



# MERE LYS

## May 2019 Newsletter

### Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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### Services

Coffee 10:00 am

Worship 10:30 am



May 5

**“True Currency”**

May 12

**“Not the Card**

**Companies’**

**Mother’s Day**

May 19

**“Keep It Holy”**

May 26

**“Choose Again”**

**Guest Speakers Chad**

**Snyder and Amy**

**Luedtke**



### A View From the Hill

*Thus says the Lord:*

*A voice is heard in Ramah,  
lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more.*

Rachel is weeping in Sri Lanka. Rachel is weeping in New Zealand. Rachel is weeping in Pittsburgh. In Yemen Rachel is weeping. In detention camps at the U.S. Mexican border she weeps. On the streets of Ferguson, at the Pulse nightclub, in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School she weeps. In Chicago and New York and Minneapolis Rachel is weeping. Rachel is weeping still for her children in Columbine and at the Murrah Federal Building and at Kent State. Rachel is weeping outside jails and in refugee camps and in native communities. She refuses to be comforted because there would be room for nothing else in this newsletter if I listed all the places she weeps for children who are no more.

The prophet Jeremiah continues:

*Thus says the Lord:*

*Keep your voice from weeping,  
and your eyes from tears;  
for there is a reward for your work,  
says the Lord:*

*they shall come back from the land of the enemy;  
there is hope for your future,*

*says the Lord:*

*your children shall come back to their own country.*

Oh, that our children would come back to their own country—places of safety and security, of abundant food and plentiful water, of play and education, of whole families and vibrant neighborhoods in every corner of the world.

If there is to be reward for our work, we must take it up. Take up the work of gun control and policing reform. Take up the work of eliminating cash bail bonds. Take up the work of electing advocates for women and children. Take

up the work of noticing and demanding justice for missing and murdered indigenous women. Take up the work of peacemaking.

In this month when we here in this country celebrate mothers, let us take up our small piece of the work that will bring our children home and turn Rachel’s long lamentation and bitter weeping to songs of praise and tears of joy.

*Lisa*

**Thanks From & For the Board**

The board recognizes the generous help of these members for the March Community Dinner (April is our last dinner for this year):

Warren Paulson and Kristi Paulson fro signage which was provided by Schell’s

Norma (and Roger) Breu for help in meal preparation.

Louise Guggisberg and Nancy Brudelic and Norma for cleanup.

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Thank you’s from UU Fellowship, Mankato and from Brooke and John Knisley have been posted on the church bulletin board. The church gifted the Knisley’s with a Target gift card as a welcome for baby Leopold. We gave Drummers’ gift card to the Mankato Fellowship in recognition of the installation of their first full time minister, Dr. Rev. Rita Capeezi. The UU Fellowship is in the planning stages for a memorial garden.  
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Thanks to the help of Algot Blomquist, Carol Chambard, Shirley Olson and Beverly Jean Wellmann, twenty-five additional names were added to our campaign for funds for church repairs. Letters were mailed mid-April. We are grateful for the response from a number of letter recipients. Updated list of donors will be included in a future Mere Lys and a complete list in the annual meeting materials in June. If you are intending to make a contribution to our capital campaign we would appreciate having it by June 15th if possible so that it can be included in this years financial reporting. Thank you to all for considering the needs of Nora Church.

**April Board Meeting**

The Board met on April 28th and minutes from the meeting will be included in the June Mere Lys.

**Congregational Board Meeting**

There will be a brief congregational meeting on May 12 for the purpose of presenting the 2019-2020 church year budget. We recognize it is Mother’s Day and will keep this brief. If you are unable to attend, copies will be available in the church entry after the 12th.

**Summer Solstice**

The Summer Solstice will take place on Friday, June 21st at Flandrau State Park. What a great way to enjoy the new spring/summer weather after the longest, snowest winter we’ve had in years. If you are interested in participating or helping with the planning committee, please contact Jeanie.

**Supper Club**

Join us on May 15th at Pub 500 in Mankato—there’s something for everyone on their menu! Please watch the weekly bulletin for any changes and updates.

**Lunch Bunch**

The Jolly Lunch Bunchers will gather at the New Ulm Country Club for their May meeting on Tuesday, May 14 at 11:30 a.m.—Golf clubs optional. We hope you can join us.

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

<b>Income:</b>	\$ 12,526.39
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$ 14,494.09*

\*Includes \$4,000 contract deposit for building repairs.

*Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not in-*

### **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.



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

*A complete list of donors will be included in the Annual Meeting Report*

### **Art with Attitude**

Dates for May are the 3rd, 17th and 31st, 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Anyone interested in dot painting, please let Nancy Brudellie know. Another option may be to help with quilting or enjoy a nice cup of coffee and talk about the crazy spring weather! Please contact Nancy if you plan to join—(484)347-8816. Hope to see you there!

### **Lisa at Large**

In April, Lisa attended the Regional Assembly of the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She provided the Pastor's Column for the St. James Plaindealer on April 18. In addition to her usual activities as NUMAS Haus board president, she attended and emceed the Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Event. On April 14, she offered the Prayer of Installation for the Reverend Doctor Rita Capezzi and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato.

### **May 26 Guest Speakers**

On May 26th, 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.

### **Inviting Our True Attention**

*"When you really pay attention, everything is your teacher" - Ezra Bayda*

**I call the tall bush on my back patio "Burning Bush" because in autumn its leaves are a fiery red.** All winter long I overlooked three uninhabited nests inside of it. For months and months I could have perceived—but didn't—what was in plain sight.

I was delighted to finally see them today, but not surprised. In the summer, I enjoy watching birds fly into and out of the leafy-branchy mass, catching glimpses of them hopping from ground to woody perch and back again.

I'm curious—and a bit embarrassed—that I hadn't noticed the nests until now, springtime, when the branches are about to burst forth with green.

I called my partner over to point out the carefully crafted twigs, each a purposeful home, one with a bright green strip of discarded plastic cording as decoration. He, too, is delighted. He, too, had not noticed them.

What else is there in this world that my hustling and bustling have barred me from sensing and seeing? What else has my oblivion—self-induced or socially-constructed—hindered me from perceiving?

My guess is that it is not only delights, such as these nests but violence, too, that's within perception's range, if only I gave it my true attention. Acts of exclusion, discrimination, the impacts of systemic oppression are all there, right before me. I don't always perceive them—I have been taught to not see them—but they are there, nevertheless.

What else have I missed as I move through this

world? How might I wipe the dust clouding my vision and be available to reality as it is?

### Prayer

Spirit of Life and Love, may my senses be attuned to that which is Just, or is in need of Justice; to that which is Compassion or is in need of Compassion. May I perceive not only my reality, but the reality of those I love and those whose company I cherish.

—Rev. Karen G. Johnston, Unitarian Society in East Brunswick, NJ

*From Braver/Wiser*



*The generation of women who came before us did much of our shouting. They laid the groundwork and now we can be calm and constant and steady.*

—Julianna Baggott

### 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

### Notes from the Nora Office...

June Mere Lys ~ content due

Wednesday, May 22

#### 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*

### 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



## Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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