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**Sunday Services**  
**FEBRUARY 2004**

**Social Hour: 10:00 A.M.      Worship Service: 10:30 A.M.**

**February 1 – “Serving the Nora Community.”**

Reverend Mark Yackel-Juleen will help the congregation define the local service field and understand the current demographics and economics, future trends, and Ministry potential in that area.

Servers: Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman, Sheldon & Anne Rieke

Musician: Ryann Rathman

9:00 Adult Discussion Group

**11:30 POTLUCK LUNCH**

**February 8 – “Selected Aspects of Native History and Contemporary Parallels:  
Dakota Commemorative March, Sand Creek, and Ethic Cleansing”**

Prof. Chris Mata Numpa - Teacher at Southwest State University, Marshall

Servers: John & Julie Schmitt

Musician: Ardelle Becken

9:00 Board of Trustees Meeting

**February 15 – “Emily Peake: One Dedicated Ojibwe”**

Author Jane Pejsa of Minneapolis discusses the life of Emily Peake, subject of her latest book.

Servers: Gene & Georgine Tepley

Musician: Ardelle Becken

9:00 Adult Discussion Group

**February 22 – “UU’s in the Age of Lincoln”**

Reverend Wesley V. Hromatko

Servers: Vickie Sieve, Jane Thompson

Musician: Ryann Rathman

9:00 Adult Discussion Group

**February 29 – “Mindful of the Dreams”**

Rev. Eleanor Rice – UU Minister from Eau Claire, WI., will address the changes in our lives and communities and how we deal with these changes.

Servers: Warren & Kristine Paulson

Musician: Ardelle Becken

9:00 Adult Discussion Group

## THE CORNER

The following is an article written by Reverend Kate Tucker for "The Liberal", a newsletter by the First Universalist Church in Minneapolis."

*"Wow he died as wow he lived, going whop to the office and blooie home to sleep and biff got married and bam had children and oof got fired, zowie did he live and zowie did he die."*  
Kenneth Fearing

At some point during my two-month sabbatical I began moving more slowly. No more rushing. No jogging from meeting to meeting, office to office, fax machine to telephone and back. At some point I caught myself hurrying, and I stopped.

It's not that I was working too hard in my ministry. It's not that I had an overcrowded schedule. It's that I had overbearing thoughts. Relieved of my church responsibilities, I could see that "hurry" is not so much a need for speed as it's an unhelpful habit of mind. I saw that I'd often been sprinting when there was no need to sprint, no fire to put out, no one needing CPR or a tourniquet.

In *Why Religion Matters*, Huston Smith quotes the little poem by Kenneth Fearing (above) and suggests that these days, for many of us, this is how life feels: whop, blooie, biff, zowie, oof. Everything I know about spiritual formation, or faith development – call it what we will – tells me that living whop, bam, blooie is ultimately a spiritual problem. I can't imagine Mother Teresa or the Dalai Lama jogging from printer to copy machine. In *Living Simply in an Anxious World*, author Robert Wicks says we are called to be active, but we are never called to be "busy." Never say you are busy," Wick says. It's better to simply say yes I can do this, or no I can't. Saying we are busy reinforces the busy image, both inside and out. "Busy" and "hurry" are not soul-friendly words, nor are they wisdom images.

As the new year begins, I want to remember what my sabbatical time helped me to learn, or relearn. I want to remember that hurry is nothing more than letting thoughts run out ahead of what's happening at this moment. I want to remember the wise words of sufi teacher Kabir Helminski: "Whoever makes all care into one care, the care for simply being present, will be relieved of all care by that Presence, which is the creative power."

The great spiritual teachers are all saying it: Be present. Just practice being present. And no hurry.  
Blessings to you in the new year, Kate

### SECRETARY HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

I would like update the mailing list and put together a new directory for 2004 – 2005. Would you please let me know of any changes on your mailing label and changes in your directory listing such as address, telephone number, and email address.

Also, the email address for Nora has changed to [norachuu@lakes.com](mailto:norachuu@lakes.com). Send any updates, newsletter articles, keeping in touch items, etc., to either that address or myself at [jas\\_jas@frontiernet.net](mailto:jas_jas@frontiernet.net). Your help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks,  
Julie

Board members for contact also are: President Carol Chambard (507-354-2242), Vice President Warren Paulson (507-439-6316), Secretary Janet Rosenbloom (507-354-8595), and Treasurer Sally Hanson (507-388-8776). Additional members are Tarrie Swenstad (507-736-4921), Anne Rieke (507-354-7832), Darrell Hinsman (507-359-7494), Wayne Johnson (507-439-6884), and Wallace Wellmann (507-375-3032).

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Search Committee has continued to be busy even through the hectic month of December and now in January. On December 22<sup>nd</sup> we completed our "packet" which is available for prospective ministers. Just in time! We mailed it out to an interested minister on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to Gil Hanson, Brenda Wiger, and Chris and Kristy Bodick for helping out with contributions. Brenda gave valuable time in making multiple copies to have in reserve. The packet will be in church on Sunday mornings for all to see. It's a warm, detailed look at church life at Nora. January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we spent several hours with Sue Schiess, our district settlement rep, in discussing and getting advice on how to proceed through our next stages of the search.

