



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

November 2011

VIEW FROM THE HILL

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.

(Meister Eckhart)

It is time to say our thanks. "The holidays", that loosely defined set of festivities, holy days and feasts is fast upon us. And it starts with thanks.

The presents, the pageants, the parties will come later but first we offer thanksgiving. (Okay, so it's a photo-finish, with the thanks barely beating the first feast at the ribbon, but nevertheless the thanks come first.) We could think of it as the warm up before the marathon. Or perhaps something along the lines of "in case I forget to tell you later..."

Either way it is good to usher in the season with Thanksgiving and with thanksgiving. Our lives are filled with such an abundance of blessings, but in the rush and clutter and blur of contemporary life that fact sometimes gets lost. If we're lucky something or someone reminds us every now and then. Just the other day a friend told me about something that was marring the perfection of her week and I responded with something that was marring the perfection of mine. And then Emily said (or I Med, to be accurate), "Shall we have a pity party for ourselves? Or shall we take a deep

breath and notice with gratitude all the abundance and joy around us?". That's the sort of thing I get for having ministers as friends!!

But Emily was right, of course, and I chose the second option. I try always to choose the second option; try, in fact, to always make it my first option. I'm not always successful but when I am my mood is lighter, my days are brighter. As Thanksgiving Day approaches I welcome it as a sort of intensive refresher course in gratitude. Not simply the good-for-me prelude to the indulgence and bustle of the holidays, but as a deep and rich and gentle and solid grounding for all the days of my life.

-Lisa



LUNCH BUNCH



On Wednesday, Nov. 16, the Lunch Bunch will trek to Sleepy Eye to break bread at the Divine Providence Nursing Home to visit with Nora Church members Bob Schmitt and Virgil Schmiesing. As usual, the festivities start at 11:30 a.m., and everyone is welcome to join the group.

SMORGABORD A SUCCESS

Thank-you to everyone who helped out with another successful Smorgasbord. We are a little church filled with people whose big hearts are full of love for their church and willing to give up many days of their lives every fall to make smorgasbord happen. A huge thank-you to the lefse crew, for not only making the lefse but donating all the ingredients. I would love to list all your names but I'm afraid I might forget someone. To all of you behind the scenes in the days leading up to smorg, thank-you. Georgine, Diane and Bonita thank-you for all the work in publicizing smorg. Thank-you Shirley for mixing the meatball ingredients together and Wally for delivering hundreds of pounds of meat to church on Friday morning so we can make meatballs. And thanks to Norma and Diane for delivering hundreds of pounds of ham and turkey Saturday morning. Thanks to Lee Schmitt for the donation of the yummy butter. A special thank-you to Algot and Gordy for all the work they do getting the grounds ready for the big day. And thanks to all that share their talents in the country store. Smorgasbord 2012 is just 11 months away! -Joy Rathman

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board this month goes to Julie Sellner and Joy Rathman for the time and effort they spent making sure we had a successful Smorgasbord again this year! Thanks also to the workers, we couldn't do it without all of you, the cooks, servers, bakers, dishwashers and contributors. It takes each and every one of us to make the day go smoothly and you are all appreciated!

Thanks to Susan Allen and Julie Peck for filling in for Rev. Lisa on the spur of the moment, you both did a great job.

ANNUAL BAKE SALE



The Bake Sale will be held Saturday November 5th at the Markplatz Mall in New Ulm from 9 to noon. Baked goods and help are needed. Contact Julie Sellner or Joy with any questions.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The annual Christmas Music night will be Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 PM at church.

FOOD SHELF NOTICE

The New Ulm Food Shelf needs a volunteer driver to pick up food every Wednesday morning at Cash-Wise. A pickup or van is needed. The food shelf also is looking for substitute drivers to haul food from Walmart on a given Monday, Wednesday or Friday. The driver should be able to lift up to 50-pound boxes. Call the food shelf office at 354-5688 or call Don Brand at 354-5688.

Welcoming a GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table — a UU tradition for decades. By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box and a Stories of Hope booklet, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots human-rights leaders, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

Through the Stories of Hope booklet, we connect with people throughout the world who have shared their personal struggles and are working hard for human rights in partnership with UUSC. In each

household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family dinner table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their “guests” to the movement for universal human rights — and share generously.

Each week, we can choose a different story to read, bringing our guests to life and helping celebrate our own rights.

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC’s human-rights work continues. Please consider making a contribution that meets membership levels. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from government or the UUA, your support and membership are vitally important.

