



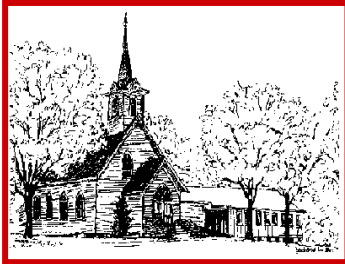
# MERE LYS newsletter

*Nora Unitarian Universalist Church*

FEBRUARY 2013

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## *A VIEW FROM THE HILL*



A colleague tells of using paper doily hearts to teach children about love. Peel one and give it away, he says, and you always have one (or half dozen) more left, to peel away and give to other friends, siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Folk singer Malvina Reynolds put it this way in her song Magic Penny:

Love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.

The pinkest, reddest, frilliest, sweetest, most potentially heart-breaking day of the year is right around the corner. We'll celebrate love and flaunt love and secretly mourn the loss of love or the absence of love. Preachers and producers of television commercials will try to make Valentine's Day about all kinds of love but we'll all know that it's really only all about romantic love and if we don't have a sweetheart we're not only left out of the holiday, we're not really very worthy of any much at all.

It's hard to accept, this time of year especially, but love encompasses many experiences and many expressions. The Greeks distinguished between at least four different types of love: familial or affectionate love, friendship, romantic love, and spiritual love. Babies and children learn to love in their parents' arms-whether those parents are biological or adoptive or step, male or female. Our understanding of love deepens and evolves and broadens through friendships and romantic partnerships with companions of all ages and genders and ethnicities. We strive throughout life for a taste of spiritual love that quenches our own one in seven billion heart's truest longing.

And through it all, in all the kinds of love, all the expressions and experiences of love, this is true: love is something if we give it away; we end up having more. Not in ways we can predict or control. Not necessarily from the same people we offer our love. Not necessarily in even exchange. But in the great mystery and order of things, love is. In abundance. Without understanding why or how, without question of earning or deserving or keeping score, we need only give love away. And we will be loved. We are already loved. I promise.

## SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

The second Sunday of each month, our loose offering goes to "Food For All". Please remember to give generously to those in need.

## FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board - to Scott Schmiesing for sanding and Wayne Dean Johnson for plowing.

## LUNCH BUNCH



The peripatetic Lunch Bunchers are sticking closer to home during these wintry months and will meet to eat at Turner Hall in New Ulm on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 11:30 a.m. Hope you all stay well and can join us then.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to Nora for the delightful little Christmas tree and Andes mints. Thanks for the cards, gifts, phone calls and visits for my birthday. I've been in rehab for pneumonia and high blood pressure. I will be back at Ridgeway sometime the week of January 21.

-Lorraine Becken.

## MEMBER BIO

Katy & Peter Hemberger

Thank you for welcoming us into the Nora community! In May of 2011, our family moved to an old farmstead on Omsrud Lake after spending three years in St. Paul while Peter finished law school. When deciding to move near Hanska, we drove around the area and were thrilled to learn about Nora. While in St. Paul, we sporadically attended Unity Church and discovered Unitarian Universalism. In many ways we felt that we perhaps had always been UU's, but had never labeled ourselves as such. The open-minded liberalism of the church, the legacy of social justice, and the honest search for understanding that refuses to devolve into dogmatic clichés immediately appealed to us.

Before moving to St. Paul in 2008, we were both full time organic vegetable growers outside of Hutchinson, MN. Before farming in Hutchinson, we farmed outside of Duluth. Before living in the Duluth area, we spent some time in Athens, Georgia. Before Georgia we both attended Luther College in

Decorah, Iowa (and while at Luther, we each lived in various parts of the world). Currently, we are excited to be living back on some land and have fallen in love with the area. Katy has worked with the local and organic foods movement for over 10 years by growing produce, working at a Food Co-op in St. Paul, and has worked for and with many local foods restaurants in the northern Midwest. Katy currently runs a vegetable CSA at our farm and is excited to use a new 72' high tunnel this growing season. When not working with food, she is chasing Fredrik (4) and Ivy (1.5). Peter works on the farm hoeing, hand-weeding, building and managing infrastructure. In his spare time, Peter works as an attorney at Gislason & Hunter in New Ulm, primarily practicing Agricultural Law, Drainage Law, Real Estate Law and general Business Litigation.

