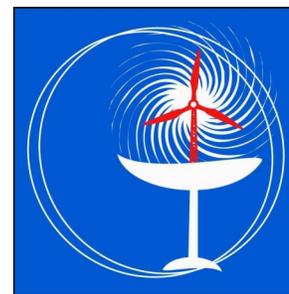


NORA

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hanska, MN

October 2014 Newsletter



A VIEW FROM THE HILL

October is Clergy Appreciation Month.

I know! I'm as surprised as you are. I'd never heard of Clergy Appreciation Month before, but there it was, on an online list of October holidays, celebrations and observances. OK, so it was only on *one* of the lists I looked at—but it was on the very first list! That has to mean something. And when I Googled “clergy appreciation month,” there were bunches of hits. So it is clearly a real thing. And since I never argue with “things” that the Internet assures me are “real,” here I go!

In no particular order:

I appreciate the 30 to 40 of you who show up for church every Sunday morning because you love to see one another. Because you know being in this place will soothe you and inspire you, heal you and uplift you. Because your parents and grandparents came to Nora every Sunday, and because you want to teach your children and grandchildren to do the same.

I appreciate the guys who take care of the parsonage—making sure I have heat and air conditioning but no mice, putting that little thing back under the front of the refrigerator every time I kick it off, replacing screens and filling the water softener with salt, and changing out batteries in detectors and alarms.

I appreciate the invitations I receive, now and again, to celebrate life with strangers—through officiating at their weddings and child dedications and memorial services.

I appreciate that Nora's Smorgasbord is, for all intents and purposes, “a woman-run small business”, but one that engages the efforts, talents and good-will of the entire congregation—men, women, young and old, member and friend.

I appreciate the way our Hanska and New Ulm and La Salle and St. James and Madelia and Mankato and rural neighbors show up for Smorg and our Music and Pie Nights and the holiday show—and the way we support their dinners and shows and luncheons, too.

I appreciate the wind-turbine as a physical symbol, embodying a sense of hope and gesture of faith in Nora's future by those who worked to make it a reality and those who participated in the discussions and votes along the way (no matter which way each of you voted).

I'm running out of room and these are just a few of the things this clergywoman appreciates. Luckily Thanksgiving comes along next month, and gratitude isn't far removed from appreciation!

But before I go, I appreciate you. Yes, you. The one reading these words.
You.

-Lisa

Services

Coffee 10:00 am

Worship 10:30 am

~

October 5th

*“Ordering Off the
Secret Menu”*

October 12th

*“What Are You Going
to Do Tomorrow?”*

October 19th

“Church Face”

October 26th

*“Our Movement and
The Movement:
Unitarian
Universalism's
Relationship with Move-
ments for Social Justice”
Ashley Horan, M.Div.*

A Note From the Treasurer

Monthly Income and Expenses

At the suggestion of the Nora Church Board of Trustees, Sunday plate collections and total monthly expenses are listed for the full month prior to the *publication* of the newsletter. Totals indicated do not include special collections for area food shelves or memorial gifts.

Total 2013-2014 Church Year:
Income.....\$78,553
(does not include memorials and gifts)
Expenses.....\$92,847

July/August 2014:
Income.....\$15,078
Expenses.....\$11,345

Please note that the expenses for refurbishing the sanctuary floor and the tree trimming have not been paid at this time.

Thank You!

From the Board **a BIG Thank You!**

.....to Georgine Tepley for chairing our Caring Committee and for visiting our members unable to come to church.

.....to Jerry Brown for painting the church.

.....to Larry Bakken, Michael Huss, Christopher, John Masengarb, Darrell, Julie Peck and Lisa for getting the sanctuary back in working condition.

...to Lee Drogemuller for painting the benches.

Nora Adult R.E.

*And my head I'd be scratchin'
While my thoughts were busy hatchin'
If I only had a brain*

Well, we've got brains and, as scarecrows begin to dot the landscape, we're about to get busy hatching thoughts! Adult RE is returning to Nora Church.

Join Lisa and other members and friends for lunch and discussion, after church on Sunday October 19, and Sunday, November 16. Lisa will provide a selection of discussion-starters, and over a minipotluck lunch (bring something to share) we'll range far and wide in our consideration of theology, current affairs, literature, history, the future and more.

We'll take a break in December, but with sufficient interest we will resume again in January, meeting after church the third Sunday of each month.

Smorgasbord!

**Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
Norwegian Smorgasbord
Sunday, October 5th, 2014**

Coffee at 10:00 am

Church Service at 10:30 am

Smorgasbord & Country Store 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Adults: \$15, Children (6-12) \$7, Under 5: Free

Menu: Meatballs, tongue, deviled eggs, herring, ham, turkey, mashed potatoes/gravy, glazed carrots, sot suppe, romme grot, rice pudding, lefse, flatbread, Norwegian cookies.

Drive-up and take-outs available.

Country Store: meatballs, lefse, baked goods, handicrafts and more.

Nora Church Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be Sunday, October 12th, following the service.

October 2014 Religious Education

We are off to a great start to our school year! This year's theme is religious symbolism and in that tradition we started out in September by learning about the history and meaning of the flaming chalice of Unitarian Universalism. In October and November we will complete a unit on the major symbols present in Judaism. Karen Farrell has agreed to join us in October to help us in our explorations of the Mezuzah, the Menorah and Chai, as well as to help us to learn a bit more about our Jewish roots.

