

MERE LYS

May 2017 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Worship 10:00 am

Coffee 11:00 am



May 7th

*"It Is What It Is Until
It Ain't Anymore"*

May 14th

*"Mother of All
"*

(noun)

May 21st

*Church in the Park
Hanska Park 10:30am
Syttende Mai*

May 28th

*"The View From the
Benches"*



A View From the Hill

Exuberance

Rev. Jake Morrill

"At any given moment there is an orthodoxy, a body of ideas which it is assumed that all right-thinking people will accept without question."

—George Orwell, *Animal Farm*

Once, I worked in aluminum building, scoring the standardized tests that they make children take. That year, fourth graders across North Carolina were asked to answer, in an essay, "What is your favorite kind of weather and why?"

You might imagine there would be any number of ways a child could answer that question. But you would be wrong. There was a right way, a wrong way, and a rubric to grade it.

My cubicle-mates were all victims of the latest recession — middle-aged people with nothing left to lose. We nursed frequent headaches. Under fluorescent lights, we applied the prescribed rubric to the children's answers: Was there a thesis statement? Supporting rationale? Did they stay on topic? Some wrote in tiny, neat letters. Others had looping scrawls that wandered all over. I liked the exuberant answers, the ones with explanatory diagrams. There were wild tales of tornadoes or ice storms, a vivid picture of lightning. One child simply filled the box with black scribbles.

All these, of course, got the lowest possible score.

Every hour, the boss gathered up the team to calibrate us. "Now," she would say, holding up an essay, "Can someone please tell me why this is a 'four?'" You weren't supposed to argue it should be a "three." Calibration was meant to make us all think the same, to ensure uniform scoring. There was only one answer, only one way to see things.

One day, during mid-morning break, I walked out and left. I had no idea how I'd make rent that month. My friend Sam found me walking down the shoulder of the highway, and gathered me into his ancient convertible.

So, what's my favorite weather? When the wind whips your face, you're alive, and you can think what you will.

Prayer

God of our hearts, who moves through freedom, toward freedom: we gather in Your power, seeking to know Your promise in our lives, through this land. Guide us, Holy One, in our uncertainty and in our over-certainty; let our broken hearts fill with the song of the ages, whose verses are Justice and whose chorus is Love. So may it be. And Amen.

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

Thank You!

From the board...

...to the Easter Breakfast team.

...to Christopher Olson for coordinating speakers and leading the services during Lisa's sabbatical.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30.

Lunch Bunch

The month of May will find the merry band of Lunch Bunchers joining our friends at the New Ulm UCC for their spring fundraising luncheon on Thursday, May 4, at 11:30 a.m. As always, we hope you can share the fun with us.

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

Lisa on the Loose

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

During May Lisa will meet on Tuesdays at the following locations:

May 9

River City Eatery, Windom from 11:00-12:30

May 16

Coffee Hag, Mankato from 10:30-12:00

May 23

Encore Coffee, St. James from 10:30-12:00



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

Income: \$6,014.50

Expenses: \$9,425.38

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

Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will meet May 12 and 26 and June 9. We will skip the rest of June and resume in July. We are working on a very special quilt. Our supply of tote bags is growing—we have all sizes and shapes!

If anyone has an idea of things we could make for the Country Store at the Smorgasbord let us know. We're open to any ideas.

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 of cancellations (507-439-6838 or 484-347-8816).

You may bring your own project to work on or just come to visit. .

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

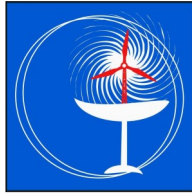


Wise souls don't hoard,
the more they do for others
the more they have,
the more they give the
richer they are.

Lao Tzu

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.



Nominating Committee Report

Karen Farrell's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. Sally Hanson's first term expires on July 1st. The committee is seeking nominees to serve a three year term.

