



MERE LYS

January 2017 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Worship 10:00 am

Coffee 11:00 am

New Service Time!



January 1st

No Service

January 8th

*“A New Year
Dawning”*

Guest: Hank Campbell

January 15th

To Be Announced

January 22nd

“Generation Panel I”

Presenter: Karen Farrell

January 29th

“Generation Panel II”

Presenter: Karen Farrell

A View From the Hill

As most of you will know by now, I'll be on sabbatical for the next four months. I'll return to the tasks of ministry here at Nora Church on May 1, 2017.

I wrote a similar message at this time last year as I prepared to leave for the first two months of my sabbatical. It's a bit unusual (though not unheard of) to split one sabbatical into two segments and to spread those segments over two consecutive church years. But Nora Church has never been afraid to stray from the usual way of doing things.

From breaking away from Linden and Lake Hanska Lutheran Churches and joining a American Unitarian Association to allowing women to vote and serve in leadership positions to erecting a wind tower and turbine to produce electricity, be kind to the environment and serve as example and encouragement to other churches—Nora does what suits its members' needs and its institutional values.

Our current sabbatical set-up allowed me to begin sabbatical right on time last January while also giving me the opportunity to apply for special funding for the second segment. The funding didn't come through but, as is so often the way of the universe, the split sabbatical arrangement now allows me four months to settle into the unexpected blessing of motherhood.

And for you, the congregation, you benefit from the fresh perspective of many and diverse voices from the pulpit while not having your minister absent for the larger portion of a single church year.

I'm deeply grateful for the willing and can-do spirit of Nora that thus serves us all so well.

Take good care of yourselves and one another. I'll see you in May.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... to the Christmas tree elves and other decorators.
... to Cindy and Julie Sellner for new decorations.
... to the people who take care of the driveway and the snow removal.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, January 15, after church.

Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude gathers again on January 13th and 27th. Our first project will be to finish the NUMAS house quilts or bring your own project to work on. Visitors are always welcome. The coffee is always hot!

You may bring your own project to work on or just come to visit and spend the day. Bring a bag lunch.

Lunch Bunch

Well, another year has slipped by (good riddance), and it's time for the first Lunch Bunch gathering of 2017. And you know what that means: a surprise birthday party for Jerry Allen at his favorite restaurant, so please keep this a secret. Just show up at the Plaza Garibaldi at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017.

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

Service Times

Please note that the service times have changed for the new year. At its August meeting, the Nora Board of Trustees decided to move Sunday service to 10:00 a.m., followed by coffee hour at 11:00.

The decision was made based on the discussion of an earlier start time at last June's annual meeting. The change will remain in effect through the remainder of this church year, at which point the board, with input from the congregation, will evaluate the experiment and make a decision regarding start times going forward.

Food Shelf Volunteering

During January Nora Church, along with UCC in 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, someone will explain what to do if you've not worked before.

Our dates are on Monday afternoons January 2, 9 and 16. The hours are 11:45 to 3pm. We should have 2-3 volunteers for each time.

We are a small group so we need all who can assist. Please let Darrell Hinsman know if you can help or call 354-7494 or 276-66044.

January Guest Speaker

Sunday, January 8 "A New Year Dawning"
Guest Speaker Hank Campbell received his Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 1983. Since then he has served as Pastor of UCC churches in Bradford, VT; Jamestown, NY; New Ulm, MN (1995-2014); and Shared Ministry of New Ulm UCC and Gaylord UCC (2011-2014). Hank also shared in Pulpit Exchanges and Shared Worship Services of New Ulm UCC and Nora UU over the years along with Sarah, Don and Lisa. In 2016, Hank was Interim Minister of 1st Congregational UCC in Fairmont, MN. In New Ulm, Hank has served on the Board of the City Human Rights Commission, The United Way, and the New Ulm Youth Soccer Association.

Send your news, announcements and events to us at norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net or put hard copies in Brooke's mailbox!

