



Services

1st Sunday in June

Potluck Follows 1st

www.norauuchurch.org



Schedule

June 1

***“Confessions of a
Radical Homemaker”***

Guest Minister:

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Regular services

resume in

September!

**Nora Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

12333 155th Ave.,
Hanska, MN 56041
507-439-6240

norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
www.norauuchurch.org
[www.facebook.com/
NoraChurchUU](http://www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU)

MERE LYS

June 2025 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

View from the Hill

Last week I got a very unexpected text message. It was from a young woman I will call Kristin (not her real name.) For the summer of 2006, we took Kristin in as an emergency foster child. She was a year younger than our daughter so the two shared a room. Kristin was removed from her parent's home because both were meth addicts. By the end of the summer, her mother had completed her treatment so Kristin was returned to her family. All we knew was that the family had moved quickly to another state.

It turns out that Kristin moved back to Minnesota some years ago. Her oldest sister, who had graduated from high school just before her family moved, stayed in Mn. and built a life for herself. When Kristin graduated from high school, she came back to be with her sister. And now she is getting married. And we are invited.

When we found Kristin's Facebook page, there were numerous little clues that she had once lived with us. She mentions a famous children's bookstore just around the corner from our house where our children spent many hours sitting in the big stuffed chairs reading books and playing with the menagerie of animals in the shop. We even have a beautiful photo of Kristin and our daughter snuggled in one of the bookstore's comfy chairs reading a story and holding one of the pet chickens. She mentions on her Facebook page that, "This has been her favorite bookstore since she was a child."

We are excited to go to the wedding. And even more than that, we are touched that a child that we befriended 20 years ago, has invited us into her life again. It is so true that we never, ever know how a small kindness ripples through a life and through time.

I leave you with a few quotes about kindness for your own meditation.

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. —Robert Louis Stevenson

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

—Maya Angelou

When I was young I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people. —Rabbi Abraham Heschel

My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness. —The Dalai Lama

Yours in faith, Rev. Laurie

Today

by Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.

June Board Meeting

Nora board next meets on Zoom, June 18, 7:00pm.

June Service

June 1 "Confessions of a Radical Homemaker"

Guest Minister Rev. Laurie Bushbaum

Quaker theologian Rufus Jones wrote, "Religion, at its best, is the discovery of home." And famous author Anne Lamott writes that, "Ultimately, we are all just walking each other home."

What does it mean to have a theology of home? How does UUism inform a theology of home and how does it call us to live in these deeply disturbing times?

Update from the Board

·Nora Board meeting was held 5/21/2025 @ 7pm.

·Rev. Laurie Bushbaum: We are happy to announce that Rev. Laurie Bushbaum will renew her contract for the 2025-2026 church year. She will be providing church services, pastoral care, and

newsletter articles. If you need to contact Rev. Laurie her number is 612-296-5882. Her email is Laurie.Bushbaum@gmail.com.

·Flower Communion: We will be holding our traditional flower communion at our last service for this church year, June 1. Bring a flower to share.

·Annual Meeting June 1 (and Potluck!): Our annual meeting will be held directly after our church service. Agenda:

- '25-'26 proposed budget and vote to approve.

-Topics for Discussion:

§ Survey results – General Discussion.

-Copies were emailed to identified survey respondents. Anyone who would like a copy emailed or mailed to them, contact Brooke.

-Hard copies of the survey results will be available at the meeting.

§ The establishment of a Closure Committee

-Vote to approve Lee Schmitt to the Board. If there are any other nominations, bring them to the meeting.

-Next Board meeting will be June 18.

And a HUGE THANK YOU to Sally for her many years of service on the Board!!

For further details, see the report of the board meeting.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 1st, 2025. At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the

A Note From the Treasurer

We appreciate the giving to Nora in any way it's given. Just a reminder that if you can't make it to church for services and fellowship that pledges can be mailed directly to the church. Thank you.

Income and Expenses

April Income: \$7,427

April Expense: \$5,806

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

25/26 church year, and undertake other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.

Nominating Committee Report

Sally Hanson's first term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st; she will not be seeking a second term. Julie Peck and Vickie Sieve's first terms on the Board of Trustees expire on July 1st; they have agreed to serve second terms. The committee nominates Lee Schmitt to serve a three year term.

Mt. Pisqua Annual Meeting

Mt. Pisqua cemetery association will have its annual meeting after Nora Church's annual meeting, at approximately 11:45 am, on Sunday, June 1st.

We will need to adopt by-laws, elect officers and discuss other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.

