



# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

JUNE 2009

## VIEW FROM THE HILL



It hardly seems possible, yet it is happening. The end of the church year approaches and my time with you is coming to an end. This is my last column for *Mere Lys*. I have enjoyed this past year immensely and I hope you have too. Nora Church is a lovely place with lovely people.

An interim ministry, as I have mentioned before, is designed to do two things. First, it is to take a look at the past to claim and honor it. While I haven't deliberately set out to do that, I have been listening to your individual stories and conversations about the past and have concluded that you claim and honor your past very well. However, you may not be as aware of something that was abundantly obvious to me from the beginning, and that is the *resiliency* of Nora Church down through the decades. It is a characteristic that should serve you well in the future.

A second thing that interim ministry is about is a preparation for the future. Not knowing what Nora Church's future will be made this challenging. Usually, interim ministers prepare congregations for the next settled ministry, but we don't know when that will happen. Instead, I attempted to teach

through the pulpit, the wisdom and insight for both your individual spiritual journeys and the ways and means to build religious community. Hopefully, these things will be of benefit to all of you in daily living as well as for whatever tomorrow brings for Nora Church.

Here are some things that I also know. The Nora Unitarian Universalist Church community is a lovely group of caring people. Though we don't know what the future holds, nor do we ever know, I *do know* that there are Unitarian Universalist ministers among my colleagues who know about you. Several of them are interested in serving as at least in a consulting capacity to help you live out your mission. I know this because I have talked to some of them.

I also know that, if the vote at Michael Servetus in Fridley is affirming, I will not be that far away from Nora Church! You and I will be in the same Prairie Star District. I will have the ability to witness the writing of your next chapter. You will be able to hear about my new ministry. So, this is *not* a time to say good-bye, but to say "fare-you-well." It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your interim minister.

*Fare you well...*

## SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

Loose change on the 2nd Sunday of each month will go to "Food For All"

## ANNUAL REPORTS

If you haven't turned your report in to Cindy, do it ASAP.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Nora UU Church will be held after church on Sunday, June 14. In addition to any business that members wish to address, the congregation will be asked to adopt the budget for the 2009-2010 church year. (Please note that while both friends and members of Nora church are encouraged to attend, voting is reserved for members)

## LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet Wednesday, June 17, 11:30 a.m. at Lola's (formerly Larkspur) in New Ulm. Come join us for this informal get-together.

## FOOD SHELF BENEFIT

The New Ulm Food Shelf is hosting a Dad's Belgian Waffles Feed Sunday, June 7, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church social hall. Serving 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$6 for an adult, \$4 for children 5 to 12 while children under 5 eat free. Carry-outs are available. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing a 50% matching grant up to \$500.

## FOOD SHELF DONATION

Rev. Dana Reynolds spoke at the Syttende Mai Sunday Morning service in the Hanska City Park on May 17th. A collection of \$254 was sent to the New Ulm Area Food Shelf.

## BRAVOS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board goes to Wayne Johnson for leveling the parking lot, raking and all of the work he does to keep Nora looking good. Lots of thanks to all the hardworking people who showed up, despite bad weather, for clean up Sunday.

## NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As we close down this church year at Nora it is important among other things to look to the future. For many the summer months are a time to relax, but while you do that please consider this: There will be a lot of work to do again next year and you may get asked to do something you haven't done before. I realize it is tough to go out of your comfort zone but please give it a try. Many have done that and found that they could do it. Give it a try — You might be surprised by what you can accomplish.

## SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Spirituality group will meet at 6:30 on June 3rd. and 17th. We'll meet at South Point Federal Credit Union on the 3rd. and at the Rieke's on the 17th. Topics are being determined.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

APRIL 2009

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>PRIOR YTD</u>
Receipts	\$76,222	\$91,519
Expenses	\$76,284	\$72,475

Our income year-to-date was almost equal to expenses by April, but, based on last year's income and expenses in May and June, I expect that we will have a shortfall of approximate \$6,500 at the end of our fiscal year on June 30.

Sally Hanson, Treasurer

## SUMMER PROJECT

A plan for repairing, replacing or redesigning the blue curtains at the altar is going to be the project over the summer months for a small task force. Norma Breu, Jeanie Hinsman and Karen Farrell have already committed to drawing up some ideas to present to the board. We will meet the first time in early June. If you are interested in participating or sharing ideas, please contact Jeanie Hinsman at 359-7949.




# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## JUNE 2009

Parsonage: 507-439-6240  
Dana's cell: (612) 229-5907



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 pm Spirituality Group @ South Point Federal, New Ulm	4	5	6
7 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Potluck dinner	8	9	10 6:30 PM Board Meeting	11	12	13
14 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Annual Meeting	15	16	17 6:30 pm Spirituality Group @ Rieke's	18	19	20
21 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 No service	29	30				
<p>Services will resume in August as well as the newsletter. Come back in August ready to "step out of your comfort zone" and maybe try something new.</p>						

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**  
ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

**WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net

please be sure to include "NORA"

in the subject line

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6, Hanska, MN 56041  
Thanks for your help in getting articles to me.  
Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator

MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS - USHERS
7 Jordan Rathman	Ron & Julie Peck Nancy Dickson, Michele Bethke	Diane Becken Nancy Brudelite
14 Jordan Rathman	Wayne & Janet Johnson	Ann Nelson Edith Beckius
21 Sally Hanson	Alon & Carol Chambard	Roger & Norma Breu

Happy 90th Birthday to Lifetime member Vernon Iverson,  
Formerly of Lamberton and now living at Tuff village  
301 County Road 6 Apt 102  
Hills, MN 56138

## Visit in USA

Pall Krisztina, the President of Benced Ittre Foundation visited USA and the partner church of Benced, Hanska, with the aim to renew the partnership between the 2 communities....

Because of my terrible accident I am late with this newsletter. Sorry of being late! I don't give up! I'll show you that I am capable to do it, even if I am in bed, I am capable to redact the newsletter, to write grants! I must to be strong and optimist, even if it is very painful.. Thank you for all those persons who are thinking of me, praying for me. Because these are the best steps, the best pills for my recovery. Thank you!!!



Next I will tell you about my trip in USA . Before my accident I was in USA for about 3 weeks, in 3 states. I've got never minded memories. I didn't believe till I was at the airport! I was invited to attend some conferences. And appeared the idea, if I am in USA , why not visit Partner church of Benced or Partner church of Udvarhely. (the town where I was born) . I choosed Benced's Partner church, the Nora Church.

At the airport in Budapest I cried that I don't want to go alone, but the tickets were in my hand and I had to go. It was an exciting flight. I had to change in London and I sat in a huge airplane, which brought me through Atlantic Ocean to New York City. It is not easy to arrive in American land. On airplane you have to fill a paper, answering for the questions why are you going to USA, where etc, like at the US Embassy in Bucharest (capital of Romania), where I was interviewed.

But I wasn't done interviewing, too.

Arriving at the airport from New York City , a man asked me the same questions. Why I am coming, where etc. They took a picture of me, fingerprint, and a sign in my passport that I have 3 months to stay in USA , even I have 10 years visa. Finally I went to baggage claim being sick because of flight. ( I don't like too much flying)

In New York city professor Richard Ford was waiting for me, with whom I am working for a long time. During 1 week the professor and Eileen Higgins, the colleague of the professor navigated me on streets of New York City .

I was staying in Manhattan, I visited the Broadway, Central Park 5th Avenue, Ground Zero, Unitarian Universalist Church in Downtown, attending the coral service, and of course professional meetings.

After this I flew to state of Minnesota, alone. I had to change in Chicago, which is a huge airport, too. It isn't a bus station from Benced.

I arrived in Minneapolis where waited me 2 persons, whom I knew just by emails. I've never met with them personally, before. They were Mark and Brenda Wiger, members of the Social Justice Committee of Nora Church. I spent one day in Minneapolis to take a rest after the flight and after that we went to New Ulm, where are living with some members of our Partner church. Here I was hosted in house of Coleen Tasto, a Spanish teacher. Arriving in her house the Social Justice Committee gave me a complimentary dinner. There was present: Dana Reynolds the minister of Nora Church, Mark and Brenda Wiger, Darrell and Jeannie Hinsman, Coleen Tasto, Vickie Sieve, Scott Kudelka and Angie Becker-Kudelka.

I had a lot of memories and good hospitality. One day I had the possibility to spend one day in a High School in New Ulm. I was surprised on the bohemian habits of the students, and hard technical utilities, equipment of the school. New Ulm is a small typical German town established by German settlers. The centre is like you are in Germany . It has about 13000 inhabitants.





