

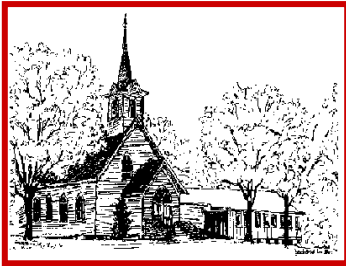


MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

FEBRUARY 2012

A VIEW FROM THE HILL



*Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November;
February has twenty-eight alone,
All the rest have thirty-one, Excepting leap year,
That's the time When February's days are twenty-nine.*

And this is one of those years. Leap-day babies the world around will be turning a year older for the first time since 2008. And we all get an extra day. What will you do with yours?

In her popular poem *The Summer Day* Mary Oliver asks, *Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?/ Tell me, what is it you plan to do/ with your one wild and precious life?*

It is a good question and there are many potential benefits to planning, but a life is (usually) a huge chunk of time. I've run into a few people now and again who have life plans, stretching from college majors through grad. school programs to entry level jobs and on up the career ladder, with parallel lines for apartments, starter homes and dream homes, or dating, marriage, children, retirement, or get a job, save some money, travel, get another job, repeat. Most of us, however, are better with small spans of time.

Which brings us back to February 29. An extra day is a fairly plan-able chunk of time. Of course Leap Day this year falls in the middle of the week, so that might reduce our flexibility. It's not like Leap Day is a day out of time--something other than Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday; some completely other 24 hours totally at our disposal, free of routine and expectation. Still, it is an extra day. And we can chose to make it significant in some small way.

What pleasure or task have you been putting off? A drawer to be organized? A letter to be hand-written? A special book put aside to savor when the time opens up? A conversation with your child or parent or partner? A meal you love but never want to fuss with on an ordinary day? A will that needs to be written--or an advanced health care directive?

Whatever it is February 29 might be just the day to do it. Even if the extra-ness of the day seems mostly imaginary, still it might be just the prompting we each need to get done something that we never seem to find time for.

And if even an extra day seems too much to plan, come June 30 we get a Leap Second. Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious (extra) second?

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

The second Sunday of each month, our loose offering goes to "Food For All". Please remember to give generously to those in need.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone! It has been quite a while since you have heard what the board has been up to, so let me give you a quick update.

As some of you know Nora has had some well water concerns in the past months. In the journey to remedy the concerns we have learned our well is nearing the end of its life cycle. Rather than wait until we are forced to install a new one we have gotten a few estimates to dig a new one and cap the old one. We are also looking to some cost sharing possibilities as well. Further updates on this will follow.

We have set a congregational meeting for February 19th to elect trustees for the board. As with any board I have been on we are always looking at our budget and finances each month. I feel we are comfortable, but just like my personal finances we have to watch the bottom line.

We have had such an easy winter so far, I for one am liking it. For those who like the winter sports that require snow, take heart in knowing we will again have winters like the past two.

Thanks for now -Scott Schmiesing

FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board - Kristine Paulson has resigned from the Program Committee after many years of service. We appreciate all the time and thought she has put into finding us speakers that informed, stimulated and challenged us. We hope she will continue to share her ideas with the committee. Heartfelt thanks from all of us.

LUNCH BUNCH

Does a little pizza on a cold February day sound tempting? If so, join the Lunch Bunch gang at the New Ulm Pizza Ranch, 20th South and Broadway, on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 11:30 a.m. If pizza isn't your dish, there are other menu options available. Hope to see you there.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Remember, we are collecting "Guest At Your Table" boxes/envelopes this month. We'll mail a check to the UUSC after the February 29 service.

WATER TESTING

The Minnesota Department of Health has tested the water at Nora Church for a number of years, since we are a public water supply. The samples always passed until this year when we have failed due to contamination from surface bacteria. To try to correct this Warren Paulson bleached the well and flushed the lines after which we would pass but fail again on a retest. We have repeated this scenario a number of times this past year. At present we are bringing in water for drinking in both the parsonage and the church. Personnel from the Department of Health have recommended digging a new well.