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

A Note From the Treasurer

November Income and Expenses

Income: \$5,829.05

Expenses: \$6,767.73

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

Direct Deposit for Pledges Some people have requested direct deposit for pledges. To initiate this, anyone interested would have to set this up with their bank, much like an automatic payment for a utility or credit card. If you would like to make electronic pledge payments, please contact Julie Peck for Nora Church account information.

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Lisa will be on sabbatical from January 1, 2017 through April 30, 2017 (completing the six months due her at this time). A Unitarian Universalist minister will be available to respond to pastoral needs during Lisa's sabbatical. Their name, information about their ministry and guidelines for contacting them will be sent via Grapevine, listed in the order of service, and appear in the next newsletter. In the meantime, please contact Nora president, Karen Farrell fargurskarelli@hotmail.com, or 507-834-6917, with any concerns.

Grateful Giving Calendar

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*

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.

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, Brown County Humane Society or another charitable organization of your choice.

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

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!

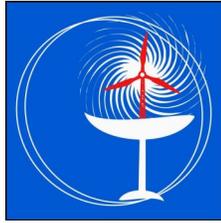
When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the
work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring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

~Howard Thurman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 — Traveled for the Holidays? Deposit \$0.05 for every mile you go.	3 — Deposit \$.05 for each gift card you received this Christmas.	1 — Deposit \$1 if you have a working furnace in your home.	2 — For each bedroom in your house, deposit \$0.50.	3 — Deposit \$0.50 if you had dessert today.	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.	27 — If you own more than five pairs of shoes, deposit \$0.25.
28 — Deposit \$0.50 if you have you own car.	29 — Deposit \$1 for each computer in your house.	31 — Deposit \$1 if you threw away left-overs this week				

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

12333 155th Avenue
Hanska, Minnesota 56041-4310



Phone: 507.439.6240

Website: www.norauuchurch.org

Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

January Greeters

ATTENTION PARTNERS: Please communicate with each other regarding food provision, as necessary. **Please remember that your job includes greeting.**

JANUARY

1—No Service

8—Potluck—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Julie Sellner

15—Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman, Shirley Olson

22—Nancy Brudellie, Wayne Johnson, Nita Gilbert

29—Christopher Olson, Julie & Ron Peck

If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please call someone on the list and try to arrange a switch, or contact Susan Allen. Contact information is in the Nora Directory. Please let Lisa or Brooke know any schedule changes so the order of service can be corrected – norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

The full Server/Greeter list was last posted in the December Mere Lys, which may be accessed on our website and is posted in the kitchen.

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 announcements will be posted on the Nora website and Facebook page, a cancelation notice will be sent to KNUJ and KTOE and, whenever possible, a Grapevine will be sent out. When church is not cancelled, you are responsible for your own safety. 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!



NUMAS Haus Needs Volunteers

NUMAS Haus needs volunteers to staff the house at least one three hour shift/month. Volunteers make sure residents and children are in a safe environment, interact with residents and children providing examples of good decision making skills, and contact the shelter coordinator in response to emergencies and resident problems and issues. Background check is required and training is provided. For more information talk to Lisa or check the NUMAS Haus website: <http://numashaus.org/index.php/category/volunteers/>

Energy Assistance Program

Many local families and individuals find it difficult to pay their monthly energy bills. The Energy Assistance Program provides a grant for income-eligible households which can defray some of these costs, leaving more of the family resources available for other expenses. We can also assist households in crisis situations with disconnect notices or when they are almost out of heating fuel. Grants are paid directly to the vendor on their behalf.

Households can request an application by calling MVAC at 507-345-6822 or 800-767-7139 or by downloading it from their website mnvac.org. Applications are currently available, with funds becoming available later in the year, generally mid-late November. The program ends May 31st, 2017.

Caregiver Discussion Group

Caregiver Discussion Group meeting 10 am the 2nd Friday of each month—next meeting September 9. 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.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Please send 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. 24**

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

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