



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

September 2007

VIEW FROM THE HILL



The new church year is officially underway here at Nora, complete with a fairly rousing version of

singer/songwriter Holly Near's, "I Ain't Afraid": voice, guitar, organ, piano and drums. The lyrics have to do with accepting that there are real differences between major religions, but not the use of God's name as cover for all manner of human agendas.

"I Ain't Afraid" isn't a bad choice for a church-wide theme for this new church year. We could do worse than redoubling our efforts to understand and appreciate orthodox religion, yet resisting the urge to compromise our core values of religious freedom, loving community and justice. A lot worse.

I want to ask two favors of you as we enter into this, my fourth year at Nora. First, note that our children's religious education program begins on September 9. As our R.E. Coordinator, Anne Rieke, asks for your help with that program, I ask that you give our kids and youth the gift of your time and yourself. (If you're not convinced that what we do for our young folks is all that important, you might want to rent a copy of the DVD, "Jesus Camp". It's a startling reminder that liberal religious education still matters.) A lot.

Second, I need your help as we enter what I'm calling, "Phase 2" of the work you laid out during the 2003-2004 church year. Recall that, with the help of Mark Yackle-Juleen, the vision of a revitalized Nora Church was drafted and approved. That was Phase 1, and I continue to be awed by the boldness shown by those who were leaders during that time. We've been working from that vision statement, you and I. Fits and starts, yes. Discouragement and surrender, hardly.

As a way to help focus our efforts, the Board, Committee on Ministry and I will be working with a UU minister, Lyn Burton, in a consulting role. Starting on the weekend of September 22 and 23, we're asking Lyn to facilitate as we begin a long-range plan. It's a big task. It will require your input, feedback, trust, patience and humor.

So, please do me the favor of making plans to attend the September 9 service, "Phase 2: Peter Benchley, Lyndon Johnson and Nora Church". I'm serious, just mark your calendar and plan to attend. Let's talk about what we can do together, this year, toward making Phase 1's vision a reality. Thanks in advance for making sure you're there.

Blessings,
Don



LUNCH BUNCH will meet Wednesday, September 26 at 11:30 AM at the Pizza Ranch in New Ulm. Everyone is welcome to join us for food and fun.

FOOD FOR ALL

September is Nora's month volunteering to help distribute food at the Food for All program in St. James. This is the morning of Saturday September 9th at the First Presbyterian Church. Several volunteers will be needed. If you can help out please contact Darrell Hinsman at 359-7494. Thanks



Choir will start Sunday morning, September 16 at 9:00 AM in the sanctuary. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome.

DAY OF CARING Saturday, October 13, 2007

This is the first countywide Day of Caring organized by United Way of Brown county Area and Faith in Action of Brown country. The Day of Caring is an annual celebration of community volunteers giving "One Day to Help One another." Volunteers provide "helping hands" for services that people, for diverse reasons, cannot do.

PROJECTS NEEDED: Do you, or someone you know, need an extra hand with a difficult task? Projects can range from writing letters, reading, housework, yard work, painting, washing windows, cleaning gutters, small repairs and much, much more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Gather a team together! Recruit family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to make a team. Teams can range in size and ability.

To tell about a project or volunteer your time, receive more information: call the United Way at 354-6512.

UNITED WAY SCHOLARSHIPS



Scholarships are now available through United Way Youth Activities Scholarship Program. It provides scholarships to young people, ages 4 to 18, whose family income is insufficient to meet the activity and equipment fees.

Scholarships are available up to \$250 per year, per youth and/or 90 percent of the activity fees and 50 percent of the equipment costs. Just about any youth organization that currently does not have its own scholarship program is eligible for its participants to receive scholarships - including activities such as fine arts, sports and education. Applications are available through youth organizations in the Brown county area and on United Way's Web site at www.unitedwaybrowncounty.com

MINNESOTA UU FALL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, September 23rd, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
First Unitarian Society, 900 Mount Curve, Mpls

Join UUs from across the metro and state for inspiration, fellowship, and action on key justice issues. Presentation and discussion of legislative, policy and direct-action agendas for state-wide efforts through 2008 - global warming, reproductive rights, voting integrity, GLBT equality. Bring finger food to share.