Hanska is about 20 kms far from New Ulm. It is smaller than New Ulm, established by Norwegian settlers. Here is the beautiful Unitarian Church in a beautiful environment. Members of the church are not living just in Hanska, some of them come every Sunday from 30 kms far. The church contains about 60-70 members. Every Thursday afternoon some of them gather together in New Ulm singing, reading, talking etc. It is almost the same like our Women's meeting, but here are men, too.

On Sunday I made a presentation about Benced. I gave the present of our Church. I gave my personal gift, too, a ceramic. The members of Nora Church gather money for Church from Benced. About the money the minister will inform you in time. During staying there I visited real pig farms and cow farms. I was in a German Beer Fest. I visited Mankato, in New Ulm the food shelf, helping to package foods for families.

Minnesota state is the coldest part of USA. I felt it... It was a lot of snow... A real February like our weather.

I decided that every month I will translate our newsletter from Benced, and I will send to Nora Church to appear in their newsletter. I was happy, they were happy, too

Saying goodbye to my Partner church, I set out for Texas state. I arrived in hiking boots and winter jacket in a 23 Celsius warm town. I was greeted by another 2 kind persons, whom I've never seen before, just by emails. They were Rita Saylor and Thore Butler, professors at the University from Houston. Again professional meetings, and there I was invited as an international presenter at the International Unitarian Universalist Women's Convocation. I made presentation in front of 600 participants about community capacity building assessments, our results. I was at the same the leader, facilitator during the workshops.

But we had free time, too, a very short. We went to the downtown, Museum, tour state park to see alligators etc. Interesting that in Houston the people against the hot made tunnels. There are the stores; the life of the city.

Finally I would like to thank you for all my American friends, who made that my dreams became possible: Nora Church, Eileen Higgins, Cathy Cordes, Dr. Richard Ford, Sztranyiczky Zsófia. Thank You!!! And I would like to thank Civitas Foundation from Udvarhely, especially for Csaki Rozalia who put the seeds of community development. I developed this seed with American professionals and working together in our community with Makkai Ilkei Ildiko our minister and of course with the Civitas.

I wished to make a presentation in the church about my trip. But it happened the accident. I promise that I will make it, as soon as it is possible, after my recovery. Thank you for your patience.

**(Páll Krisztina)**



P.S. Mark and Brenda Wiger from Nora Church came to visit us, hearing my sad accident. They came from Poland. They had the possibility in this way to visit Benced, too. In this way I would like to thanks for Makkai Ilkei Ildiko their hospitality, for the good foods thanks for Pap Mária az family of the minister from Ujszekely, Benczédi Polixénia, Pap Benczédi Rózália, Mózes Irénke and for my mother Páll Irénke, Thanks for the inhabitants of Benced for the many memories, smiles. **(Páll Krisztina)**

Mark & Brenda with their grandchild

*By this article I would like to send my greetings and my best wishes for members of Nora Church: Coleen Tasto, Vickie Sieve, Dana Reynolds, Angie Becker and Scott Kudelka, Julie Peck and her family, Mark and Brenda Wiger, Wally and Beverly Wellmann, Darrell and Jeannie Hinsman, Carol and Alon Chambard, Algot and Bonita Blomquist, Janet and Noah Rosenbloom, Berry Petersson, Larry Bakken, Nancy Brudelie, Lorraine Becken, Warren and Kristine Paulson, Edith Beckius, Janet Johnson, Karen Farrel, Shirley and Clayton Olson, Gudreen Kjelhus, Monica Sturm.*

*The Unitarian Church of Benced send the best wishes for its Partnerchurch from Hanska And at the same time Benced Church would like to thank for the Nora Church that they were open to renew the relationship. Thank you your donation, too. We will use it for renovating our church. Thank you so much!!!*

*Here is a quote from Aristotle which we would like to show our partnership:*

*"What is friendship, partnership? A single soul dwelling in two bodies"*

*The Unitarian Church Of Benced*

## About the life of Women's Association in Benced

### **Makkai Ilkei Ildiko (Benced's minister) and Benczedi Polixenia will write about the new semester of Women's Association**

In the last month of last year, which was so usual, we, the women of Benced have waited very excited the day to gather together every week for our Women's Meeting. On first Thursday of December was the first meeting, where we made with our minister The schedule.

Firstly, before the Christmas we visited the twilight home from Lokod. It was a never mind memory for us. All inhabitant from Benced donated vegetables, fruit, and money to help those seniors from Lokod. We made 44 packages.

The visit to Lokod was helped by Csaki Levente, the minister of Lokod. Some member of twilight home waited us with a performance, like we who prepared with another performance.

