



MERE LYS

April 2016 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



April 3rd

*“Problems with
Belief”*

*Guest Speaker Bruce Peck,
Dakota UU Church*

April 10th

“Throwing Stones”

April 17th

“We All Need Trees”

April 24th

“Render Unto”



A View From the Hill

I’m reading a new detective story in a well-loved series by a favorite author. I want to read it all right now and I want it to last for as long as possible. It’s almost 600 pages long so the enjoyment should last a while—except I read more than a third of today. It’s like binge watching a series on Netflix or Amazon Prime, I suppose, and then regretting it when the end of the series rolls. Only better, because it’s a book.

And it’s not unlike life. We want the good moments to last, to unfold in slow motion so we can savor every sweet smelling, sleepy, floppy infant hour, every stomach rippling frisson of new romance, every family meal, every dark, starlit night. It’s all too beautiful, too rare, too joyful, too full-full to be rushed or let go. And yet, we can’t wait to watch the toddler begin to walk and then graduate from high school. We can’t wait to settle into the comfortable assurance of a mature relationship that has been refined and deepened by years of choosing to stay together. We can’t wait to move through the meal to homework and bedtime and a few hours solitude. We can’t wait for the sunrise that comes after the starlight. We’re torn between wanting to stretch out the delicious moments of life and wanting to rush on to discover and experience the next one in line as soon as possible.

But we can’t put life down, the way we can a book, saving the next chapter as a reward for after we’ve completed a few task. And we can’t stay up all night watching it through to the end, either. That’s the gift of life. Its pace is beyond our control. We don’t get to choose between freeze frame and fast forward. We don’t have to choose between freeze frame and fast forward. Overflowing with joy and contentment or heavy with disappointment and heartbreak, the moments move steadily on, building our lives along the way. All we have to do, all we get to do, is live meaning into them, one by one. And that’s better even than a really good book.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... to the people who helped strip wall paper and paint at the parsonage – Nancy Bruderie, Edith Beckius, Roger and Norma Breu.

... to those who organized the Easter breakfast— Edith Beckius, Nancy Bruderie, Diane Becken.

Prairie Beacon Meeting

The annual Prairie Beacon meeting will be Sunday, April 17th, following the service.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19th at 5:30 pm.

Adult RE Delves into History

Adult Religious Education will meet again on April 17. We'll gather after the service (bring a sack lunch) to watch and discuss the a series of DVDs on Unitarian and Universalist history. We'll meet again on May 15. Jump in anytime!

Adult RE, a casual discussion group, is open to all Nora members, friends or visitors.

Art with Attitude

April meetings for Art with Attitude will be on the 8th and the 22nd in the church social hall. Please bring along whatever you would like to work on. Or just come to have coffee and visit. Bring a bag lunch. Starting time is 10 A.M.

Lisa on the Loose!

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in your community when it works for you.

During April you will be able to find Lisa at the following locations:

Thursday, April 7 from 10:30-12:00 at the Coffee Hag, Mankato

Thursday, April 14 at 3:00 at Ridgeway on 23rd, New Ulm

Thursday, April 21 from 10:30-12:00 at Encore Coffee, St. James

Tuesday, April 26 from 11:00-12:30 at River City Eatery, Windom



Lunch Bunch

Over the river and to The Woods the Lunch Bunch gang will gather for its April outing. We're trying a new venue this time: The Woods outside St. Peter. Take Hwy. 99, (go past Whiskey River), and turn right on CR 21, and it is the first driveway on the left. The date is Tuesday, April 12, at 11:30 a.m. We hope these directions will lead you to this new adventure in eating. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to any Nora members/friends or visitors.

Program Committee: April Guest Speaker

On April 3rd we will welcome guest speaker Bruce Peck, member of Dakota UU Church in Burnsville, MN. Bruce is an active seeker of knowledge whose curiosity has led him into an examination of articles, blog sites, journals and other sources to flush out new ideas on the topic of beliefs. Not the content of beliefs, but the structure of beliefs, and the myriad problems they create when left to their own devices.

