

Services

1st & 3rd Sundays

Potluck Follows 1st

Brown Bag Option 3rd

www.norauuchurch.org



Schedule

Regular services

*resume March 2nd,
continuing through*

*June 1, on first &
third Sundays.*

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

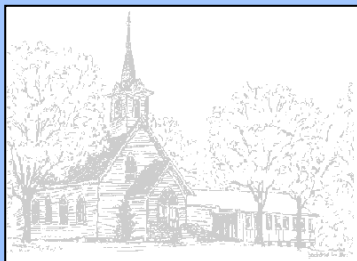
12333 155th Ave.,
Hanska, MN 56041

507-439-6240

norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

www.norauuchurch.org

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MERE LYS

January 2025 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

View from the Hill

I live around the corner from Lake Harriet in SW Minneapolis. Many months of the year I walk the 3 miles around it almost every day. In the winter we hope for good skating! But the lake needs to freeze without both windy days and snow. Thus, I was delighted with the intense cold snap at the end of November; sure enough, we were skating right before Christmas and the ice was smooth as glass... And then came the rains! It poured for three days and I assumed the skating was done for the year. But last year we didn't get any wild skating at all, so I tried to be grateful for the few days we got to enjoy. Much to my surprise, though, the lake re-froze smoothly, for the second time. So the last 3 days I have been out there, skates on, the wind in my face, happy as a clam.

It is easy to get discouraged when the world doesn't unfold as we hope. The teaching tale below is one that I have read and pondered many times; it has taught me to pause and withhold my judgement.

Once upon a time there was a Chinese farmer whose horse ran away. That evening, all of his neighbors came around to commiserate. They said, "We are so sorry to hear your horse has run away. This is most unfortunate." The farmer said, "Maybe."

The next day the horse came back bringing seven wild horses with it, and in the evening everybody came back and said, "Oh, isn't that lucky. What a great turn of events. You now have eight horses!" The farmer again said, "Maybe."

The following day his son tried to break one of the horses, and while riding it, he was thrown and broke his leg. The neighbors then said, "Oh dear, that's too bad," and the farmer responded, "Maybe."

The next day the conscription officers came around to conscript people into the army, and they rejected his son because he had a broken leg. Again all the neighbors came around and said, "Isn't that great!" Again, he said, "Maybe."

I didn't know that the winter rain wasn't going to be the end of enchanted days skating on the lake. None of us can see around corners. And while I do not look forward to January 20th, and I know that some unfortunate events will take place in the next 4 years, I also trust that heroes will come forth. I trust that unforeseen possibilities may surprise us. Love and courage will be out in full force seeking to create goodness and graciousness. Hold on, dear ones. Keep the faith while we ride this out.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Laurie

January Board Meeting

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, via Zoom.

Pancake Fundraiser

Watonswan County Historical Society Pancake Fundraiser Sunday, January 12 from 9:00am - 1:00pm at the St. James Eagles Club. Free Will Donation. Deliveries available in St. James by calling 507-380-7024.



January Mist

by Sandra Fowler

Sometimes at night I hear small birds lament.
Dark notes that seem to second moon's descent.
Cold is the color of a deep regret,
An etude perfected by winterset.

The world was music and it turned us round.
Stirred by the subtle atmospheric sound,
You gently sketched a snowflake on my face
Which shall be mine till light has left this place.

Such solace has the power to outlast time,
To lock a small bird's elegy in rhyme.
Somewhere beyond the January mist,
The magic of our landscape still exists.



This New Year

by Addae Ama Kraba

This New Year
Let this year be a clean slate for new beginnings.

I Pray for stamina.
To finish things left uncompleted.
To call on people I neglected last year.

I Pray for courage.
To rally in the cause for peace and justice.
To speak out in support when others remain silent.

I Pray for empathy.

A Note From the Treasurer

Income and Expenses

November Income: \$1,814.00

November Expense: \$4,389.00

Income/expenses presented at the last board meeting(s). Income doesn't include memorials/gifts.

To better understand the pain and suffering of others.

To continue engaging heart to heart.

I Pray for patience.

When seeking resolutions to problems.

When seeking a new beginning after an ending.

I Pray for creativity.

In seeking new meaning in service.

Engaging others in service to the beloved community.

I Pray for peace.

Between friends and families.

Between communities and countries.

All these things I pray for in this time of beginning,
in this new year.

New Ulm Blood Drive

New Ulm Community Center 600 N. German St.,
New Ulm on Wed., Jan. 8 1-7pm, Thurs., Jan. 9 12-6pm, Fri., Jan. 10 8:30am-1:30pm. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter New Ulm to schedule an appt. *There is a real need for blood. The holidays cut into a lot of drives and as a result the banks are down again. There are plenty of appointments available and we will take walk-ins.*

Direct Deposit for Pledges

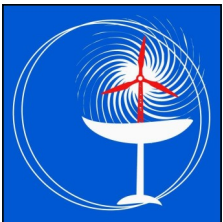
Direct deposits for pledges are a good option for many. To initiate this, anyone interested would need to set this up with their bank, much like an automatic payment for a utility or credit card. If you would like to make electronic pledge payments, please contact Julie Peck

Notes from the Nora Office...

Newsletter content should be sent by the 20th of each month. Orders of service content by Noon the Thursday prior to service. Please send content to the Nora email.

Office hours are not set, mostly working from home. I can be contacted through the Nora email. If you need to get ahold of me directly, or quickly, please connect with Sally.

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant



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