



MERE LYS

May 2016 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



May 1st

*“We might be wrong:
The sin of certainty in
an uncertain life ”*

*Guest Speaker Chad
Snyder, MSUS*

May 8th

*“You’re Not My
Mother! ”*

May 15th

*“Syttende Mai
Sensibility in a 21st
Century World ”*

May 22nd

“A Good Word”

May 29th

“Thicker Than Blood”
*Guest Speaker Rev. Ashley
Horan, MUUSJA*

A View From the Hill

Severe Weather Awareness Week happened a few weeks back. The annual collection of public service announcements and radio and tv specials reminding us the difference between watches and warning and where to seek shelter when the tornado sirens sounds got a bit confusing in Minneapolis this year. The day *before* the sirens were scheduled to sound as part of the awareness campaign, due to a glitch in a system, they sounded just after six in the morning. There wasn't a storm and it wasn't a test—or rather, it was a test but it was supposed to be a silent test that happens daily, with most of us never even knowing.

I don't make light of severe weather. Property damage, devastated financial circumstances, and lives lost to tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, ice storms, heat waves and blizzards each year. Weather is serious business and tornado season has frightened me as long as I can remember. But there are storms and there are storms—and some of the most devastating and frightening aren't tracked by meteorologists and don't always come with warning sirens. Or sometimes the sirens are false alarms while the real storm sneaks up on us when the silent test blares silently.

We take shelter in clinics and hospitals when storms of illness or accident ravage our lives. And in the legal system when storms of crime or malice or neglect reck havoc. Therapy, physical exercise, support groups, meditation, music, laughter—all these are storm shelters, too. And church, this church, once leveled by tornado and rebuilt on safer ground, this church, battered by war deaths, suicides, the departures of beloved members, illnesses, reversals in fortune, the Comfrey tornado and more, this church is the surest shelter of them all. Not despite the storms it has weathered but indeed because of them.

And just to make sure, we have a weekly storm drill. When Sunday morning dawns come directly to church. Then when trouble strikes you won't have to think; your evacuation and safety route will lead you automatically to the refuge of Nora Church.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... to John Masengarb for the gardening work.
... to Gil and Sally Hanson and the choir for the wonderful music.
... to the board of Prairie Beacon for their service
... and to the sticks picker uppers.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, May 15th at Noon, after Syttende Mai.

Nominating Committee Report

Nita Gilbert's first term on the Board of Trustees expire on July 1st. Nita has agreed to serve a second term. Joy Rathman's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July first. The committee is seeking a nominee to serve a three year term.

Respectfully submitted, Nita Gilbert & Edith Beckius

2016/2017 Church Budget & Pledge Drive

The proposed budget for the 2016/2017 church year will be presented at a very brief congregational meeting following the service on Sunday, May 22nd, 2016. Pledge cards are being distributed currently.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:35 a.m. on Sunday, June 5th, 2016.

At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the 2016/2017 church year, elect members to the Board of Trustees, and undertake other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.

Adult RE Delves into History

Adult Religious Education will meet again May 15. We'll gather after the service (bring a sack lunch) to watch and discuss the latest in a series of DVDs on Unitarian and Universalist history. Adult RE, a casual discussion group, is open to all Nora members, friends or visitors

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Looking Ahead

June Services

5th	Service at Nora, annual meeting, potluck
12th	Service at Nora, Flower Ceremony
19th	Service at Lake Hanska, Father's Day

Lunch Bunch

Last month Lunch Bunch went to the Woods, so it seemed appropriate to go the Lakes in May. Our next meeting will be at the Lakes Sports Bar and Grill in Lake Crystal on Thursday, May 12, at 11:30 a.m. Jump right in and join us. FYI, at the April meeting we decided to try having a regular meeting date and settled on the second Thursday of the month. See you then.

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

Art with Attitude

May meetings for Art with Attitude will be on the 6th and the 20th in the church social hall. On the 6th we will be tying baby blankets, or bring along whatever you would like to work on. Or just come to have coffee and visit. Bring a bag lunch. Starting time is 10 A.M.

Syttende Mai Returns to Hanska!

The town worship service (with Lisa leading worship and preaching) will take place at Hanska City Park. No tent this year. Bring your lawn chair, sun hat and/or umbrella. It's our annual opportunity to desegregate Sunday morning—mixing it up with our Lutheran friends, family and neighbors. Don't miss out.

A Note From the Treasurer

March Income and Expenses

March Income \$6,823.25

March Expenses \$8,609.08

Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not including special collections or memorial gifts.

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 on the Loose!

