

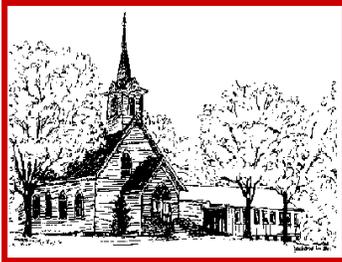


MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

FEBRUARY 2014

A VIEW FROM THE HILL



The pain then is part of the happiness now.

That's the deal.

The pain now is part of the happiness then.

That's the deal.

Lovely, succinct, clear-eyed. These lines from the movie *Shadowlands* (the story of C. S. Lewis's love affair and brief marriage to Joy Davidson Gresham) are the perfect antidote to the flower-scented, candy-flavored, red & pink heart decorated version of love we're sold (literally sold) in February. It's seductive and exhilarating, that Valentine's Day. And oh-so-sweet when and while it blooms in our lives. But it doesn't last. It never lasts. Not in that elusive, heady (and frankly shallow) form. That's why we remind ourselves, in the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson, that "'tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

But it's not an either/or proposition. Love/lost love. Love/absence of love. Flowers-hearts-candy-perfume/lovelessness. It's all part of one whole. As Blake said of life, "joy and woe are woven fine," so is it with love. The pain later, when death or estrangement changes the taste and texture of love, is part of the happiness now, when love is still soft and sweet. The pain now, when or absence or tragedy has muted the colors and changed the key of love, is part of the happiness then, when love was bright and melodious. It's all one. It's all love. It's all blessing.

The sounds of rock band Nazareth kept running through my head as I thought about this column. *Love hurts*. Then I listened to that song by Felice and Boudleaux Bryant recorded by other artists--the Everly Brothers, and Norah Jones and Keith Richards (!), and Roy Orbison. From hard driving to soulful, insisting that "love is just a lie". "Love hurts any heart that isn't tough or strong enough".

Love does hurt. Love hurts **every** heart--not just those that aren't tough or strong enough. But it's not a lie.

Love is as much truth as life ever holds. It's our insistence on red and pink doily hearts and boxes of chocolate that make it seem like a lie. As the annual retail assault on love begins, let us remember the pain is part of the happiness. And the happiness is part of the pain. That's the deal. And it's all a blessing.



LUNCH BUNCH

We need something to brighten up that long stretch between Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day, so the Executive High Council selected Thursday, Feb. 20, for the Lunch Bunch bash. We'll meet at Plaza Garibaldi, 1707 N. Broadway at 11:30 a.m.

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

- to the Christmas Music Program organizers-Nita, Christine, Joy, Julie.
- to everyone who helped decorate and take down the Christmas tree and for cleaning up afterward.
- to Warren for extra special care to keep the church warm.
- to Scott, Wayne, and Warren for pulling Lisa's car out of the snow drift.
- To all who helped with Noah Rosenbloom's memorial service.

MORE THANKS

A BIG THANK YOU & HUG to all who participated in our Christmas concert and the reception afterwards. You made it a fun-filled evening! I await the next time we combine our talents! -Nita Gilbert

Today, lest you forget,
 you merry gentle people,
 e'er you forget some silent night,
 I say, you have so many gifts to bring
 with all the joy that is yours
 and your noses so bright!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@cccinternet.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

Telling Our Stories

Life Living Series 2014

Sponsored by United Way of the Brown County Area & New Ulm Public Library



William Kent Krueger
 The bestselling mystery author will discuss his latest novel, "Ordinary Grace," which is set in a fictionalized Minnesota River Valley town in the summer of 1961.
Monday, January 13 • 7 p.m.



Kevin Kling
 The author and frequent contributor on NPR's "All Things Considered" will share his unique blend of hilarious and tenderhearted humor.
Monday, February 10 • 7 p.m.



Lorna Landvik
 The bestselling author of "Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons" and "Oh My Stars" will discuss using humor in her writing and everyday life.
Monday, February 17 • 7 p.m.

Event location: New Ulm Public Library, 17 N. Broadway
 Free and open to the public. Seating is first come, first served. Call 507-359-8334 for more information.



This project made possible in part by a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative.



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

| Feb | MUSICIAN | SERVER/GREETER/USHER PARTNERS |
|-----|----------------|---|
| 2 | Muffy Kaim | Jeanie-Darrell Hinsman- Peter-Katy Hemberger |
| 9 | Sally Hanson | Kate Monnens- Jason Monnens- Mimi Kamleiter |
| 16 | JoAnn Huss | Karen Farrell- Julie Peck- Ron Peck |
| 23 | Mimi Kamleiter | Georgine Tepley- Gene Tepley- Nancy Brudellie |

Join the Conversation!

On potluck Sunday, Feb. 3, we will engage in purposeful conversation about church life. We will discuss over the noon meal, break for dessert by 12:30 and follow-up with summaries shared from each table. We should be finishing between 1:15 and 1:30. If you are unable to stay that long, stay as long as you can. The questions are more than we can chew on in one conversation. The intent is to spark energy and an exchange of ideas. We'll see where the process takes us. If you cannot attend on Feb. 3 but would like to contribute your thoughts, write them down, send them to Jeanie Hinsman via snail mail, email (jhinsman@newulmtel.net) or bring your responses to church and leave in the entry area in designated box. Please share your thoughts. We need the input of newer members and visitors as well as the thoughts of veteran members.

1. Reflection on the church calendar

We've been starting the church year the third week of August. In 2014 our first service will be the joint tri-state event in Worthington. September activities include cleanup and preparation for Smorg. December brings a Christmas music program and Christmas Eve service, one Sunday off at New Years. Following are the Easter breakfast, Hanska community service for Syttende Mai. Flower communion in June. The one Sunday a month that Lisa has off, the program committee organizes fill in services. First Sunday of the month potluck. A summer music program usually in July. Are there adjustments to the church calendar year, additional events to honor, activities to promote or sponsor, or leave things as they are?

2. Accomplishments, historical and future

When have you been most proud of Nora Church? Are we living up to the values you take most pride in? Can we do better, or different?

3. Outreach

Lisa has had inquiries from interested but less connected folks mostly to the west, Redwood Falls, Windom, Westbrook. Additionally some folks have been driving quite a distance to reach us. Can we/should we find ways to reach out to a larger geographical area? Suggestions for ways to do so?

4. Final comments:

How satisfied are you with the status quo? Are there burning issues for you that affect your participation and/or attendance at church, unmet needs, unclear expectations?



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



EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

Nora Church Sunday Services FEBRUARY 2014

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

February 2 - "Hands Joined Together, Hearts
Beat As One"

February 9 - "Corrupted by Fear"

February 16 - "Reflections of Grace"

February 23 - Program Committee

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**