

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
Sarah Oelberg, Minister

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<http://nora-uu-church.org/nora/>



Permit Number 2

Hanska, MN 56041

Address Service Requested

November, 2002 Sunday Services

Social Hour: 10:00 A.M.

Worship Service: 10:30 A.M.

November 3 - "Is Democracy Dead?" Rev. Oelberg will discuss how we can practice our 5th Principle in these times.

There will be a dedication of Eric Charles Paulson.

Servers: Blomquists, Julie Grathwohl

Musician: Sally Hanson

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group

11:30 - POTLUCK LUNCH

November 10 - "War and Peace." Not an opus, but an opinion about using war as a method of conflict resolution.

Servers: John Bauer, Michelle Bethke

Musician: Mimi Kamleiter

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group

- Board of Trustees Meeting

November 17 - John Makepeace will speak on: "Armistice Day Remembered." John will include a reflection on the costs of war and conflict, as seen in personal accounts from some WWII veterans featured in the documentary video The Barbed Wire Club. The 46 minute video describing experiences as POWs of the Japanese will be shown immediately following the service in the lower level. Discussion and questions will follow. You might bring a sandwich.

Servers: Jerry and Susan Allen

Musician: Ardelle and Doug Becken

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group

The third in a series about people you may know about--or not!

Servers: Ardelle and Lorraine Becken Musician: Ryann

Rathman

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group

This has been a difficult week for most Minnesotans, since we heard of the death of Paul Wellstone. Indeed, people all over the country are mourning the loss of what one Californian called "my senator." For those who shared his liberal positions on important issues, it is especially hard, for the one voice we could depend upon to not be influenced by politics, but to speak out for what it believed, has been silenced. That strong, courageous voice gave its first and last speeches on the floor of the senate, and cast its first and last votes against the wars in Iraq.

This independent spirit was loved by nearly everyone who knew him, whether or not they agreed with his positions on issues. It is hard to see the real person during political campaigns, when the object is to vilify one's opponent in order to win the election. Certainly we saw Wellstone being attacked unmercifully during the past few months and weeks.

Strange, isn't it, how death changes people's perceptions. Paul Wellstone went from being radical rogue to honorable hero overnight. We so often do not appreciate people until they are gone. Only in their absence do we become fully aware of what they offered and how they affected our lives in important ways. If nothing else, I hope Paul's death will remind us all to tell our loved ones, and even those public figures we admire, how much we appreciate them.

Paul Wellstone will be missed--he already is. I cannot remember a politician being so widely admired and mourned since the death of President Kennedy. In this age when lists of our supposed "heroes" almost never include public servants, but are mostly sports and entertainment figures, it is refreshing to hear a politician being called a hero. He was. He represented all of the best in humanity. If only our young people would appreciate the qualities of heroism that made him the great man he was.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Brown County Faith in Action is an exciting new program for people struggling with aging issues, disabilities or chronic illness. It provides free respite care, friendly visiting, errands and chore services. If you need help, or want to volunteer, call Stacy at 507-794-5601

On November 5, Faith In Action will sponsor Volunteer Caregiver training from 4-7:30 pm. Cost is free, and includes a light supper. It will be at the First United Methodist Church, 1 N. Broadway, New Ulm. To sign up, please call Stacy.

Do you go to the New Ulm community Friends Thanksgiving Dinner? It is a wonderful event--a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The sponsors are asking for volunteers to help with serving, and for food donations (or money to buy food). If you can help, call Jim or Anita Thomas at 359-2004.

NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The next meeting of the NWS will be on Friday, November 22. We will meet in the social room at Garden Terrace Apartments in New Ulm at noon, for a potluck lunch.

NWS is collecting items for the inmates of the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center. New toiletries (in plastic containers) are useful, as are new clothing (especially large sizes) and personal items such as candy, games, stationery, etc.

Also, the thrift shop at St. Peter can use any good used items, including small appliances (in working order.) Families of patients and the general public can purchase items there. If you have things to offer, please bring them to the Kaffe Stua by November 10!

TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Selma Korslund, age 82, died on October 26 in the care center in Northfield, MN. Her memorial service will be held on October 30 at 1:00 p.m. at the Nora church.



