



# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

November 2010

---

## VIEW FROM THE HILL

Chi! Chi! Chi! Le! Le! Le!

Along with millions around the globe I was enchanted by the chant and held spell-bound by the images of the Chilean miners emerging, alive, one by one, from the mine that had held them captive but not defeated for nearly 70 days. The rescue, indeed the entire saga from collapse to rescue, will go down as the feel-good story of 2010, and no doubt top all the year in review lists that will soon start appearing.

It is not by accident that I use “enchanted” and “spell-bound”, words with magical associations. It seemed almost magical, certainly miraculous, that those men survived, assisted in their own rescue and returned to the surface with little visible physical harm. (Though, of course the long term fall-out will only reveal itself in the long-term.) The hard facts are, it wasn’t magic or miracle. It was science, engineering, psychology, medicine, patience, cross-disciplinary international cooperation.

Ah, there it is. The magic, the miracle. Despite the patriotic chant, nationalism, competition, rivalry were set aside as the world came together not just as spectators but as actors in the drama. It worked the way we want it to work. “It” being life.

From the time we are little, watching Ernie and Bert co-operate on *Sesame Street*, or *Romper Room*’s Miss Nancy reminding us to “do be a Do-Bee”, we have an idea in our minds of the way the world is suppose to work, the way people are supposed to help one another. But the idea gets buried beneath decades of socially sanctioned competition--from the daily medal counts posted throughout the Olympics to Survivor and The Apprentice, from the space race

to Miss America and Mr. Universe. Whether we buy into it or not, a culture of He Who Dies with the Most Toys Wins has turned us all into cynics.

Then thirty-three miners were buried alive and lived to tell the tale--on international television and the internet. We cheered their survival and we applauded the engineering triumphs that brought it about. But my cheers were really for the cooperation. The generosity of nations and agencies and individuals who contributed their little bits of specialized experience or knowledge or know-how. The graciousness of those who resisted the temptation to lift their own contributions above the contributions of others. I applauded this very public, gigantic yet tiny, scrap of proof that the world can be the way it is supposed to be, that the worlds’ people and nations can cooperate the way our parents and pre-school teachers and Sunday school teachers taught us we should cooperate. And I gave thanks for the spark of hope this incident ignited within me. Hope this might not be an isolated example of cooperation. Hope that a handful of people recognized the miracle behind the miracle and will remember it the next time disaster strikes--or better yet, before disaster strikes.

Every November my list of blessings stretches to several pages and my thanksgiving flows and flows. And this year I’m deeply grateful for those thirty-three miners and the countless, nameless men and women who rescued them, and gave the rest of us back a vision of the world as it could be.

-Lisa



## LUNCH BUNCH

After a very well attended get-together and visit to Luther Memorial Home in October, it was decided to take the Lunch Bunch road show to the Divine Providence Nursing Home in Sleepy Eye to visit, among others, Bob Schmitt. We'll meet there for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18. Hope you can make it.

## CHOIR NEWS

It's time to exercise your vocal chords! Anyone interested in singing in the choir, please join us for practice at 9 AM on Sundays!

## THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Another great Smorgasbord is behind us and it couldn't be done without the help of so many, both in the front lines and behind the scenes. Thanks to our hardworking organizers, Joy Rathman and Julie Sellner. The food was very tasty, so many thanks go to the bakers, cooks, lefse makers and to those who work in the country store, parking area, ticket takers and all the servers and last but not least, dishwashers. This is a wonderful example of how well we can all work together, may it continue though out the year!

## NO WORD YET

At the annual meeting in June, Nora congregation voted to have Prairie Beacon proceed with construction of a Jacobs 21-30 wind turbine. This is pending the receipt of a \$20,000 USDA grant for small wind projects. Though expecting to hear by Labor Day, no word on the grants has been received yet. USDA officials were contacted as to the hold up. We were told word would be out soon. The contractor is still prepared to proceed with construction this fall. In the meantime we are patient and hopeful

## OCTOBER LUNCH BUNCH

We met at Good Fellaz in Madelia and had dessert at LMH



from far end and to right: Larry Bakken, Shirley Olson, Algot Blomquist, Noah Rosenblom, Janet Rosenblom, Monica Sturm, Diane Becken, Kristine Paulson, Lisa Doege.



