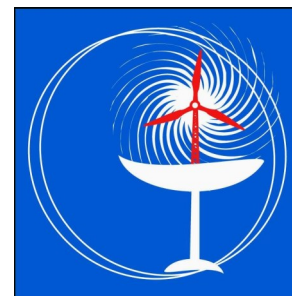


NORA LYS

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hanska, MN

February 2015 Newsletter



A VIEW FROM THE HILL

A friend resolved for 2015 to really love what she loves. The people, animals, daily rituals, flavors, songs—whatever she loves, she has resolved to really love. I haven't had a conversation with her about this resolution yet, so I'm not sure what it looks like or how it functions in her life. Here's what I imagine, however:

To use the trendy word, I imagine my friend leaning into these creatures and experiences she loves. Loving them actively. Giving them time. Paying attention to the details as well as the whole. Putting it all into words. "Yes! That smile, that voice, that keen wit and sense of justice. I love this person." Closing her eyes, chewing and swallowing slowly, the better to savor the subtle flavors of the curry she loves. Driving home the long way more often to see the view she loves most.

I commend to you a similar practice of really loving what you love, in the coming days, as the scattered pink and red and white flakes that appeared immediately after New Year's turn into flurries and then a blizzard of hearts and doilies, flowers and chocolates. As a Valentine to yourself, sing love songs to your cat and give your dogs an extra walk and/or chewy treat. Prepare the foods you love and then eat them at a table set with the good dishes and fancy napkins. Make dates with the people you love, doing things you love, wearing clothes you love.

Do it with the joy and wild abandon of the newly in romantic-love. It will be an antidote to the syrupy, expectation-laden, commercial-driven atmosphere of February 14. It will be your Valentine to yourself. And I can't think of anyone who deserves a big, heart-felt, love-filled Valentine's Day than you!

-Lisa



Services

Coffee 10:00 am

Worship 10:30 am

~

February 1st

"Seeing Shadows"

February 8th

*"We Need One
Another"*

February 15th

"Silly Love Songs"

February 22nd

"P.E.O.???"

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 or memorial gifts.

December:

Income: \$ 4,615.37
(not including memorials and gifts)

Expenses: \$ 9,573.89

A total of \$1,050 was received in the special collection for the furnace (not included in expenses).

Important Note: Coffee and potluck collections should be combined and placed in an envelope (located in the kitchen by the phone) and then turned into the collection plate. Coffee/potluck envelopes should go with that day's collection. There are also envelopes available in the church foyer for pledge credit for cash pledges.

THANKS!

Thanks from the board...

...thanks to the people who took time to help take down the Christmas tree and decorations,

... to Edith for hosting Christmas Eve,

...to Wayne and Warren for continuous snow removal!

Lunch Bunch

Pick your favorite February holiday—Lincoln's or Washington's Birthday, Groundhog Day, or Valentine's Day come to mind—we'll celebrate your favorite at the next Lunch Bunch gathering on Thursday, February 19th, 11:30 a.m., at the MLC cafeteria in New Ulm. Hope to see you there!

Nora Church Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be Sunday, February 15th, following the service.

Adult RE

At our meeting in January we decided to begin working with an established curriculum—Building Your Own Theology—with the understanding that as current events dictate we might break for open discussion any given month.

In February only Adult RE will meet after church on the second Sunday of the month (February 8), due to the board switching its meeting date. In March we will return to the third Sunday of the month.

No registration or advanced preparation necessary. Please bring a dish to share and join us in the social hall following the service on Sunday, February 8.

Lisa on the Loose!

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses once a week in February. If popular, the practice will continue throughout the remainder of the church year. If her appearance in your community fits your schedule, grab coffee, tea or snack and join her for a mid-week check-in.

Tuesday, February 3, 2:00—3:30
at Lola, in New Ulm.

Friday, February 13, 10:00—11:30
at Encore Coffee Cafe, in St. James.



Wednesday, February 18, 1:00—2:30 at Coffee Hag, in Mankato.

Thursday, February 26, 11:30—1:00 at River City Eatery, in Windom.

Save the Date!

The 2015 Tri-State Gathering will be Sunday, August 9th—mark your calendars!

Notes from the Nora Office...

March Newsletter Articles and Information are due by February 17th. Weekly Order of Service Content is due Thursdays at noon.

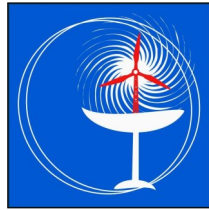
Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

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.



Coming Soon!

As soon as we can figure out the logistics, that is! We'll launch a community salad/soup/hot dish making/sharing day. If you're interested or have experience with such ventures, please contact Lisa.