Respectfully submitted, Nita Gilbert & Edith Beckius

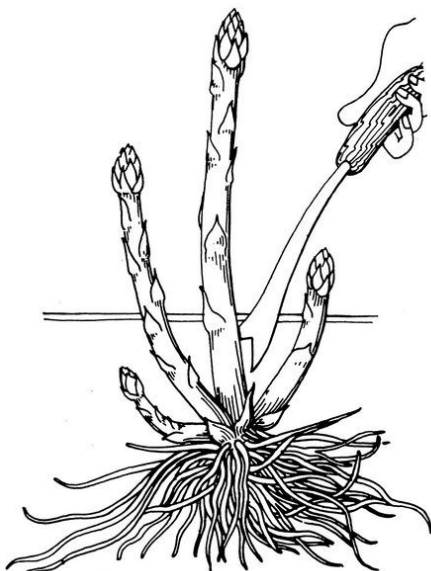
2017/2018 Church Budget & Pledge Drive

The proposed budget for the 2017/2018 church year will be presented at a very brief congregational meeting following the service on Sunday, May 21st, 2017. Pledge cards are being distributed currently.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:05 a.m. on Sunday, June 4th, 2017.

At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the 2017/2018 church year, elect members to the Board of Trustees, and undertake other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.



May Greeters

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

7—Potluck—Sally Ann & Dave Benson, Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska
14—Syttende Mai
21—Colleen & Glenn Hokenson, Lee Drogemuller
28—Shirley Olson, Lara Fletcher, Louise Guggisburg

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.

New Ulm's Own

212 North Minnesota Street

Friends and Family Open House

Thursday, May 11, 2017 • 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Join us in celebration of our opening.

Thursday, May 11 • 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Regular business hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10:00 to 5:00pm.

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.

June Mere Lys ~ content due May 23

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

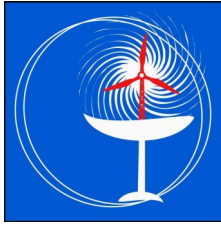
Phone: 507.439.6240

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Home Is Where We Feel Connected

Rev. Marisol Caballero

I spent four years of my life living in New York City and a little over two living in California, and I am proud to say that I have lived every other year of my life in Texas. Texans are known for their arrogance about our home state, and this reputation isn't untrue. In fact, Texas oil man John Gunther is credited as saying, "If a man's from Texas, he'll tell you. If not, why embarrass him by asking." As much as there is to love about the beauty of my ancestral land, its people, and its cultures, those unlucky souls not from here — especially those who live on the other two coasts — are baffled by such adoration. I've lost track of the number of times I was congratulated for "getting out" during my years away... as if instead of being my home, Texas were a hostage situation.

Oh, I understood all too well where they were coming from. Texas is known for its hostility to people of color, LGBT people, and women. I am a member of each of these groups. What kind of masochist would willingly and enthusiastically go back? While to some, "home" is where one hangs their hat, I believe that for most of us, home is where we feel most connected to what nourishes our soul. There's so much about Texas that I despise and would love to change, but the same could be said of other places and spaces that feel like "home," such as my alma mater, my faith communities, the cultural groups I am a member of, my family of origin, etc.

We humans have both a natural desire and a spiritual need to feel connected and to grow roots, even if those roots are not necessarily tied to a geographic place. We need to feel part of a tribe. It's no coin-

cidence that "family" and "familiar" have the same root. With any home or community, there comes a time when its flaws can no longer be ignored. In fact, this disillusion is part of growing up. Some will cut and run, seeking greener pastures. (Do we not hear talk of moving to Canada from the losing party after every election?) But soon enough, the vibrant colors of newness fade, and the complex realities of the new home emerge alongside its original novelty and beauty.

The trick to remaining in love and connected with "home" becomes the same trick as remaining in love with any person, including (and maybe especially) ourselves: we find ways to actively engage with what makes us proud, remain open to surprises, and work toward fixing that which disappoints us.

Prayer

That which brings lasting connection, bring me joy in each day's homecomings. Challenge me to use my love, to ready my home for the arrival of new guests, and to make it cozier for those of us already here. May it be so. Amen.

**“We make a living by what we get,
But we make a life by what we give.”**

-Winston Churchill

Directory Updating

An updated version of the Nora Directory will be published at the end of May, so you can grab one before summer. Please update your listing by May 15th, using the forms in the entryway. If you would like your listing emailed to you for review please let me know. Thanks! Brooke



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