



MERE LYS

January 2016 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



January 3rd

Winter Break

January 10th

***“Unitarian Universalists
and the Universe”***

*Steve Kipp, Professor of
Astronomy, MSU*

January 17th

***“The Ten Command-
ments from a Jewish
Perspective”***

Paul Warshauer, Lay Rabbi

January 24th

***“Racism, Discrimina-
tion, What Do You
Know About It? ”***

Program Committee

January 31st

Program Title TBA

*Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer,
White Bear UU Church*

A View From the Hill

What will you do when the clock sounds the final stroke of midnight on December 31st? Or, more likely, when you open your eyes on January 1st? Will you wipe the slate clean? Turn over a new leaf? Resolve to change or resolve to stay the course? Heave a sigh of relief at the end of yet another year’s round of holiday? Let escape a sigh of regret that the holidays are over again already?

I’ll be in my borrowed apartment in Minneapolis, on my first official day of sabbatical, and I’m pretty sure I’ll be torn between competing desires. Do I hop out of bed, stroll Nicollet Mall, march back and settle in to read the top book in my sabbatical pile from cover to cover—making the most of every moment of the sure-to-fly-by-days of leisure from the get-go? Or do I snuggle in to lazily consider... whatever I want to consider—likewise making the most of every moment of the sure-to-fly-by-days of leisure from the get-go?

The time-bound nature of the sabbatical lends a certain urgency to the question *how shall I spend my days*, but it’s really a life question, not a sabbatical question or even a New Year’s Day question. How shall I approach each new day? With a sense of purpose or a sense of adventure? Dread or joyful anticipation? Curious, distracted, grateful?

I don’t start every day, or even most days, deliberately, thoughtfully considering my mood and my intentions for the day. You might not either. But it’s not a bad practice to cultivate, at least from time to time. A sort of periodic check-in with ourselves. How’m I doing and am I heading where I want to go? New Year’s is a good day to start. So is January 2nd, if you forget on the 1st. Or your next birthday. Or tomorrow. You can tell me how it goes for you in just a couple months.

Happy, Happy New Year. I’ll see you in March.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... to the program committee for arranging services during sabbatical.
... to the Christmas tree elves.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, January 17th after the special congregational meeting.

Adult RE Delves into History

Adult Religious Education will resume on January 17, 2016. We'll gather after the service (bring a sack lunch) to watch and discuss the first of a series of DVDs on Unitarian and Universalist history. We'll meet again on February 21, March 20, April 17 and May 15. Adult RE, a casual discussion group, is open to all Nora members, friends or visitors.

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special Congregational Meeting following the service on January 17th to discuss an application for special funding to help defray the expenses of Lisa's sabbatical. The application requests information on support of the congregation. Ron Peck will provide information on this type of funding at this meeting.
Karen Farrell

Lunch Bunch Fiesta!

Ole, and Happy New Year. Time to start another round of gatherings for good company and good food. It's January so tradition calls for us to meet at Plaza Garibaldi, 1707 N. Broadway, New Ulm, on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, to celebrate a certain January birthday (and all others that fall in this month). As usual, we meet at 11:30 a.m. Be sure to be there in time to see the honoree don the birthday sombrero. Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to any Nora members or friends.

January Guest Speakers

Jan. 10 "Unitarian Universalists and the Universe."
Steve Kipp, Professor of Astronomy, MSU Mankato

Steve Kipp will be talking about the latest model of the universe, the accelerating Big Bang. This will include talking about dark matter, dark energy and the multiverse.

Steve Kipp is a professor of astronomy at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He and his wife Elizabeth are from "back East" originally. They are members of the UU Fellowship of Mankato.

Jan. 17 "The Ten Commandments from a Jewish perspective" *Lay Rabbi Paul Warshauer*

Paul will present the Ten Commandments in Hebrew then translate them literally and discuss the subtext. It is an informal presentation and a question and answer period will occur. A handout will have the Hebrew letters, a transliteration, and English translation so everyone can pronounce the Ten Commandments in Hebrew by the end of the session.

