

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to principles 1) The inherent worth and dignity of every person; 2) justice, equity and compassion in human relations; 6) the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; and 7) respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. And we draw on the 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.

Chalice Lighting **Glory be to the earth and the wind. Glory be to the sun and the rain.** ...Bettye A. Doty
Glory be to the animals and children. Glory be to our holy flame, which calls us together as one.

Opening Words

Opening Song #298 *Wake, Now, My Senses*

Land Acknowledgement Knowing that land acknowledgement is but one way in which we enact the much larger project of decolonization and reconciliation, we acknowledge that northeast Iowa was home to peoples whose relationship to this land continues today: ❖ the **Ioway**, whose traditional name is **Baxoje** ❖ the **Sac and Fox**--the Fox's traditional name is **Meskwaki** ❖ the **Dakota** ❖ and the **Ho-Chunk**. 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.

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

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

Responsive Reading ...Addae Ama Kraba

As we gather to celebrate the season of birth and rebirth,

We hear the heart beat of Mother Earth.

With spring comes the blossoming of plants and emerging patterns of life,

We hear the heart beat of Mother Earth.

In this, the time of growth and reflection let us draw closer to nature and each other,

We hear the heart beat of Mother Earth.

All: In the continuing circle of life, giving thanks, we hear the heart beat of Mother Earth.

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

Reading from *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* ...Robin Wall Kimmerer

Winona LaDuke: Water and Food Justice During a Time of Pandemic

Closing Song #175 *We Celebrate the Web of Life*

Extinguishing the Chalice ...Betsy Darr, adapted

May the light of this chalice go with us as we leave this place. May we feel the warmth spread from our circle to wider and wider circles, until all know they belong to the one circle of life.



Announcements

Thank you to **Carol Hagen, Beth Wahlberg, Carolyn Corbin & Sue Otte** for leading our service today. ❖ Please treat yourself to a little something after the service. And we'll be in touch again soon.

Share-the-Plate - Our plate recipient for this March-April is *Winneshiek County Habitat for Humanity*. To donate to the recipient, simply designate so on your check or offering envelope. Loose cash in the offering plate goes to Decorah UU.

Janet Snider's Family - Please keep Janet and her family in your thoughts. Janet is caring for her son and his spouse following their recent kidney transplant / donor surgery.

Sunday, April 17 - Poems We Love. Many times we've hosted conversations about books we love. In honor of National Poetry Month, let's share our favorite poems. You can send the poem(s) you'd like to share ahead of the service to Otter if you'd like people to be able to read along, or you can simply read to the gathering during the open mic portion of the service.

Decorah UU Board - 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 Monday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.

Nominating Committee Request - Maggie Hayden and Lalie Madriguera are looking for another member of our Fellowship to serve with them on the Nominating Committee for the next year. Please contact Maggie if you are available: 913-687-6871.

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 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.

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 right now.
- **If you have questions or concerns**, please contact a Decorah UU Board member.

Five Week Virtual Environmental Workshop - Drawdown: Get into Action! Five weeks, with the first session on April 13, 7:00 p.m. To register and for Zoom link, contact kokolwin2489@gmail.com. Sponsored by Iowa UU Witness Advocacy Network (IUUWAN). Watch for a separate email with more details.

Decorah Community Food Pantry - The Decorah Community Food Pantry is now under the leadership of our new director, Norah Hummel. She has identified certain items that are in short supply and so once again we're relying on the generosity of congregation members. The following items can either be brought directly to the Pantry all day until 3:00 PM or if there is one, the box at church: canned pork and beans, ketchup, small bottles of laundry detergent or paper towels. For more information about the pantry or to volunteer or donate, consult decorahpantry.org.

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.

