

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



December 2

“The Journey”

December 9

“The Time Is Near”

December 16

*“Still the Days Grow
Dark”*

December 23

*“To Hear the Angels
Sing”*

December 24

*Christmas Eve
Candle Lighting
Service 5:00 PM*

December 30

*No Service,
Winter Break*

MERE LYS

December 2018 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

A View From the Hill

Have a holly, jolly, Christmas! I'll have a blue Christmas without you. I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams. All is calm, all is bright. Feliz Navidad. Jingle bells, jingle bells. Bum da da da, bum da, da, da, bum da, da, da, bum da, da, da, da, da, da, da...

What seasonal line loops through your mind at idle moments this December? Sacred or secular? Cheery or melancholy? Vocal or instrumental? These familiar tunes and words can carry our hearts into the festive mood of the season. They can match our discontent with the coming holidays, and signal that others share our less than conventionally acceptable attitude toward all things red and green, pine-scented and wrapped with a bow. They can distract us, keep the tempo for our hustle and bustle, invite us to choose a different pace, or call us into reflection.

...the weary world rejoices graces my mind and my heart this year.

I *am* weary. So very weary with cares of parenting and ministry, with world affairs and domestic politics, with hatred disguised as patriotism, with misogyny masquerading as nothing other than hatred of women, with fear, ignorance and the desire to control pretending to be Christianity. Weary of greed destroying our home the Earth in the name of job creation and free market. Weary of hunger amidst abundance. Weary of children's lives being held less precious than gun rights. Weary of war. Weary. Weary. Weary of life in the twenty-first century. I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one feeling this weariness. I think *weary* is probably an apt adjective for the world these days.

So when do we start rejoicing? After we clean it all up? After love finally puts hate to rest? And in what shall we rejoice? Generosity leaving no room for greed? Peace triumphing at long last in every country around the globe? Powers and principalities coming to their senses and exercising a preference for the poor, the marginalized, and the forgotten in all matters of justice? *A new and glorious morn?*

We could, we *will* wait a long time for that specific new and glorious morn—when peace and justice and generosity reign and the very earth has been healed. And I don't think I can bear to be weary that long. I don't think any of us can. Here's the good news of the season of light: *O Holy Night* and all the other songs I sampled at the outset of this column, the secular and the religious, the melancholy and the cheery, all of them celebrate the beginning of the revolution, not the end of it.

Christmas is the story of a child's *birth*. Their teaching, ministry, protest and sacrifice come years later. Christians and other admirers of the human Jesus celebrate those, too, and strive to emulate the life. Yet the weary world rejoices in this season, this beloved-despite-all-the-flaws-season because all the rest—the teaching, the revolution, the sacrifice—are born and borne in and with and through the infant.

Continued on Page 2

Our own Sophia Lyon Fahs proclaimed the truth *each night a child is born is a holy night*. Each of those children, each of us, all of us together bear the seeds of the on-going revolution. And so may the weary world rejoice that a new and glorious morn is in our hands and ever dawning on the horizon, all evidence to the contrary notwithstanding.

-Lisa

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, December 9, following the service.

Lisa at Large

Each month Lisa participates in a various forms of public ministry, study, regional and/or Associational life beyond the Hill. In October she attended fall retreat of the Prairie Star Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the NUMAS Haus board meeting. In November she traveled to Cincinnati for the annual meeting of the Ohio River Group (a UU ministers' study group), as well as attending the United Way board meeting, lunching with woman UU ministers in St. Paul, and offering a prayer at the New Ulm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service.

January Newsletter

Please send all content for the January newsletter to Brooke in the Nora office by *Thursday, December 20th*. Cross it off your Christmas list early!

Christmas Elves Spotted!

Elves were spotted decorating the church this week! (Thank you!) The tree will be ready for decorating, following the potluck on Sunday, Dec. 2.

Cookies and Community and Christmas

If your plans allow, please join other Nora members, family, and friends for coffee, cider, treats and holiday cheer in the social hall following the candle lighting service on Christmas Eve.

Lunch Bunch

'Tis the season to deck the halls and be jolly, so the jovial Lunch Bunch crew will deck Turner Hall in New Ulm, 102 S. State St., with our presence on Thursday, December 13, 11:30 a.m. We HO-HO-Hope you can join us. *Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to all.*

Supper Club

Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30, location to be announced.