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in your community when it works for you. During May Lisa will meet at the following locations:

Wednesday, May 4

Coffee Hag, Mankato from 10:30-12:00

Wednesday, May 11

Ridgeway on 23rd, New Ulm at 3:00

Tuesday, May 17

River City Eatery, Windom from 11:00-12:30

Wednesday, May 25

Encore Café, St. James from 10:30-12:00



New Ulm Area Crop Walk

The Crop Walk is May 1 at 1:00 p.m. starting at Putting Green, going to German Park, and back. Nora Church normally participates with walkers as well as by soliciting contributions from non-walkers. Because of our effort to purchase laptops for Benced in 2015, we did not participate last year. In 2014 Nora Church contributions totaled over \$350.00 This year we will take up the Crop Walk collection at potluck on May 1. A portion of local collections is given to local food banks and the remainder is given to Church World Service. Thanks for your generosity to a worthy cause.

Program Committee: May Guest Speakers

May 1 "We might be wrong: The sin of certainty in an uncertain life" Guest Speaker Chad Snyder. Chad is a business and family law attorney in Minneapolis, and an amateur actor and musician. He has been a UU since the early 1990s, and for the last 12 years has been an active member of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society in Fridley.

May 29 "Thicker Than Blood" Guest Speaker Rev. Ashley Horan. Rev. Horan is the executive director of the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (M.U.U.S.J.A.)

The old adage says that "blood is thicker than water," but some of us feel our deepest connections with people and communities who are not our biological kin. We will look this week at some audacious women preachers from the 19th c. prairie, the spiritual and social communities they built, and the practice of creating chosen family every bit as strong as the clans into which we were born.

MOCA Brunch—Eggs for Ovaries!

Please join us for a Kentucky Derby themed brunch! We'll celebrate the running of the roses by raising funds for the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance. Saturday, May 7th, serving from 9:00-11:00 am, hosted by Julie Sellner, at Nora Unitarian Universalist Church. RSVP not necessary, but appreciated — Julie 507-375-8737. Don't forget your derby hat!

Bookmark This!

Continuing every Sunday during May in the Koffee Stua. Bring a book (or five); take a book (or ten).



Directory Updating

An updated version of the Nora Directory will be published at the end of May, so you can grab one before summer. Please update your listing by May 15th, using the forms in the entryway. If you would like your listing emailed to you for review please let me know. Thanks! Brooke

Notes from the Nora Office...

Please send 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

June Mere Lys ~ content due May 20

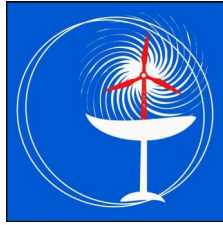
Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.*

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Retirement Announcements

Harold Babcock, who was with us at Nora from 1982-1985, is preparing to celebrate his retirement with a party May 14th. He will retire in August, his wife Sabrina is also retiring this spring, after the school year ends. He is currently finishing up his final year as minister at First Religious Society UU, Newburyport, Mass. and looking forward to tending to his small flock of chickens, travel and reading. Cards may be sent to 88 Middle St, West Newbury, Mass. 01985.

Harold is a graduate of the University of Maine (BA '73, MA '76) and the Harvard Divinity School (MDiv '82). A native of Castine, Maine, where he grew up, and a life-long Unitarian Universalist. He was ordained at the First Church in Boston in 1982. Before coming to Newburyport in 1995, Harold served churches in Hanska, Minnesota (1982-1985) and Attleboro, Mass. (1985-1991), as well as completing interim ministries in Rockland, Maine (1993-1994) and Norway, South Paris, and West Paris, Maine (1994-1995). Before attending Divinity School, he worked briefly as a university English Instructor, a Town Planning Assistant, and a steeplejack and housepainter. He also worked in the Career Services Dept of Maine Maritime Academy.

Paul Johnson, former Nora minister, is retiring. You are cordially invited to join in celebration and gratitude of the ministry of Rev. Dr. Paul S. Johnson on the occasion of his retirement. Saturday, May 14th, 5:30-10:30 pm – cocktails, dinner, dancing and reminiscing. Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock. Black tie optional. Notes

of congratulations and appreciation may be sent c/o UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, 48 Shelter Rock Rd, Manhasset, NY 11030.

The Rev. Dr. Paul S. Johnson has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for over thirty-five years, having served congregations in Hanska, MN, Silver Spring, MD, and Princeton, NJ, before coming to Shelter Rock in 2002. A graduate of Trinity College, Deerfield, IL, he holds a Masters Degree in Counseling from Minnesota State University (Mankato), and M.A., Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Divinity degrees from the Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago. Paul is a past president of the UU Ministers' Association and has served on the Commission on Social Witness of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Board of Trustees of Meadville/Lombard Theological School. He has also served the larger community on the Workers' Rights Board of Long Island Jobs with Justice and on the Public Issues Committee of the Long Island Council of Churches. Rev. Johnson currently serves on the Board of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Long Island and New York City and the Public Issues Committee of the Long Island Council of Churches.

Caring Corner

We are celebrating another successful treatment schedule. Larry is officially in remission!! The caveat is that we know his lymphoma can/will come back but until then...celebration!! Time to again live life to the fullest. 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 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