(l to r) Nancy Bruderie, Edith Beckius, Diane Becken, Bernice Becken and Lorraine Becken.



starting at the far end and moving to right - Maryllinn O'Reilly, Bonita Blomquist, Muriel Thordson, Lorraine Becken, Clayton Olson, Charles Mikkelsen, Melvin Mikkelsen, Alon Chambard, Carol Chambard.

**To Keep In Touch**

♥

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the committee members:

Georgine Tepley (chair)  
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)  
Shirley Olson - 354-1866  
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

**THANK YOU! - Caring Committee**

## NORA U.U. “COTTAGE MEETINGS”

In the month of November five “Cottage Meetings” will be held to assist the congregation in the hiring of our next minister. Members will be asked a series of questions to give each person a chance to express needs and wishes for the congregation’s future ministry. This will give members an opportunity to voice opinions on the ministerial search in the company of others and share insights with each other in a productive atmosphere. The data collected at these meetings will provide a quantitative analysis and give a factual basis to support or correct vague impressions of the congregation’s make-up or direction.

The five meetings will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the following locations. At least one member each from the Ministerial Transition Committee and the Board will be in attendance to lead the discussion:

- November 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday) at Nora
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday) at Carol and Alan Chambard’s apartment complex (1001 N Garden) in New Ulm
- November 8<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at Julie and Ron Peck’s home (1608 Northridge Lane) in North Mankato
- November 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) at Joy and Gerard Rathman’s home (13871 300<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Comfrey)
- November 15<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at Nora

If you have any questions please contact one of the Ministerial Transition Committee members:

- Christina Schmitt: 507-877-2154
- Kristy Paulson: 507-276-6640
- Scott Kudelka: 507-359-3834

### Benced - The heart of rural community

*“Gathering together – is the beginning.  
Being together – is a process.  
Working together – is success.”*

Benced is situated in the heart of Szeklerland, 16 kms far from Szekelyudvarhely. It has 180 inhabitants. It has 2 parts Upper Benced and Down Benced. In 2006 became separate congregation with the minister Makkai Ilkei Ildiko. The name of the village appeared for the first time in 1480. The Unitarian Church of Benced began to build its first church

in 1803, which was finished in 1805. The second, today church was built between 1857-1860, during minister Torok Samuel and president Pap Mozes, with the help of the members of the church from Upper and Down Benced. The church was built without tower, which was added between 1990-1993, and in 2002 in the tower was put 2 bell.

The plan to build the Church of Upper Benced was decided in 1859, which was finished maybe (without exact dates) in 1911, because it was inaugurated in December of 1911. The tower was built later between 1929–30, on the South part of the church. This church was completely renovated in 2009.

The village got a sister village in 1990 from Belgium, Ittre. The fruit of this relationship was the Foundation, NGO, with the aim to advance Benced. Unfortunately this relationship has broken, the activities of the NGO has stopped. But in 2006 it was renewed, reestablished with new staff: Páll Krisztina - president, Pap Benczédi Gyula - vicepresident, Pap István - secretary, Pap Eniko – financial responsible. Revived, rebuilt in 2005, became a very active organization, writing and earning a lot of projects with the aim of rural development, especially Benced’s development.

So the main aim of the foundation is to develop the village, to look forward to the future. We organized a lot of meetings with the inhabitants clarifying the main obstacles, needs of the village in order to resolve them. The first meeting was organized by the American Unitarian Universalist Church, with help of Richard Ford, Cathy Cordes, Sztranyiczky Zsófia etc. It was in 2006- Community Capacity Building Assessment. This meeting moved forward the events, moved the inhabitants. This kind of assessment was organized anytime was necessary.

One of the main aims of the Foundation is at the same time: education and well information.

Because the school was closed, the kids have to go far away, in vacations; holidays because of less of the money they don’t have any possibilities to go many places. Basing on these reasons we organize our activities.

The Foundation and the Church is in very good collaboration, working together every time.

NGO is a great possibility at the same time to write and put down grants.