Bruce is the brother of Ron Peck. He has a connection to Nora Church, having been married here on September 10, 1966 by Rev. Charles Flagg. His daughter and son-in-law were also married here, as well as his brother Ron.

Bookmark This!

Book exchange every Sunday during April in the Koffee Stua. Bring a book (or five); take a book (or ten).



A Note From the Treasurer **February Income and Expenses**

February Income \$9,670.50

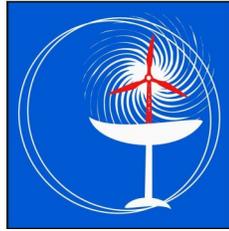
February Expenses \$9,694.51

Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not including special collections or memorial gifts.

Note: Tree removal project not completed/paid.

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Pastor Lisa has Mondays off.
Friday is sermon writing day.
She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:
507-766-7822.



Lisa will be out of the office during the last couple weeks of April for the minister's regional meeting. She will be available by cell phone, text or e-mail. In case of emergency please contact congregation president Karen Farrell.

New Ulm Area Crop Walk

The annual Crop Walk event for this area will be held May 1 at 1:00 p.m. The walk will start at the Putting Green and go to German Park and back to the Putting Green. Monies from this interfaith effort are used to support food security particularly in third world countries.

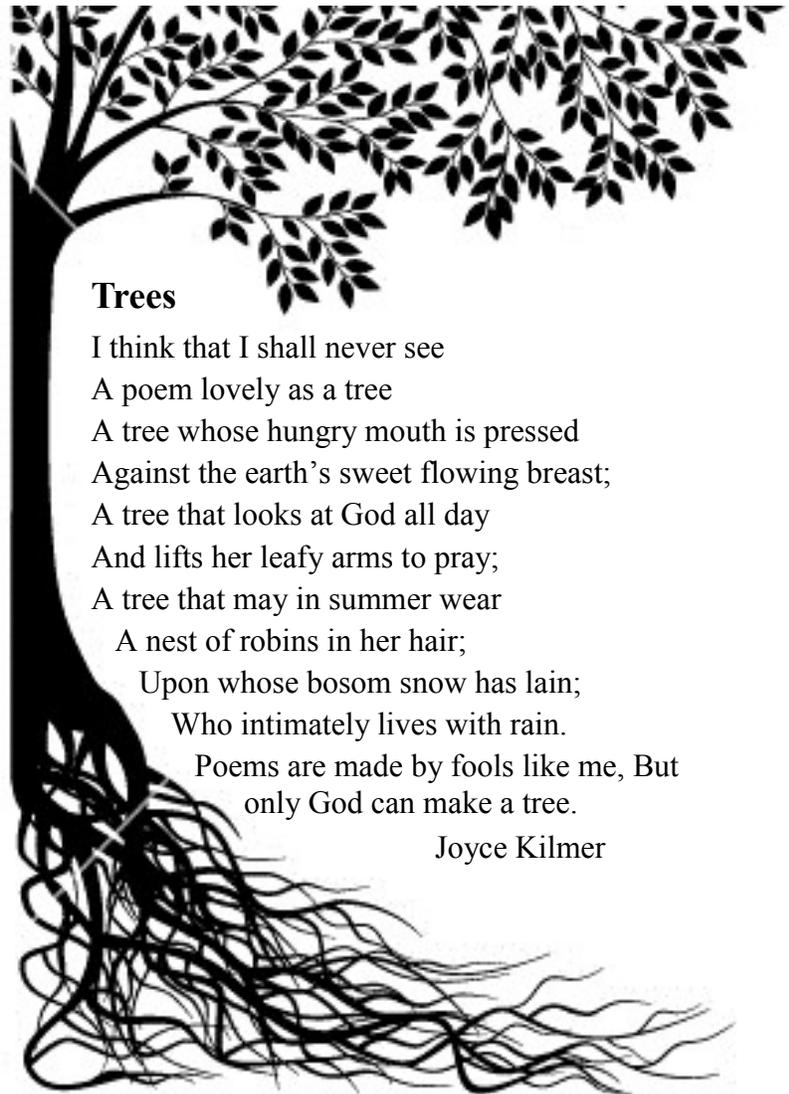
Nora Church has a long tradition of supporting Crop Walk. Please consider a donation this year. Look for information posted in the Fellowship Hall and/or talk to Jeanie Hinsman. Crop Walk is an effort of Church World Service of which the UUSC is a partnering organization.

