

MERE LYS

June & July 2016 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



June 5th

***“The Work of the
Church Hasn’t
Changed”***

June 12th

***“Messengers of
Fellowship and Love”***

Flower Ceremony. Bring a flower or flowering branch for each member of your family in attendance this week.

June 19th

***“Where’s His
Family?”***

Meet at the South Area/
Fishing Pier Picnic Shelter,
Lake Hanska Park

Looking Ahead

Aug. 14

Tri-State Gathering

Aug. 21

Nora Services Resume

A View From the Hill

Roaming UU season has begun again.

As the weather turns warm and the last possibility of frost recedes, I often glance out the parsonage window to notice an unfamiliar car in the drive and unfamiliar folks peering through the windows of the museum, trying the door of the church. I’m always happy to greet these Unitarian Universalist tourists. I open the museum and the church. I answer questions about Nora Church history and our congregational life. And I ask questions—how did the visitors find their way to us and which church do they call home? We exchange a few rounds of do-you-know-the-UU?

To a one, these roaming Unitarian Universalists are charmed—at the beauty of our hill and the prairie vista; at the story of our 135 year UU church so far away from New England or a university town or other more typical home of Unitarian Universalism; at the loveliness of our building; at the quaint and curious and commonplace objects in the museum.

I love our church, our grounds, our view, our story and our history. I’m amazed and grateful for the opportunity to live and serve here. I offer my thanksgiving nearly every day. But I’m like anyone else; it’s easy for me to take for granted the places and people and institutions I see or participate in on a daily or weekly basis. This church or my family or the guys who grade the road. So I’m grateful to the roaming UUs who allow me to see all this beauty, all this holiness, through their eyes.

Babies and small children, too, are good at loaning us their eyes, their wondering, wandering attention, inviting us to see and experience our days and our surrounding in new ways. So are pets and visitors from other lands or cultures. During this roaming season, with long, light-filled days and ice-free roads, may you encounter beings who invite you to see your habitual surroundings with renewed awe and appreciation. And may you be such an invitation to others along the paths of your own roaming.

See you in church on June 5 and 12, and at Lake Hanska Park on June 19. Then we’ll gather at Nobles County Pioneer Village on August 14 and back at church on August 21.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... to Karen and Dick for the gardening work.
... to Gil for providing popcorn for the board meeting.
... to Nita for bringing the key board to the park and Jill Wagner for providing the key board.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, June 12th, following the service.

Nominating Committee Report

Nita Gilbert's first term on the Board of Trustees expire on July 1st. Nita has agreed to serve a second term. Joy Rathman's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. The committee nominates Jeanie Hinsman to serve a three year term.

Respectfully submitted, Nita Gilbert & Edith Beckius

Notes on June Services

The Annual Meeting of Nora Church will follow immediately upon conclusion of the service on **Sunday, June 5**. We will elect trustees, approve the 2016/2017 budget, discuss possible alternative starting time for Sunday services, and undertake any other business that comes before the congregation.

The President of the congregation will **not** entertain a motion to change start times at this meeting. Rather, a lively discussion of the best time to start Sunday services will allow the board consider the matter at greater length sometime in the coming year, with input from the congregation on such questions as:

- would an earlier start time generate more frequent attendance among younger members (and others) who like to get on with other Sunday activities before midday?
- would an earlier start time so severely cut into practice time that a choir would no longer be feasible?
- are there creative alternatives to weekly, pre-service choir practice? simpler pieces that could be practiced one Sunday after service

and sung in service the next week? others?

- what would an earlier start time mean in terms of potluck?
- how would an earlier start time affect our more far-flung members?
- has time and experience proven conclusively that 10:30 is the only acceptable start time for our service?

The service on **Sunday, June 12** will include our annual Flower Ceremony. Please remember to bring a flower or flowering branch for each member of your family attending service that morning. You won't want to miss the beauty we create together and then carry home with us that morning.

Our service on **Sunday, June 19**, will take place at Lake Hanska Park, in the shelter located near the fishing pier. Coffee will be available from about 10:00 on. Service at 10:30 followed by potluck lunch. Some of the guys will fire up the grills. **Please bring** a salad or side dish or dessert, **place settings for you and your family**, sunscreen, bug repellent and other weather-related necessities. Seating for "church" and lunch will be at picnic tables. Bring along a lawn chair for greater comfort!! **Please plan to stay after lunch for boat rides and fishing off the pier.**

A Day in June

The poet asks "What is so rare as a day in June?" Why, of course, it's that rare June day when Lunch Bunch gathers. Good news: You don't have long to wait for that happy occasion. Join us on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 11:30 a.m., at the Hickory Inn, 1000 CR 104, St. James. Hope to see you there. Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to any Nora members, friends or visitors.

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 in Cleveland for General Assembly, June 20 - 27, and then on vacation July 1 - 31.

She will back at work Tuesday, August 2.

A Note From the Treasurer

April Income and Expenses

April Income \$7,544.00

April Expenses \$7,201.00

Most of Nora Church's annual income comes in the form of pledge payments from members and friends. The following shows the dollar amounts (in ranges) contributed by individuals/couples from (July 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016). Some individuals/families may have contributed additional dollars through cash donations that were not identified as pledge payments.

