

MERE LYS

October 2015 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



October 4th

*“Beyond Waste Not,
Want Not”*

October 11th

“Justice, Just Justice”

October 18th

*“Asking Good
Questions”*

October 25th

*Program Committee
Sunday, TBA*



A View From the Hill

The guy came to service the wind turbine yesterday. It's a once a year event. He climbs up those 120 feet and adds oil and does whatever else is needed to maintain a Jacobs 20 kW wind turbine in good working order.

Our wind turbine was a major investment—of dollars, volunteer hours and effort, congregational discussion, and most importantly, faith in the future. The future of our congregation and the future of our planet. So we take good care of it, with the recommended annual maintenance. That what we do with precious things, with expensive things, with our future.

Our dentists and eye doctors and our primary health care providers urge us to take similar regular, preventive care of our bodies and supplement such care with regular check-ups. Regular oil changes and 15 point inspections and 50,000 miles services protect our investments in our cars and trucks and SUVs.

Our spirits, our souls, those parts of us most essentially *us*, also deserve regularly scheduled care, check-ups and maintenance. (You knew where I was going with this!). We, *you* are infinitely more precious than your vehicle or that wind turbine up there—the result of the investment of uncounted hours of love, parenting, education, tears, training, friendship, laughter and faith in the future.

Stillness, silence, song. Confession, forgiveness, beginning anew. New perspectives and recommitment of purpose. Invitation, service, celebration.

The various necessary elements of a vital healthy soul, a robust and resilient spiritual life are available to us in many places—at home, in our family, at workshops, in the wilderness, on pages of poetry and scripture, in strains of music, works of art. And all of them are available to us in one place, at one time, every week. It's almost as if growing souls and deepening spirits were the reason this place exists.

-Lisa

Thank You!

Thanks from the board...

...to Jerry Brown for painting the downstairs bathroom.

...to John M., Scott and Ross for continuing painting and repairing.

...to the lefse crew for 90 lbs of lefse!

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, October 11th after church.

October Lunch Bunch

The voting is over, the ballots have been counted, and the big winner in this month's Lunch Bunch election is the Grand Moon Buffet in New Ulm. The time is Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

The Grand Moon is located at 1702 Westridge Rd. (near Walmart). It is your civic duty to show, so we hope to see you there.

Adult Religious Education

Adult RE will resume on Sunday, October 18. Bring a lunch to share and join companions in the search in the social hall following the service. We'll take up the next session of Building Your Own Theology unless a hot topic of religious, spiritual or community relevance presents itself.

Religious Education to Resume in October

We'll offer Sunday School two Sundays a month for children ages 3 - 10 years old, following the children's story during the Sunday service. Please check the website, Facebook, and Grapevines for scheduled weeks. Infants and children of all ages are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary, or to participate in quiet activities in the nursery under the direct supervision of a parent or other adult.

Minister's Discretionary Fund

In recent years monies from the Minister's Discretionary Fund have been used to pay for prescription medications, utility bills, and computers for our partner congregation in Transylvania. The Fund exists outside the annual operating budget of the church and is now nearly depleted. Donation may be made payable to Nora Church with Minister's Discretionary Fund written on the memo line.

Lisa on the Loose!

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses once a week. Join her for drop-in conversations in your community.

Thursdays from 10:30—Noon

October 8 Encore Coffee St. James

October 14 River City Eatery, Windom

October 20 Lola's

October 29 Coffee Hag (if renovations are complete)



Congratulations Jason Monnens!

In June, St. James Mayor presented a Good Neighbor Award to members of the St. James Fire Dept. for their outstanding volunteerism to the community, with a special recognition given to Fire Chief Jason Monnens for his leadership and dedication. Jason was thanked for taking the lead in regard to assisting two local families during recent tragic events.

In July, Jason received the Service to Mankind Award from the St. James Sertoma Club. This is presented yearly to a person who generously gives of their time and talents to school, community and church.

Congratulations Jason and thank you for what you do for the community!

Nora Moments: Remember the Time

There are many moments in Nora Church History that should be preserved. They are captured on film, on tape, or in personal memory banks in the form of stories. Please share these.

Bring them to church in a bin, a folder or a manila envelope. If you prefer to keep the original, bring a copy of it. Phil Hahn has agreed to be coordinator of the project. We are looking for "remember the time stories", and also readings, writings, newspaper articles, sermons, prayers. Whatever has meaning to you and helps to define us as the church we are.

