



MERE LYS

April 2018 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



April 1

*“See? It’s Completely
Empty”*

April 8

“And Other Illusions”

April 15

*“Not About the
Money”*

April 22

*Guest Speaker
Chad Snyder*

April 29

*“Where Water Meets
Other Water”*



A View From the Hill

April showers bring...

Well, May flowers, the saying goes. But that’s weeks away, and the month may also bring surprises and some of the terrific things in life.

This year April brings Easter right on the very first day. Whether we embrace the ancient story and celebrate the resurrection of a slain teacher who would become a savior, or find more meaning in the pagan celebrations of spring underlying the Christian holiday, Easter is a surprise and some of life’s terrific things (hope, new life, joy) all rolled into one.

Easter often doesn’t look much like spring here in Minnesota. But before month’s end the predictable, reliable, yet ever surprising signs of the season will surround us: greening grass, budding shrubs and trees, blooming flowers, nesting birds. Some of life’s terrific things.

There’s no denying this month will also bring tax day. And mud. Lots of mud. And probably some surprises that are by no stretch of the imagination “terrific things.” In other words, this April will be an ordinary month. Better than some; worse than others. A chunk of life at its lifeyest.

And that’s why we observe Easter, even in Unitarian Universalist congregations. To remind ourselves of and celebrate joy breaking through despair, spring blooming in the most wintry souls, and life triumphing over death. All of it surprising us, any season of the year. When those moments come, having practiced on Easter, we’ll sing *alleluia* without hesitation.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

...to to our faithful attendees. Keep coming!

News from the Board

Join us for an especially entertaining Sunday potluck with a special message on April 15. Besides the good food and fellowship you may even earn a prize. Come and see!

Board Meeting

Nora Church Board will meet again Sunday, April 15 after potluck and discussion.

We Want to Hear From You!

Congregational Discussion May 6

Our next congregational discussion regarding the future of Nora Church will follow potluck on May 6. We will likely be voting on ministerial staffing for the 2019-20 year at our congregational meeting in June. This is an opportune time to hear others thoughts and share your ideas as we reach the time of making some decisions. We hope everyone participates in the process. Ian Evison, Mid-America Region staff, will help facilitate this conversation.

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Whatever you may have wondered or heard to the contrary, our annual Easter Breakfast is on again this year. Gather in the social hall for egg bake, fruit, bread, juice, coffee and maybe surprises, beginning at 9:30 on Sunday, April 1. Invite friends or family members. Easter bonnets optional; guests welcome!

Lunch Bunch

April is usually considered near the end of the school year, but not for Lunch Bunch. We're heading back to college, Martin Luther College in New Ulm, that is.

We'll descend on the college cafeteria on Thursday, April 12, at 11:30 a.m. There are lots of choices and all you can eat for a reasonable price. Hope you can join the gang.

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

Art with Attitude Rides Again!

Ride on over to the Fellowship Hall to join Art with Attitude on April 6 and 20 (and in May on the 4th and 18th). Let's make April 6 a "bring something to share for lunch" day. Maybe that will help us get back into the swing of things!

Religious Education Summer Camp



There's discussion underway of holding a week long chalice day camp this summer, at Nora Church. If interested in planning, or having your children attend, please contact Alicia Bayer alicia.bayer@gmail.com.

Lisa on the Loose

April Lisa on the Loose dates will be announced in upcoming Grapevines and orders of service. Stay tuned!

Lisa holds "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in New Ulm, Mankato and Windom.



Earth Day is April 22!

Here are some facts about Earth Day:

On the very first Earth Day, 20 million people gathered in the streets of America to protest the industrial revolution. An environmental movement was born as a result.

Earth Day was renamed officially by the UN in 2009 as International Mother Earth Day.

In Panama, 100 endangered species of orchids were planted and maintained to prevent their extinction in honor of Earth Day.

In Afghanistan in 2011, the Earth Day Network planted 28 million trees on Earth Day.

Don't forget to celebrate Earth Day every day!

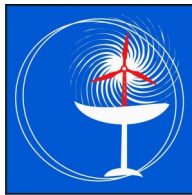
A Note From the Treasurer **February Income and Expenses**

Income:	\$5,054.50
Expenses:	\$7,010.87

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.