Nora & UUFM Choirs Team Up

Tradition continues as the Nora Choir and the Mankato Fellowship Choir join forces in April. The Nora Choir will be at UUFM on April 10th. The Mankato Fellowship Choir will be joining us at Nora on April 17th, with a potluck following the service. This year Gil will be directing.

"On no subject are our ideas more warped and pitiable than on death...Let children walk with nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plains and mountains and streams of our blessed star, and they will learn that death is stingless indeed, and as beautiful as life, and that the grave has no victory, for it never fights. All is divine harmony."

- John Muir, in *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*, p.41-42.



Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me, But
only God can make a tree.

Joyce Kilmer

**Celebrate Earth Day April 22nd
Celebrate Arbor Day April 29th**

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

May Mere Lys ~ content due April 22nd

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

Website: www.norauachurch.org

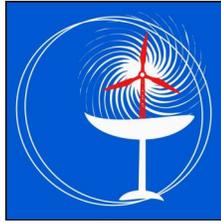
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.*

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Caring Corner

Larry has finished Treatment 6. Yay!! Hopefully that is the last one for a long time!!

Doc told Larry to stop talking to the nurses as they were there to work. Ha! Like that is going to happen. Good thing that both Doc and Larry like to tease each other. He has a Pet scan on April 7 and a doctor's appointment on April 9 to hear the results. We hope to celebrate after April 9 that Larry is again in remission. Doesn't that sound great? 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 or just reply to this email. Larry would love hearing from you! Thanks again for your support! We feel truly blessed to have such wonderful friends!! Larry and Vickie

Holly Gudmundson Leighton, daughter of former minister Emil Gudmundson and long-time friend to many of you, announced this week that she has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Lisa has assured Holly that this community holds her in love. Holly Gudmundson Leighton, 2717 Colfax Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.

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Conference on Palliative Care "Transforming the Dying Experience: Becoming an Effective Guide for the Journey." Thursday, April 28, 8:30 am-3:30 pm at

South Central College, North Mankato. Early registration, until April 24, is \$85, some discounts available. Register online at www.mnsu.edu/continuing/palliative.html. For more information or to register by mail, please contact Kim Rotchadl, MCHS Mankato Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at 507-385-6364 or email her at Rotchadl.Kim@mayo.edu.

Caregiver Discussion Group meeting 10 am the 2nd Friday of each month—next meeting April 8. If you are helping a loved one to live at home, you don't need to go it alone. New Ulm Senior Center, 600 N. German. Free to join. Come when you can, leave when you must. Sarah 866-974-0283 sarah.Anderson@lssmn.org.-available for personal one-on-one coaching/consulting if you know of a caregiver who cannot make the group.

Youth Music Camp

Friends Music Camp, a Quaker-run music camp which takes place at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, is actively seeking campers for this summer July 10 - August 7. Considering the shared seeking nature of the unprogrammed Quaker tradition and the Unitarian Universalist tradition, as well as a shared interest in social justice, reaching out to UU congregations seems like a natural fit! FMC is open to campers from 10 to 18 years old at all musical levels. Younger students have the option of staying for just the first two weeks of camp, while campers over 13 typically attend for the entire month. We ask that prospective campers have had lessons or that they have participated in a school orchestra, band or choral program for at least one year. Campers attend lessons, sing in the chorus, play in large and small ensembles, act in musical theater, take classes, and, of course, have ample time for hanging out and having fun. Evening activities include capture the flag, a dance, outside speakers, visits to the local pool, and other fun activities. Both students and staff perform at weekly recitals and on weekend concerts. This is a wonderful experience for any young music student. There is a great deal of information about FMC on our website, www.friendsmusiccamp.org.

To ♥ Keep In Touch

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members:

Georgine Tepley (chair): 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)

Shirley Olson: 354-1866

Carol Chambard: 354-2242