

MERE LYS

February 2019 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



February 3

“Now It Begins?”

February 10

“Revealing Joy”

February 17

*“Keep Telling
the Story”*

February 24

“Choose Again”

*Guest Speakers Chad
Snyder and Amy
Luedtke*



A View From the Hill

Someone recently asked me for my favorite motherhood quote. I couldn't think of any motherhood quotes in the moment, so I made one up: *the love's the thing*. I like the way it sounds, both pithy and wise (and shamelessly rips off Shakespeare). But I'm not sure it means anything. I was a foster parent long before I was a mom, and an inside look at families 'in the system' reveals pretty quickly that love and parenthood are two different qualities, and the relationship between them is neither straightforward nor guaranteed.

Of course the same is true of love and friendship, love and kinship, love and partnership. An intimate relationship is no guarantee of love, and love is no guarantee of simplicity or ease or unadulterated pleasure. No seasonal flurry of red and pink hearts changes that.

But the inevitable heartbreak and challenge of opening ourselves to love notwithstanding, *love is the thing*. The thing all the poets and lyricists and artists of the ages must capture and express, and the thing none of them can agree upon. The thing for which we courageously lay ourselves bare, and the thing against which we erect barriers of cunning devising.

And Love, according to our Universalist forbears, is the Thing that holds us. In all our holy human perfection and all our wretched human brokenness—which cannot be separated, one from the other, in any of us—Love holds us.

That makes each of us a Valentine. Love's Valentine. God's Valentine. Mystery's Valentine. If you listen very carefully this month you'll hear a voice from both within and beyond saying something sweeter and more miraculous than “Will you be my Valentine?” It is even now whispering, singing, calling, declaring, as it has from the day you were born and will to the day you die, “You are my Valentine!”

The Love's the Thing.

-Lisa

Thanks From the Board

The board gratefully acknowledges all who helped with the December Solstice event: Dave and Sally Anne Benson, Brett Lehman, Darrell Hinsman, Colleen Hokenson, and the board thanks themselves too! Lisa provided meaningful content and Dick Kimmel's music was right on. Though the room was cold, the spirit was warm. Thanks to all who attended and shared in any way.

Thank You!

Good job, everyone.

January Board Meeting Report

The January board agenda included regular reports from the treasurer, minister, and office manager. We reviewed the solstice event and discussed planning a summer solstice event in June at Flandrau Park. Fundraising report was given (over \$13,000) and decided to write acknowledgements at our February or March meeting. The minister's annual goals were presented. A construction bid for the belfry project was accepted from Goodrich Construction. Plans for the Jan. 30 Hanska Community Dinner were reviewed. It was decided to open a new bank account for the fundraising appeal. UUA annual certification was reviewed as well as revision to the minister's Leadership Covenant, Sect. 3. Jeanie shared info she learned from contact with the State Historical Preservation Committee and the possibility of Legacy funds available for a Historic Buildings Conditions Assessment. Lisa shared info re: Faithify, a UU social media fundraising opportunity.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Tuesday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m., at the Hinsman residence, 69 Roslyn Rd, New Ulm. Full board minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship entry.

Supper Club

Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30, location TBA.

Meatballs!

There are meatballs for sale in the freezer in the Kaffee Stua. They are \$7.50 per bag, plain meatballs, no gravy.

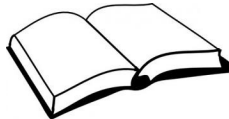
Lunch Bunch

February has a number of special days: Groundhog, Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day, Washington's Birthday. To that impressive list, add Lunch Bunch to your calendar. We'll meet Wednesday, February 13, 11:30 a.m., at Perkins in New Ulm. Hope you can join us.

Lunch Bunch is a monthly social gathering open to all.

Common Read

The copies of our congregational read *Justice on Earth, People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class and the Environment* are available thru Lisa. Our first discussion will be on February 3. Participants will decide if we want to discuss during or after potluck. We'll also decide if we want further discussion opportunities or if we feel we have covered material to our satisfaction in one event. The book is 156 pages divided into fourteen short chapters. Even if you are not finished with it in entirety join us. It will be an interesting discussion. Lisa also has study guides. Talk to her if you would like to see that ahead of time.



Mere Lys Newsletter

Several comments have been shared that members and friends are not keeping up with Mere Lys news.