FFI: Ralph Wyman rwmuusja@gmail.com

PEACE MARCH AND RALLY UU Action for Peace!

Sat, Sept 15, 1:00 pm, State Capitol, St. Paul

Join UUs from across the metro area and state. Our goal is at least 500 Unitarian Universalists at the peace rally! Bring your congregation's banner! September 15th is a national day of action for peace - let's make our march and rally a big success! Gather at the Capitol at 1:00 pm; 1:30 pm march to the Xcel Center, then return to the Capitol for a closing rally. FFI: please contact Jenny Thomas of First Universalist (jthomas@skypoint.com) or Sarah Martin of White Bear UUC, IPAC, Twin Cities Peace Campaign and WAMM (scsrn@yahoo.com).



The first day of Sunday School is September 9th. Registration forms and informational letters have been mailed to families. You may put all of your children on one form. Please turn the registrations into Anne by the 9th.. We are excited about trying the **Way Cool** Sunday School model this year.

The Mankato Fellowship has approached us about the youth getting together with the youth from their congregation and the Northfield and Rochester congregations. These visits may occur on the fourth Sundays of the month. At this point we will take turns visiting each others churches in September, November, January and March. The youth will visit with each other via a UU chat room on the other months. This program is still in the works, and as soon as I know more about it, I will pass on that information to you.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

9th.: COA:

What Do You Stand For ? (WDYSF ?)

#1 – Getting to Know You. Discuss which units will be studied. Homework – look through the book and pick out 5 units you would like to learn more about and bring the list to class next week.
Teacher: Anne Rieke.

Jutweens:

Name the class contest and vote on them. Make name tags. **In Our Hands – Unit 1 – Affirming Ourselves and Others.**

Teachers : To be determined.

16th.:COA:

What Do You Stand For ? (WDYSF ?)

#1 – Getting to Know You. Have the kids share the units they want to do and then vote on the five they want to study this year.

Teacher: Anne Rieke

Jutweens:

In Our Hands – Unit 1 – Affirming Ourselves and Others. Teachers: Warren and Kristine Paulson.

23rd.: Children's Chapel for all children –

The history of Nora. Invite people to come and talk with the kids sharing stories about Nora Church. Have the kids start a Nora Church memory book so they can start to record their favorite memories/activities. Teachers: Brenda Wiger and we need two more people.

30th.: 4th. to 9th. grade children Meet with other churches. They may come to Nora today. We will do ice breaker activities and have lunch for them.
Teacher: Anne Rieke

Preschool to 3rd. grade children will have a supervised play day. Teachers: To be determined.

Smorg. News: The children and youth will have a fish pond and will sponsor a raffle again this year. The money that is raised will go to UNICEF. We have trinkets for the fish pond, however are looking for food contributions like candy, gum, cookies, crackers, and/or chips to include in the fish pond bags. If you can donate any of these food items please bring them to church by September 30th. so they can be packed in the fish pond bags before Smorg. I am still planning the raffle baskets. Specific items will be requested in the September Sunday bulletins.

Service Project: Anne Makepeace has informed us that the United Way Day of Caring will be on Saturday, October 13th. this year. The committee is hoping to make this a Brown County project rather than just a New Ulm event. I would like to get together a team of youth and adults from Nora to help that day. Please let Anne Rieke know if you are interested in participating.

As always, I'm looking for people to volunteer to teach Sunday School. Three people are needed each weekend. The RE Committee is hoping that people will consider volunteering two Sundays (especially the first two Sundays) in a row to help with continuity for the children. If you teach two Sundays in a row, then you could take a month or two off from teaching and then teach another two Sundays a few months down the road. Of course, you may certainly volunteer for one Sunday too. The clipboard to sign up to teach will be passed around at church. Thank you for your generosity with your time and talents.