In Memorium: Jerry Oelberg

Nora Church lost a dear friend on April 3 at the passing of Jerry Oelberg. Jerry was husband to Rev. Sarah Oelberg who served Nora as our minister for thirteen years from 1991 to 2004. During the Oelbergs time at Nora Jerry served as office personnel doing many clerical tasks—printing Sunday bulletins, assisting with Mere Lys, keeping track of records, and seeing to Sarah's calendar. He often assisted with grounds work and the sound system. Jerry and Sarah both enjoyed travel. It was at their instigation that our sister relationship with Benced was established. They stayed in Benced for extended visits on two occasions. Items they brought back continue to decorate our sanctuary. They enjoyed international cuisine. A special memory I have is the Romanian menu they planned for a Transylvanian fundraiser. Jerry was just always available to do what was needed and he did so without complaint. His soft spoken manner and kindness will not be forgotten.

Jerry believed in community involvement and was well engaged in Hanska activities. In addition to our church relationship Darrell and I knew Jerry

Notes from the Nora Office...

Newsletter content should be sent by the 20th of each month. July/August is combined.

Please send content 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 the Board.

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

and Sarah from Lin Hans Rud dancers. We enjoyed trips together to Winnipeg, Story City, Owatonna, and other area venues. Jerry loved dance and often filled in for our dance leaders as instructor when needed. He had a twinkle in his eye when a performance went well. When Nora and the Mankato Fellowship hosted Prairie Star Annual meeting we danced a Lindler in the sanctuary. Jerry participated in many Syttende Mai performances and thoroughly enjoyed travelling with the group to Norway. Jerry and Sarah continued with folk dance and square dance for many years in the Milwaukee area where they resided after leaving Hanska.

Parkinson's Disease greatly affected Jerry's last years. Sarah wrote of their Hanska experience: "His time living there was the best of his life, and I guess I can say the same." The family will plan a burial at Mt. Pisqua at a later date. —Jeanie

Pictured: Mike and Larry Halla finishing up shingling the Jorgenson museum.



Thank You Road Clean Up Crew!

Thank you to Dave and Sally Anne Benson, Julie Peck, Lee Drogemuller and Nita Gilbert for doing road cleanup on May 18. It was a beautiful day for walking and we collected three large bags of trash. Loving the earth and our community!

Nora Board Meeting, May 21st, 2025

The Nora Church Board met via Zoom at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, June 21st 2025. The entire Board consisting of Sally Hanson, Vicki Sieve, Julie Peck, Nita Gilbert and Lee K. Drogemuller were present and participated. Rev. Laurie Bushbaum participated as a guest.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's report of April 16th, 2025. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: As of 3/31/2025 the Nora Church checking account was \$44,689.50. Total income for the month was \$7,857.00.

Total expenses for the month were 5,806.12. Of this \$4,002.51 went towards Church Buildings and Grounds. (\$2,300.00 Capital improvements, line 307)

The new checking account balance is \$46,740.03.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as given. The motion carried.

The Rev. Laurie Bushbaum joined the Board meeting to talk about how to handle her upcoming vacation in July and August, 2025. Rev. Bushbaum while on vacation would still like to be in the loop of serving Nora, if at all possible.

If a situation should come up that requires Rev. Bushbaum's service, Nora will contact her if possible. Rev. Bushbaum will then contact the party that has the need for her. She would then try to work out a solution with the party.

If the situation requires a minister other than Rev. Bushbaum, the fee will be deducted from Rev. Bushbaum's monthly salary. If the situation can be delayed until Rev. Bushbaum can handle it herself,

there will be no deduction from her salary.

Vicki Sieve is finishing up a written procedure for the Church Secretary to follow if Rev. Bushbaum can't do a service.

Rev. Bushbaum will also prepare a Flower Service for Nora in June.

Old Business:

Church Survey: Vicki Sieve will ask Brooke to send an email with survey results to the folks that answered the survey. Vicki Sieve and Nita Gilbert will do a short summary regarding the survey to be published in the Nora Newsletter. The survey regarding Nora's future will be discussed at the Nora Annual Meeting.

Nora Church will have the services of Rev Bushbaum for the coming Church year.

Church Board. Lee Schmitt has agreed to stand for a Nora Board member position.

New Business:

Nora Closure Committee: Vicki Sieve proposed that Nora form a Closure Committee. The idea is that a Committee of Church members and a Board member keep an eye on the resources of Nora, (property, cemetery, financial) and could give Nora dates as to how long we can survive as a Church. The idea of this committee will be brought up at the annual meeting.

Brooke received the dates that Phil Lund will preach at Nora in the coming Church year. Rev. Bushbaum will speak 4 times which leaves 6 dates to fill.

There will be a July 6th Hanska Community worship service at the Lake Hanska Lutheran Church. There will be an invite in the Newsletter. (This is for the 4th of July celebration 2025.)

The next Nora Board meeting will be at 7:00 pm, June 18th, 2025 via Zoom. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

These notes are respectfully submitted by Lee K. Drogemuller, Nora Board Secretary.



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Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net Website: www.norauuchurch.org