The well and pressure tank that we are using at present is located in the pump house on the south edge of the property. No one remembers exactly but Wally Wellman was in LRY when our present well using a metal casing was dug inside an older shallow cement tile well. The water line then runs into the parsonage basement where it is softened and sent to the social hall. There is another older unused well and pump inside the cement structure near the parsonage.

The sources of contamination could be from the surface and the older wells not having been capped properly. It is also possible that life of the metal casing is used up, is rusted through and is being contaminated by surface water entering at those points.

The congregation will be asked to make the decision about digging a new well. It is possible to apply for a grant from the Department of Health in April that would pay for ½ the cost of a new well, including installation and equipment. The two older wells would then be sealed. A new well could be located near the parsonage where the pressure tank would be located and sent to the social hall with new pipe.

We have solicited two bids for the project with Searles Well Drilling submitting the lowest bid of over \$9,000. This is a large amount of money and the congregation will be asked whether to do this project. If we do move ahead we will be requesting contributions above regular pledges and not dip into reserves more than necessary. Warren Paulson has been most involved and will be happy to answer questions.

RE NEWS

**Be Good to Yourself
Be Good to Others
Do Everything With Love**

A message from Nora RE- We have been moving along The Seven principles at what seems the speed of light! Each month we have three lessons in each principle.

In November we focused on the Third Principle, Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation. In RE we translate this to mean that we should accept one another and keep on learning together. We learned to meditate, we gave thanks for the opportunity to grow spiritually and had fun and meaningful lessons on acceptance of all others and their differences. We discussed the life of Theodore Parker and learned about peaceful means to bring about growth in ourselves and others. We also wrote letters to the Sunday school participants in our sister church in Benced, Transylvania. We hope to continue our friendship with their RE as well.

In December we learned about the Fourth Principle, a free and responsible search for truth and meaning that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life. We discovered the life lessons of Helen Keller. We learned to teach each other skills through the game of charades. We discovered secular thoughts on creation through the story of Charles Darwin as well as explored briefly the biblical stories of Genesis. We also focused on a few of the teachings of Jesus, and his life as a teacher. We learned about Maria Mitchell, another famous Unitarian who was the first woman astronomer and college professor in astronomy.

In January we have been exploring the 5th Principle, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. This translates to: we believe that all people should have a vote about the things that concern them. We are discovering the different types of government through games and stories.

Our Bremontown musicians discovered that while they were so very different, their voices blended so beautifully and they were able to make decisions as a group using collective consensus.

We will be learning about our rights as citizens and our role in the democratic process as well as pro-

tecting this right for everyone as a basic human right and the role of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in securing those rights for all of us.

We received special gifts made by the RE at our sister church in Benced. Look on the wall by the stairs to see the pretty Christmas decorations they made to share with us!

February will be an exciting month! The Sixth Principle is the goal of world community and peace, liberty and justice for all. This translates to we believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world. We will discover why we should work towards this goal and towards achieving basic human rights.

**We will have Sunday School on:
Feb 12th, 19th, 26th
March 4th, 18th, 25th
April 8th, 15th, 22nd
May 6th**

Save the Date of June 3rd to coincide with potluck, The RE participants are planning an end of year party... Details in late March, early April.

Go now in Peace, and may we see you soon!
Always in Love, Jennie

The Board of Trustees of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church has called a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, February 19 at approximately 11:30 am for the purpose of electing two new members to the board.

