

Services

Sunday Services

10:30 am

Streamed on Facebook Live



November 1

“Who Are the Ancestors?”

November 8

“And Now for Something Completely Different—or Not”

November 15

“The Last Leaf”

November 22

“Thanks, Anyway”

November 29

***Program Committee
Sunday
Zoom Virtual Service***

Unless announced otherwise, services will be held simultaneously in the church and on Facebook Live. Our COVID protocol remains in place: masks must be worn, members of separate households must sit at least six feet apart from one another, no receiv-

MERE LYS

November 2020 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

A View From the Hill

Each autumn as I prepare for Thanksgiving-themed worship I turn to two poems before any other possible texts. I don't include them in our services every year, but I seem to need their contrasting moods as a starting place: John Berryman's [Minnesota Thanksgiving](#) with its “yippee” in the penultimate line, and Edna St. Vincent Millay's [Thanksgiving...1950](#) with its opening “hard, hard it is this anxious autumn.”

Have you had a COVID holidays discussion with your family yet? My family made our decision about a week ago. We will not be gathering as an extended Doege clan this Thanksgiving or Christmas. Mom and my brother will be together in the apartment they now share, and my nephews may or may not join them for a small celebration. My sister and her husband and their children will be at their home. And Lui (as they now prefer to be called) and I will be at home in the parsonage.

It would be so easy to slip into the ‘hard, hard it is’ mood of Thanksgiving this year—and I can't guarantee it won't happen. But, while I also cannot guarantee a ‘yippee’ mood, I'm not going to pre-load a pity party agenda. I'm grateful for too much to throw away a holiday that circumstances dictate must be less than ideal.

I'm blessed with all the usual stuff—food, shelter, good friends, a beloved faith community, income that meets our needs, health, reliable transportation, the freedoms we're voting for this month. And I'm blessed with some 2020-specific stuff, too:

- We made our not-to-gather decision together without dissent or manipulation or general gnashing of teeth.
- We have an 81 year old mother/grandmother who is healthy and active, and for whose health (in part) we made this decision.
- We have the tech access to allow us to cyber-gather.
- All of us—Lui's siblings and the Doeges will be safe and warm and well-fed, and with some family: birth, adoptive, chosen.
- We have memories of Thanksgivings when we were able to gather in larger groups, and none of them much resembled a Norman Rockwell painting.

We have memories of Thanksgivings when one or more of us was not at the family table, and they were pretty good holidays despite the absence.

(In case it's not readily apparent, I'm grateful for the perspective those last two offer.)

May your Thanksgiving, wherever it falls on the spectrum between ‘hard, hard’ and ‘yippee,’ be full of grace and blessings. The grace to find the okayness in what is. And the blessings that have shaped you and set you up-

on the path into the reach of my words and the embrace, however virtual, of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church.

—Lisa

Sunday Services

Unless announced otherwise, services will be held simultaneously in the church and on Facebook Live. Our COVID protocol remains in place: masks must be worn, members of separate households must sit at least six feet apart from one another, no receiving line or social hall, all parts of the building other than the sanctuary and the entry-way restroom are off limits. Thank you.

Wednesday Zoom Meetings

November 4 and 18. Every other Wednesday we'll gather on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. for a chalice lighting and general conversation. It's not the same as coffee hour or potluck, but it is as close as we are going to get for the time being, and it really does strengthen connections we've all been missing. Please commit to joining in. Clicking on the link sent in Grapevines, on your smart phone or tablet will connect you.

A Note From the Program Committee

Dear Nora Family,

We three - Colleen, Brett & Sally Anne make up the Program Committee for this church year. We will be organizing the last service of each month when Lisa does not preach.

We hope you enjoyed our virtual service "Vote Love Defeat Hate" on October 25th. November 29th will be our next service. You will receive specific instructions on how to access this later in the month.

If you have any suggestions for a service this year, contact one of us.

Thanks! Colleen, Brett & Sally Anne



**Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, November 1st!**

Don't forget to set your clock back an hour.

A Note From the Treasurer

September Income and Expenses

Income: \$ 6,598.00

Expenses: \$12,509.66

Income and expenses presented at the last board meeting. Income does not include memorials and gifts.

News From the Board

The board and members of Nora Church give thanks to the following friends and members who supported the church recently with financial gifts. Some funds were earmarked for the endowment fund, some for the painting effort and others were undesignated. Hoffmann Construction donated a delivery of gravel which Warren uses to replenish driveway issues. We give special thanks to:

The Arline Schmiesing Family

Wally and Beverly Jean Wellmann

Larry Bakken

Ron and Julie Peck

Hoffmann Construction

James Penrod

Diane Becken

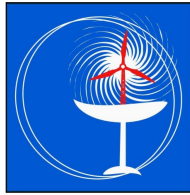
Cleanup Sunday and Beyond

Our cleanup date on Sept. 27 was nearly ideal weather for outdoor work. Eleven members showed up to work on our painting project. Thank you to Jerry Allen, Sally Anne Benson, Scott Chambard, Lisa and Lucia Doege, Darrell and Jeanie Hinsman, Lara Fletcher, Louise Guggisberg, Warren Paulson, and Julie Peck

The efforts beforehand in prep work meant we were able to get a good start on the east and north sides of the fellowship hall. In the following weeks many hours were contributed by Warren, Jeanie, Vicki Sieve, Glenn and Colleen Hokenson, Joy Rathman, Julie Sellner, Julie Peck, and Brett Lehman. We completed three sides of the building before the weather prohibited any further painting. Two difficult portions remain, the windows in the window wells and the peak on the northeast entry. Painters found that using a roller on the wide siding made for fast progress so we are assured that as soon as weather permits in the spring we will finish the remaining portions.

