

Decorah Unitarian Universalist

Sunday, January 7, 2024

The Lingonberry

Decorah, Iowa 52101

DecorahUU.org

decorahuu.contact@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements - Karen Esterl

Today's service relates to the mission of EqUUal Access

We are Unitarian Universalists living with disabilities, our families, friends, and allies coming together for a common purpose:

To enable the full engagement of people with disabilities in Unitarian Universalist communities and the broader society.

Our work includes

- Raising awareness, empowering change, and promoting a framework for advocacy grounded in our Unitarian Universalist faith
- Providing resources to help Unitarian Universalist communities become barrier-free and inclusive
- Incorporating the gifts of ministry offered by people with disabilities into the faith community
- Enabling Unitarian Universalist congregations to understand and minister to the spiritual and personal needs of people with disabilities, their families, and friends
- Collaborating with other Unitarian Universalist organizations and the Unitarian Universalist Association to counter oppression

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice remembering the freedoms long established in our nation:

freedom of speech

freedom of the press

freedom from the establishment of religion.

We light this chalice honoring those who exemplify protecting those

freedoms:

librarians

booksellers

teachers

authors

journalists.

**We light this chalice, so that by its light we may read all the books:
books with archaic language
books with offensive material
books which affirm the diversity of the human race
books which normalize our varied sexualities
books which share multidimensional perspectives of history.**

**May we bask in the glow of its light this morning as we illuminate,
brighten, and radiate
because of the books we have read and the books we have yet to
read.--Julie Conrady**

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Words by Karen L. Esterl

Opening Song

#160 "Far Too Long, by Fear Divided"

Joys and Sorrows

Silent Meditation

Prayer/Response

Your Joy Is My Joy

Ellen Rockne



Your joy is my joy, your sor-row my sor-row. To -
geth - er we live our days. To- geth - er we love this place. In be-
lov - ed com - mu-ni-ty, we are not a - lone.

Reading

#465 "Charter of the United Nations"

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.

Reading with Our Fingers by Karen L. Esterl

Closing Song

#158 "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"

Extinguishing the Chalice

We are all capable

In different ways

With various strengths and talents.

We are all holy

Part of the universe

And the interdependent web.

We extinguish this chalice

Cherishing our differences

And holding each other in sacredness.--Cindy Fesgen, adapted

Speaker Bio - Karen L. Esterl is an applications developer and analyst (aka computer nerd) at Emory University in Atlanta (she telecommutes), but her formal studies have been in religion and English. She majored in both while an undergrad at Furman University and subsequently received her master of theological studies (MTS) in world religions from Harvard Divinity School. She and her spouse, the Rev. Ellis Arnold, live in Freeport with a collie and a parrot. **She encourages everyone to come see *Disney's Descendants* at New Minowa Players January 18-21 and 26-27; she'll be masquerading as the Mistress of Evil, Maleficent!**

Upcoming Services

January 14 - Celebrating our Gifts - A look inward at the ways we serve one another.

January 21 - Reflections on Immigration at the Arizona-Mexico Border with guest speaker Scott Boylen.

January 28 - Founders Day - Decorah UU recognizes our founding, with Sue Otte

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Reading with One's Fingers



Snowy view of Decorah Prairie from Phelps Park overlook,
by Ellen Macdonald, member of Decorah UU

Saturday January 13, 10-11:30 Earth-Centered

Co-Learning with Shelley Buffalo. Join Shelley for "Exploring Tokenism" in this first webinar in an Earth-Centered Co-Learning series with Shelley Buffalo from the Meskwaki Nation.