Mr. Warshauer attended Ashe Emet Day School (a parochial elementary school in Chicago), was Bar Mitzvahed and confirmed. He continued his Jewish studies with Rabbi Mayer Abramowitz of Miami Beach and was selected by Congregation Anshe Shalom in Klamath Falls, Oregon as their Rabbi. Mr Warshauer is the Executive and Artistic Director of the State Street Theater in New Ulm.

Jan. 24 "Racism, Discrimination, What Do You Know About it?" *Nora Program Committee*

Jan. 31 *Rev. Luke Steven-Royers, White Bear UU Church*

Soup and Sandwich Lunches

For January and February, the Program Committee would like to provide the opportunity for folks to talk more with our guest speakers by serving a lunch of soup and sandwiches on the Sundays when no potluck is held. Feel free to bring food as well, but you don't have to!



February Food Shelf

During February Nora Church, with UCC New Ulm, will furnish volunteers for the New Ulm Food Shelf. The work involves refilling orders as families come in. No special skill is needed, training provided. Our dates are Mondays Feb. 1 and 8, Wednesdays Feb 3 and Feb 10, from 11:45am—3pm; also, Feb.1 from 6:30 to 8pm. We should have three volunteers each time.

We are a small group, so we need all who can help. Consider signing up for more than one slot. Young and old volunteers encouraged—this is a good way to become more familiar with the needs in the community. A sign up sheet will be hung in the entry way, or feel free to contact Darrell Hinsman 354-7494 or 276-6044.

A Note From the Treasurer

November Income and Expenses

Income: \$7,359.75

Expenses \$16,656.32 (Including \$11,217.00 for capital improvements.)

Grateful Giving Calendar

When the song of the angels is stilled,
 when the star in the sky is gone,
 when the kings and princes are home,
 when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work
 of Christmas begins:
 to find the lost,
 to heal the broken,
 to feed the hungry,
 to release the prisoner,
 to rebuild the nations,
 to bring peace among the people,
 to make music in the heart.

~Howard Thurman

Here's an easy way for you and your family to take up the work of Christmas this new year. You can drop the change into a box or bowl or basket each day (as a daily

reminder of your blessings) or simply add up it all up at the end of the month. Send your contributions directly to NUMAS Haus or the Brown County Humane Society or other charitable organization of your choice.

Then, send a note to Brooke telling us about your contribution (and any insights the practice awakened in you) so we can put it in the newsletter. Better yet, simply post your experience on Nora's Facebook page!

For the average household, this will total up to about \$15.

What does \$15 mean to your family? Maybe it's a take-out order of pizza. Maybe it's a half a tank of gas. Maybe it's popcorn at the movies.

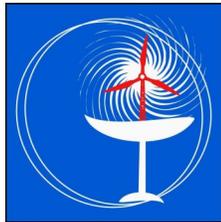
What does \$15 mean for a non-profit that meets the needs of hungry and homeless people in our community? \$15 will provide a Thanksgiving meal to a family of 4. \$15 will pay for one day of electricity at the Theresa House shelter. \$15 will pay for bus fare for a youth to get to/from their job for 1 week *Adapted from Grateful Giving Blue Earth County*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 — Deposit \$1 if you have a working furnace in your home.	2 — Traveled for the Holidays? Deposit \$0.05 for every mile you go.
3 — Deposit \$.05 for each gift card you received this Christmas.	4 — Deposit \$0.10 for every light switch in your home.	5 — If you sleep in your own bed, deposit \$0.25.	6 — For each TV in your home, deposit \$0.25.	7 — Deposit \$0.25 for every heat register in your home.	8 — Deposit \$1.00 if you have more than 8 cans of food in your cupboard.	9 — Deposit \$0.50 for each garage door opener you have.
10 — For the convenience of a washer & dryer in your home, deposit \$1.00.	11 — If you had lunch today, deposit \$0.25 (all household members).	12 — Deposit \$0.25 for each year you've lived in your home.	13 — Deposit \$0.50 if you have clean water to drink that comes out of your faucets.	14 — If you had breakfast today, deposit \$0.25 (all household members).	15 — For every cell phone or computer in your house, deposit \$1 .00.	16 — Deposit \$0.50 if you have enough blankets to keep you warm at night.
17 — If you had a snack today, deposit \$0.25 (all household members).	18 — Deposit \$0.50 if you bought coffee or soda today.	19 — For every household member who has a job, deposit \$0.50.	20 — If you had a hot shower today, deposit \$0.25.	21 — Deposit \$0.50 if you went to the grocery store this week.	22 — Deposit \$1 for every pet you have.	23 — If you had supper today deposit \$0.25 (all household members).
24 — If you know where your next meal is coming from, deposit \$0.25.	25 — If you went to, or rented a movie this month, deposit \$0.25.	26 — For each bedroom in your house, deposit \$0.50.	27 — If you own more than five pairs of shoes, deposit \$0.25.	28 — Deposit \$0.50 if you have your own car.	29 — Deposit \$0.10 for each winter coat or jacket you own.	30 — Deposit \$0.50 if you had dessert today.
31 — Deposit \$1 if you threw away left-overs this week						

