

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



November 4

“Remember Me”

*Special Dedication and
Ofrenda Altar*

November 11

“Made to Order”

November 18
“Thanks A Lot!”

November 25
**“Gratitude in Another
Voice”**

*Guest Speaker Louise
Guggisberg*



MERE LYS

November 2018 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

A View From the Hill

“These are days of memory,
Of reflection,
Of affirmation.
It has always been so for our kind,
After the leaves have fallen.”

The change of seasons, no matter the season, seems to prompt introspection. These words of retired Unitarian Universalist minister Edward Searl capture, in a lovely way, my autumnal introspection—at least the memory part and the reflection part. The idea that autumn might be a season of affirmation requires me to stretch a bit.

Elsewhere in his poem Ed writes: *In our minds/in the golden light of memory/ we affirm the eternal beauty/of the lives of those who have died/and the goodness of the days that were.* I easily nod my head agreement with that sentiment—in fact, that line is part of the reason I so often read this poem at memorial services for those who die in autumn. But a larger, more general mood of affirmation in October and November?

I love the physical beauty of this season, finding late autumn more breathtaking with each passing year, but what might it call me to affirm? “To everything there is a season” seems too obvious. There is that—a time to sow and a time to reap—but it’s more complex than that. Could it be that the beauty of skeletal trees and the beauty of fields covered in a thousand shades of brown and yellow and taupe, in sharp and jagged remnants of cornstalks and bean plants call me to remember that there is value not only in the potential of green shoots and in the fullness of the ear and the bean and the leaf? Is this the season to acknowledge, to affirm that there is still and always value in what remains after the potential has been fulfilled and the fullness has been harvested or otherwise consumed? Value beyond even the goodness of the days that were?

In the last years of her life my 90-something grandmother said more than once, when sitting down to supper with Mom and me or other family members, “I don’t deserve to eat this; I didn’t do a thing all day.” I’m afraid we’d usually respond by reminding her of all she had done that day—knitting, writing letters and in her journal, folding laundry and ironing, helping with meal preparation, taking short walks, visiting with grandchildren. Now I wish we—I—had responded differently. I wish I had told her she deserved supper, and breakfast and lunch and snacks. Period. Just because. Answering as we did, by reminding her what she had done, only reinforced the false notion that meals, that sustenance, that worth and value, must be earned.

It’s not a perfect metaphor, and it’s a bit jarring to hear myself equating my grandmother with the stubble left behind after the harvest. Nevertheless, this is what’s on my heart this November: Human beings (and other living things) are precious beyond accounting in every season of life. In potential and in full use-

fulness or productivity and at rest and when wanting. Maybe that's what I've seen, without even knowing it, all these years, as the golden light of autumn makes all the faded colors glow—the beauty of life that is neither earned nor can ever be erased. And I'm kind of glad my grandma has become wrapped up in this awakening for me—because I so easily allow the beauty of the fields and the trees make me stop and pay attention, but I need practice allowing the beauty of people do the same.

I think this is my first blessing of the season of counting blessings. May that season now unfolding be filled with the most unexpected and welcome of blessings for you.

-Lisa

The board gratefully acknowledges all the effort put forth in October on behalf of our church community. Thank you to...

All the Smorg volunteers for the time in preparation, the event itself and cleanup!

Joy and Julie for overseeing the details, purchasing, and workers and doing so with such kindness and patience!

The ministerial review committee for compiling survey results and conferencing with Lisa.

To Shannon and Dave Hoechst for installing the beautiful sign at the corner of 155th Street.

You are all loved and appreciated!

Common Read

Don't forget to order your copy! For a number of years UUs across the country (and around the world) have joined in reading and discussing one common book each church year. This year we'll join them! The 2018/2019 Common Read is *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*.

We have scheduled an initial book discussion for potluck Sunday, February 3, 2019 (see your Nora Church calendar!); additional sessions may be added. We will order several copies of the book from the UUA bookstore in order to take advantage of bulk order discount. Please e-mail or call the church office to reserve a copy. Expected price is \$16.

In Memoriam

Wayne Dean Johnson

January 7, 1941—October 15, 2018

Art with Attitude

We will have Art with Attitude on Oct 26. We will be making pillows for breast cancer patients and also small pillows to fit on seat belts for cancer patients with ports or surgery scars. There will be lots of pillow stuffing going on so everyone can get involved. We still have some bowls, bags and note cards left from the country store at Smorg. We will have them out on Sunday mornings if anyone is interested in shopping.

Art with Attitude will be taking a break in November and December and resuming fresh in the new year.

Ofrenda/Day of the Dead Altar

On Sunday, November 4, we'll celebrate our continuing relationship with loved ones who have died. Please bring a photograph, favorite food item or other memento to place on the ofrenda, in remembrance of your deceased family members and friends. Here is a link to site with pictures, explanations and ideas about what you might bring. <http://www.mexican-folk-art-guide.com/day-of-the-dead-altars.html#.WfNn3WhSyM8>. (Our altar will be both family-friendly and church-friendly.)

Lunch Bunch

Despite the tariffs against China, the Lunch Bunch is defiantly having its November meeting at the Main Jiang House restaurant, 400 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm, on Wednesday the 14, at 11:30 a.m. Come join us for some good food and company.

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

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 4th!

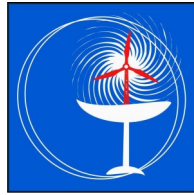
Don't forget to set your clock back an hour.

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.



