

# *MERE LYS*

## *April 2017 Newsletter*

### **Nora Unitarian Universalist Church**

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#### ***Services***

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Coffee 11:00 am**

**April 2nd**

***“Have Faith”***

*Guest Speaker:*

*Chad Snyder*

**April 9th**

***“Rituals of  
Remembrance”***

*Guest Speaker:*

*Rev. Dr. Sarah Oelberg*

**April 16th**

***“A Rite of Spring: An  
Eastertide Celebration  
in Three Acts”***

*Presented by the Program*

*Committee*

***Easter Breakfast at 9:00am***

**April 23rd**

***To Be Decided***

**April 30th**

***“Working on Our  
Vision”***

*Speaker: Karen Farrell*

#### **A View From the Hill**

#### **Hope For a Great Sea Change**

*Rev. Maureen Killoran*

Believe that further shore

Is reachable from here.

Believe in miracle

And cures and healing wells.

—*Seamus Heaney, “The Cure at Troy”*

With a name like mine, it's easy to guess I'm Irish. My forebears were among the millions who struggled to escape Ireland's disastrous Potato Famine (1845-1852). With his six siblings, my great-grandfather Patrick boarded one of the infamous "coffin ships" out of Liverpool. When the ship dropped anchor in Canada's St. Lawrence River, of the Killoran family, only Patrick survived. What could it have been like for that ten-year-old kid? First losing his family to typhus aboard ship, then being locked into quarantine upon arriving in what had been billed as the promised land? The boy must have been strong, for Patrick somehow traveled to northern Quebec, where he grew up to become what family lore describes as a hard-drinking, hard-loving miner.

In the 19th century, most Irish were poverty-ridden peasants, dependent on a diet of potatoes with maybe a wee bit of milk or butter if you were lucky enough to share a cow. When a fast-moving blight devastated their only crop, people had nowhere to turn. Famine took over a million men, women, and children, while those who could have offered relief ignored or even rejoiced in their plight. In all, two million people became refugees, with only one in five surviving to reach the largely hostile New World. Calamity is like that: the bottom falls out, not once but again and again. Everything keeps changing, and you either take desperate action — or you die.

You hear it in Irish music: the lament for having been beaten down, and for dreams both lost and denied. It's there too, the stubborn persistence for which my people are famous; the refusal to abandon the necessity of dreams.

With another St. Patrick's Day having come and gone, I ponder the calamities and the strengths of my heritage. To do other than persist would be to dishonor those who have gone before. Too many things matter for me to give up. Life is too precious for me to say die. If desperate action is likely to be required, then I must gird myself with stories of strength. Although I can barely see the further shore, I must hold fast to the conviction that we will get there; that love will not only survive, but thrive. Others have done it. So can I.

Prayer

God of stubborn persistence, be with me, for the days are dark and I am often afraid. Help me feel surrounded by a cloud of witnesses lending support to my days and giving comfort in my nights. Inspire me to draw strength from all that has gone before, that I may have courage to engage the struggles yet to come. In the name of all that is Holy, this I pray. Amen.

*From: Braver/Wiser* Courage and Compassion for Life As It Is

# Thank You!

## From the board...

... to the survey committee for their good work.

...to Louise and Alex for their work in the museum.

### Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Thursday, April 20 at 5:30. This will be a regular board meeting with budget meeting afterward.

### Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will be April 14 and 28, May 12 and 26. We are working on the tote bags made out of animal feed bags, there will also be some quilt sewing going on and probably some rug making.

Shirley Olson is in need of plastic grocery bags for a crochet project; they may be dropped off in the social hall—she would especially like some that are colored/have colors on them.

As always, everyone is welcome to come and join us to work on a project or just to visit and have coffee. Please call Nancy if you are planning on attending so you may be notified, should cancellations be made. (507-439-6838 or 484-347-8816). Visitors always welcome. The coffee is always hot.

*You may bring your own project to work on or just come to visit. Art with Attitude is open to all members and friends of Nora.*

### A Note From the Treasurer February Income and Expenses

**Income:** \$6,201.19

**Expenses:** \$6,669.77

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

**Direct Deposit for Pledges** Some people have requested direct deposit for pledges. To initiate this, anyone interested would have to set this up with their bank, much like an automatic payment for a utility or credit card. If you would like to make electronic pledge payments, please contact Julie Peck for Nora Church account information.

# Nora

## Visioning for the Future



Nora's Visioning for the future workshop, led by Ian Evison, will be **Saturday, April 1st**. Coffee at 8:30 with the workshop starting at 9:00 and continuing until we're done (with a break for lunch) or 3:00, whichever comes first.

This workshop will NOT be a day to make final decisions, but a day to get the conversation going, and, hopefully, get us to the point of making a draft statement of who/where we'd like to be.



### 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

## April Guest Speakers & Presenters

**April 2 "Have Faith"** - In a religious tradition that tends to enshrine reason, we Unitarian Universalists need to remember sometimes what it can mean to have—and to be—a faith.

