

MERE LYS

March 2017 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Worship 10:00 am

Coffee 11:00 am



March 5th

“Moment of Truth”

By Sara Campbell

*Speaker: Christopher
Olson*

March 12th

“Hymn Sing!”

Leader: Christopher Olson

March 19th

“Nora’s Museum”

Speaker: Louise

Guggisberg, Nora Member

March 26th

To Be Decided

*Guest Speaker: Rev. Karen
Hutt*



A View From the Hill

Both the Burning and the Light

Rev. Sean Parker Dennison

It's in one tiny moment in time / for life to shine to shine
Burn away the darkness
You've got one tiny moment in time / for life to shine to shine
To burn away the darkness
I will be light.
— "I Will Be Light" by Matisyahu

About six months ago, I got a new tattoo. It's a lit match on my right wrist, added to an arm full of paintbrushes, pens and other art supplies. As a minister, my tattoos are sometimes controversial, and I was a little nervous about what people would think about this addition. When people asked why I chose a lit match, I'd joke that it was either to burn the world down or to light my inner chalice.

These days the joke is less funny because things have gotten more serious. As the new President signs executive orders that give tax breaks to the most privileged while attacking immigrants, refugees, Muslims, GLBTQ people, people with disabilities, and anyone else he disagrees with, I am more and more committed to resistance. This deepened calling to a life of non-compliance will take a lot of burning and a lot of light.

As an artist and religious leader, I believe in the necessity of creative destruction. A magnet on my refrigerator says, "Go forth and set the world on fire." (St. Ignatius Loyola) For me it's a statement of passion and a reminder that in order for justice to flourish, injustice must be dismantled. In order for freedom to be real, fences, cells, and walls must be torn down. In order for forests to remain healthy, wildfires must burn away the overgrowth. I am ready to embrace creative destruction as one of the tools we need in these times.

But we need more than destruction. We also need to support each other. Lighting the flame of our common chalice (real or symbolic) is a powerful reminder that we cannot sustain ourselves by ourselves. We are not enough individually, and enclaves of "like-minded" people are not enough. We need each other to share the wisdom of lived experience, to remind each other to keep learning, and to love each other through the inevitable failures and eventual success of our resistance.

We need both the burning and the light.

Prayer

Spirit of Justice, help us be courageous and committed in these times. Let us transform our ideals into action, our words into deeds. Let the fire of our passion burn with both light and warmth. In our anger, help us embody the spirit of creative destruction, always making room for more justice, more compassion, more love. May it be so. May we be the ones that make it so. Amen.

From: Braver/Wiser Courage and Compassion for Life As It Is

From the board...

Thank You!

... to the people who are providing programs and services while Lisa is gone.

...to the congregation for supporting and attending these services .

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, March 19, after church.

Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will be March 3, 17 and 31. We are working on tote bags made out of animal feed bags. They are partly plastic and very strong. Anyone who has bags they could donate can leave them at church or give them to one of the Art with Attitude ladies. There will also be some quilt sewing going on and probably some rug making. As always everyone is welcome to come and join us to work on a project or just to visit and have coffee.

Please call Nancy if you are planning on attending so you may be notified, should cancellations be made. (507-439-6838 or 484-347-8816). 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.

Lunch Bunch

Please watch for a Grapevine with the latest and greatest information about the best lunch in town!

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

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

Income: \$7,555.00

Expenses: \$5,803.63

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.

Nora

Visioning for the Future



Nora's Visioning for the future workshop, led by Ian Evison, will be Saturday, April 1st. Coffee at 8:30 with the workshop starting at 9:00 and continuing until we're done (with a break for lunch) or 3:00, whichever comes first.

Expect a survey/questionnaire in the mail in the near future. Please complete it and return it by March 19th so that the info gleaned can be used in preparation for the workshop.

This workshop will NOT be a day to make final decisions, but a day to get the conversation going, and, hopefully, get us to the point of making a draft statement of who/where we'd like to be.



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



Saturday, March 25, 2017
at 4 in the afternoon

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
Hanska, Minnesota

*A light supper will
follow in the church hall.*

THE FAVOR OF YOUR REPLY IS
REQUESTED BY MARCH 10, 2017
REVLMD.NORA@GMAIL.COM
OR (507) 766-7822

Lisa Marie Doege, along with her
daughter, **Lucia Patricia Reyes**,
invites your blessing for rites of child
dedication & family affirmation.

March Guest Speakers & Presenters

Christopher Olson, a member of the Program Committee, has been a common voice during Lisa's sabbatical. We are grateful for his contribution to organizing services and presenting, as well as other members of the Program Committee—Karen Farrell and Nita Gilbert.

March 5 & 12 Guest Speaker/Leader Christopher Olson has been a member of Nora Church since 2000, has served on the Program Committee for over ten years, and has been active with the choir since its inception. Christopher says: "The people at Nora Church immediately made me feel welcome and at home the first Sunday I visited, and I've been here ever since!"

March 26 Guest Speaker Rev. Karen Hutt has been a UU Minister for over 25 years and has served as a DRE at First Unitarian Society and as Co-Pastor of Church of the Open Door. Both in Chicago. Currently she is a Clinical Pastoral Educator at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis where she trains interfaith chaplains. She also works there as a pediatric chaplain.

Love of Lefse

Do you have it? A love for lefse. Want to give the gift of lefse love? Grab a half pound, or a pound, and enjoy it with your meal(s) next week or throw it in your freezer, or the freezer of someone you love.

Grab some Nora flyers!

Grab 1 or 10 or 20 of the quarter-sheet flyers promoting service at Nora.

Hang them up in a good spot in your community, leave a stack at a coffee shop, or keep a few in your purse to hand out.

*Let's make this a community effort to
get the word out!*

The flyers are in the fellowship hall.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Order Of Service ~ content due Thursdays

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

April Mere Lys ~ content due March 21

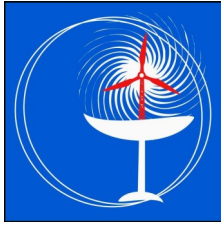
Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

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

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

March Greeters

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

MARCH

5—Potluck—Georgine & Gene Tepley, Wayne Johnson, Edith Beckius

12—Norma & Roger Breu, Michelle Bethke

19—Sally Ann & David Benson, Christopher Olson

26—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Kristy Paulson

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.

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.

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/>

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



Pastoral Care

During Lisa's sabbatical please contact Nora president, Karen Farrell – fargurskarelli@hotmail.com or 507-834-6917 – with any concerns. Emergency pastoral coverage is being provided by Reverend Don Cameron. For pastoral care contact Don—

uucams@gmail.com or cell: 507-508-7809.

Rev. Cameron received his M. Div. from the Starr King School of Ministry in Berkeley. Don currently serves at the Interim Minister at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato.

Lisa will be on sabbatical from January 1, 2017 through April 30, 2017 (completing the six months due her at this time).