Supper Club

Wednesday, November 28 at 6:30 we'll hold a potluck at Nora, following Christmas decorating.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 21: Build the float for the Parade of Lights. Check with Julie Peck or Darrell for time and place. We can use all skill levels. The theme will be "Mere Lys, More Light" which will also be the theme for our Solstice program in December.

Friday, November 23: Walk with us in the Parade. We line up by St. Mary's Church at approximately 5:45. We finish at 3rd North at approximately 7:00 p.m. Let Jeanie know if you can join us so you get more specific info by that date.

Wednesday, November 28: 2:00 p.m. Decorate the church for the Christmas season. The Nora Supper Club will have potluck at church at 6:30 so those who come to decorate can enjoy the afterglow with a meal and good company.

Minister's Discretionary Fund

Lisa has a small sum of money at her disposal to use to meet emergency financial needs of Nora church members and friends, or members of the surrounding community. In the past she has been able to pay utility bills, purchase prescription medications, and cover the cost of a tank of gasoline. If you have a need, please be in contact with Lisa. If you know of a need, please be in contact with Lisa, or suggest that your friend or acquaintance be in contact with her. The minister's discretionary fund is outside of the annual operating budget of the church and is replenished by gifts made to the church marked clearly "for the minister's discretionary fund". Please consider making this fund the beneficiary of one of your holiday or year-end charitable contributions.

Market @ the Farm

Wednesday, November 7th from 4:00-7:00 pm we will hold our final Fall Market @ the Farm of the season, featuring our organic apples and apple products, eggs, microgreens. Alternative Roots Farm 11197 130th St., Madelia—from Nora take 257 East, left on Hwy 15, right on 130th St. Stop and say hello! -Brooke Knisley

Wake Now Our Vision: Collaborative Campaign

We invite you to join us in the [Wake Now Our Vision \(WNOV\) Collaborative Campaign Legacy Challenge](#). Simply put, our goal is to support one another in our work, so that we might become better, stronger, more effective institutions and congregations, capable of sharing our talents and expertise in the service of liberal religion.

The Legacy Challenge will strengthen the future of Unitarian Universalism through



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

Income:	\$ 5,294.90
Expenses:	\$11,636.42

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

Notes from the Nora Office...

Order Of Service:

Content due Thursdays by 8 am

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

November Mere Lys ~ content due

Monday, November 26

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
Phone: 507.439.6240

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
In the office Mondays and Thursday (AM).

planned giving. You can help. Your planned gifts support our institutions and congregations in bringing people together and standing up for love and justice. Plus, thanks to a generous grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, new legacy gift intentions designating one or more of the WNOV partner institutions, or a UU congregation or fellowship, are eligible for a 10% matching cash gift, up to \$10,000.

Brochure: <http://wakenowourvision.org/documents/u/unitarian-universalist-association/our-vision/wnov-giving-brochure.pdf>

FAQs: <http://wakenowourvision.org/documents/u/unitarian-universalist-association/our-vision/wnov-legacy-challenge-faq.pdf>

Download Pledge Form Here: <http://wakenowourvision.org/>

Out of the Spiritual Fog

"Grandma said it don't matter where we go to or come from;
She said, worry about what you're made to do, not what you're made of.
They say we're made of chaos. I say we're made of love
And that means our show starts now. Our show starts now."

—Cloud Cult, "The Show Starts Now"

These days, if I'm awake after midnight it's because I'm rocking my baby back to sleep. But before my baby, it was probably because I was at a rock show.

A couple of years ago, I went to see one of my favorite bands in San Francisco. As the band played, the audience formed a writhing mass of humanity, moving and singing together as one. After the show ended, my friends and I wandered out to the street. My eyes hadn't adjusted to the darkness and there was a constant ringing in my ears. Eventually I noticed that because we were all drenched in sweat, and in the foggy night, there were great plumes of steam coming off the top of our heads. It brought to mind the Pentecost story from the Christian Bible (Acts 2:1-4), where the Holy Spirit came upon the believers and flames erupted from their heads and

everyone was able to understand each other despite nationality or language.

So much of my life is lived from the neck up. I think about office jobs I've had; classes I've taken; the humdrum routine of everyday where my body is little more than a vehicle for my brain. How distant I feel from the Divine in those situations, when everything is on autopilot and I'm moving absently through life. And how I need moments to shock me out of that mental and spiritual fog.

Direct experience does not end at the neck. Direct experience of the Divine can't be merely conjured with the mind. It can be felt with our whole, beautiful, sacred bodies by clapping and singing and jumping up and down and crying and laughing and dancing.

That God is not a distant force, far away. God is in the beating of our hearts and the backbeat of a funky baseline. God is in a four-on-the-floor drum fill that makes us think I'm so glad I woke up today. God is in the achy joints and sore muscles the day after. God is visible in the steam coming off of sweaty bodies that danced and celebrated together at a rock show.

Prayer

Let us be open to new and surprising ways the Divine moves through our lives. Let us worship in places usual and unusual. Let our bodies move as they may, animated by the loving force that unites all. May we be washed in tears, sweat, and rain and brought into a new world of freedom. Let the hymns we sing be both ancient and new. And may we find ways to regain our humanity through enjoying life together.

Credit: Alex Haider-Winnett, Braver/Wiser

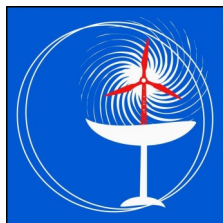
To ♥ Keep In Touch

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



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

12333 155th Avenue, Hanska, Minnesota 56041

Phone: 507.439.6240

Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net Website: www.norauuchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU