

MERE LYS

April 2019 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



April 7

**Guest Speaker Lee
Drogemuller, Nora
Member**

April 14

**“A World of Risk and
Loveliness”**

April 21

**“Cracked Open,
Bursting Forth”**

April 28

“Now What?”



A View From the Hill

With Easter coming so late this year some have dared speculate that it might be snow-free, and sunny, and warm! Easter finery might not be hidden under winter coats! The center aisle at church might become a runway for patent leather shoes, pastel dresses and ties! Others caution that we had a school-closing, church-canceling, road-blocking snowstorm last April 15. Thus, we might be recklessly optimistic in thinking that April 21 this year will be anything other than the same old Easter-in-Minnesota-means-warm-clothes-and-sensible-footwear.

We persist, here in the northern hemisphere, in equating the new life of spring with the symbolism of Easter—life after seeming death; re-birth; flowers blooming and baby animals being born. But Easter arrives with autumn in half the world. Christians living in the southern hemisphere celebrate Easter as temperatures fall, and the leaves on what deciduous trees there are turn red and yellow. Perhaps Easter finery in New Zealand and Australia, Chile and other southern locales echoes an autumnal palette instead a spring one! I don't know.

I *do* know that the message of Easter is without season. When I preach (as I have and will again) about the Easter experiences that come into each of lives I try to be clear that those new-life-after-seeming-death events come any time of the year. In Unitarian Universalist churches we observe Easter, at least in part, as a means of practicing our alleluias and our rejoicing, and of celebrating publicly all the personal and private Easters known only to ourselves and perhaps a small group of beloveds.

I'll be as happy as anyone else should April 21 dawn sunny and warm. My mom and siblings and their children will join Lucia and me at the parsonage, and most of us have fond memories of the Easter we celebrated here several years ago when it was warm enough to eat dessert outside. But if there's rain (or s%\$&#), I'll sing my alleluias just as loudly and joyfully, in defiance of all living deaths, in celebration of all resurrections, and, as ever, in gratitude for our being a church together through it all.

-Lisa

Thank You!

Thanks From the Board

The board thanks those who helped with the February Community Dinner: Susan Allen, Nancy Brudelic, Louise Guggisberg, Lee Drogemuller, Julie Sellner, Shirley Olson, Colleen Hokenson, Joy Rathmann, Darrell and Jeanie Hinsman.

Thank you to John Bode for being available to help with snow removal when needed.

March Board Meeting Report

The Nora Church board met March 17, following the church service. It was a two hour meeting that covered many topics. Several significant decisions were taken regarding items to bring to the annual meeting in June. The board recommends the following:

Reduce board membership from a seven member board to a five member board. We believe a five member board is sufficient to represent the needs and desires of our congregation. It will be easier to maintain a turnover in board membership with five rather than seven members.

Increase the line item in the budget for snow removal and lawn mowing. If it becomes necessary to supplement available volunteer resources for property maintenance we need to insure funds are available to do so.

Reconsider the decision to maintain full time ministry. The board recommends going to part-time ministry in July 2020. As of the March meeting expenditures for the church year surpass income by approximately \$12,000. This has been a consistent pattern for recent years as we continue to withdraw from savings to meet expenses.

Upcoming agenda items: In addition to routine business the board will focus the next meetings on specific topics. April---preliminary budget for 19-20; May---calendar for 19-20; June---goals for 19-20.

All church members are welcome to attend board meetings to raise concerns or show support. We welcome your input. Next board meeting is April 28 after service.

Easter Sunday Breakfast

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 21. Invite friends or family members. Easter bonnets optional; guests welcome!

Art with Attitude

Tentative spring dates for Art with Attitude are Fridays at 10:00 a.m. on April 5, May 3, 17 and 31. We will skip the one closest to Easter. We may do some dot painting, depending on the interest. We may put together and tie some quilts. If anyone has something they would like help with just let us know! Let's hope by the time April rolls around we can truly be thinking of spring and the snow piles will be gone.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch decided to take advantage of the MLC cafeteria one more time before the college takes its summer break. The date is set for Wednesday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m. There is plenty of good food at a reasonable price plus great company so we hope to see you there. *Lunch Bunch is a monthly social gathering open to all.*

Supper Club

Supper Club will be 6:30 Wednesday, April 17. Our first Spring supper club is at Turner Halle, 102 S. State St, New Ulm. Hope to see you there!