Brooke will print a few additional hard copies which will be available in the fellowship hall. If you have difficulty accessing your Mere Lys via e-mail, please pick up a copy at church.

Sunday Servers Needed:

There are several open Sundays March thru June that do not have coffee servers.

Please check the calendar and if you are able to take a Sunday it would be appreciated.

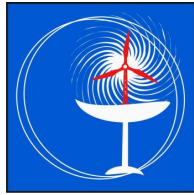
A Note From the Treasurer **December Income and Expenses**

Income:	\$ 6,656.00
Expenses:	\$ 8,823.21

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.



February 24 Guest Speakers

On February 24 guest speakers Chad Snyder and Amy Luedtke will present “*Choose Again*” - As Barbara DeAngelis said, "Love is a choice you make from moment to moment." Husband and wife Chad Snyder and Amy Luedtke will explore love as an act of choice through selected poems, fiction, songs, drama and excerpts from sermons Chad has given as a wedding officiant.

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.

Art with Attitude

Dates for Art with Attitude have been narrowed down to either February 15 or 22—let Nancy know what works best. Watch for updates! Of course around here most of it depends on the weather any-

Notes from the Nora Office...

March Mere Lys ~ content due
Monday, February 18

I will be out of the office Friday, February 22, for a farming conference. Please note the earlier deadline—your timeliness helps greatly!
Thank you!

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.

Nora wishes to thank all of those who have generously gifted monies dedicated to the belfry and church repairs.

Betty Fischer
Carma Doege
Arline Schmiesing
Elaine L. Shiang, in memory of Fred Li
Jerald & Suzanne Guggisberg, in memory of Ezra & Clarice Sandmann
Stephanie Kolbe, in honor of Arline & Virgil Schmiesing
Darlene Wolf
Joel Botten, Jr.
Doug & Kari Haler
Henry & Barbara Lokke, in memory of Hans Jorgensen
Kathleen Holden
Gil & Sally Hanson
Cole Spelde
Warren & Kristine Paulson
Michael & Judy Strom
Carol Kjelshus (Karen Hinkle), in memory of Ben Kjelshus
Gerald & Julie Grathwohl
Lloyd Matthiesen
Joyce Krenz
Kenneth & Luella Chambard
Charles Broste
Kathy Doege & Chuck Cooke
Wendy Tuttle
Scott Witt
Sarah & Jerry Oelberg
Janet Rosenbloom
Shirley Olson
Nan Rosenbloom & Alan Bol
Ronda Rolstad
Algot Blomquist
Rev Lisa Doege
Lee Drogemueller
Yvonne Weber
Don Rollins, in honor of Algot Blomquist

List is current as of January 13th.

way. Nancy is enjoying the cold snap that greeted her when she arrived back. Contact Nancy at nbrudeli@comcast.net or 484-347-8816.

There are some projects in the works. We'll do some hand sewing, to make pockets for Lisa's battery pack. We are also going to tie some quilts. Many hands make fast work!

Nancy is hoping to do some painting projects. We'll give our painting a go! Nancy did some painting with the grandkids when she was home; they had a great time and decided anyone can do painting. If anyone is interested they can look up videos on YouTube.

We are also going to try mandala dot painting but on canvas, not on rocks! It's also something that's easy to do and is a lot of fun. YouTube has videos for that too.

Lisa at Large

In January Lisa attended the monthly meetings of the New Ulm Ministerial Association, the United Way Board of Directors, and the NUMAS Haus Board of Directors. She will transition from Vice President of the NUMAS Haus Board to President beginning in February. She also met with other Southern Minnesota UU ministers and representatives from MUUSJA (Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance) via Zoom. She was On the Loose in Mankato, and will reschedule Windom to a time more conducive for Nora's farthest west members. She officiated at the wedding of Jeremy and Candi Schmitt. And she stayed well fed and well connected at both Supper Club and Lunch Bunch.

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!!

Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
For a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about your despair, yours, and I will tell
you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue
air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting-
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

-Mary Oliver



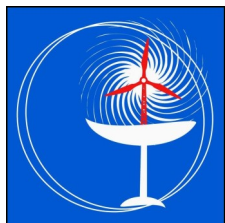
To ♥ Keep In Touch

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