



MERE LYS

June & July 2017 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Worship 10:00 am

Coffee 11:00 am



June 4th

"Housekeeping"

June 11th

"An Instrument of Grace"

Our annual Flower Ceremony. Please bring a cut flower for each member of your family in attendance this morning.

June 18th

"We Know the Way"

Lake Hanska Park
Meet at the South Area/
Fishing Pier Picnic Shelter



Looking Ahead

Aug. 6

Special Nora service and potluck

Aug. 13

Tri-State Gathering

Aug. 20

Nora Services ResUME

A View From the Hill

Exuberance

The view from the hill is ... breathtaking. Today, yesterday and last week. In all seasons and all weather, and in all directions. Spring sunshine on seedlings in the field to the south. Summer rain veiling the slough. Winter afternoon sun low in the sky off toward Hanska. Bright stars visible through bare autumn trees at night.

Life on the hill is pretty darn good, too. It's quiet, mostly. I watch the turbine create electricity—from the wind!! I hear the geese. I write and do laundry. I read in the hammock. My family and friends come to visit. Five days a week the school bus picks my daughter up and drops her off again at the foot of the driveway. And once a week a few dozen people I love arrive and join me for worship. Here. On the hill.

It's tempting to believe I need never leave this hill. Everything I need is here—beauty, companionship, meaningful work, family. It's especially tempting to want to hunker in here when events beyond the hill are anything but quiet and peaceful. Our denomination is in turmoil. Every news cycle brings word of our elected representatives forsaking the most vulnerable of our fellow citizens. Terrorist attacks force us to change where and how we gather in large numbers, and the precautions we take when we do gather. Climate change wrecks havoc with weather patterns. And then there's road construction.

But my faith isn't about retreating from the world. As a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association Nora Church has covenanted to *affirm and promote the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part*, and by extension, so have I, as your minister. I can't focus my attention solely on my view from the hill, and I can't spend all my days and nights wallowing in the peace and beauty of the hill. My life is part and parcel of the world beyond the hill, woven into and woven of the interdependent web. And that web is as fragile in some places as it is strong in others; as broken in some places as it is intact in others; as ill in some places as it is healthy in others. And since my existence, my health and wholeness, our existence, our health and wholeness, depend on that worn and wounded and irreplaceable web, I'm called to look and move and act beyond this hill, regularly, and at times, urgently. And then, when the letters are written, the rallies attended, the boards served upon, the pilgrimages made, then I return home. And Nora is here, on this hill, welcoming me in and preparing to send me out again. And I'm grateful beyond words. Everyone should have a home, a faith home, such as this.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

...to Karen, Sally and Jeremy for their service on the board.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:05 a.m. on Sunday, June 4th, 2017.

At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the 2017/2018 church year, elect members to the Board of Trustees, discuss possible Sunday service start time, and undertake any other business that comes before the congregation.

Nominating Committee Report

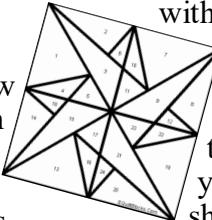
Karen Farrell's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. Sally Hanson's first term expires on July 1st. For the Board, the committee nominates Julie Sellner and Dick Gurska to serve three-year terms, and Alicia Bayer to serve a 2-year term replacing Jeremy Schmitt due to a scheduling conflict with work. Thank you Karen Farrell, Sally Hanson, and Jeremy for your service!

Respectfully submitted, Nita Gilbert & Edith Beckius

Lunch Bunch

Summer is almost here officially so you know what that means -- ROAD TRIP! The Wild Lunch Bunch hits the open road for a trip to Hahn's Restaurant, 206 N. Main, Winthrop, on Thursday, June 15, at 11:30 a.m. So fill 'er up, kick the tires, and be there or be square.

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



A Note From the Treasurer April Income and Expenses

Income: \$12,614.50

Expenses: \$7,379.74

Projected Expenses for remainder of Church Year (June 30th): \$17,850

Most of Nora Church's annual income comes in the form of pledge payments from members and friends.

Please make your pledges for 2017/2018!

Board Meeting

The next Nora board meeting will be on Sunday, June 11, following the service.

Lisa on the Loose

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

During June Lisa will meet on Tuesdays at the following locations:

June 6 Ridgeway on 23rd, New Ulm, from 2:30-4:00

June 27 River City Eatery, Windom, from 11:00-12:30



Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will meet June 9, July 14 and 28, August 11 and 25.

We have a quilt to tie for NUMAS house. That will be the third one we made for them. We finished the quilt for Lucia and presented it to her on Sunday May 14 in honor of her adoption. We wish Lucia and Lisa a wonderful life.

We have a special day coming up on July 28th. We'll call it Earring Day. Jana is coming from PA

with a suitcase of beads and the findings to make earrings. For a class fee of \$10 you can make up to 4 pair of earrings. Jana will be there with her handy dandy pliers to do the technical part. So don't worry that you won't be able to do it. If you have a shirt or an outfit you need earrings for, bring it along and match it up! We are thinking we will have a potluck lunch and make a fun day of it. More detailed information will come later.

If you're interested in making earrings let me know to get on the list. We will try to keep the number at 10. Any questions? I'll try to answer them. Come and have a fun day.