Speaker April 8:

NUMAS Haus Coordinator Visiting Nora

Shelter coordinator Karla Diehn will speak briefly during the service on April 8. At that time we will present her with a check for donations collected on 2nd Sundays so far this year. As usual, our loose offering that day will do to NUMAS Haus. If you'd like to make a larger than usual donation, you may write a check payable to NUMAS Haus.

Guest Speaker April 22

On Program Committee Sunday, April 22nd, Chad Snyder will return as our guest speaker. Chad 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. He has spoken at Nora on two previous occasions in recent years.

Update from Larry Bakken

To Friends and Family, Larry's treatment plan for ibrutinib has been interesting. Because it came from a specialty pharmacy it took longer to get the insurance approval needed.

He started taking 4 pills on Thanksgiving. After about 5 days he was surprised that the lymph nodes had shrunk a lot! Then about 5 days later he developed a rash from the top of his head to his knees. Had to stop using the drug and wait for the rash to go away. 10 days. Then he took 3 pills and within 24 hours, the rash came back. The pharmacist at the specialty pharmacy confirmed that it was likely that the drug was too strong. So we waited another 10 days for the rash to go away. We really did not want to stop using the ibrutinib as it seemed to have worked decreasing the size of the lymph nodes.

He has been taking 2 pills a day since January. The Pet CT Scan he took on recently confirmed that all of the lymph nodes are back to normal size except one in the center of his chest – smaller but not back to normal yet. Not sure how long he will be taking these pills but it's great knowing that they work so well! We thank you for your emails, cards, prayers 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



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

Thursday, April 19

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

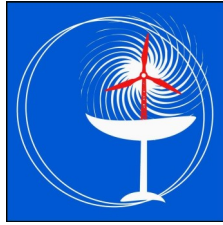
Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

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

Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Opportunities to Say Yes

"There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all of your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls."

—Howard Thurman

For forty days, I refused to say no. Last year for Lent, I decided to say yes to any request. I had only two rules: the request must do no harm, and to keep the practice authentic, I couldn't tell anyone about it until it was over.

When I came up with this Forty Days of Yes, which I thought of as a fast, I prepared myself for transformation. I imagined gathering sermon-worthy anecdotes that would melt hearts and change souls. I silently dared people to ask me for things that would lead me on great adventures, and confront my assumptions.

Ash Wednesday came and went without a single request. Then several more days passed without a chance to practice my fast, then weeks.

In fact, I made it all the way to Easter without really having to honor my fast.

When I wondered how I went forty days without anyone making a request of me, I dismissed the self-congratulatory explanations (like, maybe I live a life of yes so consistently that I rarely tell people no).

More likely, it's my identities, both assigned and chosen, that are the culprit. I'm male and white: very few people ask me for things. Add "clergy" to

the mix, and my guess is that people feel uncomfortable asking me for things.

On the rare occasion that someone does request something from me, I'm too often absorbed in my own privilege to even notice. Being a white man, for example, it's easy to forget the power I carry with me. Because I'm able to ignore the potential risks that a person from a traditionally marginalized community takes by asking me for something, I'm certain I overlooked opportunities to say yes because they weren't phrased as explicitly or directly as my cultural privilege demands.

I'm prone to think of my Lenten practice as a failure: I didn't pick something rigorous enough to help me grapple with the realities of my own mortality and the temporary nature of all of existence. Then again, maybe transformation shouldn't be measured in forty-day increments. What I do know is that to this day, I'm much more likely to say yes when someone asks, and I'm slightly more aware of my privilege. .

—Rev. Nathan Ryan

Prayer

Spirit of Light, help me to see and encourage the light that shines from the soul of each of us. Guide my actions and temper my words so that I may kindle — and not smother — that flame in those I encounter today and every day.

—Connie Simon

Home Fire Preparedness Campaign

Seven times per day, someone in the USA dies in a home fire.

Go to getasmokealarm.org to schedule a FREE smoke alarm installation or call the installation HOTLINE 612-460-3674.

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