## NOTE FROM A MEMBER



One COLD wintry Jan 13 - Jerry Peterson writes:

Just a note to express my thanks and appreciation to all the wonderful Nora people for their hospitality and friendly support while I shared in their life for the past several years. After two years I finally sold my home to a family with 5 kids. They will enjoy my jungle gym in my back yard. My family helped me to move back to St. Cloud to a warm & friendly apartment. I'm at West Wind #105, 765 Savanna, St. Cloud, MN 56303. -Joy, Peace & Love, Jerry Peterson

## YOUTH CAMP DAY

Let's host a Youth Eco Day Camp this summer! Nora is such a beautiful place full of opportunities for learning with the surrounding landscape, impressive wind turbine, and earth-minded members. This will most likely be a one day event this year, but hopefully it grows in years to come. What a great opportunity to get the youth (all ages) involved! Please email Katy Hemberger at [katyhemberger@gmail.com](mailto:katyhemberger@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping or have any ideas.

## Do You Qualify for free tax-filing?

Taxpayers who have used an on-line tax site for filing now have new option. MyFreeTaxes.com is a great option for taxpayers who have an AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) of \$57,000 or less because they can now file through this site and get both federal and state returns filed for free. Many

sites offer free federal but state filing can carry a considerable fee. Other sites are free but have tighter restrictions including much lower AGI or certain age restrictions. This site is the most flexible in the sheer number of people who would qualify.

Users must have a prior year PIN or prior year AGI to register (this is similar to other self-prep sites). Highest users of the tax site will be taxpayers who only have W-2 income and are comfortable using a computer. The tax site will be supported by a toll-free number for users to ask specific questions if they run into snags with their return.

United Way Worldwide in conjunction with all its local affiliates is supporting and promoting this tax option as a way to provide a free option for tax preparation. United Way of Brown County Area hopes this will provide a great alternative to commercial tax sites that require payment for filing. Visit our website at [www.unitedwaybrowncountyarea.org](http://www.unitedwaybrowncountyarea.org) for more information.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held immediately following the Sunday service on February 24, 2013 for the purpose of electing members to the church board of trustees. Please be in touch with the nominating committee (Edith Beckius and Nita Gilbert) if you are willing to serve on the board.



## RE NEWS

Dorothea Dix had a vision. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a vision. Last week we learned about the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for a more just and peaceful world where equality among all people would be an accepted part of society. We explored the topic of bullying and inequality and reflected on our own vision of how we want the world to be. We will continue this week about Dorothea Dix's vision that changed how society saw and cared for people who were mentally ill or disabled. We will continue the discussion to form our own opinions on how everyone should be treated and what we can do to help by letting our vision carry us.

In February we will be discussing basic human rights, love and the secrets we keep. We will learn about the friendship and love between a hippo and a tortoise (Owen and Mzee) as well as learn about Siddhartha Gautama who started the Buddhist religion.

As with all of our lessons they are geared towards raising questions, not answering them. The children are encouraged to think for themselves and form their own opinions. I simply offer scaffolding in which we can build upon, year after year in our responsible search for meaning and truth.

## Sunday school dates

Jan 27<sup>th</sup>,  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
March 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
April 7<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
May 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>,  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> last day of regular lessons

I hope everyone is staying warm and illness free this winter! I apologize for December. Unforeseen illness and winter driving conditions kept me at home that month. -Ms. Jennie

## GETTING OLDER

Now that I'm older.... here's a few things that I've learned:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and all-bran.
3. I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being forgetful....
5. Funny, I don't remember being forgetful....
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. Some days, you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck stopped here; I could use a few.
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you really haven't been anywhere.
13. The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
15. When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone want to play checkers?
16. It's not hard to meet expenses....they're everywhere.
17. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the length and depth.
18. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter.... I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm hereafter.
19. Funny, I don't remember being forgetful.
20. I can't remember if I've sent you this before. No big deal... you probably don't remember.

