

# MERE LYS

## January 2022 Newsletter

*Nora Unitarian Universalist Church*

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### Services

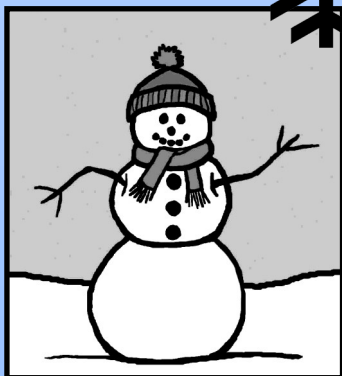
Sundays 10:30 am  
*In the Church Sanctuary*

January 2  
*No Service*

January 9  
*“Finding Contentment  
Amid the Sorrow”*

January 16, 23, 30  
*No Services*

Next Service  
February 6th



### A View From the Hill

January is one of several times over the course of twelve months (along with the traditional start of school in September, and the season of birth and new life in spring) that we tend to think of making fresh starts, taking up new projects, and wiping old slates clean. Optimism and resolve often rule the day—at least for a week or two.

Here at Nora this year, January brings an altered schedule. This month and next we’ll have just one Sunday service. I’ll lead the service on January 9, and the program committee will have the month off. This is one of the changes that arises from the congregation’s recent decision to reduce the cost (and therefore the amount) of ministry I provide. Winter weather and the desire to not overburden our program committee volunteers also factored into the board decision to plan the calendar this way.

It feels strange to be scaling significantly back instead of starting something new. There’s no denying that. But there is also no denying the **love** that lies behind this scaling back. You who voted to reduce the amount of the church budget spent on a professional minister did so because you love the institution of Nora Church and you want to stretch what money there is in order to keep the doors open as long as possible. The board, in deciding *not* to ask the program committee to be responsible for twice as many Sunday services as it has been responsible for in the past (a decision that included these two months of no program committee Sundays) made that decision because it loves the people of Nora Church, and refuses to contribute to volunteer burnout.

Hard and sad things that have love at their core are still hard and sad. (Our service on January 9 will address this). Yet, love is redemptive. There will be blessings from these hard and sad acts of love, not yet seen or even foreseen. I’m grateful you’ve been bold enough to follow love’s guide.

—Lisa



## January Board Meeting

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Time and location (virtual or not) are flexible month to month.

### News From the Board

The Nora Church Board met December 15 on Zoom. After making the decision to have Christmas Eve service virtual most discussion centered on the upcoming search process. Lisa informed us that more churches are seeking ministers than usual. Covid seems to have taken its toll and ministers are leaving or seeking early retirement. This could make a search more problematic or perhaps an advantage if some ministers might seek part time positions. We would like input from members as to how much ministry and how much "church" we envision in the '22-'23 church year. As we are in our first year of part time ministry it's hard to get a perspective this soon on how 50% ministry is working and if this schedule of services is what we wish to continue for the next year. Attendance continues to be low numbers. Is this indicative of less need, less desire for church life?

The board will figure out a way to get input from the congregation whether by phone calls, survey, or in person discussion. If you'd like to share your input please call any board member or email your thoughts to [jhinsman@newulmtel.net](mailto:jhinsman@newulmtel.net). We have one service in January and only one in February. Hope to see many of you at these opportunities to be in fellowship.

As I write this message I am at our Bemidji lake cabin. Two days of snow have blanketed everything in deep white. The sun shines this morning and the beauty is spectacular. Wishing you all a new year filled with beauty, peace, and joy. Looking forward to a new year that brings us together in person for friendship, coffee time, potlucks, and meaningful discourse. Happy 2022!

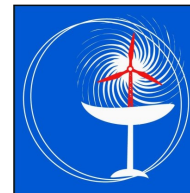
Jeanie Hinsman

### Minister's Discretionary Fund

Nora Church's Minister's Discretionary Fund exists to allow the minister to meet (confidentially) limited financial needs of Nora members and friends or members of the larger community. In the past Lisa has been able to assist with prescription medicine costs, utility bills and gas money. If you

### Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Lisa takes Monday and Tuesday off, and Saturday and Sunday of the weeks she is not preaching at Nora.



She responds to messages and phone calls, and holds meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Friday continues to be her writing day.

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

know of need in our community (or need assistance yourself), please be in touch with Lisa. If you can contribute to the discretionary fund, beyond your regular pledge to the church, please mail a check to the church office with "minister's discretionary fund" written on the memo line.

### 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!!

### A Note From the Treasurer

#### November Income and Expenses

Income:	\$ 6,781
Expenses:	\$ 6,975

*Income and expenses presented at the last board meeting(s). Income does not include memorials and gifts.*

### Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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