A Note From the Treasurer

August Income and Expenses

Income, Pledges: \$4,245.68

Expenses: \$7,488.02

Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not including special collections or memorial gifts. Note: Tree removal project not completed/paid.

Smorgasbord Line Up!!

Meatball Friday The fun begins at 9:00 a.m. October 2nd.

Saturday Set Up Again on October 3rd the days activities kick off at 9:00 a.m. with morning cooking and set-up. There is lots of stuff to get set up and everyone's help is welcome and appreciated!

Items needed for the country store! Baked goods, produce and homemade crafts. No used household items please. Please price items before bringing them to church. If you were unintentionally left off the work list (see Sept. Mere Lys), we would love your help!

Questions about smorgasbord? Contact Julie Sellner 507-375-8737/507-920-0131 or jdsellner@hotmail.com, or Joy Rathman at 507-877-2457/507-829-4979 or gjrathman@frontiernet.net.

In Honor of Roberta Case

Nora Church recently received a memorial donation in honor of Roberta Case, who died in November 2014 in Oregon. Roberta's great-grandparents, Ole and Ragnhild Pladsen were founders of Nora Free Christian Church (original name) nearly 135 years ago. Her grandparents were John and Oline Pladsen and her parents Ole and Edith Pladsen. The memorial was given by her friend and cousin, Karen Bartig. Karen is the great-great granddaughter of Ole and Ragnhild, great-granddaughter of Syver and Louisa Pladsen, granddaughter of Oscar and Florence Pladsen, and daughter of Warren and Phyllis Pladsen. Karen notes that Roberta was "the kindest of people, always genuinely positive and cheerful no matter what the situation, and she is missed by many." A celebration of her life took place at Atkinson Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church in Oregon City, Oregon.

While we gratefully appreciate donations such as this, notes such as the one Karen sent, reminding us of the rich history and far-reaching connections of our congregation are the true gift.

UUSC-UUA Act for the Global Refugee Crisis

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) remain gravely concerned about the global refugee crisis and are committed to taking action. Two new initiatives have been formed. First, a special UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund, with the goal of raising \$250,000. Secondly, a petition drive to pressure the Obama administration to substantially raise the number of refugees admitted into the United

States to 200,000. Donations to the UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund will go directly to partners operating on the ground in countries receiving refugees. Work will focus on ensuring the safe passage of refugees seeking safety and helping refugees access their rights in host countries. Press release: <http://www.uua.org/news/press-release/uusc-and-uua-respond-global-refugee-crisis> Crisis Fund: https://secure2.convio.net/uusc/site/Donation2?df_id=4325&4325.donation=form1 Petition: <https://secure2.convio.net/uusc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=436>

Rising Above a Disability

Submitted by Nancy Brudelie

Jared Brown, family member of the Beckens/Brudelies, has one more thing to cross off of his bucket list. Not that having a news segment that he was featured in win an Emmy was on the list, but lists are meant to grow. Jared graduated on June 9, 2014. He made it his goal to walk across the stage at graduation with the rest of his class. He worked for three years towards this goal. Jared has primary dystonia, an involuntary movement disorder, which has taken its toll on him and made activities that we don't think twice about doing with ease, very difficult for him. There was much fanfare surrounding the rumor that Jared was going to walk. Three or more newspapers did feature articles about the big day and the local TV station wanted to cover Jared's story. They filmed at our house prior to leaving for graduation and then again at graduation. Jared walked across the stage, just like he planned, to a roaring crowd and a standing ovation. It was a memorable night. Fast-forward to December and life is back to normal, except Jared's story was chosen as one of the most memorable of 2014 so they did another segment on him. The three segments together got the title "Rising above a Disability". This was submitted to the PA Broadcaster Association and the Emmy nomination committee for consideration. To make a long story short, the segment won both awards. Jared was also in a video for the Tri for Inclusion, a triathlon where kids with and without disabilities compete along side of each other and there are no sidelines. This video also won an Emmy this year. Below are the links to the videos. Enjoy, and never give up on your dreams.