If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at uuscs.org/givetoguest. We will open our Guest at Your Table program November 20.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST “COMMON READ”

Eboo Patel's memoir *Acts of Faith*, a Beacon Press book originally published in 2008, has been selected as the 2011-12 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read. A 2008 speaker at the UUA General Assembly, Patel is founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), an international, nonprofit, youth service leadership organization.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

A committee of UUA staff selected *Acts of Faith*. Ten years after 9/11, the book describes the vulnerability of youth to violent, fundamentalist influences and makes a case for all of us, particularly youth, to promote pluralism by engaging in interfaith dialogue and social justice work.

The UUA Bookstore is supporting this Common Read with a 10% discount on orders of 5-9 books and 20% off orders of 10 or more books. *Acts of Faith* is also available online where e-books are sold, and in public libraries.

Later this church year we will use the UUA *Acts of Faith* Discussion Guide (PDF) to help us process and respond to this book's call for religious pluralism. Please let Lisa know by January 6 if you would like to order a (potentially discounted) copy of *Acts of Faith* through the UUA Bookstore, and watch up coming newsletter for dates and details of the discussion sessions.

RE NEWS

Greetings From RE! In October we learned about the second U.U. Principle “Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations”. We have learned about Whitney Young, John Murray, Olympia Brown and explored a Buddhist parable about fairness. We have discussed what it feels like to be treated unfairly and how we should treat others as well as ourselves.

Our November meetings are on the first three Sundays, the 6th, 13th and 20th. We will be discovering the third U.U. Principle, Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth for our congregations. In We Believe this correlates to “We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together”. How do we encourage one another to grow spiritually? We will explore this question through stories, activities, songs and crafts throughout our thanksgiving month! Also we will be writing letters and drawing pictures to send to the children of our sister church throughout the month as well. So come join us in November for fun as well as spiritual growth. -J

Note to parents: while our R.E. is designed for small groups of multiple ages, not all the activities will appeal to a 3 year old or a 15 year old at the same time. In trying to design a program for everyone there will be moments where “chaos” might reign. -J

Our program is a work in progress and the best part of mistakes is learning from them. I will do my best to keep everyone engaged and keep the program as well rounded for all ages as possible. Thank you for your understanding and support! I enjoy each and every one of our participants!



LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

Plans are underway for Nora to participate in the New Ulm Parade of Lights on Friday, November 25. The parade begins at 6:00 pm. We'll begin lining up at 5:00. Watch the weekly order of service and The Grapevine for more information.



NEWSWORTHY

Jordan Rathman recently finished a marathon!

Alon Chambard visited Washington, D.C. on one of the Honor Flights, along with other veterans from around Minnesota.

Chrissie, Tony, Courtney and Carson welcomed daughter/sister Peyton!

To Keep In Touch

Al Swanson of Worthington will celebrate his 92nd birthday on Nov. 21. A card or note would be welcome by Al and his family. 202 Franklin Ave., Worthington, MN 56187

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the committee members:

Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson - 354-1866
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

THANK YOU! - Caring Committee



Open House Bridal Shower
for
Ryann Rathman
bride to be of Andrew Kaim

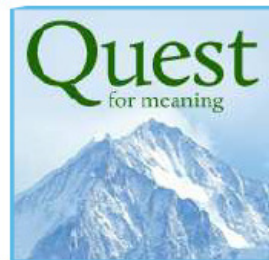
Saturday Dec. 10th
10am
Nora Church Fellowship Hall

Ryann is the daughter of
Joy and Gerard Rathman and
granddaughter of Bob Schmitt

Please Post

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship

www.QuestForMeaning.org
Coming in November!



An online sanctuary for
spiritual growth and community.
www.QuestForMeaning.org

Online worship via Livestream TV
Blogs, Twitter, Facebook
Connection
Care and Help
Online Learning

For assistance, and to reach a real person: ldennis@clfu.org, 617-948-6166




NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2011

Parsonage: 507-439-6240



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 
6 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 11:30 Pot Luck RE	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service RE	14	15	16 LUNCH BUNCH Divine Providence Nursing Home, Sleepy Eye	17	18	19
20 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Newsletter articles due .. Thanks for being prompt! RE	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	28	29	30	Happy Thanksgiving		

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
6 Muffy Rathman	POT LUCK Roger & Norma Breu Michele Bethke	Colleen Tasto
13 Sally Hanson	Lee & Lynn Schmitt	Jeremy Schmitt
20 JoAnn Huss	Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman	Vickie Sieve
27 Jordan Rathman	Wendy Tutle & Kristi Paulson	Edith Beckius



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.
Friday will be sermon writing day.
She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:
507-766-5682



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
12333 155th Avenue
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

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NOVEMBER 2011



EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

WEB SITE
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

Nora Church Sunday Services

NOVEMBER 2011

Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

- Nov. 6 "Falling Back"
- Nov. 13 "A Time to Remember"
- Nov. 20 "What's on the Tip of Your Tongue"
- Nov. 27 "Living in Harm's Gray"
speaker: Nita Gilbert

