

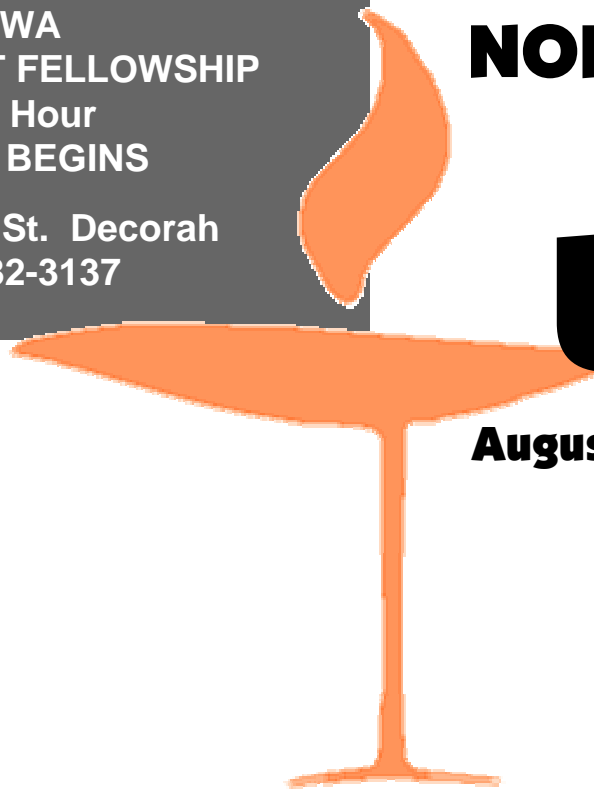
**NORTHEAST IOWA
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
10:30 a.m. SERVICE BEGINS**

**Senior Center, 806 River St. Decorah
Questions? Call 382-3137**

**NORTHEAST
IOWA**

UUF

**August/September
2005**



Love your neighbor, even if...

The Decorah Journal recently published a religion column I submitted on our behalf in which I wrote of the concept of widening the circle of our concept of "neighbor", based upon the familiar story of the Good Samaritan from Christian tradition. It is this tradition I know best, and it is the tradition that was affirmed by Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, one of the keynote speakers at the 2005 Prairie Star District UUA Conference in April.

Following is an excerpt of her speech I would like to share with you. Her full speech is available at http://www.psduua.org/conf/addresses/2005_mcnatt.html

"I believe that we Unitarian Universalists have a date with history, and that we are running late. I believe that we are uniquely positioned to ask, to answer, and to act upon the question that Jesus answered so brilliantly in what must be the best-known of all the gospel parables: The story of the Good Samaritan. It is an interpreter of the law who asks Jesus what he must do to be saved. Jesus coaxes him to recall what the law requires: that he love God with all his heart and mind and soul and strength, and that he love his neighbor as himself. Do this, Jesus tells him, and you will live. But who is my neighbor, the man asks, and this time the question is not a challenge, but the query of a searching heart. And in telling the story of the scorned, untouchable Samaritan who nonetheless cares for a wounded and broken man, Jesus is speaking to me and to you, and the message is clear, and it is difficult, and it is our sacred mission as liberal religious people, if we will but accept it."

EARLY FALL SERVICE DATES:

**August 14
August 28
September 11
September 25
October 9
October 23**

(Continued on next page.)

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"Who is our neighbor? The brother—like my own brother—who is a born-again Christian; the mother—like my own mother—who is a member of an evangelical church. Who is our neighbor? The co-worker who leaves tracts on your desk; the family who won't let your children play with their children because they are not saved. Who is our neighbor? The protestor who claims that God hates faggots; the evangelist who declares women should be silent in the churches; the neighbor who invites you to prayer meeting and encourages you to leave that place you say is a church but she knows is really a cult."

"Those people are our neighbors too, not just the ones we like, or feel good about talking to, or have hopes will one day see the light of liberal faith. We cannot create the radical change in the world that liberal religion is meant to create if we are only hanging out with one another; we cannot offer a healing alternative to the religiously injured, lying half dead on the road of life, by keeping our faith a private pleasure. We can create radical change only with radical engagement, only with the radical faith modeled in the ministries of so many faithful prophets and sages and wise people. Jesus is one, but there are so many others. All of them are ours to claim and to embrace."

Bill Musser
Chair, Board of Trustees

INVITATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Special thanks to **Ruth Jenkins** for organizing the Nordic Fest Smorbord booth! We hope to make this an annual fundraiser for the NEIUUF.

Thanks to **Janelle Pavlovec** and **Leah Carlson** for sprucing up the front perennial flower bed at the Senior Center. It looks BEAUTIFUL!

Thanks to **John and LouAnn Hall** for recruiting members to serve on the various UU committees that will carry us into the next year!

Trampoline for Sale: 2 years old, good condition, full surround netting. \$100 OBO.
Call Shirley Vermace at 382-4319 or 419-2999

HAPPY!

The Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.
~Benjamin Franklin

The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.
~Mark Twain

People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost. ~H. Jackson Browne

**Pleasure is spread through the earth
In stray gifts to be claimed by whoever
shall find.**
~William Wordsworth, 1806

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery while on a detour.
~Author Unknown

**My advice to you is not to inquire why
or whither, but just enjoy your ice
cream while it's on your plate.**
~Thornton Wilder

There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do. ~Freya Stark, *The Journey's Echo*

**You need to learn to be happy by
nature, because you'll seldom have the
chance to be happy by circumstance.**
~Lavetta Sue Wegman

Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of traveling. ~Margaret Lee Runbeck

AUGUST TRUSTEES' MEETING:
Tuesday, August 2, 2005 7:30 p.m.
Shirley Vermace's home,
503 Pinecrest Drive
Ph: 563/382-4319
Anyone is welcome to attend!