

Services

1st & 3rd Sundays

Potluck follows 1st

Brown Bag Option 3rd

www.norauuchurch.org



Schedule

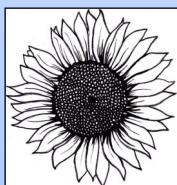
September 15

***“Ukraine: It’s People,
It’s Culture”***

Guest:

Pavlo Bohomaz

Regular service schedule resumes in October!



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Universalist
Church**

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MERE LYS

September 2024 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

View from the Hill

As the summer ends, my husband Michael and I just returned from a month-long camping trip. We visited Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and on our way back, Wyoming. Our first night in Bismarck, ND the smoke from Canadian wildfires was so awful that we almost turned around and went home. We consulted the US smoke maps on our phones looking for a route West through the fires that were also burning in WA, OR and MT.

We found a clear spot on the map, which happened to be Red Lodge, MT and headed there. We were lucky to get a beautiful campsite in a Forest Service campground a few miles out of town and hiked there in clear blue skies until the smoke cleared in Glacier. But we had missed some of our long-ago reserved sites in Glacier so instead, we had to move to a different sight each night. But it was worth it; we saw moose, ptarmigan, marmots, clear alpine lakes and beauty everywhere. And huckleberries were ripe we cooked fresh huckleberry pancakes every morning.

In Northern Idaho we camped and kayaked on the 40 mile Lake Pend Oreille. On Whidbey Island, off the coast of Seattle, my oldest sister took us walking on the beaches at low tide where we saw red starfish and bright green sea anemones. The locals make massive sculptures and little beach shelters out of the driftwood that washes ashore. In Central WA, I visited another sister of mine on her little farm and we picked mountains of blackberries and green beans. We welcomed the cool mornings in her hot tub as the sun came up over the mountains.

I’m glad that we didn’t turn back at Bismarck. Sometimes turning back is the right thing to do, but this time, we found our way by staying very flexible. As a person who likes all my ducks in a row, it was good spiritual practice. The reward was beautiful mountain and beach hikes, cooking meals with farm fresh produce and family, and lots of laughter.

On the way back, I waved at you all from the Madelia exit on 60. I will see you in October, but if you need to reach me for Pastoral Care needs my cell # is 612-296-5882 and my email is: Laurie.Bushbaum@gmail.com.

Today, and in the days to come, may you find your way gently through obstacles. A calm breath is always a good companion.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Laurie

Woods

A I part the out thrusting branches
and come in beneath
the blessed and the blessing trees.

Though I am silent
there is singing around me.

Though I am dark
there is vision around me.

Though I am heavy
there is flight around me.

—by Wendell Berry

90 year old Wendell Berry is a farmer, writer, environmental activist & cultural critic. He is an advocate for rural life.

September Service

The first service of the '24-'25 church year is Sunday, Sept. 15. Our gathering will be a reunion of friends, a welcoming of new folks, a sharing of summer stories and welcoming of the fall season.

Our speaker will be Pavlo Bohomaz. Pavlo will share background to Ukrainian culture and life and brief remarks about the current situation. Pavlo, his mother Natalia, wife Yevhenia and son Pasha are residing in the parsonage and have been U. S. residents for fourteen months.

Since it's our first Sunday back after summer break, we'll also have potluck that day. Bring something to share, but if you aren't able to, join us anyway! There will also be potluck October 6.

September 25 Event

A reminder that Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. His talk will be about the importance of voting in and protecting the electoral system of our democracy. Nora Church is co-hosting this event. A ZOOM link will be available in a church email before the meeting. Please attend this important event in person or online.

September Board Meeting.

The next board meeting will be September 18, 7:00 pm on Zoom.

News From the Board

"Hanska : Little Norway on the Prairie" On August 15, Nora Church was one of the stops on a tour led by Joel Botten called "Hanska: Little Norway on the Prairie". It was a busload of around 35 people interested in history, ancestry and heritage. Lee Schmitt and Julie Peck hosted. The group spent time in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, museum and cemetery. Amy Johnson, Director of the Brown County Historical Society, said she thought it all went very well, which was great to hear!

To all those who were able to help make August 15 a success, a Huge THANK YOU!

Looking Forward

October 6 Rev. Wes Hromatko, Min. D. will be our guest speaker.

A Note From the Treasurer

Income and Expenses

July Income: \$4,817

July Expense: \$5,283, which included \$3,862 for the removal of the tree.

Income/expenses presented at the last board meeting(s). Income doesn't include memorials/gifts.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Newsletter content should be sent by the 20th of each month. Orders of service content by the Thursday prior to service. Please send content of any kind to the Nora email.

Office hours are not set, mostly working from home. I can be contacted through the Nora email.

If you need to get ahold of me directly, or quickly, please connect with Sally.

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

October 25 “Defining Moments”, by Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Remember Robert Frost’s poem about two paths diverging in a patch of woods? Every once in a while in our lives, we stand at a crucial crossroads and need to make an important decision that will impact our lives for a long time. Or, sometimes, the unexpected happens and our lives suddenly change and we need to find a new path, a way through the woods. These are Defining Moments. Our nation is also standing at a life-changing, Defining Moment on the first Tuesday of November. Will we choose compassion, diversity, and courage - or hatred and authoritarian control?

Tree Damage

Nora experienced tree damage on June 17, when a large limb fell from a tree on the northwest side of the church onto the roof of the foyer during heavy winds. The limb broke through the roof, but interior water damage was minimal. Thanks to everyone who helped in the process of procuring the tree service, and contractor, for repairs. We are still in the process of completing the insurance claim.



Visitor host Lee Schmidt, Brown County museum director Amy Johnson and Sognefjordlag tour director Joel Botten at the Nora U.U. Jorgenson museum, Hanska, Minnesota.