



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.*

Looking Forward

March 2

Rev. Sara Smalley

March 16

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

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MERE LYS

February 2025 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

View from the Hill

Written on January 20, 2025, Inauguration Day.

Some of you might remember that my husband and I have been helping, mentoring and befriending 2 extended Ecuadorian families for the past year. With the Inauguration of the current President, their fates are much more uncertain. But we celebrate what joy we can.

We have become especially attached to the 2 boys, ages 7 and 9 in one family. Their parents speak no English, grew up in a poor, rural area and all of them are from the Indigenous Shuar tribe. The parents grew up without books and likely only have a simple, 8th grade education. Helping their children with homework is not something that they can manage. Spanish is already their second language. About once a week the boys sleep at our house and we play games, make play dough, play in the snow etc. We help them with homework and read a lot of stories. Over the months the boys have come to love books; they always want to go to the library. A few nights ago the boys were here, and as usual, we practiced reading. Suddenly, we heard new connections as they sounded out word after word. Their little faces lit up as they read several English words. We were all jumping up and down with excitement. Michael and I feel so grateful to share these moments with them and sad that their parents cannot. Certainly, we have front row seats on both the gains and losses as immigrants travel to a new country to try and make a life. If / when the boys must return to Ecuador, we hope the love of books and stories can be with them always and improve their lives.

This is my meditation and my hope for the future... that whatever deeds of kindness and compassion we sow today might lead to possibilities and liberation in days to come. Mere Lys. Mere Lys. Mere Lys. Amen.

Yours in faith and hope,

Rev. Laurie

February Board Meeting

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



A Rabbit Noticed My Condition

by St. John of the Cross

I was sad one day and went for a walk;
I sat in a field.
A rabbit noticed my condition and
came near.

It often does not take more than that to help at
times -
to just be close to creatures who
are so full of knowing,
so full of love
that they don't
- chat,

they just gaze with
their
marvelous understanding.

~ St. John of the Cross from Love Poems from
God, translations by Daniel Ladinsky

Braver/Wiser: The Gift of Anger

“Whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout,
‘Violence and destruction!’

The word of the Lord has brought me insult and
injury all day long.”

—The Prophet Jeremiah (20:8)

When I was sent to the principal's office in the
second grade for pointing out my teacher's con-
spicuous favoritism, my parents wondered aloud
what to do with me. What followed was a lifelong
lesson about the tricky balance between message
and method: how not to deliver the right message
in the wrong way.

My parents have taught me, sometimes using
words, that telling the truth will cost me some-
thing; that wisdom is the negotiation of minimiz-
ing or avoiding that cost. “Be careful with the
truth,” they said. “People who don't like it will just
call you angry.”

When the United States elected its 45th president, I
encountered something for which my parents' les-
sons had not prepared me: People rarely wanted to
hear the truth about a man as told by a woman. I
learned that women who share their truth are dis-
missed as being “dramatic” or “too angry.” It took
so little to be ignored yet so much to be heeded.

I did it anyway. I named the willing seduction of
American evangelicalism, already one of the most
powerful religious institutions in the world, greedy

for more power. I pointed out the silent moderacy
of the Christian majority as the enemy of their pur-
portedly beloved “gospel.” I also examined my
contribution to American evangelicalism, silent
moderacy, and quests for power and stability.

I've received countless reminders to be a
“Christian,” a “godly woman,” and to “show
grace,” terms describing something more like a
sedated animal disconnected from its own sense of
anger than a human afraid about the future. These
people read my anger as a disqualifier of reasona-
bleness. Even in monstrous times, I'm expected to
be respectable and respectful, my anger dissolved
in a string of soft words.

But anger is not at all what people think it is. An-
ger has been kind and caring to me. When, as an
undocumented woman, I felt most vulnerable to
the former-and-future President's rhetoric and pol-
icies, anger was the sign of my will to survive.
Outrage on my behalf was hope for our collective
futures.

More often than not, in the secret center of anger is
not a desire to destroy but to protect those it loves.
It wraps itself around a vulnerable area, like a
body turned into a shield for its friends.

Prayer

God who inspires and anoints our anger, give us
the ability to discern this gift, to discipline and har-
ness it with righteousness. Just as joy without
spine and love without resolve are empty, so too is
struggle without anger. Teach us this lesson; give
us this gift. Amen.

Notes from the Nora Office...

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

A Note From the Treasurer

Income and Expenses

December Income: \$24,772.00

December Expense: \$4,362.83

*Income/expenses presented at the last board meet-
ing(s). Income doesn't include memorials/gifts.*