



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

September 2008

VIEW FROM THE HILL



To the members and friends of Nora Church I wish to say, "Hello, let me introduce myself." My name is Dana

F. Reynolds, III. Wendy, my wife of six wonderful years, currently lives and works for a non-profit agency in Metro Atlanta in this time of transition. I began the ministry in my late forties and I am a graduate of Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago. I have served five other Unitarian Universalist congregations in one capacity or another and I am pleased to serve as Nora Church's interim minister.

I will say a little more about myself. I was born and grew up in Columbus, Ohio in a nonreligious household. Because my parents eventually felt some form of religious education would be important for my sister and me, our family began attending a liberal church (affiliated with the United Church of Christ) that had a very progressive and liberal Sunday School program.

From late elementary school through junior high and high school, I enjoyed the church's youth program immensely. It was a stimulating program, and I felt accepted. I looked to the youth ministerial staff as role models and held them in high esteem.

At the end of high school, my development religiously seemed to have reached a plateau. Shortly after graduating from high school, I joined an evangelical Christian group, probably because I was still searching for truth and meaning in my life. Because of this influence when I was starting college, I briefly enter-

tained the idea of going into the ministry.

Instead of going into the ministry, I found my way to the business college where I discovered an aptitude for accounting. After college, I had a career for more than fifteen years in business, mostly in accounting. I was a fiscal officer for two different not for profit organizations over a period of seven years. It was a mostly satisfying experience to see the work performed in the community by these agencies and to know I was doing my part as a member of the support team.

While I was the fiscal office of Central Community House in Columbus in the early 1990's, I began to doubt my faith at a time when my first marriage was ending. This crisis of faith lasted a little less than two years and left me a single person without a religious home. It was right at this time a friend told me about the Unitarian Universalist church. When I went there, I felt I had "come home" after a long journey.

Unitarian Universalism exemplifies the values I was taught throughout childhood. Each of us needs to determine how best to express our values in all that we do and say. And we can encourage and support one another in this effort through religious community.

I look forward to getting to know each of you this year and to work with you in this time of transition for all of us. I hope you will be on hand on September 7 when I will outline what I think this next year will look like.

See you in church!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The September Board meeting of Nora has been moved to Saturday, September 20th due to conflicts on the regular night of the second Wednesday of the month. If you have any items you would like to bring before the board please contact a member of the board.

SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

There is a need for people to form a search committee for a settled minister for Nora. If you are interested in this committee please contact a member of the Board.



LUNCH BUNCH Watch the Sunday Bulletin for date and time.

FOOD FOR ALL

Through our social justice action, Nora Church has committed to helping with the food distribution at Food for All in St. James four Saturdays a year.

Our first opportunity this year is Sept. 13. Volunteers meet at Nora at 8:00 a.m. and carpool to St. James or meet at First Presbyterian Church at 8:30. We need four people each of the Saturdays (Sept, Dec, March, June) to hand out food items. It's an easy task, a great activity for parents/youth to do together, and shows our support for the good job the folks at First Presbyterian are doing for those struggling to make ends meet. If you are able to help on Sept. 13, please let Darrell Hinsman know (359-7494).

SOCIAL JUSTICE 2008-2009 COME JOIN US!

The Social Justice Committee's next meeting is Sept. 11, 7:00 p.m. at Scott & Angie Becker-Kudelka's home, 817 S. Minnesota, New Ulm. The committee is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a visit by Krisztina Pall from our partner church in Transylvania. Krisztina is the R.E. director for Benced and is known for her community organizing efforts for both the church and community. We were asked to assist in her travel to the U.S. in late Feb. 2009 to enable her participation in the UU International Women's Convocation to be held in Houston, Texas. Her trip to the U.S. would include

some days in Hanska. In addition to this discussion the committee will be finalizing the service presentation for Sunday, Sept. 21. Anyone interested in joining the committee's efforts is welcome to join us.

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

(Last month)

Thanks to Warren Paulson for his dedicated service on the board.

Thanks to Julie Peck for shampooing the carpets in the parsonage.

Thanks to the choir members who made a real commitment to be at practices and performances.

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

(This month)

Thanks to Algot Bomquist and Gordy Bentsdahl for keeping the grounds looking good.

Thanks to the "interim search committee", Sheldon Rieke, Julie Peck, Sally Hanson, Patrick Kunerth, for finding us an interim minister.

Thanks to Don Rollins for all the memories and service he provided (spiritual and personal) during the last 4 years. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- would benefit by a spiritual community available 24/7?
- works on Sunday mornings?
- lives in an isolated area?
- does not have access to a local UU church?
- is housebound and unable to attend a local church?
- is an active member of a local congregation who wants even more?
- is a church staff person or religious professional who would enjoy a congregation of their own?

Invite a friend to check us out.

For more information about the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF):

Go to www.clfuu.org

Click on the "Welcome Banner" across the screen.

Questions about the Church of the Larger Fellowship?

Contact Beth Murray:

bmurray@clfuu.org

617-948-6150

We'd love to hear from you.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is a UU church by mail and email. We have substantial online worship and religious education resources. Learn more about the CLF at www.clfuu.org.

NORA'S FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

On Saturday, September 20th the Board, Rev. Reynolds, and the Committee on Ministry will meet from 9-12 with Lynn Burton to look at Nora's future. Part of that future is leadership. We are in need of people willing to serve on the search committee for a new settled minister. If you are interested and can make it please join us on the 20th. If you can't make it, but are interested, please talk to a member of the board about your desire to help. The future requires planning and work now, so we can enjoy it later.

ORDINATION INVITATION

Suzanne M. Wasilczuk will be ordained on Sunday, Sep 28 at UU Congregation of Duluth, 835 College Ave, at 4:30 PM. A reception will follow. Please call 218-525-5811 to RSVP, directions or further information.



It's a new year and a new choir, along with a new director. Come join us September 7th at 9 AM to meet our new director, JoAnn Huss. JoAnn is from New Ulm and will also be lending her talents as musician at some of our Sunday services. Please give her a warm welcome.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE



Pastor Reynolds will be at the parsonage late Tuesday/early Wednesday thru Sunday afternoon/evening. This is, of course is subject to change depending on what's going on.

GIVING AND GENEROSITY UPDATE
Stewardship and Development Department
U U Association of Congregations
August 12, 2008

UUism in the *New York Times*

Did you see the message of Unitarian Universalism in the *New York Times*? Thanks to your profound generosity (we received over \$140,000!!).

The outpouring of your generosity in response to the tragic events in Knoxville is living proof that we know who we are as Unitarian Universalists. That we stand on the side of love and are not afraid to live our faith in the world.

Now we have the opportunity to place an ad in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, to honor the victims and survivors of the Tennessee Valley shootings and spread our healing message in the region that needs it most. And with your generous support, a placement in *USA Today* may also be possible. **Donate now** to make it happen.

Association Sunday Resources Now Available

In these complicated times, we are called to move our faith forward, and affirm our common purposes at every opportunity. **Resources for planning your Association Sunday 2008** services are available online now – among which you will find sample readings, essays, sermons, and hymns and ideas for collaboration with other congregations. This year's theme is "Growth in Spirit."

Now is the Time Campaign Update

As of August 12, 2008, the Campaign has made it to 81% of its \$50 million goal, including \$16.9 million in cash and pledges and \$23.4 million in legacy commitments. **Donate Now** Thank you for your generosity!

FAREWELL TO DON

Rev. Don Rollins will be returning as a guest minister on September 14th. This service will be followed by a Pot Luck dinner. Come join us and share your memories and farewell wishes with Don.

MINNESOTA VALLEY ACTION COUNCIL

Financial Support available for Social Ministry Programs: MVAC, through the Capital Compassion fund, is offering grants to assist groups working on critical human needs, such as at-risk children and youth, elders-in-need, homelessness, prisoners and families of prisoners, and people struggling with addiction. CCF grants will be made to congregations as well as other organizations. Five areas are supported by the grants: leadership, program design and development, financial sustainability, infrastructure, and community engagement.

For more information or to request an application package, contact Judd Schultz, CCF Project Regional Liaison at 507-345-MVAC or jschultz@mvac.mankato.mn.us. Or you can go to the web site at www.mnvac.org.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SENIORS of Brown County (formerly Faith in Action) 6TH ANNUAL MEETING

Come celebrate with us! Thursday, October 2, 5:30-7:30 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran church, 1400 So. State St., New Ulm.

Agenda: Dinner, Election of Officers, Volunteer Recognition, Keynote Speaker, Elaine Spain of Region 9 Development Commission. Cost: \$10.00. reservations required by Monday, September 22. Call 354-5370 or 866-899-0622.

DAY OF CARING 2008 One Day to Help One Another

Do you know someone who:

- Needs yard work done???
- Has small painting projects???
- Needs household cleaning???
- Or just needs someone to visit???

To tell us about your project or to volunteer your time, call the United Way at 354-6512.

Join us for our second countywide Day of Caring on Saturday, October 11, organized by the United Way of the Brown County Area and Volunteers for Seniors of Brown County. This is an annual celebration of community volunteers giving "One Day to Help One Another." Volunteers provide "helping hands" for services that people, for diverse reason, cannot do.

Gather a team together! Recruit family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to make a team. Team can range in size and ability.