We have scheduled one pre-candidating weekend. In preparation we spent two meetings in January practicing our interviewing skills. Anne Makepeace has provided lots of insight through her human resources background.

Some words of advice from John Westin, director of the Settlement Office in Boston, seemed meaningful to me. "As you inhabit the size you are, unless something is wrong your vitality will grow and your capacity with it." Looking forward to growing a vital church with great capacity!

Jeanie Hinsman

## **NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY**

The Women's Society will meet on Thursday, February 12, for a noon potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall, weather permitting.

## **LUNCH BUNCH**

Rev. Oelberg initiated the Lunch Bunch several years ago as an occasion for members and friends to get together informally for food and fellowship. Even though Sarah has left the area, it still is a worthwhile tradition to continue. The next meeting will be February 23, 11:30 AM, at the Holiday Inn in New Ulm. Everyone is welcome. This is not just a women's group.

## **PARSONAGE UPDATE**

The Board of Trustees is considering improvements to the parsonage to make it more attractive to potential ministers. The main areas of concern are remodeling the kitchen and baths, possibly replacing some carpeting and painting. The board is getting a cost estimate for this work. The board will then bring plans and cost estimates to the congregation which must vote on such an expenditure. The date of the special congregational meeting for this purpose will be February 29 following the service.

A special thanks to the crew who cleaned out and hauled away the accumulated debris from the parsonage basement. Some of the stuff looked like it dated back to Amandus Norman's time!

## **TO KEEP IN TOUCH**

Lola Chambard, aunt of members of Nora Church, died January 2, 2004, in Everett, Washington. She would have been 100 on July 11, 2004.

George and Merva Pankratz (93 & 91 years) of Boerne, Texas, near San Antonio, sent a monetary gift to Nora Church in memory of Lola.

Merva is a first cousin of Crosby and Lola Chambard. Crosby is the father of Alon, Ken, Glenn, Shirley Olson, and the late George Chambard.

Merva is the daughter of John Thompson who had the first business; a hardware store in Hanska. His name is on the Historical Plaque in the front of the Community Center.

The Pankratz' are charter members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in San Antonio, Texas.

## **LOVE**

Love does not put everything at rest; it puts everything in motion. Love does not resolve every conflict; it accepts conflict as the arena in which the work of love is to be done. Love does not separate the good people from the bad, bestowing endless bliss on one, and endless torment on the other. Love seeks the reconciliation of every life so that it may share all the others. By Daniel Day Williams

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our plans for February include learning about the fifth principle on February 1. We will be making Valentines projects to share with our families and friends on February 8. On February 22, we will look at the code Beatrix Potter made as a young child, and try decoding some modern day codes and making our own codes. Since this is a month with five Sundays, the children get to choose what they would like to do on the fifth Sunday, February 29. The children will vote on February 1 on what they would like to do on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

The older kids will be discussing the fifth principle on February 1. On February 8 we will look at Unitarians who worked with and influenced Washington and Lincoln. At the February 22 meeting we will discuss what each of us can do to contribute to our communities even as young people. The older kids will also vote on February 1 on what they would like to do on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to collect nonperishable foods for the Food Shelf this month. A box will be placed under the table in the church lobby for the donations to be placed. We encourage the children to bring an item each Sunday if possible. When Ben and Nick's Tiger Cub Scouts den visited in November the shelves were only half full. The Coordinator shared

that many people who had been contributing to the Food Shelf were now visiting the Food Shelf themselves.

**THERE WILL NOT BE SUNDAY SCHOOL ON FEBRUARY 15 SINCE THIS IS A PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND.**

In January we experimented with fabric paints for our banner. We hope to continue our work in February, too. The children have been asked to do the service on May 9<sup>th</sup>, so the plan is to have the banner done by that service and the children will share it with the rest of the congregation at that time. We would like to hang it in the church.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** We are thinking about doing another activity away from the church in March and are looking for ideas. Please talk to Anne or Sheldon if you have any ideas for fun activities for the children. We have tossed around the idea that the children share a breakfast on Easter morning with the congregation. We would like some feedback from the families regarding this, would you be willing to help, provide food, etc. Think about it.

**FOUND:** Both of our chalice lighting candles have been found now. Thank you.

## Putting UU principles into action

The children from Nora Unitarian Universalist Church in Hanska have been busy putting their UU principles into action. They designed and decorated the signs for the Church's annual smorgasbord. At the smorgasbord they were in charge of the children's games. The money raised from the children's games was used to purchase gifts for Santa's Closet. They delivered the gifts to Happy Joe's and then celebrated their success. The children are pictured above. Front row: Courtney Schmitt; Nick Bodick; Sydney Byro; Jack Bodick; Ben Rieke; and Nora Peck. Back row: Erick Byro, Janney Rieke, Reggie Peck; Fritz Rieke; and Jordan Rathmann.