Sacred Places Grant Update

On December 5, Emily Sajdak, project manager for Sacred Places, will be visiting Nora Church. The day's agenda includes a tour of the church property, discussing repair projects, and an asset mapping session with members of the church and representatives from Hanska and Brown County. The purpose of the asset mapping session is to help identify ways our church reaches out to the larger community and how that role can be well communicated. We look forward to Emily's visit.

Food Shelf Volunteering

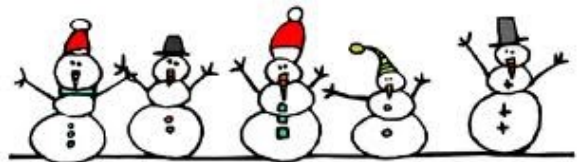
During December Nora Church will furnish volunteers for the New Ulm Food Shelf. The work involves refilling orders as families come in. No special skill is needed, someone will explain what to do if you've not worked before.

Our dates are on December 3, 26 and 31, 11:45-3:00. We should have 3-4 volunteers for each time.

We are a small group so we need all who can assist. Please let Darrell Hinsman know if you can help or call 354-7494 or 276-6044.

Pastoral Care

Please be aware that privacy laws prevent hospitals from calling churches and pastors when members are admitted—unless specifically asked to do so by the patient. If you or a loved one is hospitalized, and you would like a call or visit from Lisa, please call/text her at 507-766-7822, leave a message on



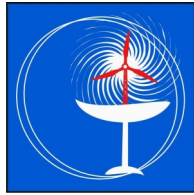
A Note From the Treasurer **October Income and Expenses**

Income:	\$ 6,983.00
Expenses:	\$ 8,362.25

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.



the parsonage voice mail (507-439-6240), or ask a family member to do so on your behalf. You can also let us know (via any of those ways) if you'd like the church membership to be notified by Grapevine.

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.

2018-2019 Server/Volunteer List

Volunteers are needed for all Sundays that are not a potluck. Sign up in kitchen or when the sign up sheet is passed around in church.

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.

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

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

DECEMBER

2—Potluck—Edith Beckius, Lee Drogemuller, Colleen & Glenn Hokenson

24—Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska

JANUARY

6—Potluck—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Kristy Paulson

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

7—Potluck—

21—Easter Breakfast—Diane Becken, Janet Rosenbloom

MAY

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

JUNE

2—Potluck—Nita Gilbert, Shirley Olson

*Need more volunteers for non-potluck Sundays, April 7, Easter Breakfast and June 2.

Notes from the Nora Office...



My hours have returned to my Tuesday and Friday schedule. I can only reply to emails, etc. when I am in the office.

**January Meme Lys ~ content due
Thursday, December 20**

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.

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

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

Mere Lys—More Light

A Solstice Celebration

On the longest night of the year we will rejoice in the darkness *and* entice the sun's return with silence, song and ritual, and light refreshments.

Music by Dick Kimmel.

All invited, all welcome to this no-cost family friendly, community event.

Friday, December 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Beach House, Flandrau State Park

Park entry is free with a state park sticker on your car.

Free rides provided between Summit Avenue and the Beach House.

Park entry for those without a sticker choosing to drive in is \$7.

The Solstice Celebration is sponsored by Nora Unitarian Universalist Church, with music by Dick Kimmel.

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church ~ norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net ~ Nora Church UU on facebook ~ 12333 155th Ave., Hanska ~ 507-439-6240

Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will be resuming in the new year.

Lisa on the Loose

Lisa on the Loose will resume in January.

Common Read

Last call to grab your book! *Books will be ordered shortly.* The initial book discussion is potluck Sunday, February 3; additional sessions may be added. Please e-mail or call the church office to reserve a copy. Expected price is \$16.

New Ulm's Own Holiday Hours

Holiday hours at New Ulm's Own include Sundays 12:00—3:00 and Thursday, December 13 until 8:00. Usual hours are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00am to 5:00 p.m. Support fair trade artisans, NUMAS Haus and local artisans while also enjoying small town shopping.

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. Announcements will be made via Grapevine email, posting on the Nora website and Facebook page, and a 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 everyone 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



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU