

MERE LYS

August 2017 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Worship 10:30 am

Coffee 11:30 am

*Please note the time
change!*



August 6th

***“Egy Az Isten (God is
One)”***

August 13th

***Tri-State Gathering
“Neighbors on the
Prairie; Neighbors on
the Earth”***

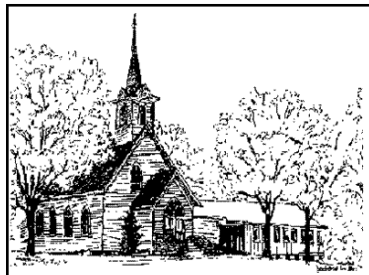
Pioneer Village,
Worthington

August 20th

“Get Proximate”

August 27th

“Change Narratives”



A View From the Hill

Seven days ago (as I write), Lucia and I were present to witness and celebrate as one of her sisters was adopted. Tomorrow we'll join the growing band of her birth family and our adoptive families, as we celebrate the adoptions of her two younger brothers.

Later tomorrow I'll officiate at a wedding. The couple isn't part of Nora Church but the groom has done some plumbing at both the church and the parsonage.

Sunday I'll preach for our nearest Unitarian Universalist neighbors in Mankato.

For most of the past two weeks Lucia and I stayed with my mom, hanging out with her and my siblings and their off-spring. I visited college friends and ministerial colleagues, while Lucia made new UU friends at day-camp at my childhood, family church.

In the first two weeks of August alone, here at Nora Church we'll welcome our partner church minister, Ildiko and her husband Csaba for a whirlwind week-long visit, and then travel to Worthington for worship and food and companionship with Unitarian Universalists from Iowa, South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota.

All these connections of family, kin, friends, colleagues, kindred religionists awe and overwhelm me, fill me with gratitude, and call me to mindful attention of our 7th principle in a new light: *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

This principle usually comes to mind when I worry about the plight of the honey bees, the competing interests of wilderness preservation and economic stability, farmers and water-buffer strips. This summer's connections remind me that people comprise the web, too, and the qualities of our relationships—brokenness, reconciliation, forgiveness, hate, playfulness, neighborliness, greed, generosity, vulnerability, trust, betrayal, guardedness, joy, kindness, love—ripple unendingly across the web.

Lucia learned a song at Chalice Camp helps me remember the connections and ripples across the interdependent web of all humanity of which we are a part (a fraction of the interdependent web of all existence). Three verse identical except for the pronouns, “I”, then “You,” and finally, “We”:

It's a blessing we were born
And it matters what we do.
What we know about God
Is a piece of the truth.
Let the beauty we love
Be what we do.
And we don't have to do it alone.

-Lisa

From the board...

Thank You!

...to the person who delivered the gravel and to the volunteers for serving coffee.

...to the Visioning Committee and their recommendations.

...to Gil and Christopher for the sound system recommendations.

Board Meeting

Nora Church Board will meet Thursday, August 17 at 5:30 at church. We look forward to Lisa's return from vacation and are eager to discuss plans for the coming church year and beyond. We also invite ideas and concerns from members.

Lisa on the Loose

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

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

Tuesday, August 15

Oak Hills, New Ulm, time TBA

Wednesday, August 23

Coffee Hag, Mankato, from 10:30—Noon

Tuesday, August 29

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



Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will meet August 11 and 25. We have been busy making earrings, as well as tote bags out of animal food bags—our supply is growing.

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 coming so you may be notified if we cancel. Cell is 484-347-8816. Home phone 507-439-6838.

Choir Meeting

The Nora choir will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday August 6. In addition to practice for that day's service we will have discussion about rehearsal and performance schedule for the year. Anyone interested in joining choir please let Gil Hanson know.

Welcoming Ildiko and Csaba! August 6 Service and Potluck

Please join us for a church service and potluck to greet Ildiko and Csaba on Sunday, August 6. We'll have an opportunity to show off Nora Church and share Minnesota hospitality. It will also be a time to renew our commitment to our partner church relationship and affirm the shared beliefs of Unitarian Universalism. Please note, church start time is 10:30.

Ildiko Ilkei and her husband Csaba will be visiting August 2 thru 9. Ildiko serves as minister of our partner church in Benced, Transylvania. Mark and Brenda Wiger, Sally Anne and David Benson and Darrell and Jeanie Hinsman have been guests of Ildiko's. We look forward to hosting them in our homes and giving them a taste of urban, small town, and farm life. Mark and Brenda, now living in Minneapolis, will meet them upon arrival on the 2nd. After showing them a few sights in the Twin Cities they will arrive in New Ulm early afternoon on Friday. We encourage church members to reach out and join us in showing the New Ulm/Hanska area. If you have ideas or would like to participate in showing them around please let Jeanie Hinsman know.

The social room at Garden Terrace (where Carol and Janet reside) has been reserved for Saturday evening, Aug. 5. We will plan a simple catered meal, probably snacks, pizza, salad, and dessert for anyone who would like to join. Please RSVP to Jeanie Hinsman so we can have enough food prepared. Supper will be at 6:00 p.m.

After the church service and potluck, the Bensons will take Ildiko and Csaba to Bigelow to stay at their farm before leaving Wednesday for their return home. I'm certain we can make a very memorable experience for both Ildiko and Csaba and for ourselves.

A Note From the Treasurer **2016-2017 Church Year Totals:**

Total Income:	\$83,981.71
Total Expenses:	\$101,288.76
Total Deficit:	\$17,307.05
Gifts and Memorials received:	\$54,704.72

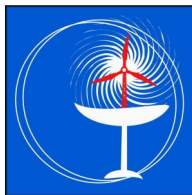
Most of Nora Church's annual income comes in the form of pledge payments from members and friends.

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.



Lunch Bunch

One of Minnesotans' favorite summertime activities is going to the lake, so Lunch Bunchers decided to do just that. The August get-together will be at The Lakes, 151 Humphrey St., in Lake Crystal on Thursday, August 17, 11:30 a.m. (Swimsuits are optional.) Looking forward to seeing you all again.

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

Notes from the Board

The Nora Church board met on July 18. In addition to regular business we heard a report from the Visioning Committee and received a report from Christopher Olson regarding inquiries pertaining to the sound system. At our annual meeting in June it was decided to gather estimates for upgrading our sound system. A congregational meeting will be held on September 10 to consider the needed improvements and costs.

Coffee Hour/ Church Start Time

At our June annual meeting the congregation voted to change the start time for service back to 10:30 with coffee hour scheduled after the service. Several members have rethought this later coffee hour and question the suitability of this schedule. The board discussed this issue at length and decided to abide by the vote of the congregational meeting. Please let board members know if you want to revisit this decision and have a redo of our vote at the congregational meeting already scheduled for Sept. 10. Anyone wishing to start the coffee before church is free to do so.

Server Schedule for 2017/2018

A change in sign up procedure for servers is being initiated. Susan Allen has been responsible for the server list for the past several years. It is becoming increasingly difficult to

fill the dates. For the '17-'18 year, Susan has prepared a calendar for potluck Sundays only. A clipboard will be passed in church so those wishing to volunteer for serving during coffee hour can do so. Thank you for your willingness and generosity in signing up for coffee hour. Simple treats for coffee hour are encouraged, it need not be an elaborate effort.

Movin' On Up....

Due to the loss of our sound system it is strongly encouraged that pews at the back of the church be considered off limits. If attendees would all make an effort to move up three, four, or more pews we may be able to hear better and feel like the close knit community we believe ourselves to be. Try it, you might like it! Of course if you already sit up front, you may not move into the sanctuary proper, just kidding.

2017 Tri-State Gathering

DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

TIME: 10:30 GATHER

11:00 SERVICE

12:00 POTLUCK

Service:

"Neighbors on the Prairie; Neighbors on the Earth"

Harper Lee defined neighborliness in Scout's words near the end of *To Kill a Mockingbird*: *Neighbors bring food with death and flowers with sickness and little things in between.* What does it mean to be neighborly when miles of geography or miles of cyberspace exist between neighbors?

Reverend Lisa Doege, preaching.

Potluck: Please bring a dish to share and your own place settings.

Broaden the circle of our UU family. Join UUs from Southern Minnesota, Eastern South Dakota and Northwestern Iowa.

LOCATION: NOBLES COUNTY PIONEER VILLAGE

1600 STOWER DR, WORTHINGTON, MN 56187

JUST OFF OF INTERSTATE 90

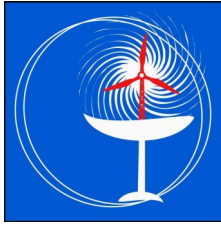
Organized with assistance from David and Sally
Anne Benson and Rev. Lisa Doege, Nora UU
Church (Hanska, MN).

For more information:

norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

2017-2018 Server/Volunteer List

Volunteers are needed for all Sundays that are not a potluck. Sign up in kitchen or when the sign up sheet is passed around in church.

If potluck assignments don't fit your schedule please call someone on the list to take your place. Contact information is in the Nora Directory.

Schedule changes, please let Lisa or Brooke know any schedule changes so the order of service can be corrected – norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, please call Susan Allen 359-2856.

AUGUST

- 6: Potluck for Ildico's visit
- 13: Tri-State Gathering in Worthington
- 20: Susan Allen, Scott Chambard
- 27: Susan Allen, Vicki Sieve

SEPTEMBER

- 3: Potluck—Susan Allen, Carol Chambard, Louise Guggisberg, Christopher Olson
- 24: No Service, Clean Up Day

OCTOBER

- 1: Smorgasbord—Greeters: Sally & Gil Hanson

NOVEMBER

- 5: Potluck—Georgine & Gene Tepley, Ron & Julie Peck

DECEMBER

- 3: Potluck—Edith Beckius, Lee Drogemuller, Colleen & Glenn Hokenson

JANUARY

- 7: Potluck—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Wayne Dean Johnson, Kristy Paulson

Prayer

That which is in us and all around us and which constantly draws us to our holiest selves, bring me into a practice of loving without fail. Strip from me any fear or arrogance that might prioritize my own comfort over the care of others. And help me to be forgiving of myself and others when our expressions of love fall short of the truth. Amen.

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



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.

September Mere Lys ~ content due Monday, August 21

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

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

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