

# *MERE LYS*

## *March 2019 Newsletter*

### **Nora Unitarian Universalist Church**

---

### *Services*

Coffee 10:00 am  
Worship 10:30 am



**March 3**

***“Keeping Rhythm”***

**March 10**

***“Sweeping Cobwebs  
Away—Or Not”***

**March 17**

***“Wild Things in  
Church”***

**March 24**

***TBA***

***Karen Hutt, Guest  
Speaker***

**March 31**

***“Windmill, Flower,  
Dune”***



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

Last week I saw a preview for a movie that is rated PG “for thematic content: peril”. I can’t shake that rating. As an adult who was once a very anxious child, I get it. There are kids for whom storylines of peril are much more disturbing than profanity or images of violence (at least more immediately and consciously disturbing). Parents of such kids would do well to steer their kids away from movies with a ‘peril warning’, or at least to view such movies along with their kids, preparing for reassuring follow up conversation.

As minister, however, I’m not so sure that presence or absence of ‘peril’ is a sound basis for decisions about the experiences and situations we seek out or try to avoid or reluctantly undertake. I believe that as people of faith we are called to live boldly in the face of all kinds of peril. And I believe that making peril a central focus of our life endangers us in more ways than one.

If life came with warning labels ‘peril’ would certainly be one of many. And the label would need symbols for subcategories, many of them double-edged: mortal peril, moral peril, financial peril, existential peril, the peril of love, the peril of intimacy, the peril of arrogance, the peril of humility, the peril of trust/distrust...

But life doesn’t come with warning labels. To parents, teachers, aunts and uncles, mentors, faith communities falls the honor and responsibility of guiding us toward safety and prudence and full becoming—neither hiding life’s perils from us nor exaggerating them. Creation abounds in grace and possibility, wonder and miracle, forgiveness and second chances, opportunities to serve the causes of love and justice. Failure to recognize these gifts, to pursue them, to accept them when they come to us is surely one of life’s greatest perils.

Life has seemed incredibly perilous this long winter—whether viewed through the lens of weather or national politics or geopolitics or the blurring of news and propaganda or intersections of fear and faith, race and gender, power and privilege and policing—but spring comes this month. Spring is even now waking, like a trailer for a movie, declaring that “critics acclaim life’s artistry in color and sound and fragrance”, that “the experience of life will make you laugh and cry and bring you to your feet with applause”, that “you won’t want to miss a second of life!”

Shall we carry on together? Trusting the spring’s promise of life worth living abundantly and with abandon, even in the face of the peril warning?

*-Lisa*

## Thanks From the Board

Our continued thanks to Warren for moving the abundance of snow!

## January Board Meeting Report

Weather foils board and Church. After two cancellations the board met on February 27 to consider financial concerns, maternity leave for Brooke, the belfry repair bid, and the community supper. We stayed later to handwrite acknowledgments for contributions to the belfry project. Our financial balance has been impacted by weather closures. We'll need to address these in the upcoming months.

## Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, March 17, following the service.

## Summer Solstice Planning

The board decided to do a follow up summer solstice. Realizing the success we had with our winter event we would like to prepare a similar celebration of the longest day of the year. We certainly have had the winter to make us feel like planning for summer's return! If you are interested in participating on a planning committee for a June 21st, Friday celebration, please get in touch with Jeanie.

## Next Community Supper

March 27 is our next Hanska Community Meal. We need bars, cooks, servers, and cleanup crew. Willing workers—get in touch with Jeanie!

## 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.

## Meatballs!

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

## Supper Club

Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 pm, Chubby's, Hanska. What better way to beat that cabin fever?!

## Lunch Bunch

Well, it's been a tough winter, but if it's March, can Spring be far behind? Daylight Saving Time begins, St. Patrick's Day follows closely, the first day of Spring is nigh, and of course, who can forget tax preparation time. So much to look forward to, and now you can add Lunch Bunch to your calendar. By unanimous vote, the Green Mill at the Best Western in New Ulm was chosen to host us on Wednesday, March 13, at 11:30 a.m. Hope to see you there.

*Lunch Bunch is a monthly social gathering open to all.*

## Art with Attitude

Dates for March are the 8th and 22nd, 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. We may try dot painting or a "bring your own project day," or we may need a day to just drink coffee and grumble about winter. Everything has a purpose! Hope to see you there.

