino community in the area during the pandemic, go to [www.latinoleadiowa.org](http://www.latinoleadiowa.org). ❖ **Lupita Solis** works for Riverview Center in Decorah where she interprets and helps in many ways. Lupita brought a DACA renewal clinic to the area and works with Latino survivors of sexual abuse to be aware of their rights in the USA. ❖ In addition to her volunteer work, **Gisella Aitken-Shadle** is the Adult Education and Literacy Director at NICC in Dubuque. In her spare time Gisella is a certified speaker and is obtaining a Doctor of Education at the University of Dayton in 2022. ❖ Thank you to **Carolyn Corbin**, our service leader today. ❖ 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**

**November 21** - No service.

**November 28** - Ellen Macdonald will be sharing *Braiding Sweetgrass* service script with Nancy Barry, who will lead the service.

**December 5** - No service.

**December 12** - Decorah UU Annual Benefit Auction.

**Collective Action** will meet Tuesday, November 16, 6:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and on Zoom. You can contact Carolyn for information or [decorahcare@gmail.com](mailto:decorahcare@gmail.com).

**Day of the Dead Video** - Please enjoy this [short video](#) of Sue Otte talking about how she recently shared her Day of the Dead altar with the community.



**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@corbingroup.biz](mailto:carolyn@corbingroup.biz).

**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. Please watch for details.

**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.

**Decorah UU Benefit Auction** - This year's auction will be held virtually at our December 12<sup>th</sup> Service. Each year we auction off our talents, services, homegrown vegetables, homemade goods, arts, crafts, and closet treasures to raise funds for our UU congregation and for our Low Income Heating Assistance Program. Please, start thinking about what you might donate to help raise these important funds. If you're cleaning out your garage, set aside (and photograph) your special treasures for the UU Auction. Or maybe you'd like to offer your services or an experience (meal, activity, help with chores, etc) - those are some of the highest priced items in the auction! **How to Submit Your Donation:**

1. Decide on a name for your item (keep it pretty short) along with a brief description. Take a photo of the item (or items - feel free to bundle several smaller items together).
2. Go to: <https://form.jotform.com/212765882763064>
3. Fill out the form. That's it!

But, if you can't get that to work for you, contact Julie Ohde at [littleredkayak@gmail.com](mailto:littleredkayak@gmail.com) or Carolyn Corbin at [carolyn@corbingroup.biz](mailto:carolyn@corbingroup.biz).

**Call to Action** - Please write your Senators now using the sample letter in the link, and ask them to support both the **Freedom to Vote Act** and the **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**. Ask them to urge their Senate colleagues to support both bills as well and to not let the filibuster rules prevent them from passing. Please speak from your heart and insert your own words to express your concerns about voting.

**Contact Person for IUUWAN** - The IUUWAN is helping to organize social justice among fellowships across Iowa. If you are interested in being active in social justice and/or environmental justice action, and if you are willing to be a local contact person for the IUUWAN, please let Carolyn Corbin know at [carolyn@corbingroup.biz](mailto:carolyn@corbingroup.biz).

**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](mailto: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** - World Food Day on October 16th was a day to commit to ensuring that hunger is eradicated and to honor those who produce our food. There are many resources online for individuals and congregations to learn and pray about hunger throughout the world. Locally the Decorah Community Food Pantry makes food available to food insecure people in Northeast Iowa thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, staff, board members, and generous donors including the congregations. There are many ways that you can help. We need more volunteers especially on Thursdays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. You could bring 16 oz. bottles of ketchup and oil to the Pantry, and monetary donations are always welcome. For further information consult our website [decorahpantry.org](http://decorahpantry.org) or call the Pantry during daytime hours at 563-202-0872.

**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*.