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Caring Corner

Healthful and healing thoughts go out to **Nancy's grandson Jared**. Jared, had surgery on December 18 at Du Pont Children's hospital. He has a baclofen pump that wasn't working right. They put in a new one plus some new tubing. Last week the batteries for his brain stimulators started dying so he had surgery in Philly to replace it with a rechargeable one. All bionic parts have been dealt with, and he is home as of December 22, so hopefully no more hospital visits for a while! He is grateful to be home for Christmas.

In Jared's ASL class, the ASL Club presented Jared with two \$1,000.00 checks for his favorite charities—Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley and Victory House which helps homeless veterans. The club knew Jared would be recovering from his surgeries and wouldn't be able to do as much for others as he usually does. He did bring over 200 toys and games to Du Pont Hospital and Ronald Mc Donald House in memory of his friend Zachary who died last year. Almost every day the doorbell would ring with someone donating gifts for Jared to bring. His network of people is terrific.

Larry Bakken had a Pet Scan on Tuesday, Dec. 15th. The doctor said the cancer was almost in remis-

Notes from the Nora Office...

Please send announcements, and content of any kind, for the newsletter or order of service to the Nora email. Announcements generally run for two weeks.

Order Of Service ~ content due Thursdays

February Mere Lys ~ content due Jan. 20th

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

sion but wanted him to continue doing the chemo for all six treatments. Doc said that since Larry is handling the chemo without any side effects that by doing all six treatments he could put the cancer in a stronger and longer remission.

Finished treatment three on Thursday the 17th and Friday 18th. It's great being able to go to the clinic for treatments rather than 4 days in the hospital. Guess we need to be thankful for the little things too! Treatment 4 will be January 14th and 15th. We hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season. We appreciate wonderful friends and family like you who support us on our journey. Hoping you have a healthy and wonderful 2016!

Thanks for your emails, cards and phone calls. They are all appreciated! Please do NOT send flowers. If you want to send cards, letters, etc., please send them to our home at 11900 175th St. W., Lakeville, MN 55044. Feel free to send emails to LBakken@frontiernet.net. Larry would love hearing from you! Larry and Vickie

Creative Bunch Kicks Off!

When cabin fever begins to set in we will have just the right thing!! Beginning this month the Great Minds, Artsy Times monthly gathering will begin! Watch for a date (in the second half of January) in the weekly order of service, as well as by Grapevine notice, once Nancy lands her feet back on Minnesota soil (or snow). Interested parties can let Nancy (or Brooke) know and a date can be set accordingly. From the creative lady herself, "I think the first meeting we may do some stenciling. It's easy, anyone can do it. Then we can talk about where to go from there."

For folks looking for a creative outlet, or a way to inspire more creativity! Work on the current project or bring along your own to work in company with other creative minds!

Inclement Weather

In case of Sunday morning inclement weather the decision to cancel church service will be made no later than 8:00 a.m. At that time a Grapevine will be sent out, an announcement will be posted on the Nora website and Nora Facebook page, and the cancelation notice will be sent to KNUJ and KTOE.

When church is not cancelled, you are responsible for your own safety. We love to see everyone at church but we would rather know every one is safe. Please do not drive to church when road conditions, high winds or frigid temperature feel *unsafe to you*. We'll see you the next Sunday, or the next month or in April!!