

MERE LYS

February 2016 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am

February 7th

“By Whose Authority”

Guest Speaker: Rev. Karen Hutt, Clinical Pastoral Education Associate Supervisor & Staff Chaplain at the University of MN Medical Center

February 14th

“Unitarian Universalists and the Universe”

Steve Kipp, Professor of Astronomy, MSU

February 21st

“Everyday Love”

Nora Program Committee
Exploring love post-Valentine's Day...with music, poetry and prose.

February 28th

To Be Announced



A View From the Hill

From the archives, February 2012

*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 [2012] 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?

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... to the snow removal crew.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, February 21st after the service.

Adult RE Delves into History

Adult Religious Education will meet again on February 21, 2016. We'll gather after the service (bring a sack lunch) to watch and discuss the first of a series of DVDs on Unitarian and Universalist history. We'll meet again on March 20, April 17 and May 15.

Adult RE, a casual discussion group, is open to all Nora members, friends or visitors.

Lunch Bunch

Time to celebrate making it halfway through the winter months, so join roving Lunch Bunchers as we travel to Searles for lunch at the Searles Bar & Grill on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 11:30 a.m. I don't think there will any sombreros there, but anyone with a February birthday can celebrate in good company with Abe and George. We'll see you there.

Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to any Nora members or friends.

February Guest Speakers & Service

Feb. 7 "By Whose Authority" Guest Speaker, Rev. Karen Hutt, Clinical Pastoral Education Associate Supervisor and Staff Chaplain at the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

Feb. 14 "Unitarian Universalists and the Universe" We are grateful to have Steve reschedule, after winter weather cancelled his previous service opportunity. Steve Kipp will be talking about the latest model of the universe, the accelerating Big Bang. This will include talking about dark matter, dark energy and the multiverse.

Steve Kipp is a professor of astronomy at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He and his wife Elizabeth are from "back East" originally. They are members of the UU Fellowship of Mankato.

Feb. 17 "Everyday Love" Exploring love post-Valentine's Day...with music, poetry and prose. What does love look like once the dust from the commercial frenzy of hearts, flowers, chocolate and so forth has abated for another year? What should it look like? Congregation members are invited to bring a reading (or even a song) to share if they wish! Contact Nora Program Committee, Christopher Olson or Nita Gilbert if you would like to contribute something to the service.

Jan. 24 To Be Announced

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

Continuing in February, the Program Committee would like to provide the opportunity for folks to talk more with our guest speakers by serving a lunch of soup and sandwiches on the Sundays when no potluck is held. Feel free to bring food as well, but you don't have to!



Creative Bunch

Great Minds, Artsy Times monthly gathering kicked off on January 29th. Watch for a date in the weekly order of service, as well as by Grapevine notice, as a regular meeting time is arranged.

This gathering is for folks looking for a creative outlet, or a way to inspire more creativity. Work on the current project or bring along your own to work in company with other creative minds! Led by Nancy Brudellie

A Note From the Treasurer **December Income and Expenses**

Income: \$9,302.50

Expenses: \$8,780.27

Giving statements will be distributed church through January 31st and any remaining will be mailed after that date.

Expenses during Lisa sabbatical are likely to increase as we have the added costs of speakers and travel payments.

A Prayer for Little Places

Loving and living God,
You chose to be born in small town.
You never failed to visit little communities.
You made it your joy to serve the least.
We pray now for our small churches in remote places.
May they offer worship that gives life and hope where resources are scarce;
May they provide nurture that gives sustenance and comfort where people are hungry and broken hearted;
May they live out God's mission in a fashion that provides light and joy to the communities in which they are planted.

Help us to know that in your creation, there is no body so tiny as to be counted unworthy of your love.
Help us to know that by your measure, the small are great and the humble are powerful.
Help us to know that in your economy, the last are counted first, and the holy is found in common things.
Help us to know that in your Kingdom, there is no outpost so remote as to be removed from your grace and real presence.

We pray now for the little places, our God. May they know your joy. May you bring them life.
Amen.

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker
(a divinity school classmate of Lisa)
Bishop of the Diocese of Nebraska

Caring Corner

To Friends and Family, Larry has finished Treatment 4 - 4 down and 2 to go. Doc enjoys having Larry come to see him as its an easy appointment; no symptoms or problems. He did great this time around too. Next treatment will be February 11 and 12 with his Neulasta shot on Monday, Feb 15th.

Hoping you have a healthy and wonderful 2016!

Thanks for your emails, cards and phone calls. They are all appreciated! Please do NOT send flowers. If you want to send cards, letters, etc., please send them to our home at 11900 175th St. W., Lakeville, MN 55044. Feel free to send emails to LBakken@frontiernet.net or just reply to this

Inclement Weather

In case of Sunday morning inclement weather the decision to cancel church service will be made no later than 8:00 a.m. At that time a Grapevine will be sent out, an announcement will be posted on the Nora website and Nora Facebook page, and the cancelation notice will be sent to KNUJ and KTOE.

When church is not cancelled, you are responsible for your own safety. We love to see everyone at church but we would rather know every one is safe. Please do not drive to church when road conditions, high winds or frigid temperature feel *unsafe to you*. We'll see you the next Sunday, or the next month or in April!!

email. Larry would love hearing from you! Thanks again for your support! We feel truly blessed to have such wonderful friends!! Larry and Vickie

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

Notes from the Nora Office...

Please send announcements, and content of any kind, for the newsletter or order of service to the Nora email. Announcements generally run for two weeks.

Order Of Service ~ content due Thursdays

March Mere Lys ~ content due Feb. 19th

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

Website: www.norauchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

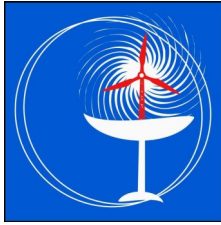
Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Lisa's sabbatical will continue during the month of February. For more information on Lisa's sabbatical see the December Nora Mere Lys.

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