Here are the activities organized in a good collaboration between the Church and the Foundation between 2006-2010:

- Our newspaper, Bencédi Zarándok appears monthly continuously from 2006. From 2009 it appears in Hanska, in our partnerchurch’s newsletter and webpage. The English variant can be observed on the web page [www.norauuchurch.org](http://www.norauuchurch.org). The Hungarian variant on [www.benced.ro](http://www.benced.ro). From 2006 we organize the english-ecological camp, what is



supported by grants earned annually the Harghita County Council, by Local Council and other sponsors.

From 2006 annually we organize the Seniors Day, which is supported by Harghita County Council, by Local Council and other sponsors. In that day we organize cultural events, the people who are over 70 years old got food packets, we pleased them with a festive program, and they got a special newspaper dedicated especially to them with title: Let's stroke the old heads! This is the title of the program, too.

We organized Meeting of Local Development Agents of the region.

Dávid Ferenc Youth Association of Benced was formed in 2006, with whom we run a dramatic (acting, theatrical) society, we organized feast, we organized the 33<sup>rd</sup>. Transylvanian Unitarian Youth Conference in 2009. The village with 180 inhabitants hosted more than 200 visitors.

In December of 2006 was established the Women Association of Benced. They meet weekly between Advent and Easter, having invited specialists, guest speakers (psychologists, doctors etc) hosting and visiting other Women Associations, having biblical readings, having tea, cakes.

We established a telecottage, telecommunication house in the village financed by a grant of Harghita County Council. Here is redacted monthly the local newspaper, at the same time it plays the role of a community centre, community house. The telecommunication house's building is in service as an uniform informational centre in the village, where the village's inhabitants may take advantage of different services (photocopying, internet, scanning stb.)

Internet in many houses.

Likewise inside Harghita County Program framework, grants and from other supports we organize the Day of the Earth annually, our environment protection application was successful, with a title *The clearest village of a Nyikó Valley*, furthermore selective PET bottle with a collector and pressing we take action, the organizing of village cleanings.

- With support of Harvest Hope Foundation, Local Council, we established a toilet in the local cultural centre, we innovated a community office. In autumn of 2006. village board (sign) prepared by carver artists, village board inauguration with a cultural program

Inside the framework of an environment protection project we attend on exchange of experience in Hungary, visiting an eco-village visit on Kozárd

In 2007 with the help of Unitarian Church Of Benced, Szalon KFT ( private company), the Advanced Label Technologies ( private company), Grants (Harghita County Council), Ittre Benced Foundation appeared the monography of Benced Village written by our minister, Makkai Ilkei Ildiko. The book appeared for the first time on the 1. Meeting Of the Village, on which cca. 400 celebrating bought parts.

1st of September, 2006. Commemoration of the flood from Nyikó Valley the with which occasion made an appearance the Székelyudvarhely folk dance and were present were the members of American-universalist church's

We organized a free computer course for the local population • we made the webpage of the village: [www.benced.ro](http://www.benced.ro). Thanks to Pap Attila- webpage administrator, Richard Ford-sponsor.

Annually on Christmas we chant with the youth of Benced, we go to everybody, we are knocking on the door and sing Christmas songs.

Appeared the short film about Benced and the village appeared in a booklet by Civitas Foundation entitled: Successful rural civil initiations.

We renovated it totally in 2009 and blessed the our church of Upper Benced

We inaugurated a playground in his 2010. with help of Harghita County Council, Unitarian Church Of Benced, Ittre Benced Foundation and the Local Council

2009- we begun to renew the relationship with our Partner-Church from Hanska Nora Church, making visit, also.

2010. appeared the flyer of Benced , English and Hungarian version, which was financed by a grant.

2010.- we earned 5 grants for Benced: Youth Program, Seniors Program, Playground, Sport Program- especially football, tourism program.

2010. June- exchange visit to Hungary visiting special eco-villages.

2010. the house of minister was completely renewed, the old building of the school was renovated, added a new room for meetings, also.

Pall Krisztina,  
President of Ittre Benced Foundation.