Dollar Amount / Number of contributors

\$10-\$249 26

\$250-\$499 6

\$500-\$999 12

\$1,000-\$1,499 8

\$1,500-\$1,999 1

\$2,000-\$2,499 5

\$2,500-\$2,999 1

\$3,000-\$3,499 3

\$8,000-\$8,499 1

\$8,500-\$8,999 1

64 Contributors

There have been 22 pledges for the 2016-2017 church year returned for a total of \$43,770.

Our proposed budget for expenditures is \$118,260.

Art with Attitude

Summer meeting for Art with Attitude will continue on Fridays at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Create art or just come to have coffee and visit. Bring a bag lunch.

Dates may not fall every other week, due to holidays. The dates are:

- June 3 and 17
- July 8, 15 and 29
- Aug 12 and 26.

Hope to see you! We will be working on tying

quilts for NUMAS house. And also working on baby quilts for Brown County Public Health. We will probably start making some small items for the country store. I have a couple of patterns just waiting to be tried!! Everyone is still free to work on their own projects or to come and visit.

Anyone interested in basket making please let me know. I will do two classes and limit each class to six people. Get your name on the list early as I have to order supplies. (I also need to know if you can meet on our regular day or if you would prefer to weave on a Saturday because you're a working person.) I will send out a list of supplies you need to bring later. As soon as I get the sample made I will display it in the social hall at Nora for all to see. July 8 may also be the first class for basket making. Stay tuned for details, a grapevine will be sent out. -Nancy nbrudeli@aol.com

For Once, Then, Something

Robert Frost, 1874 - 1963

Others taunt me with having knelt at well-curbs
Always wrong to the light, so never seeing
Deeper down in the well than where the water
Gives me back in a shining surface picture
Me myself in the summer heaven godlike
Looking out of a wreath of fern and cloud puffs.
Once, when trying with chin against a well-curb,
I discerned, as I thought, beyond the picture,
Through the picture, a something white, uncertain,
Something more of the depths—and then I lost it.
Water came to rebuke the too clear water.
One drop fell from a fern, and lo, a ripple
Shook whatever it was lay there at bottom,
Blurred it, blotted it out. What was that whiteness?
Truth? A pebble of quartz? For once, then, something.

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

No July Mere Lys

August Mere Lys ~ content due July 19

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

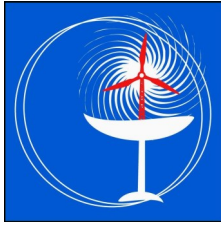
Phone: 507.439.6240

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Thank you to those who have made pledges for the 2016-2017 church year:

Rosenbloom, Janet	Doege, Lisa
Paulson, Warren and Kristine	Gurska, Richard
Blomquist, Algot and Bonita	Olson, Shirley
Hinsman, Darrell and Jeanie	Cook, Lisa
Hanson, Gil and Sally	Addy, Mildred
Allen, Jerry and Susan	Dickson, Nancy
Benson, David & Sally-Anne	
Peck, Ron and Julie	
Schmiesing, Scott and Tracey	
Chambard, Scott & Ross	
Tepley, Gene and Georgine	
Drogemuller, Lee	
Olson, Christopher	
Guggisberg, Louise	
Frederickson, Muriel	
Johnson, Rebecca	

Lisa on the Loose!

Lisa on the Loose is breaking for the summer. Look for August dates in the next Mere Lys.

Make sure to enjoy all the moments of summer!

*How did it get so late so soon?
Its night before its afternoon.
December is here before its
June. My goodness how the
time has flown. How did it get
so late so soon?*

Dr. Seuss

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

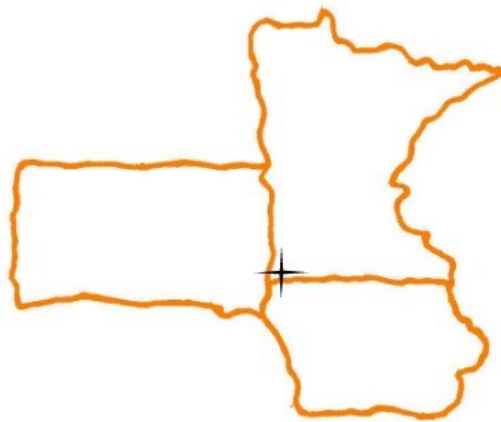
Carol Chambard: 354-2242

Two Mindful Journeys in 2017, for UUs & their friends

Peru, March 25-April 5, 2017. Our journey will be filled with comfortable places to stay, Shamanic conversations, lovely food, water blessings at an old Inca spring, beautiful natural vistas and reflections while sitting on a mountain top.

Portugal/ Spain, May 14-24, 2017, from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, we enjoy soulful Fado music, a tile-making workshop, wine, port and culinary tastings, and a bit of a walk on the Camino. Imagine cruising down the Douro River tasting Port while reflecting on the scenic vineyard-covered hillsides.

Journeys led by UU minister, Wayne Walder, Toronto, Canada, www.nuuc.ca To receive a detailed itinerary for either journey, please email Beverlz@me.com to learn more about Mindful Journeys go to <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/>



Save the Date
2016
Tri-State Gathering
Sunday, August 14

Nobles County Pioneer Village,
Worthington, MN

gather

Rev. Wesley Hromatko preaching

