



# *MERE LYS*

## *January 2018 Newsletter*

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

### *Services*

Coffee 10:00 am  
Worship 10:30 am



January 7  
“*Following Stars*”

January 14  
“*Prophets in Their  
Own Time*”

January 21  
“*Forbidden Words*”

January 28  
“*The Music of  
Overtones*”

Guest Speaker: *Gil Hanson,*  
*Nora member*



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

I’m thinking about making tuna noodle hot dish for supper tonight. It’s been years since I’ve eaten it and I don’t know if I’ve ever made it. But I’ve got tuna in the cupboard, and a tuna-lover in my family, and comfort food seems like a really good idea right now.

Comfort food because bare roads and weak wintry sunshine and above freezing temperatures make getting around easy and safe but leave me uneasy in Minnesota, in late December (as I write).

Comfort food because the daily news, just about any day of the week.

Comfort food because the world is fraught with danger and life is fragile.

Comfort food because comfort food is also sustenance for journey, fuel for the campaign, provisions for the long haul.

Comfort food, soul music, inspirational words. We need ‘em all in the depths of every winter. Even if your comfort food is vegan, your soul music is country, and your inspirational words are from Stephen Colbert or Charles Schultz or Grumpy Cat. Eat, read, jam according to the appetites of your body and spirit—you know what you need—because we need you. We need each other.

We, all of us, need soothed and energized, well-nourished and focused companions alongside us for the journey, the campaign, the long haul through uncharted waters of climate change, through political times unlike any other, and into vast, unexplored and treasure-rich era of race and gender revolution. We need each other.

And if your comfort food is coffee and cookies, your soul music hymns or the piano stylings of Sally, Mimi, JoAnn, Muffy and Jordan, and your inspirational words poetry punctuated by silence—then by all means, come to church! And invite your friends. That’s why Nora Church is here and has been for almost 140 years—because the world is fraught with danger and life is fragile but together, properly provisioned, we discover wonders amidst the danger and love to withstand the fragility.

*-Lisa*

From the board...

# Thank You!

...to Georgine Tepley and Diane Becken for delivering poinsettias to our members unable to attend church.

...to the Parade of Lights participants.

## Board Meeting

Nora Church Board will meet again Sunday, January 14, following the service.

## Congregational Discussion

On February 4, following the potluck, the board will lead a discussion of the report from the visioning committee and the recommendations the board is considering. No final decisions will be made at this time, but it is an opportunity to exchange ideas and consider all possibilities as we move ahead to plan for the future of Nora Church. We will consider financial issues as well as congregational needs and Lisa's needs as minister and employee of the church. We hope many members and friends will consider staying for a while after potluck to engage in this important discussion.

## Board Action

The board decided to continue our participation in "Adopt a Highway". For at least ten years we have been responsible for the portion of highway 13 between Cty Rd. 24 and Cty Rd. 25. We have had fewer participants in recent years but the board felt by moving cleanup to a Saturday perhaps more members could join the effort. We have done cleanup once in early spring and once in the fall. We'll publicize our intended dates and hope a few folks can join in this effort.

Remember respect for the interdependent web of which we are a part.

### *A Note From the Treasurer* **November Income and Expenses**

<b>Income:</b>	\$7,488.50
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$6,240.55

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

## Undeck the Halls

Following potluck on January 7 there will be a tree "undecorating" effort. Santa's elves should be rested up by then and ready to help move on to the undoing. Thanks for your help.

## Lunch Bunch

To start 2018 off right, the monthly Lunch Bunch bash will honor the many prominent Nora members who have birthdays in January (you know who you are!). Plaza Garibaldi has been designated as January Birthday Central. Date: Thursday, January 11 at 11:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

## Art with Attitude

Let's ring in the New Year creatively two days in January. On January 12 and 26 Art with Attitude will meet, in the fellowship hall beginning at 10:00 am. We are already thinking of some new fun things to try, while also working on some on-going projects!

Looking forward to gathering for (fun) work on these projects and lively conversation—come to create or conversate! Everyone is always welcome, the coffee is always hot.

## January 28 Service

On Sunday, January 28 the Program Committee will host guest speaker Gil Hanson for "The Music of Overtones." Gil is a longtime member of Nora Church, and will be sharing with the congregation what music means to him.

## Lisa on the Loose

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in New Ulm, Mankato and Windom. For the month of January please keep an eye on weekly orders of service and grapevine emails for Lisa on the Loose outings.



## Prayer

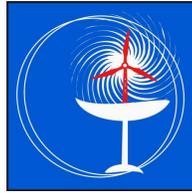
God of creation, bless our becoming with grace enough that we can laugh at ourselves, our hearts glad for the sufficiency of the days we've been given. Amen.

### ***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.



### **2017-2018 Server/Volunteer List**

The schedule, as it appears here, lists the assigned greeters/servers for potluck days, as well as volunteers that have signed up on the sign up sheet for remaining weeks.

