

MERE LYS

March 2016 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



March 6th
“Sabbath”

March 13th
*“Blowing in the
Wind—Five Years”*

March 20th
*“So Many Delicate
Balances”*

March 27th
*“Of Eggs and Tombs
and Skies”*



A View From the Hill

I hear birds early in the morning.

As I write this I'm in nearing the end of my mini-sabbatical, still ensconced in my borrowed apartment 21 floors above downtown Minneapolis. And even here, where all I see when I glance out the window are sky and the tops of tall buildings, such a different view than from my windows at the parsonage, even here, I hear birds early in the morning.

Easter follows the vernal equinox (first day of spring) by a week this year. These two holy days, so intertwined on the calendar and in our collective understanding of creation, proclaim and rejoice, each in its distinct way and message, the triumph of life-everlasting. Life where there seemed to be death. Life out of eggs. Life out of a stone tomb. I know this. I preach this. I've witnessed this. I shouldn't be surprised.

I shouldn't be surprised by birdsong high about the city. Or reconciliations after years' long estrangement. Or a life of service after incarceration. Or love after heartbreak. Sobriety. Spring flowers. Families, children, adults, teens rising strong and beautiful from broken definitions. Or any of the ordinary, miraculous triumphs of life occurring around me every single day. But sometimes gray skies, the daily news, routine and habit dull my senses.

Easter is coming along just in time to wake me up, to remind me that while the life of a faith demands that I not turn my back on the pain and brokenness, failure and injustice and disappointment of the world, that same life of faith also insists that I remain observant of, witness to the ever-present hope, possibility, justice-making, and love of the world. I'm grateful that I'll soon be back among you taking up that joyous work—on Easter and every day.

See you in church.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... Program Committee for providing services while Lisa is away;

...the people who have taken care of the snow removal;

...Jeremy Schmitt for checking on the parsonage while Lisa is away.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, March 20th after the service.

Adult RE Delves into History

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

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

Art with Attitude Now Meeting Regularly

Art with Attitude will meet Fridays, March 11th and the 25th at 10:00 am in the social hall. Bring something to work on and a bag lunch. We will try and keep the meeting date on Fridays every other week.

If anyone is wondering about times, dates or what we are planning to do, they can call me at 507-439-6838, Nancy. All are welcome and if you'd just like a day out with friends please come.

Lisa on the Loose!

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

During March Lisa will meet at the following locations from 10:30—Noon.

March 3 Lola's, New Ulm

March 9 Coffee Hag, Mankato

Match 16 Encore Coffee, St. James

March 22 River City Eatery, Windom



Lunch Bunch

If it's St. Patrick's Day, can Spring be far behind? The Lunch Bunch will celebrate this happy coincidence on March 17, 11:30 a.m., at Turner Hall in New Ulm. There might even be green beer! Dig out that green shirt and join us.

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

Easter Breakfast

Easter Breakfast will feature egg bake, breads, fruit salad and beverages beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 27th.

A sign-up sheet will be sent around a couple of Sundays before Easter, so people can sign up for what they want to bring.

Daylight Savings

Daylight savings is this month, Sunday March 13th, so don't forget to spring forward Saturday night before you hit the hay!



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

January Income \$9,009.15

January Expenses \$6,014.69

Giving statements were distributed in church and by mail, by the beginning of February. The ones mailed in February should be correct; however, it was noticed that a few statements were incorrect, because of an error in the spreadsheet.

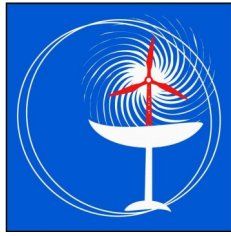
Anyone who would like to verify their total paid or would want to receive a new copy, can contact Brooke, at the office –
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net or Julie Peck.

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.



Lisa returns from her sabbatical March 1st.

2015 – 2016 Server/Greeter/Usher/ Partner List

If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, please call Susan Allen 359-2856.

If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please call someone on the list and try to arrange a switch. Greeter contact information can be found in the Nora directory, by emailing the office or contacting Susan Allen. Please let Lisa or Brooke know so the order of service can be corrected – norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

ATTENTION PARTNERS: Please communicate with each other regarding food provision, as necessary.

MARCH

6: Potluck—Julie & Ron Peck, Scott & Tracey Schmiesing

13: Kristine & Warren Paulson, Wayne Johnson

20: Lynn & Lee Schmitt, Jeremy Schmitt

27: Easter—Edith Beckius, Diane Becken, Nancy Brudelic

APRIL

3: Potluck—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Kate & Jason Monnens, Kristy Paulson

10: Carol Chambard, Susan & Jerry Allen

17: Sally Ann & Dave Benson, Christopher Olson

24: Lee Drogemuller, Colleen & Glenn Hokenson

MAY

1: Potluck—Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman, Peter & Katy Hemberger

8: Beverly & Wallace Wellman, Julie Sellner

15: Syttende Mai—Nancy Brudelic, Kristy Paulson, Ellen Byro

22: Alicia Bayer & Daryl Hrdlicka, Joy Rathman

29: Julie Sellner, Christina Schmitt, Shannon Hoescht

JUNE

5: Potluck—Georgine & Gene Tepley, Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska

12 Nancy Brudelic, Lara Fletcher, Janet Rosenbloom

19 Sally & Gil Hansen, Nita Gilbert



Grapevine

If you aren't on the Grapevine list for important updates and reminders email Brooke at norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

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

April Mere Lys ~ content due March 22nd

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

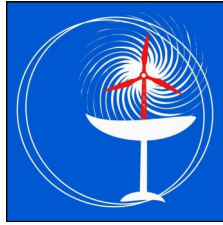
Website: www.norauuchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

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Be ours a religion which, like sunshine,
goes everywhere;
its temple, all space;
its shrine, the good heart;
its creed, all truth;
its ritual, works of love;
its profession of faith, divine living.

Theodore Parker

Caring Corner

Larry has finished Treatment 5 - 5 down and 1 to go. Doc enjoys having Larry come to see him as it's an easy appointment; no symptoms or problems. He did great this time around too. Next treatment #6 will be March 10 and 11 with his Neulasta shot on Monday, March 14th. He should be done, but he will have another Pet scan on April 7 and a doctor's appointment on April 9 to be sure that he

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 cancellation 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!!

is again in remission.

We will all "cross our fingers" that the chemo has worked! Thanks for your emails, cards and phone calls. 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. Larry would love hearing from you! Thanks again for your support! We feel truly blessed to have such wonderful friends!!
Larry & Vickie

Easter Week 1982, by Robert R. Walsh

The light green shoots of blossoms-to-have-been are out of sight under the drifting snow. Gale force winds are rattling the old house. The temperature is far below freezing. Nature is not cooperating with preparations for Easter.

The storm evokes the spiritual quality of Good Friday more than Easter. New life will appear, but not without strife, not without some losses to the coldness which returns as inevitably as spring. And who can say that the sun will always climb again on Easter morning? Isn't it at least possible that the coldness has more staying power than the warmth?

The seasons are more reliable in these matters than human nature. For we, individually and collectively, can choose between love and indifference, between commitment and self-absorption, between peace and war. And we have often chosen the coldness.

Maybe the ancients were right. Maybe the spring comes because we bid it to come in our celebrations. Maybe it is the telling and the retelling of the stories that enable us to see that hope still lives and that we can carry it forward.

The stories make it clear that God does not do it alone. The motions of the spheres will produce a sunrise, but the springtime of the spirit, the springtime of love and justice and peace, depends on our human response to the gift of life.

Let us tell the stories again.

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