Church Night

A group for Nora youth (in grades 7-12 or the equivalent) on Wednesday evenings, led by Rev. Lisa. Meet in the church social hall from 7-8:30 for opening ritual, conversation, guided discussions, snacks and games.

Wednesdays in February: 11th, 18th & 25th

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).

March Food Shelf

March is the month that Nora Church, along with UCC in New Ulm, furnishes volunteers for the New Ulm Food Shelf. The work involves refilling orders as families come in. No special skill is needed and someone will explain what to do if you've not worked before. Our dates are Mondays March 16, 23, and 30 as well as Wednesdays March 18 and 25. The hours are 11:45am to 3pm.

We should have three volunteers each time, feel free to sign up for more than one slot. We are a small group so we need all who can help. Volunteers are still needed for each day. Volunteering by young and old is a good way to become more familiar with the needs in the community. There is a sign up sheet in the entry or feel free to contact Darrell Hinsman at 359-7494 or 276-6044.

Heart to Heart Music Day Performers

Any folks wanting to recite, tell, sing, or play their hearts out can contact Nita (439-6624) or even be added to the program at the last minute! Cookies and candy are also welcome for when we gather for coffee afterwards. Would LOVE to see you there!

Welcome New Members!

Richard Gurska

Sally Anne & David Benson Sally Anne grew up in New England and is a life long UU. David grew up on a farm near Bigelow, south of Worthington, MN. After marrying they moved to his family farm in 1971. They raised two children, Heather, a horticultural therapist and Anton, a wildlife biologist, both of whom have moved to the twin cities. The family had a diversified livestock operation and grew organic food grade grains. Sally Anne is a retired Montessori pre-school teacher of thirty years and David served as Nobles County Commissioner for twenty years. They are semi-retired on the farm and are pleased to join Nora Church.

In Memoriam

Virgil Schmiesing

July 16, 1921—January 27, 2015

In Sympathy

We offer our condolences to former minister Harold Babcock, for the passing of his mother. She passed away peacefully, at the age of 91, with Harold by her side.

A Thank You From Lisa

Thank you Karen Farrell and Christopher Olson for stepping in and taking over Sunday service, on January 25th, while I was out sick.

To ♥ Keep In Touch

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members:
Georgine Tepley (chair): 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)

Shirley Olson: 354-1866

Carol Chambard: 354-2242

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

Address Service Requested



Phone: 507.439.6240
 Website: www.norauchurch.org
 Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Here are links to some of the material Lisa read and showed in church on January 18:

“An Open Letter from Black Clergy: A Call for Racial Justice, Healing and Reconciliation”:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-dominique-c-atchison/an-open-letter-from-black_b_6378444.html

“What’s Wrong With ‘All Lives Matter’?”, NYTimes Opinion Piece:

http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/12/whats-wrong-with-all-lives-matter/?smid=fb-share&_r=1

Video: Michael Franit & Spearhead – Same As It Ever Was (Start Today):

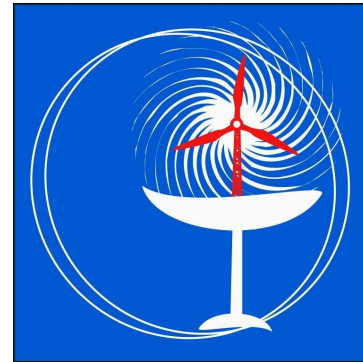
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iWvBh6jNIY>

Video: Sweet Honey in the Rock – Ella’s Song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2T216XgiO0>

“Attend to little things—the texture of each rock, the smell of ripe fruit, the routines of insects, and shifts in the wind.”

—Travis Tennesen, *UU World*



Heart to Heart

*A Valentine's
 Music Day
 at Nora Church*

2:00 pm
Saturday, February 14th
 at Nora Unitarian Church
 Cookies, candy and coffee provided.

Free will donation will benefit
 NUMAS (New Ulm Ministerial
 Association Shelter Haus).



Anyone interested in reading, reciting, telling, or playing their hearts out is welcome to contact Nita (507.439.6634), last minute additions are also welcome. Nora Church is located just South and East of Hanska, off Cty Rd 257, up on the hill.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Greeters, Servers and Ushers</i>
Feb. 1	Sally Hanson	Kristine & Warren Paulson, Kristy Paulson
Feb. 8	Mimi Kamleiter	Kate & Jason Monnens, Mimi Kamleiter
Feb. 15	JoAnn Huss	Karen Farrell, Julie & Ron Peck
Feb. 22	Sally Hanson	Georgine & Gene Tepley, Nancy Brudelie