

MERE LYS

May 2020 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

**Sunday & Wednesday
Services**

Cancelled

Updates will be sent out as we know more, via Grapevines, newsletters and Facebook.



**Sunday Zoom
Meetings**

12:00-12:30 pm

**Daily Poetry
Reflection**

12:00 pm



A Litany of Things Left Unfinished, Unbegun, Uncertain, and Otherwise Not Quite Right

Toward an Honorable Death community ed class - last session canceled
But we worked so hard on it.

Hanska Community Dinners - March and April meals canceled
Just as we were building momentum.

Vision Sermon Series - last sermon (*Transforming*) canceled
We still need to envision a future for Nora.

2019-2020 School Year - last trimester/partial semester moved out of buildings

There's a reason most parents aren't professional teachers.

2019-2020 School Year - prom, commencement canceled or gone virtual
It's not fair. Virtual prom and drive-by grad parties won't be the same. And it's not fair.

Weddings - plans on hold, fingers crossed, Zoom??

What about our reservations and deposits and dreams?

SXSW - canceled

Couch concerts have an attractive intimacy and immediacy.

Coachella - canceled

But there's nothing like the energy and the magic of the festival crowd.

NBA season - suspended

Fieldwork can be a spectator sport, too.

NCAA championships - those not yet complete, canceled

So many asterisks in the record books.

Tour de France - postponed

Amateur cyclists are racking miles in the meantime.

MLB - spring training, remainder canceled; opening day uncertain

Facebook Live recitation of *Casey at the Bat* anyone?

NHL season - suspended

Reruns of the Miracle on Ice never get old.

Masters Tournament - postponed

With the right attitude watching corn grow is as exciting as professional

golf.

2020 Tokyo Games - postponed to July 2021

Is that long enough?

Jobs - 700,000 lost in the U.S

How will we eat, pay our rent, our mortgage, our utilities?

Lives - 180,000 ended, worldwide

Will our mourning ever cease?

Life - as we've known it, altered irrevocably

How shall we shape it together, for the good of all and all the earth?



The Business of Being the Church

At its April meeting (held via Zoom with all members present), the Nora board decided to apply for a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the Small Business Administration, through our regular bank (Alliance Bank) in Hanska. A plan was formulated for devising the 2020-2021 church year budget, and that proposed budget will be sent to the congregation (by USPS) before the end of May. The PPP ran out of money before our loan was processed. Our loan application has been submitted and should additional funds become available, will be considered at that time.

The matter of our Annual Meeting will be on agenda for a board meeting to be held the second week in May. Our by-laws require us to hold an Annual Meeting on the first Sunday in June; they do not specify where such meeting must be held. At this point it seems likely that we convene an annual congregational meeting on June 7, via Zoom, ***for the sole purpose of entertaining a motion to postpone the business of the annual meeting*** (reports, budget consideration, etc.) ***until such time as it is safe to convene an in-person congregational meeting***. The number of church members participating in our Zoom gatherings on Sunday noon easily reaches the quorum threshold for congregational meetings, so a meeting with this

one agenda item would allow us to fulfill our by-laws requirement ***and*** ensure the fullest possible participation in the subsequent, in-person, congregational meeting.. More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter, and every effort will be made to assist members in accessing and learning to use Zoom prior to the meeting date (June 7).

The board did not discuss a date for reopening church, as the state shut-down order has not yet expired. It seems unlikely we will meet again in our church building before late summer. The board will consider starting the 2020-2021 church year earlier than usual, should that be safe.

Thank you to everyone who has recently sent in pledge payments or contributions to the minister's discretionary fund. ***Please note—checks should be mailed to the church.*** Lisa gets the mail every day and makes weekly or bi-weekly deposits at the bank. ***For speed and efficiency of processing, and as a sound fiscal safeguard, do NOT mail checks to Julie Peck.*** The person writing checks on the church account (Julie) should not be the person receiving checks. It also slows everything down and creates extra work for Julie to receive your checks and then mail them to the church for recording and depositing. If you prefer that Lisa not know the details of your financial support to the church, you may hold your pledge payments until Brooke is able to return to working onsite or, better, make arrangements with your financial institution for direct transfer of your pledge to the church account. Julie can help you with those arrangements.

—Lisa

Sunday Zoom Meetings at Noon

Because connection is our most urgent need in times of forced isolation, I will host a Zoom gathering each Sunday at 12:00 pm (after most on-line worship has concluded).

You will be able to join the gathering via your webcam or through a telephone. We will, for the most part, be able to see one another's faces and

hear one another's voices.

I'll offer opening words and light a chalice. You may wish to light a chalice also (let me know if you need creative ideas for a homemade chalice). We'll share joys and sorrows, broadly defined. And engage in conversation until 12:30.

