

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, July 17, 2022

Gathering virtually since 2020!

decorahuu.org

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Welcome and Announcements

Today's service relates to UU Principle 1 The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Chalice Lighting At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

...A. Schweitzer

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Song #1051 *We Are*

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

Reading #602 *If There Is to Be Peace*

...Lao-Tse

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

Seeing Decorah From the Eyes of Someone New

Eric (Min San Thu)

Extinguishing the Chalice We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

...E. S. Jones

Closing Song #118 *This Little Light of Mine*



Announcements

Thank you to our speaker, Eric - Min San Thu. Eric came to Iowa as his first study abroad. He studied Visual Communications at Luther College, graduating in the spring of 2022. Eric experienced studying through a pandemic as well as a Coup in his home country of Myanmar. Following the Democratic election of the President in November 2020, the Myanmar military led a violent Coup killing thousands of protesters and arresting many more in February 2021. Eric will share his story of resilience and resistance living in Iowa while his friends in Myanmar fight to reclaim democratic rights with creativity and humor. Thanks also to **Carolyn Corbin**, our service leader today.

Share-the-Plate - Our plate recipient for July-August is **Kids Lunch Club**. To donate to the recipient, simply designate so on your check or offering envelope, or place in the labeled envelope in the offering plate. Loose cash goes to Decorah UU.

A note from Julie Fischer - "Jim McIntosh is in skilled care at Wellington Place, Rm 613, recovering from open heart surgery. Pat is in Memory Care. All these changes came on very suddenly, so emotional support means everything. Both really appreciate visits from UU friends. Julie Fischer is happy to take anyone out for the first time to show them how to navigate the facility. Anastacia Cowles has been helping as well."

Decorah UU Board of Trustees - Board members for 2022-2023 are Julie Ohde, Maggie Hayden, Lynn Pleggenkuhle, Lyra McKnight and Shawn Dettmann. The next meeting of the Board is **Friday, August 12** at 1:00 p.m.

Decorah UU Greeters - As we inch back into normalcy for our in-person gatherings, we would like to have a greeter at each service. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please complete the **Greeter Sign-Up form** (link found in the weekly newsletter). If you have any questions, please contact Beth Wahlberg or Julie Ohde.

Upcoming Sundays

July 24 - *The Meskwaki Language Preservation Program*, with Carolyn Corbin. The Meskwaki Language Preservation project is reaching out (through friends of Shelley Buffalo) as a reparations effort to build relations and contribute to the *Meskwaki Preservation* in a meaningful and specific way. Sue Otte, Carol Hagen, Beth Wahlberg & Julie Fischer, service leaders.

July 31 - *Meet the Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community*, with Karen Esterl. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. This year's theme was "Meet the Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community." Karen served as Decorah UU's delegate to GA in June and will be sharing the highlights with us.

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. Please don't hesitate to ask.

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.

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*.

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. Read more and donate through links in our Decorah UU newsletter.

Decorah Community Food Pantry - In May, Decorah Community Food Pantry helped to feed 600 people. Every day we enroll into our program new clients who are in need of food assistance. To meet this growing need we plan to be open additional hours. Our dedicated volunteers are reaching capacity so we need new volunteers for Tuesday evenings from 4:30 to 7:00. If you can help or want to find out more, please email contact@decorahpantry.org.

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.