## March 24 Guest Speaker

We welcome Karen Hutt back with us this month! Karen Hutt is a Unitarian Universalist minister and educator. She currently serves as a certified Association of Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, and she is Vice President for Formation, Vocation and Experience at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. She is committed to the training of chaplains for the twenty-first century and has developed innovative curricula to teach the practical skills required in today's pluralistic, institutional settings.

## Lisa at Large

In February Lisa attended the monthly meeting of the New Ulm Ministerial. She presided over her first board meeting as president of the NUMAS Haus board, and met weekly (as weather allowed) with shelter coordinator Karla Diehn. In other NUMAS Haus business, she met several times

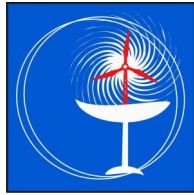
### *A Note From the Treasurer* **January Income and Expenses**

<b>Income:</b>	\$ 6,136.50
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$ 6,665.82

*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.



with Jo Anne Taylor to transition leadership, and had a Zoom meeting with Jo Anne and the fundraising consultant NUMAS Haus has contracted with for a year. She was also the board member on-call one weekend.

### **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.

### **Pianist Wanted**

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church in rural Hanska is seeking a pianist to play for service one Sunday a month. Pianist will accompany four hymns chosen by service leader, and play prelude, postlude, and offertory music (selected by pianist). \$60/Sunday. Service time 10:30 a.m.

If interested, please contact the Reverend Lisa Doege at 507-439-6240 or [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net).

## **Sunday, March 10**

# **Set your clocks ahead 1 hour!**

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



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

George L Glotzbach, in honor of Algot Blomquist

Daniel & Patricia Amborn

Brad & Linda Blomquist

David Rosenbloom

Edith Beckius

Zachory Beckius

Jonathan Beckius

Brett Lehman

John & Roselyn Fischer

Kent Chambard

Ronald Peck

James Penrod

Ken & Suanne Hallberg

*List is current as of February 27th.*

**MARCH COMES IN LIKE  
A LION, AND GOES OUT  
LIKE A LAMB.**

Proverb

### **Notes from the Nora Office...**

April Mere Lys ~ content due

**Thursday, March 12**

### **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](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

Phone: 507.439.6240

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

## Trying Something Different

"Old ways won't open new doors."

—Anonymous

Screwdrivers are my nemesis. I don't know why on earth we need a zillion types of screws, but those little exchangeable screwdriver heads are the bane of my existence. They seem to migrate out of the tool box and into the couch cushions and under the furniture and I never have the right one when I need it.

So I employ a creative strategy, which is to pick one that is kind of close to right, and then to press really hard. Sometimes this works. Sometimes, though, it goes KAJUNK KAJUNK KAJUNK and the bit spins and the screwdriver doesn't move and if I don't stop immediately, Bad Things Occur. The screw and the bit can get stripped, changing shape into a groove that leaves everything stuck.

I think about this sometimes in meetings. I'm good in meetings... usually. Over the years, I've built up an impressive array of tools: I-statements, being assertive, and all of that stuff. What I could improve on, though, is knowing when to switch tools: noticing the interpersonal KAJUNK KAJUNK KAJUNK faster and responding not by pressing harder but rather with, This strategy isn't working. I need to try something different.

I remind myself to pause and test out bits—the old faithfuls like, "Maybe I'm not hearing what you're trying to say; let me say it back to check," and "You have an unmet need here; can we figure out what it is?" Because it never works to respond with the "There's an app for that" bit when the "Tell me how you feel about this" bit is called for. (Even when there is an app for that.)

Spiritually, I'm also learning to hear and respond to the KAJUNK KAJUNK KAJUNK. I have a list of simple bits to try (go for a walk, get a good night's sleep, journal...) that are deceptively simple, but remarkably effective. The older I get, the more I understand that the goal isn't having the most or best screwdriver bits; it's learning to hear the KA-

JUNK KAJUNK KAJUNK, to take a deep breath, and to switch strategies.

## Prayer

God, grant me the attention to hear when something changes, the perceptiveness to know when things aren't working, and the wisdom to try something different.

—Liz James, Unitarian Member

From Braver/Wiser

It was one  
of those  
*March*  
days when the sun shines hot  
and the  
*wind blows* cold:  
when it is summer in the  
and winter in the *light,*  
shade.

~Charles Dickens

## 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.

### 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](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net) Website: [www.norauuchurch.org](http://www.norauuchurch.org)

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