With painful heart we left the home, those people. We promised that we will visit them in the next year, too.

On the next months every Thursday was for Women's Association. Of course we visit every Sunday the Church, too.

The schedule of meetings on Thursday was full. We organized the meeting with WA (Women's Association) from Firtosmartonos. We went to their village. We will organize to invite them in our village.

In every WA meeting we learnt from our minister and of course from each other reading, explaining the Bible, learning and singing songs. We made our women choir. With this choir we waited the guest ministers during The Prayer Week.

We had a guest from Szekelyudvarhely, Dr. Csaki Maria, who made an interesting presentation, and answered for our questions .

Thanks for her, and she is welcomed, anytime she is coming in our village.

We had another guests, too. Nemes Annamaria, song teacher from Berde Mozes Unitarian High School, Szekelykeresztur. She made a presentation about her activities, we finish our meeting singing song.

We celebrated the Women's Day. The invited guest was Molnar Melinda, the journalist of Udvarhelyi Hirado. On the table was cakes, hot tea etc. Thank you to everybody.

At the end of March we gather together to finish the Hour of Women. It was a kind of evaluation, our minister asked us about these meeting, and everybody answered that it was excellent. We celebrated this day with cakes, hot tea, popcorn, and at the same time we celebrated birthday of our minister's child. Blessings to her family, too. We would like to thank to our minister, that she was with us with patient and love, and we ask the God, to help us this year, too to be together and to begin the Hour of Women.

Yours sincerely **Benczédi Polixénia**

Every Thursday our meeting room was full of women laugh, speaking. From our small village came about 20 women. I feel that we realized to left out our problems, weights, pains and to sit near by and to laugh together. The spring with its full of work finished our meeting, but it is a pleasure to look back and remind these evenings. .

On last Thursday Laszlo Piroska with her tradition told us her poem:

It was so beautiful to gather together  
To spend few hours together  
But we have to finish it,  
Next year, if we are alive, we will start it again,  
We ask from God,  
To keep our health,  
To not forget each us,  
If you hear the bell,  
Leave everything,  
And let's go to the church!

At the same time some of them told us poem celebrating my girl's birthday, and appeared tears in my eyes, when after the gifts my girl was so happy.

Thank you your enjoyment, the good atmosphere, the beautiful poems. God bless you. **(Makkai-Ilkei Ildikó)**

## News from Unitarian Church of Benced

This year the **Week of praying** was between 2nd of March and 6th of March.  
The guest ministers were:

Monday: Krizbai Imre, reformed minister from Barot

Tuesday: Tódor Csaba, Unitarian minister from Homorodszeptal

Wednesday: Nagy Adél, Unitarian minister from Recsenyed

Thursday: Kelemen Levente, Unitarian minister from Okland

Friday: Demeter Erika, Unitarian minister from Erdoszentgyorgy



At 14th of March was christened the child of Bencedi Gyula and Margit, Orsolya.

At 15th of March was in Székelyszentmihály the comemoration and celebration of **Revolution from 1848-49**

At 22nd of March was meeting with the community, where we chose the Social Justice Comitee of the Church. We wish health and power for their function.

At 24th of March was The **Deanery Inquiry Meeting**, where was Lőrinczi Lajos deaner, Kovács Lajos és Bálint Sándor district presidents, Gál Zoltán minister of Gagy,

vicesecretar of the district.

**At 28th of March David Ferenc Youth Association visited Unitarian Church of Tarcsafalva, and took a performance there.**

We are **renovating** the church of Upper Benced. The consecration will be on 12th of July.

Minister: Makkai Ilkei Ildiko

Our community' s website:  
**www. benced. Ro**



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# June 2009

## Nora Church Sunday Services JUNE 2009

**Social Hour 10:00 AM    Worship Service 10:30 AM**

**June 7** Jason Mack, guest speaker. Jason is a Buddhist student who lives in New Ulm. He has also spoken to our Coming of Age group.

**June 14** "Issues and the Problems of Men." Men in our culture have "issues" that women don't have. This can create problems for everyone, which we explore.

**June 21** "The Sum of All Things Interim." I conclude my interim ministry with Nora Church. In this service, it will be a dialog sermon framed by my reflections, your reflections, my questions and your questions about what's next for Nora Church. This is the last Sunday of the church year.



**Congrats  
to our  
Grads!**

**Henry Kunerth  
Regina Peck  
Jordan Rathman  
Tessa Makepeace  
Jennifer Bethke**