· <http://www.wfmz.com/news/news-regional-lehighvalley/rising-above-a-disability/35379106>

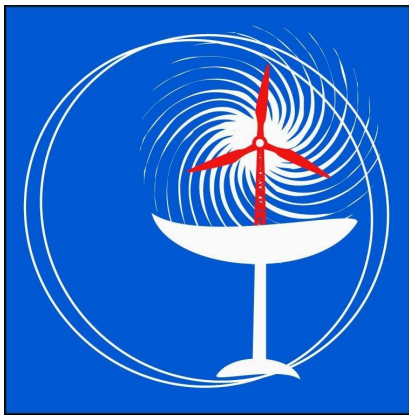
· <https://www.facebook.com/jana.brudeliebrown/videos/10206745143360536/>

· Mikaylasvoice.org (Scroll down to video)

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Smorgasbord Work List

Country Store: Jerry Allen, Sandi Benge, Mimi Kamleiter, Shirley Olson, Ardis Wellmann, Matt Hellen-drung

Museum: Lee Schmitt, Algot Blomquist

Parking: Jeremy Schmitt, John Schmitt, Elroy Wellmann

Tickets: Warren Paulson, Kristine Paulson, Wendy Tuttle (caller)

Hosts: Jeanie Hinsman (Kaffe Stua), Julie Pec (Fellowship Hall), Nancy Bruderie (Foyer)

Buffet Table: Julie Sellner, Shannon Hoechst

Coffee: Christopher Olson

Beverages: Susan Allen

Meat Server: Christina Schmitt

Meat Slicers: (Saturday @ 12pm) Roger Breu, Lee Schmitt, Wally Wellmann, Tony Erickson, Carson Erickson

Potatoes: Edith Beckius, Kate Monnens

Carrots: Diane Becken

Cookie Trays: Michelle Bethke, Kate Becken

Appetizers: Susan Evers, Vicki Sieve, Bev Wellmann

Wait Staff-Kaffe Stua: Katie Hemberger, Colleen Tasto, Courtney Schmitt, Toby Weiss, Thor Weiss

Wait Staff-Fellowship Hall: Nora Peck, Nita Gilbert, Victoria Bayer, Tracy Schmiesing, Kristi Paulson, Anna Bayer

Wait Staff-Iverson Room: *Karen Farrell, Jay Gazdik, Anton Hellendrung, David Gazdik

Take Outs: Norma Breu, Georgine Tepley

Publicity: Georgine Tepley, Jeannie Hinsman

Dishes-Kaffe Stua: Scott Schmiesing, Wayne Johnson, Gene Tepley, Lee Drogenmuller

Dishes-Fellowship: Daryl Hinsman, Alicia Bayer, Ron Peck, Jennie Gazdik, Daryl Hrdlicka, Dick Gurska

Clean Up (1:00): Ross Chambard, Scott Chambard, Dave Wenk, Jean Wenk

Greeters: Gil & Sally Hanson

Floater: Joy Rathman, Carol Chambard, Louise Guggisberg, Peter Hemberger

Bread: Kate Monnens

Carrots and Celery: Janet Rosenbloom

Scrullers: Susan Evers, Georgine Tepley

Cookies-Fancy: Julie Peck, Shannon Hoechst, Colleen Tasto, Karen Farrell, Susan Allen, Tracey Schmiesing, Vicki Sieve, Louise Guggisberg, Nita Gilbert

Romme Grot: Edith Beckius, Janet Rosenbloom, Carol Chambard, Vicki Sieve, Georgine Tepley

Flat Bread: Shirley Olson, Carol Chambard

Rice: Muriel Fredrickson, Kristine Paulson, Jeannie Hinsman, Julie Sellner

Sot Suppe: Kristine Paulson

Cottage Cheese (3#): Wayne Johnson, Lorraine Becken, Ardelle Becken, Lisa Doege

Berliner Kranser: Michelle Bethke, Muriel Fredrickson, Diane Becken

Sandbakkels: Chrissie Schmitt, Edith Beckius

Milk (1 Gal): Daryl and Alicia, Scott Chambard, Jeremy Schmitt, Christopher Olson, Mimi Kamleiter, Lee Drogenmuller, Matt and Jennie, Ross Chambard, Nita Gilbert, Hembergers

Fattigmand: Susan Evers

Rosettes: Bev Wellmann, Norma Breu

Kringla: Julie Sellner, Joy Rathman

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Lisa will be in Iowa October 5 - 7, participating in the fall retreat of the Prairie Star Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association. 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.