Youth programs



Ecological-english camp



33. Unitarian Youth Conference



Dávid Ferenc Youth Association of Bencéd - 2009



Seniors Day - 2009



Tea afternoons - 2009 Advent



Grape harvest ball

Pilgrimage to Deva in memory of David Ferenc - 2006

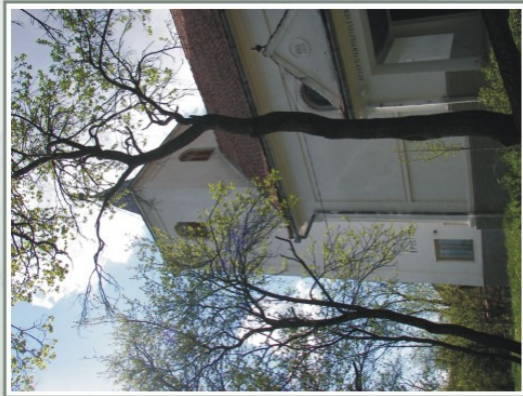


Choir of the Berde Mózes Unitarian Gymnasium - 2006



Christmas Concert of Székely Dalegylet





Church of Down Benced (Alsóbenced), built between 1857-1860

#### Separate congregation, separate minister



Church of Upper Benced (Felsőbenced), built between 1860-1911, renewed completely, reconsecrated in 12nd of July 2009.

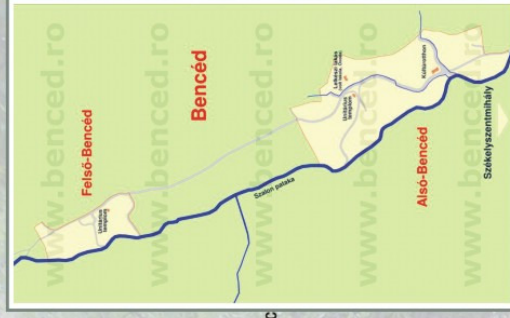
#### Events, organisations of Benced:

- Feasts, holidays
- (Christmas, Eastern, Mothers' s Day etc.)
- Meeting of Local Development Agents
- Commemoration of revolutions
- Amateur theatre of Youngs and adult
- Flacon collector, Ecological projects
- New Year's singsong
- Collective excursions
- Football team
- Unitarian Women Association
- David Ferenc Youth Association



#### Location:

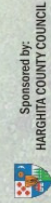
- ☞ Romania, Transilvania, Harghita county, in Feher Nyiko river valley
- ☞ 16 km far from Odorheiu Secuiesc town, 15 km from Cristuru-Secuiesc town
- ☞ Unitarian village, with 180 hungarian inhabitants
- ☞ 2 parts: Down and Upper Benced, which are located along Szalon stream



#### Important addresses:

- Unitarian Church from Benced
- Minister: Ildikó Makkai-Ilkei
- Benced 35, 537311
- Hargita county, Romania
- ildusek@yahoo.com
- Iltre Bentid Foundation
- Krisztina Páll - president
- Benced 75/A, 537311
- Hargita county, Romania
- bencedizarandok@yahoo.com

[www.benced.ro](http://www.benced.ro)




Sponsored by:  
HARGHITA COUNTY COUNCIL

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2010

Parsonage: 507-439-6240



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 11:30 Pot Luck	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	15	16	17	18 LUNCH BUNCH	19	20  Newsletter articles due .. Thanks for being prompt!
21 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	29	30				

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**  
ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

**WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net

please be sure to include "NORA"

in the subject line

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6  
Hanska. MN 56041

Thanks for your help  
in getting articles to me.

Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator

MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
7 Jordan Rathman	Norma & Roger Breu Michele Bethke	Nancy Dickson
14 Sally Hanson	Ron & Julie Peck	Mimi Kamleiter
21 JoAnn Huss	Lee & Lynn Schmitt	Ann Nelson
28 Mimi Kamleiter	Vicki Sieve, Colleen Tasto	Jerry Peterson



### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.

Friday will be sermon writing day.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:  
507-766-5682





Nora Unitarian Universalist Church  
12333 155th Avenue  
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
United States Postage Paid  
Permit No. 2  
Hanska, MN 56041

# NOVEMBER 2010



EMAIL  
[norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

WEB SITE  
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

## Nora Church Sunday Services NOVEMBER 2010

Coffee Time 10:00 AM      Worship Service 10:30 AM

- Nov. 7 "Unitarian Universalist History through the Lens of Politics"
- Nov. 14 "The Universal Language"
- Nov. 21 "Thank Who?"
- Nov. 28 "Music and Reflection to Lift the Spirit and Sooth the Soul"  
speaker: Kristine Paulson