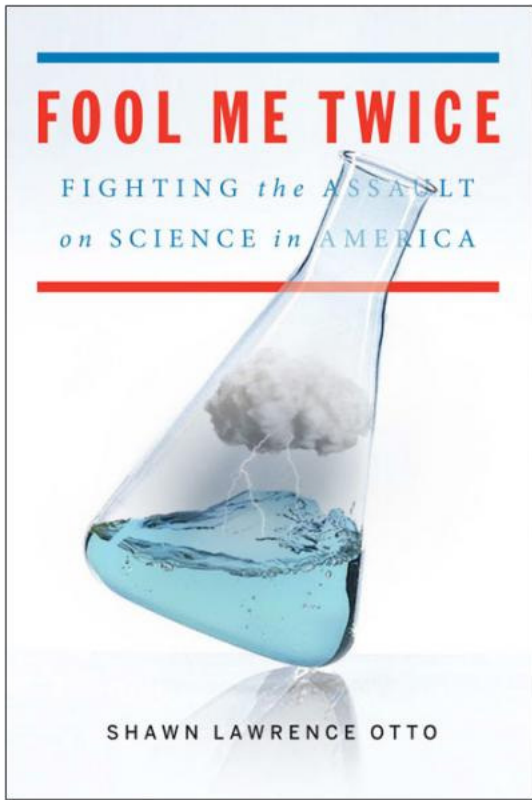
Did You Know?

Approximately 141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas.

More than 40,000 Americans are employed at chocolate companies.

More than half of the U.S. population celebrates Valentine's Day by purchasing a greeting card.

In addition to the U.S., Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark, Italy and Japan.



Lecture & Book Signing 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 17

“Religion, Science and Democracy” by Shawn Lawrence Otto

First Unitarian Society 900 Mount Curve Avenue,
Minneapolis MN 55403 firstunitarian.org

“‘Whenever the people are well informed’ an optimistic Thomas Jefferson wrote, ‘they can be trusted with their own government.’ Sure—but what if the people have no clue?”
—Rolling Stone Readers Guide

“In this incredible book, Otto explores the devaluation of science in America.” —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, starred review

“A gripping analysis of America’s anti-science crisis.”
—KIRKUS REVIEWS, starred review

Books are available in the FUS Bookstore.
Refreshments will be served.
Morgan Rock
Publications/Facilities Coordinator
612-377-6608 ext. 105 info@firstunitarian.org

Can you guess what
these titles
have in common?

Meaning: Life, the Universe and Everything
by Edward Frost

A Leap of Faith
by Tom Kutzmark

The Good, the Bad, the Indifferent
by Mark Stringer

The Marker’s Meaning
by Jane Rzepka

Prodigal Songs
by Glen Thomas Rideout

Cherish the Dream
by David E. Bumbaugh

Tortellini
by Mark Belletini

A Stone of Hope
by Alicia R. Forde

A Season Turns
by Judith E. Meyer

The Moment of Magic
by Victoria Safford

These are all titles from *Quest*
the monthly worship publication of
the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
www.QuestForMeaning.org

For information about CLF membership, click on [Join](#)

The Church of the Larger Fellowship
serving UU individuals and small groups all over the world,
is supported by its membership.



Happy Birthday
Bonita Blomquist
on February 29th.
Bonita is a leap-year baby
and is 80 years young!
Please wish her a “Happy Day”

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 CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2012

Parsonage: 507-439-6240
 Lisa's cell: 507-766-5682



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service POTLUCK	6	7	8  Pizza Ranch New Ulm	9	10	11
12 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 11:30 Board Meeting	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 11:30 Congregational Meeting	20	21 	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	27	28	29			

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
5 Jordan Rathman	POTLUCK Darrel & Jeanie Hinsman Jennie Gazdik-Matthew Hellendrung	Joy Rathman
12 Sally Hanson	Jason & Kate Monnens	Mimi Kamleiter
19 JoAnn Huss	Noah & Janet Rosenbloom	Vicki Sieve
26 Mimi Kamleiter	Gene & Georgine Tepley	Diane Becken

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



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EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

Nora Church Sunday Services FEBRUARY 2012

Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

February 5 - "Reading the Signs"

February 12 - "The Universalist God"

February 19 - "Presidents Day in an Election Year"

February 26 - Guest Speaker, David Schwartz,
a graduate of Tufts and the Harvard divinity School, a UU Candidate for
Ministry, currently serving an internship at white Bear UU church.