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.



Building and Grounds Report

A drainage issue causing erosion to the hillside northeast of the parsonage required tiling work by Heiderscheidt Construction. Thanks to John Bode for assisting Warren and Darrell in taking care of this issue. The committee's next project is to get bids for replacement of the garage door which despite frequent repairs continues to be stubborn and unpredictable especially in cold weather.

Caring Committee

Diane Becken, Georgine Tepley and Carol Cham-bard have agreed to serve on the Caring Committee. Their purpose is to make contact with congregation members who are ill, shut in, or residents of care centers. During COVID times this means phone contacts, cards or dropping off a care package rather than personal visits. If you know someone hospitalized or recuperating, needing a friendly chat or cheer-up, please let one of the committee members know.

Thanksgiving Grace

As I noted in my column this month, Thanksgiving is sure to be different for most of us this year. Early in Thanksgiving week I will send you a video table grace to use if and how you wish in your observance of the holiday. If you receive this newsletter, but not our midweek Grapevines, and wish to receive the video, please notify Brooke Knisley at norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

Lisa at Large

Lisa will participate in the 2020 (virtual) meeting of Ohio River Group (the UU ministers study group of which she has been a member for 20 years), in three segments from November 16-18. Our scheduled 2020 topic of study (Queer Theologies) has been shifted to 2021. Our new topic is ORG in a Time of Pandemic. We'll focus on connecting with one another from a distance, and also take time to discuss possible changes to our time-

honored but perhaps no longer best, most equitable and accessible practices of gathering, choosing and exploring topics, and welcoming one another and new colleagues into our group. Though the need for this discussion became startlingly apparent during the November 2019 ORG meeting, the timing of a can't-possibly-be-a-meeting-as-usual gathering gives us the space for discussion, and comes at a time when faith communities of all sizes and varieties (and most organizations) are of necessity re-examining long standing ways of being and doing. I anticipate our members will bring new found wisdom from our experiences of doing church these past seven, nearly eight months, and that we will gain insight from the ORG discussion to bring back to our ministry settings.

This fall's meeting of the Prairie Star Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association coincides with the Ohio River Group meeting. One advantage of meeting in the cyberspace is the possibility of being at both meetings at once--something not possible when one group meets in Iowa, the other in Ohio! I've been asked to offer opening worship for the chapter meetings. It's a humbling privilege to lead colleagues in worship.

Lisa continues to preside over the NUMAS Haus board of directors, via Zoom. Nora Church's practice of donating the loose offering one Sunday each month to NUMAS Haus has stalled out since the arrival of coronavirus-driven changes to our worship schedule and practice. You can support NUMAS Haus on your own in a variety of ways:

Give online at our [Giving Page!](#)

1. Mail a check directly to NUMAS Haus:
NUMAS Haus PO Box 291 New Ulm, MN 56073

Notes from the Nora Office...

**Mere Lys Newsletter content due
the 20th of each month**

**Since there will be no printed orders of service,
please send announcements for Grapevines via
email, or pass along to Rev. Lisa for me.**

Please send content of any kind, for the newsletter
and more, to the Nora email.

*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
Working from home and in the office Tuesday*

2. Text GIVE to (507) 306-1441 – You can also text PLEDGE to this number to set up a recurring donation, such as a monthly contribution

3. We also welcome “in kind” gifts! Here’s our current wish list:

- Shaving cream/Razors
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Women’s Deodorant
- Dish Soap
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Dryer Sheets
- Laundry Detergent
- Swiffer Sweeper Wet Refills
- Bath and Kitchen Towels and Wash Cloths
- Plastic Wrap
- Aluminum Foil
- Zip-lock storage bags

Call 507-359-2202 or e-mail kdiehn@numashaus.org to arrange delivery of items listed above.

NUMAS Haus is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Member, Family and Friend Updates

At press time Kristy Paulson was still at Oak Hills but hopeful of being home soon.

Mimi Kamleiter went home from the hospital the day of the big snow--and almost ran out of oxygen on the drive, just to add to the excitement. She draws strength and comfort from knowing she has a big fan club, and would love to hear from any of us --short phone calls, please, as she loses her breath quickly.

Ridgeway on 23rd is on lockdown due to recent resident cases of COVID, but Carol, Janet and Algot are available for phone visits. As is Gene at Oak Hills.

Bev and Wally have been burning up the miles between home and Mayo, but were at church one Sunday in October.

Joys and Sorrow have been a bit awkward in time of coronavirus. Something about not being allowed to come forward to light a candle seems to make us shy. Let's try calling, texting or emailing Joys or Sorrows to Lisa anytime before 8:00 on Sunday mornings. During the service she'll light a candle and report your joy/sorrow.

Daily Poetry Reflection, Nora YouTube

Lectio divina sessions are uploaded **Tuesday-Friday**. Links will be posted on Facebook. You can also search YouTube for Nora Unitarian Universalist Church and subscribe to the channel.

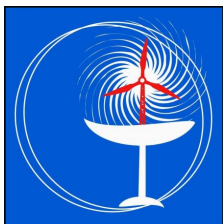
Inclement Weather

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!!

Don't forget that services are streaming on Facebook Live and Program Committee services are on Zoom!

To ♥ Keep In Touch

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members: Georgine Tepley: 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm), Diane Becken: 354-3103, Carol Chambard: 354-2242



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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