Important dates to remember: NO RE this Sunday, September 28, instead I am encouraging students and parents to pitch in if possible to help clean the church in preparation for Smorg. RE will be held on Smorg Sunday, October 5th, during regular church service and is open to any and all school age students between 4-18 years of age.

There will be RE on Sunday Oct 19th (MEA).

No RE on Sunday Nov. 30th, Dec. 28th and Jan 4th.

As always, Love and Peace
Ms. Jennie

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Pastor Lisa has Mondays off.
Friday is sermon writing day.
She can be reached on her
cell when not in the office:
507-766-7822.



No Jokes, Folks!

No jokes, folks, **Lunch Bunch will have its October gathering** on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 11:30, at the Green Mill Restaurant in New Ulm's Holiday Inn. Join us to reminisce about the fun times at Smorgasbord and enjoy our turn to be waited on.

Church Night

October: Wednesdays Oct. 8, 15, 22

Lisa is leading a group for Nora youth (in grades 7-12 or the equivalent) on Wednesday evenings. We meet in the church social hall from 7-8:30 for opening ritual, conversation, guided discussions, snacks and games.

Nora youth who have not yet Come of Age will have the opportunity to be recognized this year. Non-Nora friends are welcome to participate, with parents' permission (permission forms available).

If you know of anyone needing our assistance
Or attention...please call one of the **Caring**

To ♥ **Committee** members: Georgine Tepley (chair)
Keep 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm), Shirley Olson -
In 354-1866, or Carol Chambard - 354-2242
Touch

Second Sunday Loose Offerings

For several years Nora Church has donated any non-pledge moneys collected on the second Sunday of each month to food banks in both Brown and Watonwan Counties. At its meeting in September the Board of Trustees voted to change the recipient of those second Sunday collection. For the remainder of the 2014/2015 church year (and until further notice) our second Sunday loose offer-

ings will go to support the New Ulm Area Ministerial Association Shelter House.

The New Ulm Area Ministerial Association (in which Lisa is an active participant and past president) is in the early stages of launching the Shelter House which will eventually provide temporary housing (up to 90 days) for single parents with children in the New Ulm Public Schools. The house, provided by First United Methodist Church, will have space for up to three families. Catholic Charities will provide case management for the families as they prepare to transition to more permanent housing.

The NUA Ministerial Association has submitted a grant to the Bush Foundation for start-up funds. In addition to dedicating second Sunday offerings to the House, the Nora Board also voted to furnish one room in the house. As the house is re-habbed and progress is made toward opening, Lisa will provide updates as well as information about opportunities for hands-on involvement in the project.

Winter WomanSpirit 2015

Healing Words: Called to Consciousness with Keynote speaker Mary Pierce Brosmer, hosted by Lake Country UU, Harland Wisconsin. Mary encourages women and girls to use the material of our lives to support the truth telling necessary for healing, inspiration and personal empowerment. From this form of personal self-transformation, life-sustaining and life-giving leadership in organizations, communities, workplaces and homes can be born. Registration includes Friday Opening Ceremony, Saturday Workshops and Lunch. (cont)

Notes from the Nora Office...

**Newsletter Articles and Information
Are due by the 20th of each month.**

**Weekly Order of Service
Content is due Thursdays at noon.**

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

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Conference Registration Fees: \$175 (thru Dec. 31, 2014); \$200 (thru Feb. 1, 2015); \$225 (Feb. 2-6).
Please visit www.womenandreligion.org or contact us at uuwandr@gmail.com for more information and to register. (See flyer on bulletin board.)

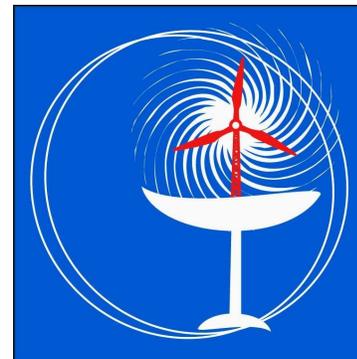
Spouse Loss Support Group

Tuesdays Sept. 30th to Nov. 4th at the New Ulm Medical Center. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

Guest Preacher October 26th

Our Movement and The Movement: Unitarian Universalism's Relationship with Movements for Social Justice—Ashley Horan, M.Div.

Many Unitarian Universalists say they come to our congregations because of our progressive stance and participation in social justice causes. Where does that impulse come from in our tradition? What have we done well, and where have we fallen short of our ideals? And, with such small numbers, can Unitarian Universalists ever hope to have an impact on "bending the moral arc of the universe toward justice?" Ashley Horan is a Unitarian Universalist minister and Executive Director of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA).



<i>Date</i>	<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Greeters, Servers and Ushers</i>
Oct. 5th	Sally Hanson	SMORG—See Smorg work list
Oct. 12	Jordan Kuelbs	Georgine & Gene Tepley, Karen Farrell
Oct. 19	JoAnn Huss	Julie & John Schmitt, Susan Evers
Oct. 26	Mimi Kamleiter	Wendy Tuttle, Carol & Alon Chambard