## TEST YOUR BRAIN

Here's another trick of Doctor Dementia to test your skills ... Can you meet this challenge? I've seen this with the letters out of order, but this is the first time I've seen it with numbers. Good example of a Brain Study: If you can read this OUT LOUD you have a strong mind. And better than that: Alzheimer's is a long long, way down the road before it ever gets anywhere near you.

7H15 M3554G3 53RV35 7O PR0V3 H0W 0UR M1ND5 C4N D0 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!  
1MPR3551V3 7H1NG5!

1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG 17 WA5 H4RD,  
BU7 N0W, 0N 7H15 LIN3 Y0UR M1ND 1S R34D1NG 17 4U70M471C4LLY  
W17H 0U7 3V3N 7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17, B3 PROUD!

ONLY C3R741N P30PL3 C4N R3AD 7H15.  
PL3453 F0RW4RD 1F U C4N R34D 7H15.

To my 'selected' strange-minded friends: If you can read the following paragraph, forward it on to your friends with 'yes' in the subject line. Only great minds can read this. This is weird, but interesting!

If you can read this, you have a strange mind, too.  
Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can.  
I don't believe that I could actually understand what I was reading.  
The phonetic power of the human mind, according to a research  
at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are,  
the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place.  
The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem.  
This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing  
huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important!

## ***Unitarian Humour***

There are many Unitarian Universalist jokes, stories we tell each other as a way of laughing at ourselves. All of these statements contain at least a grain of truth about who we are, but, as we say, if you take three Unitarians, you'll find five opinions, so some of the jokes below are not relevant (or funny) to all of us.

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Q: How many Unitarians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: We choose not to make a statement either in favour of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey, you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is wonderful. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb. Present it next month at our annual Light Bulb Sunday Service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life, and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

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Q: Why can't UUs sing very well in choirs?

A: Because they're always reading ahead to see if they agree with the next verse.

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"I know my humor is outrageous when it makes the Unitarians so mad they burn a question mark on my front lawn." — Lenny Bruce

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The children in a UU church school class were drawing pictures. The teacher asked one, "What are you drawing a picture of?" "I'm drawing a picture of God," was the reply. "But nobody knows what God looks like," objected the teacher. "They will," said the UU child, "when I get my picture done."

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 2013

Parsonage: 507-439-6240  
 Lisa's cell: 507-766-5682



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service POTLUCK	4	5	6	7		
10 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	11	12	13 Lunch bunch @ Turner Hall, New Ulm	14	15	16
17 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Congregational meeting fol- lowing the service	25	26	27	28		

Newsletter articles  
 due . Thanks for  
 being prompt!

**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	SERVER/GREETER/USHER PARTNERS
3	POTLUCK
Sally Hanson	Jeanie Hinsman-Darell Hinsman-Christopher Olson
10 Jordan Rathman	Kate Monnens-Jason Monnens-Mimi Kamleiter
17 JoAnn Huss	Karen Farrell-Julie Peck-Ron Peck
24 Mimi Kamleiter	Georgine Tepley-Gene Tepley-Nancy Brudelic

**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  
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Hanska, MN 56041



EMAIL  
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

## **Nora Church Sunday Services FEBRUARY 2013**

**Coffee Time 10:00 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM**

**February 3 - "Your Secret Identity Revealed"**

**February 10 - "Don't Tell Anyone!"**

**February 17 - "The Secret of Success, of Life,  
of the Universe"**

**February 24 - "While God Was Hidden"**

Guest Speaker, Dr. Loren Dean Boutin, PhD., clinical psychologist and author of three books, will be speaking about his spiritual journey from Roman Catholic altar boy to Dakota Pipe Carrier, as chronicled in his book, "While God Was Hidden".

### **To Keep In Touch**



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**