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, April 28, following the service.

April Community Meal

April 24 is our final Hanska Community Meal for the church year. We need bars, cooks, servers, and cleanup crew. Willing workers contact Jeanie.

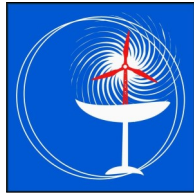
A Note From the Treasurer **February Income and Expenses**

Income:	\$ 963.00
Expenses:	\$ 7,748.38

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.
Lisa will be in St. Louis, MO,
April 4-7 attending the UUA
MidAmerica Regional Assembly,
and a ministers gathering
just prior to the RA.



She can be reached on her cell when not in the
office: 507-766-7822.

Lisa at Large

In March Lisa participated in a previous delayed Zoom conversation with Luke Stevens-Royer, minister of First Unitarian Universalist Church in Rochester, Kristin Maier, minister of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield, Rita Capezzi, minister of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato, and Danny Givens, Statewide Organizer for Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance. She presided over the March meeting of the NUMAS Haus board, and attended the March United Way board meeting. She met weekly, in person or over the phone, with the NUMAS Haus shelter coordinator. She also provided the pastor's column for the Madelia Times Messenger one week.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Greetings! My due date is April 24th, for this dear little boy. So, expect me to disappear mid-month or so and I'll be back later in June. I'll be sure to send updates through Lisa! Thank you for supporting this cherished time for our family. —Brooke

May Mere Lys ~ content due

Monday, April 22nd

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
On maternity leave mid-April-mid-June.*

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

Randall E. Paulson

Vicki Sieve

List is current as of March 17

Lisa on the Loose

Lisa will lunch in Windom one Tuesday in April. Watch the Grapevine and orders of service for exact date, time, and place.

Lisa holds "office hours" at area coffee houses—join her for drop-in conversations in your area.



This Is What We Do Here

"The prayers of all good people are good."
—the grandfather of Jim Burden, in *My Antonia* by Willa Cather

Worship was my first language. I began attending church in utero, and I still love going to church. It's a marvel to me. *Would you look at us?*, I think to myself every Sunday. *Despite the other options, all of us chose to be together today. Everyone here needs something, or knows that someone else needs us...or both.*

On my last trip to New York, I attended worship at a well-known progressive Christian church. Despite being warmly welcomed over and over by the greeters, by the family sitting behind me, and by the lead pastor, I couldn't shake that "guest" feeling.

The more I watched people exchange easy intimacies of friendship, the more I felt like an outsider. It didn't help—and it took me a long time to realize

this—that I had unwittingly seated myself in pews reserved for the children’s choir. (They didn’t seem to mind, so I stayed put.)

Worship began. We sang; we prayed. The children clattered up to the chancel and sang their hearts out as we rocked, clapped, and sang along with them. Shortly after they settled back around me, the pastor invited the congregation to say the Lord’s Prayer in any language or words that were meaningful to us.

Ever-loving and holy God, hallowed be your name. Your reign come.... As I recited the prayer, I closed my eyes—until I felt someone’s hand slip into mine.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins... The small, brown hand curled around mine belonged to an eleven-year old boy—the same child who, when I whispered "Great job!" to him after the choir’s piece, had shyly looked at his shoes. But as the congregation prayed out loud together—all of us, I could now see, holding hands across the sanctuary—he had confidently reached out for the hand of a stranger.

That matter-of-fact gesture—*I may not know you, but this is what we do here*—was an announcement of belonging. It claimed me as part of something larger. After the congregation’s unison "Amen," I continued my own silent prayer: *I trusted that you were here, Gentle One, moving among us... but thank you for showing yourself in the hand that reached out for mine.*

Prayer

Would you look at us, Gentle One? Some of us are confident that we belong to you and to one another, but some of us feel lost. Help us find one another today so that everyone knows that we all belong.

Credit: Rev. Erika Hewitt, Braver/Wiser March 6

Sunday Servers Needed

There are several open Sundays April 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.

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 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.



“In nature, nothing exists alone.”

— Rachel Carson, 1962

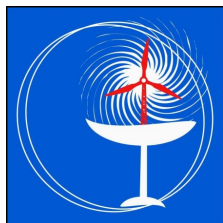
To ♥ Keep In Touch

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



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