DIABETES EDUCATION

The Diabetes Basic Series is held the first Monday of the month at 6 PM and the first Tuesday of the month at 8:30 AM at New Ulm Medical Center—Clinic Lower Level.

Because ongoing education is so important for managing diabetes, the cost of this class is often covered by health plans. Call 507-233-1000 to register. A schedule of the classes will be provided when you attend your first class.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Diabetes disease process
- Monitoring
- Medications
- Nutrition and carb counting
- Setting goals
- Depression and diabetes
- Assessing progress
- Importance of physical activity
- High and low blood sugars
- Foot care, dental care, sexual health
- Heart ideas risk reduction
- Stress management
- Preventing complications

For more information, please call 507-233-1000 and ask to speak with our Diabetes Educator or one of their staff nurses.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF EXTRA FOOD?

A special Food Distribution will take place on Tuesday, September 16 at the Brown County Fairgrounds Youth Coliseum in New Ulm from Noon to 3 PM. Please bring your own boxes/large containers to transport your food items. ANYONE WHO IS IN NEED OF FOOD IS ELIGIBLE!!

This special food distribution is a joint effort of Second Harvest Heartland, New Ulm Emergency Food Shelf, and Minnesota Valley Action Council.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! To help with this special event call MVAC at 507-354-3138 or the New Ulm Food Shelf at 507-354-7668.

LIFE WORK PLANNING CENTER NEWS
The mission of Life-Work Planning Center is to increase the self sufficiency of women and their families.

JOB-SEARCH SKILLS Workshop in Mankato:
If you are, or want to start actively seeking work at this time, this group will help you stay focused and on task to meet your goals.

You will receive support from others in the group as well as specific information on job-seeking skills. **Topics to be covered include:**

- The job search process
- Filling out an application
- Writing a resume & cover letter
- Where to look for work
- Interview skills

Thursday Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Begins Sept 11. Mankato Office: 201 N. Broad St., Suite 100. To register, call Marlene at 345-1577

OVER 50? TIME TO CREATE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Workshop in New Ulm. Take a fresh look at the last one third of your life.

- Facing Retirement?
- Career change?
- Family grown?
- Is this all there is?

We will discuss the importance of attitude and skills in reaching personal and employment goals, Thursday Evening 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Begins Sept 11. New Ulm Office, 1618 S Broadway. To register, call Christine at 800-505-9073.

FALL WORKSHOPS

Life-work planning center provides a supportive environment where you can explore career/job options, build self-esteem and confidence in your ability to make decisions, set goals, and become self-sufficient.

The 10-week Personal Growth/Career Development Workshop includes some of these topics:

- **Self Esteem:** Learning to consider yourself
- **Transitions:** It starts with an end and works through to a beginning
- **Stress Management:** Staying "Cool"
- **Assertive Communication:** Say what you mean while still respecting yourself and others
- **Personality Styles:** Yes, we're all different, and that's a good thing!

- **Career Assessment:** Explore your career options
- **Values:** When you figure out what's important to you it all falls in place
- **Decision Making:** How do you choose?
- **Skills and Interests:** What are you doing when 'time flies'?
- **Dreams and Barriers:** And the formula for success
- **Courage and Putting It All Together:** Where there's a will there's a way!

We offer career and life planning services for women. Workshops are free (Displaced Homemakers) or a minimal fee. Mileage and child care reimbursements are available. Our fee scale is supported by private grants.

OFFICE LOCATIONS:

Mankato: 345-1577 or 800-369-5166
Union Square Business Center, 201 N Broad St. Suite 100
New Ulm: 345-3112 or 800-505-9073
1618 South Broadway
Fairmont: Call 800-505-9073 for schedule or appointment

To Keep In Touch

♥
Keep in your hearts and prayers the family of Thelma Asleson, whose funeral was August 16, here at Nora.

♥
Keep in your hearts the family of Steve Pheiffer who died last summer and the burial was here at Nora on August 16.

♥
Keep in your hearts the family of Scott Kudelka. His father passed away in August.

♥
If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the following Caring Committee members:
Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson - 439-6879
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

THANK YOU! - Caring Committee

2008-2009 LEADERS AT NORA**OFFICERS:**

President: Sheldon Rieke
 Vice-President: Julie Peck
 Secretary: Diane Becken
 Treasurer: Sally Hanson

BOARD MEMBERS

Julie Sellner
 Scott Schmiesing
 Pat Kunerth

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Edith Beckius

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

Doug Anderson Jeanie Hinsman
 Kristine Paulson Mark Wiger
 Bev Wellman

NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY:

President: Joy Rathman
 Vice President: Norma Breu
 Secretary: Janet Rosenbloom
 Treasurer: Shannon Weiss

MT PISQUA:

PRESIDENT: Warren Paulson
 SEC/TREAS: Algot Blomquist
 MEMBERS: Scott Chambard
 Wayne Johnson
 Clayton Olson

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Mark and Brenda Wiger
 Darrell and Jeanie Hinsman
 Christopher Bodick
 Scott Kudelka
 Angie Becker Kudelka

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Susan Allen Shirley Olson
 Kristine Paulson Vicki Sieve
 Noah Rosenbloom

CARING & SHARING:

Georgine Tepley Carol Chambard
 Shirley Olson Bonita Blomquist
 Susan Allen

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Julie Sellner Joy Rathman
 Norma Breu Diane Becken
 Carol Chambard Julie Peck
 Sheldon Rieke

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

Darrell Hinsman
 Warren Paulson
 Wally Wellmann

SERVERS**SEPTEMBER**

7 POTLUCK
 Nancy Dickson
 Julie Sellner, Susan Evers
 14 FAREWELL POTLUCK
 Gil & Sally Hanson
 21 Pat & Laurie Kunerth
 28 Edith Beckius
 Charles Anderson

GREETERS/USHERS

Kevin & Shannon Weiss
 Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman
 Diane Becken, Nancy Brudellie
 John & Julie Schmitt

OCTOBER

5 SMORGASBORD
 12 Vicki Sieve, Colleen Tasto
 19 Noah & Janet Rosenbloom
 26 Sheldon & Anne Rieke

Gil & Sally Hanson
 Doug Anderson
 Ann Nelson
 Edith Beckius
 Louise Guggisberg
 Roger & Norma Breu

NOVEMBER

2 POTLUCK
 Wally & Beverly Wellmann
 Jason & Katie Monnens
 9 Elroy & Ardis Wellmann
 16 Warren & Kristine Paulson
 23 Ron & Julie Peck
 30 Nora & Janet Rosenbloom

Jerry & Susan Allen
 Wayne & Janet Johnson
 Pat & Laurie Kunerth
 Charles Anderson
 Christopher Olson
 Wendy Tuttle
 Karen Farrell

DECEMBER

7 POTLUCK
 Joy Rathmann
 Ardis & Elroy Wellmann
 14 Doug Anderson
 Ann Nelson
 21 Sheldon & Anne Rieke
 28 NO SERVICE

Christopher Olson
 Kay Steffl
 Clayton & Shirley Olson
 Warren & Kristine Paulson

SERVERS ~ GREETERS ~ USHERS:

- If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please call and try to arrange to switch with someone else.
- If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, please call Susan Allen 359-2856.
- Available substitutes include: Mimi Kamleiter (375-3585) and Mark & Brenda Wiger (354-5256).

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

September 2008

Parsonage: 507-439-6240



	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 POTLUCK 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	8	9	10	11	12	13 "Food For All"
14 POTLUCK 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Farewell potluck for Pastor Don Rollins	15	16	17 	18	19	20 9 AM-12 noon -Mtg with Lynn Burton (details inside newsletter 1 PM -Nora Board
21 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	29	30	<p>We continue to collect information for the new Directory. If you haven't returned your information, won't you please help us out by doing so today? It'll be greatly appreciated.</p>			

Newsletter articles due (20th). Thanks for being prompt!

We continue to collect information for the new Directory. If you haven't returned your information, won't you please help us out by doing so today? It'll be greatly appreciated.

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
7	Muffy Rathman	POTLUCK Nancy Dickson Julie Sellner, Susan Evers	Kevin & Shannon Weiss
14	Jordan Rathman	FAREWELL POTLUCK Gil & Sally Hanson	Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman
21	JoAnn Huss	Pat & Laurie Kunerth	Diane Becken, Nancy Brudelle
28	Sally Hanson	Edith Beckius Charles Anderson	John & Julie Schmitt

Remember SMORGASBORD OCTOBER 5th



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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Hanska, MN 56041



EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

September 2008

Nora Church Sunday Services September 2008

Social Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

September 7: "Wisdom from Janus, Emerson and Others." What should we expect from this year of transition? While nothing can be predicted with absolute accuracy, it is a time of change for Nora Church (and for me) and how we approach this transition is vital to doing what needs to be done.

September 14: "Leaving Home." The final of a 3-part series by parting minister Rev. Don Rollins.

September 21: "Company Coming? Reconnecting with Benced." The social justice committee will give a brief orientation to UU history and tradition in Transylvania. We will discuss the role of a partner church, review our history with Benced and suggest possible future relationships.

September 28: "Engaging Our Theological Diversity." How can Unitarian Universalism be "strong" and relevant with such diverse beliefs? We focus on what binds us to one another and to our religious community.