Join the call by clicking <https://uuma.zoom.us/join>; or by opening your Zoom icon and entering the Meeting ID 972 541 6879 where it says "Join A Meeting"; or by dialing 312-626-6799, then entering the Meeting ID 972 541 6879 followed by #.

Looking forward to seeing you!

(please note, if you click on the Zoom link anytime other than noon on Sundays I will not be there.)

Daily poetry Reflection on the New YouTube Channel

Daily lectio divina sessions at 11:00 am. We'll post a link on Facebook once the upload is complete. You can also search YouTube for Nora Unitarian Universalist Church and subscribe to the channel.

The session template is below. We had to cut the silence down to two minutes to fit YouTube's time frame. We welcome feedback and suggestions—kindly offered.

Rev. Lisa Doege

Lectio Divina

Make yourself comfortable in front of your screen. You may wish to have a journal and pen at hand. I will welcome you and invite us to breathe together.

Then I will read the day's poem aloud three times. Two minutes of silence will follow each reading for reflection and journaling. The camera will focus on a chalice during the silence.

The three readings of the poem (or scripture passage) are typically designated: listen, ponder, pray (some Unitarian Universalists might say ask).

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

First Reading: Listen for a word or phrase that attracts your attention or 'jumps out at you'. Repeat it several times in your head/heart. Repeat it aloud.

Second Reading: Ponder why this word/phrase has captured your attention and how it might relate to your life. Can you express the relationship in a single sentence?

Third Reading: Ask what Life/God/the Holy is calling from you or for you, through the word/phrase? How will you live your response to your interaction with this poem?

After the third two minute silent period I will remind you that another video will be posted by 11:00 tomorrow, and then extinguish the chalice.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8WV1zYwpI7ILsQXE6iXXLw>

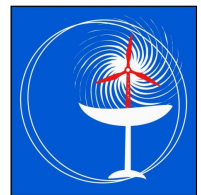
A Note From the Treasurer **March Income and Expenses**

Income:	\$ 3,695.00
Expenses:	\$10,858.06

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.



Notes from the Nora Office...

June Mere Lys ~ content due
Wednesday, May 20

Order Of Service: Content due Thursdays
Please send content of any kind, for the newsletter or order of service to the Nora email.
Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
Working from home.

Mail Your Pledges!

While we are not able to gather at our usual times, in our usual places, expenses continue as usual. We appreciate it, as you are able, to continue to send your regular pledges in the mail, or arrange direct deposit with your bank (contact Julie for more info on direct deposit). Thank you!

General Assembly

Due to uncertainty surrounding the safety of large gatherings in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association for June 24 -28, 2020 has been modified to an entirely virtual event. Registration for GA this year is just \$150 (and we have money in Nora's budget to cover several registrations at that level), and provides virtual access to all programming, lectures (including the Ware Lecture), workshops and governance sessions. Registration is not required for attendance/participation in worship services including the Service of the Living Tradition and Sunday morning worship. Please click here for more information, and consider attending GA this year.

MUUSJA needs you!

MUUSJA needs you! Are you doing (kind of) okay? Want to help others? Find on-line part-time work? Amplify congregational connections and impact? Your network, the MN UU Social Justice Alliance, creates regional coalitions among UU's and partners for climate action and human rights. With five major projects already seeded, sprouted, and growing (see www.muusja.org), we need new and returning helpers to nourish this regional UU network. Sign up for news and to become a one-time or sustaining donor at www.muusja.org/donate. We plan to hire one or two part-time on-line organizers soon, from anywhere in Minnesota. Contact Karen Wills, Director@MUUSJA.org, 612-927-2072. New collaborators are welcome to join any ongoing projects:

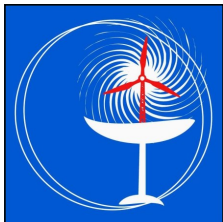
- Together with Muslim partners, we coordinate online English-language reading buddies for Somali-American kids ("Akhrinta/Reading Together").
- With national "#UUtheVOTE" and regional partners, we are creating a movement towards UU values in the 2020 election.
- The "UU Climate Justice Circle" focuses on environmental issues, with MNIPL, UUSC, and Indigenous partners.
- "Sanctuary, Accompaniment and Resistance" team, in solidarity with ICOM, MIRAC, and other immigrant-led groups, resists discrimination and family separation.
- The "Rainbow Chalice" coalition of LGBTQ+ UU's, teaming with OutFrontMN, regrets the cancellation of this year's PRIDE fests but plans for an even more fabulous 2021, if we can #UUtheVOTE in 2020!

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Emily Dickinson



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