If you volunteer yourself please make note that you have done so for that date—we've had volunteers forgetting that they have signed up. There are still some dates available for spring volunteers—thank you for your contribution!

\*

#### **Attention Partners:**

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

#### **JANUARY**

7—Potluck—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Wayne Dean Johnson, Kristy Paulson

14—Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman, Colleen Hokenson

21—Scott Chambard, Carol Chambard

28—Warren & Kristine Paulson

#### **FEBRUARY**

4—Potluck—Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman, Norma & Roger Breu

11—Wally & Beverly Jean Wellmann

18—Julie & Ron Peck, Colleen Hokenson

25—Warren & Kristine Paulson

#### **MARCH**

4—Potluck—Julie Sellner, Susan Evers, Shannon Hoescht, Lee Schmitt

11—Lee Drogemuller

18—Cindy Backman, Alicia Bayer

25—Louise Guggisberg

#### **APRIL**

1—Potluck—EASTER—Diane Becken, Janet Rosenbloom, Cindy Backman, Nancy Brudelic

8—Scott Chambard, Carol Chambard

15—Colleen Hokenson

22—Norma & Roger Breu

29—

#### **MAY**

6—Potluck—Sally Ann & Dave Bensen, Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska

13—Wally & Beverly Jean Wellmann

20—Syttende Mai

27—

#### **JUNE**

3—Potluck—Alicia Bayer, Nita Gilbert, Shirley Olson, Lara Fletcher

10—

17—Sally Anne & David Benson

**Volunteers are needed for all Sundays that are not a potluck.** (Those listed are folks that have signed up.) Sign up in kitchen or when the sign up sheet is passed around in church.

**Greeters/servers are assigned for potluck weeks (underlined), if potluck assignments don't fit your schedule please call someone on the list to take your place.** Contact information is in the Nora Directory.

**Schedule changes,** please let Lisa or Brooke know any schedule changes so the order of service can be corrected – [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net).

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



### **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.

#### **February Mere Lys ~ content due**

**Monday, January 22**

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

Phone: 507.439.6240

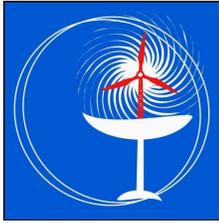
*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant*

*In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.*

## Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

12333 155th Avenue

Hanska, Minnesota 56041-4310



Phone: 507.439.6240

Website: [www.norauuchurch.org](http://www.norauuchurch.org)

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

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

### Wired for Connection

"I believe that life is chaotic, a jumble of accidents, ambitions, misconceptions, bold intentions, lazy happenstances, and unintended consequences, yet I also believe that there are connections that illuminate our world, revealing its endless mystery and wonder." —David Maraniss

It's a familiar scene each holiday: no matter how meticulously the strings of lights were put away, they always seem to come out a tangled mess. What happens to them all through the year as they wait in their boxes?

And so the tradition of untangling the lights begins. We unwind them carefully, uncrossing and unlooping wires, stretching them out to their full length, all the while being mindful to not damage the bulbs which hold so much potential.

I find that people aren't that different. We often feel like a jumbled mess of string lights: tangled up within ourselves, not knowing how to get undone or how to get back to our sparkly selves — especially when the holidays approach. Throughout the year, each struggle adds another tangle to the lights until by year's end, we're wound so tightly that we don't even know where to begin. Sometimes we need a little help to sort ourselves out.

It's been said that it's easier to untangle a string of lights if you plug them in; the brightness of the little bulbs help to guide our fingers through the tangles. It's no different for people. Connecting with friends, family, therapists, or trusted advisors can shine a little light to help us untangle ourselves, and to help us stretch out to our full potential.

Humans, just like strings of lights, are wired for

connection. It's when we're wound most tightly that we need the connection most of all. We're at our best when we are plugged in to each other. We find our true purpose and spark with others, not alone — and it's in these connections that we shine most brightly.

### *Prayer*

Great and endless mystery and wonder, may you never stop giving us opportunity for connections that light the fire inside each of us. And may we never stop seeking and reaching out for connections with each other, even when we are so tangled and wound so tightly that we struggle to find the plug.

-Erin Powers (*Braver/Wiser*)

### Home Fire Preparedness Campaign

Seven times per day, someone in the USA dies in a home fire. Join the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign Team, Red Cross and area fire departments as we work together to make communities safer.

Canvassing: Monday, April 10 4:00-6:00 pm

Installation: Saturday, April 22 9:00 am—3:00 pm.  
A 10 year battery installed in a Red Cross provided smoke alarm.

To volunteer, contact Angie Schull at 507-387-6664 x 1504 or [angie.schull@redcross.org](mailto:angie.schull@redcross.org). Go to [geta smokealarm.org](http://geta smokealarm.org) to schedule a FREE smoke alarm installation or call the installation HOTLINE 612-460-3674.

### 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!!

### 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