Guest speaker Chad Snyder is a long-time UU and a member of Michael Servetus Unitarian Society in Fridley (a Minneapolis suburb). He is an attorney at a small firm he owns with a friend, and divides his free time between amateur ventures in theater and playing guitar.

**April 9 "Rituals of Rememberance"** Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Sarah Oelberg is Minister Emerita of Nora Church.

Why should I wish to see God better than this day?... I find letters from God dropped in the street, and every one is signed by God's name, And I leave them where they are, for I know that others will punctually come forever and ever.

— Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

### Little Bit of Lefse Left!

There are just a handful of bags of lefse left. Grab a half pound, or a pound, and enjoy it with your meal(s) next week or throw it in your freezer—1 lb. \$12.00 / half lb. \$6.00

### Lunch Bunch

Take a break from getting your garden ready and celebrate the arrival of spring with the Lunch Bunch at Lola's in New Ulm on Thursday, April 20, at 11:30 a.m. We're looking forward to seeing you and daffodils too.

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

**Send your news, announcements, congratulations and events to us at  
[norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)  
or put hard copies in Brooke's mailbox!**

## Prayer

Sweet All-That-Is, I don't believe in "signs." But I don't have to believe in them to have experienced one. Thank you for your mysterious ways of reminding me that I'm not alone. Help me be that sign — of hope, of assurance, of witness — to someone who needs it today.



## April Greeters

Attention Partners: Please communicate with each other regarding food provision, as necessary. **Please remember that your job includes greeting.**

### APRIL

2—Potluck—Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman, Scott & Tracey Schmiesing  
9—Julie Sellner, Shannon Hoescht, Susan Evers  
16—Easter—Edith Beckius, Diane Becken, Nancy Bruderie  
23—Beverly & Wally Wellman, Joy Rathman  
30—Carol Chambard, Julie & Ron Peck

**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, or contact Susan Allen. Contact information is in the Nora Directory. Please let Lisa or Brooke know any schedule changes so the order of service can be corrected – [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net).

**The full Server/Greeter list was last posted in the December Mere Lys**, which may be accessed on our website and is posted in the kitchen.

### Notes from the Nora Office...

#### Order Of Service ~ content due Thursdays

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

#### May Mere Lys ~ content due April 21

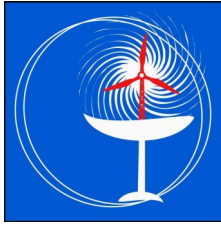
Church Email: [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

Phone: 507.439.6240

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

## Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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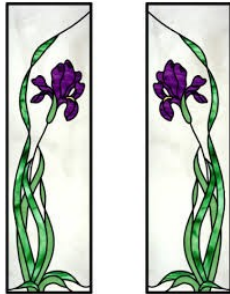
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU](http://www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU)

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers

This workshop focuses on family caregivers to help them learn how to reduce stress, improve self-confidence, better communicate feelings, balance their lives, and increase ability to make tough decisions. The workshop consists of 6 weekly sessions (see the poster), 90 minutes long, held at the New Ulm Senior/Community Center in Room 111 on the German Street level. The workshop is presented by Lutheran Social Service. The workshop is on Thursday mornings, 10-11:30 AM, starting Thursday, April 13. We need at least 6 people to register to hold the class. Everyone receives a book to keep. Open to caregivers of all ages. No fee is charged, but pre-registration is required - Sarah Henfling Anderson 507-822-1499.

### Caregiver Discussion Group

Group meets 10 am the 2nd Friday of each month. New Ulm Senior Center, 600 N. German. Free to join. Come when you can, leave when you must. Sarah 866-974-0283.



*"Expect nothing. Live frugally on surprise."*

—Alice Walker

## NUMAS Haus Needs Volunteers

NUMAS Haus needs volunteers to staff the house at least one three hour shift/month. Volunteers make sure residents and children are in a safe environment, interact with residents and children providing examples of good decision making skills, and contact the shelter coordinator in response to emergencies and resident problems and issues. Background check is required and training is provided. For more information talk to Lisa or check the NUMAS Haus website: <http://numashaus.org/index.php/category/volunteers/>

### Look to this Day

For it is life, the very life of life.

In its brief course lie all the verities  
and realities of your existence:

The bliss of growth,

The glory of action,

The splendor of beauty;

For yesterday is but a dream,

And tomorrow is only a vision;

But today, well lived, makes every yesterday

A dream of happiness

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day.

Attributed to Kalidasa

### Pastoral Care

During Lisa's sabbatical please contact Nora president, Karen Farrell – [fargurskarelli@hotmail.com](mailto:fargurskarelli@hotmail.com) or 507-834-6917 – with any concerns. Emergency pastoral coverage is being provided by Reverend Don Cameron. For pastoral care contact Don—

[uucams@gmail.com](mailto:uucams@gmail.com) or cell: 507-508-7809.

Rev. Cameron received his M. Div. from the Starr King School of Ministry in Berkeley. Don currently serves at the Interim Minister at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato.

Lisa will be on sabbatical from January 1, 2017 through April 30, 2017 (completing the six months due her at this time).