We have been busy making tote bags out of animal food bags. Our supply is growing!

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 coming so you may be notified if we cancel. Cell is 484-347-8816. Home phone 507-439-6838.

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.



Looking ahead, Lisa will be on vacation the month of July, and be in and out of town throughout the month.

Notes on June Services

The Annual Meeting of Nora Church will follow immediately upon conclusion of the service on **Sunday, June 4**. We will elect trustees, approve the 2017/2018 budget, discuss possible Sunday service start time, and undertake any other business that comes before the congregation.

The service on **Sunday, June 11** will include our annual Flower Ceremony. Please remember to bring a cut flower for each member of your family attending service that morning. You won't want to miss the beauty we create together and then carry home with us that morning.

Our service on **Sunday, June 18**, will take place at Lake Hanska Park, in the shelter located nearest the fishing pier. Coffee will be available from about 9:30 on. Service at 10:00 followed by potluck lunch. Some of the guys will fire up the grills. Please bring a dish to share, and your own place settings for you and your family (re-useable plate, cup, flatware and napkin), sunscreen, bug repellent and other weather-related necessities. Seating for "church" and lunch will be at picnic tables. Bring along a lawn chair for greater comfort!!

Looking Ahead

Lisa will be on vacation the month of July, and be in and out of town throughout the month.

We're expecting visitors from our partner church in Benced, Transylvania the first week in August. We'll hold a special church service on Sunday, August 6, followed by a potluck lunch.

Our annual Trip-State Gathering will be Sunday, August 13, at Nobles County Pioneer Village. More information in the July/August newsletter.

Regular services at Nora will resume Sunday, August 20.

Nora Church Hosts Special Visitors in August

Ildiko Ilikei, the minister from our partner church in Benced, Transylvania, and her husband Csaba, will be visiting Minnesota in August. This travel is being paid for by funds the social justice committee had set aside in past years. The Wigers, Bensons, and Hinsmans have been hosted by Ildiko and look forward to returning her hospitality.

Their stay in Minnesota is short, departing Romania on August 2 and heading back to their country on August 9. We had hoped for a longer visit but Csaba's work as an EMT prevents them from staying longer. Details of how their time here will be spent are not yet finalized but we do know there will be a church service on August 6 with a pot-luck. What a fun way to reunite in the summer!

We know you will enjoy meeting Ildiko as much as those of us who have had that opportunity. It will be a super reunion. Any suggestions or requests for activities during their stay, contact Jeanie Hinsman.

Thank You from Lucia and Lisa

On Mother's Day evening, after first measuring to be sure it was big enough to wrap around both of us, Lucia snuggled down in her lovely new quilt and fell immediately to sleep. So many, many thanks to all who made it possible: Shirley and Nancy for planning and cutting and stitching, others for donating money toward the finishing, and still others who kept all the workers company. Better even than the quilt itself, we know we are wrapped in Nora's love.

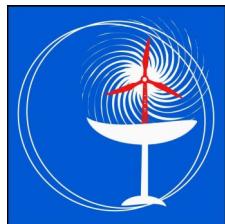
Graduation Announcement

Emily Elise Knisley, daughter of Brooke Knisley, Nora Office Assistant, will be graduating June 2nd, 2017, from Perpich Arts High School (public, arts-based high school, Golden Valley). A celebration will be hosted on Saturday, June 17, between 1-3:00 pm, at the New Ulm Community Center. Emily will be attending UND in the fall. All are invited to the celebration!

Send your news, announcements, congratulations and events to us at norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net or put hard copies in Brooke's mailbox!

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Hanska, Minnesota 56041-4310



Phone: 507.439.6240

Website: www.norauuchurch.org

Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Caring Corner

To Friends and Family, Larry has had a couple of things going on lately.

1. Three weeks ago Larry's heart developed an Atrial-flutter. This means the fast heart beat is started on the upper right side rather than Atrial-Fib which is on the upper left side of the heart. It cannot stop on its own so it does not go away unless he has an ablation done. His warfarin levels were high enough on Monday for a Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) on Tuesday (checks for clots in the heart) and then have an Ablation done on Wednesday AM (today).

Ablation was successful! Heart beat is back to normal. Yeah!

2. CT Scan on April 18, 2017 showed a couple of lymph nodes had enlarged microscopically (about the width and/or length of a pencil mark on paper.) Nothing to worry about right now but will do blood tests in 3 months and another CT in 6 months. The chemo seems to have challenged the ability of nurses to find a vein to put in an IV or take blood. He is Norwegian so he wants everything to be a challenge!!

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

Poem

"I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity."

—Gilda Radner

Prayer

Giver of Life, help me to approach this moment, this day, this week, month, this year, this life as an adventure whose ending I do not yet know. Allow me to embrace each plot twist without self-blame or despair, but with innocent wonder. May each change be savored and each accompanying emotion be fully felt, that I may fully live.



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.

No July Newsletter

August Mere Lys ~ content due July 21

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

To ♥ Keep In Touch

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members:

Georgine Topley (chair): 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)

Shirley Olson: 354-1866

Carol Chambard: 354-2242