SMORGASBORD 2002 REPORT

Thank you, thank you all for a great congregational effort. This year's Smorgasbord was another success. Despite the cool, gray day--or perhaps because of it--turnout exceeded last year. NWS Treasurer Bonita Blomquist reported 402 tickets sold, including 45 workers!! A special thanks to the workers who braved the cold to serve in the parking lot and country store. The store continues to be a good money-maker, bringing in \$1,163. After expenses, we will probably realize an overall profit of more than \$3,000.

This event is organized by the Nora Women's Society, but it could not succeed without the outpouring of help we get from everyone. We had an unusually large turnout on Saturday to make meatballs and set up tables, and more than 50 were on hand Sunday to make things go smoothly. Because this is an all-member effort, it should be noted that the Women's Society uses the Smorgasbord profits to help pay its church pledge of \$3,500.

Thanks again to all who helped in any way. It's a great way to help preserve our Norwegian heritage and to bring people together for fun and profit. And thanks to Doug Becken and his band, whose music greatly enhanced the experience for many.

DAKOTA COMMEMORATIVE MARCH

On November 7, 1862, about 1,700 Dakota Indians, mostly women and children, were forcibly marched from the Lower Sioux Agency to Fort Snelling. Two days later, over 300 condemned men were transported to Mankato, to await their execution.

This year, from Nov. 7 - 13, native Americans are planning to make a commemorative march. They will stop overnight on Nov. 8 in New Ulm. It is hoped they will be warmly received by residents, and this can be a hopeful and healing experience. They will be sleeping in Turner Hall, where they will also be served breakfast on Saturday morning before they leave.

On Friday evening, there will be a community potluck supper at Turner, to which local residents are invited. It is not known how many native Americans will come, but we are planning for about 200. Many hot dishes and other food contributions will be needed to feed them and us. If you can, plan to come and be part of this event--and bring food! Contributions are also wanted to help defray the cost of the breakfast and other expenses.

The tribes have requested a few homes for some "elders" who will be with the group. If you can offer a room or two, please let Sarah know, and she will pass it on to those in charge.

DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

Prairie Star District is offering two workshops on Endowment Funds. They will help churches strengthen their financial positions through endowment funds. It is recommended that each church in the district send at least one person to learn about how endowment funds can help their congregation. There will be two identical workshops held at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis. One is 9:00 am - noon on Saturday, November 16, and the other 2-5:00 pm on Sunday, Nov. 17. If you are interested in attending, contact Chris Olson or Sarah.

On Sunday, November 24, at 4:00 pm, Carole Martignacco will be ordained into the UU ministry at the Minnesota Valley Fellowship in Bloomington. Carole is a remarkable woman who has worked hard to realize her dream of ministry. She has asked Sarah Oelberg to deliver the ordination sermon. All members of Nora church are invited. If anyone wishes to attend, tell Sarah and perhaps we can arrange car-pools.

The Humanist Center of Minnesota holds monthly lecture/discussions on topics of interest to Humanists. On December 1, the speaker will be Sarah Oelberg, speaking on: "What Has Happened to Humanism?" Meetings start at 6:30 pm, and are free and open to the public. They are held at First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis.

PLEDGE UPDATE

46 pledge cards totaling \$37,565 have been received as of 10-31-02.

This pledged amount represents only 46% of the \$82,321 budget which was approved by the board.

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so.

--- Gil Hanson, Treasurer

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, November 12 at a new restaurant in New Ulm, George's. It is at 301 N. Minnesota. We will meet around 11:30. Maybe some new people will want to join us to check out this new restaurant!

The Board of Trustees has been discussing how to make our committees more effective. A first step would be to ascertain exactly who is on each committee now. This would be a good time to "sign up" to join the committee(s) of your choice. The present committees are:

Worship - Noah Rosenbloom, chair.

Facilities - Scott Chambard, chair.

Membership/Fellowship - Jeannie Hinsman, chair.

Finance - Sally Hanson, chair

Religious Education - Brenda Wiger, chair.

In some cases, the committees have been meeting infrequently, and consequently have not been as active and effective as they could be. The Board is asking all chairs to provide a list of committee members, and try to recruit new blood.

Also, there are some issues regarding the By-Laws which suggest it may be time to revise them. We are looking for volunteers to serve on this one-time committee, so proposed revisions can be voted on at the next congregational meeting.

Finally, in this crucial year, it will be the responsibility of the Ministry Committee to begin the process of deciding about the future of ministry at Nora church. If you have any ideas, or interest in working on this, contact Mark Wiger or other committee members B.J. Wellmann, Ron Peck, Jeannie Hinsman, and Warren Paulson.