*We are looking for more people to join the Youth RE Committee. We generally meet three to four times a year to plan Sunday School and other youth events throughout the year. So if you would like to have a say in the youth programming, we would love to have you join us. And if you thought teaching Sunday School was easy, this is even easier. **We really are looking for some parents to be on the committee. Please talk with Anne if you are interested.***

SOCIAL JUSTICE

GA - 2007 - Navigating the Great Turning
Dr. David Korten

David Korten, author of the best seller "When Corporations Ruled the World" and co-founder of YES! Magazine spent last year energizing audiences across the country with ideas from his latest book "The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community." He spoke most recently at the General Assembly held out in Portland, Oregon in June of 2007. Some of his latest thoughts on turning our human course include his belief that the day of reckoning has arrived. Resources are depleting. We need cooperative sharing of those resources such as financial, water, global warming, oil. We need to exercise our capacity for consciousness. In "Earth Community" it leads to a focus on prosperity, security, meaning - spiritual intelligence we all as individuals share.

In "Empire" we reduce majority to deprivation and divert resources to instruments of domination. We elevate the most power hungry and ethnically challenged to increased positions. Employees are required to leave their personal values at the door and are subject to arbitrary dismissal. We must move beyond the paradigm where often times money has more legal protection than people and nature.

Imperial Security Story- at the expense of peace, liberty, and human creativity. To save the democracy we thought we had we must take democracy to a place it's never been (country begun by white elitists) The poorest 50% of the people own only 1% of the wealth. The richest 1% of the people own 40% of the wealth. The next wealthiest own the following 15% of the wealth.

By our stories we know ourselves and our world. We have the potential to change the human course. Humans are wired to connect. We must move from the love of power to the power of love.

David has a discussion guide on his website.

UUSC IS MOVING

Effective September 1, 2007, our new address will be:
UUSC
689 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139-3302

Your support is essential to our human rights work. Become a member of UUSC or make a donation by visiting <http://www.uusc.org/info/support.html>

THANK YOU...

Don,

On a nice morning during our brief trip to Minnesota and the Twin Cities (my home town) we got in our car to do a Hanska drop-in. Been meaning to do that ever since 1949 when I entered the UU galaxy.

Sorry we (my wife Alden and I) got to your Nora church when you were away, but our whole visit was all too busy and brief. You have a wonderful spot on this sweet and puzzling earth — and some very good people if the three people who welcomed us were/are like others around.

While our drop-by was just a glimpse it was rich in meaning for me. I'm aware of some of the congregation's early history; my mother was Norwegian and her father helped build one of the banks in Hanska a century ago. Etc, etc.

I - we get back to Minnesota once in a while and this time the memories got some fresh perspectives.

Pass our thanks on to the gracious members who happened to be working about when we were there. We look forward to meeting you some time.

-Chuck Reinhardt

. WALK THE TALK

This is a free 2 night (4 hours total) workshop with great tips and discussions on how to talk with your youth about alcohol, tobacco and other drug use or nonuse. You will learn about the New Ulm and Brown County statistics gathered from the students themselves and how the communities acceptance/non-acceptance of "use" is viewed among the youth and other parents. Find out how to talk to kids about issues without confronting them in anger, so the conversations can be positive and productive. If you or anyone you work with, friends, family are interested, please register with the Community Education Office: 359-8561

Thanks,
Kim Janke,
Healthy Communities/HealthyYouth: New Ulm Area.

HEART TO HEART A COUPLE'S ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

Heart to heart is a program designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. This year's 13th annual retreat will be held November 2-4, 2007. All couples committed to their partners and their relationships are welcome - same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried. Space is limited, so register early (registration and full payment due by September 30) More information is available on the bulletin board or on their website: www.heart.mn.cx or email: heart@mn.cx

REVIVAL 2007

November 1-4

West Shore UU Church, Cleveland OH

"Revival" is an experience of the Spirit. If you like lively HYMN SINGING and GREAT PREACHING...if you are interested in hearing solid, BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP from a world renowned theologian, historian and scholar JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN...if you long for SPIRITED WORSHIP...if you miss COMMUNION or would like to take part in the HEALING SERVICE...if you want to find other liberal UU Christians like YOURSELF...then Come to Revival 2007! More information is available on the bulletin board or go to www.uuchristian.org/revival.

To Keep In Touch



Congrats to Ardis and Elroy Wellmann on the birth of a grandson. William Harvey Wellmann was born on July 5, 2007, weighing 9 lbs, 5 oz. His parents are John and Wendy Wellmann and his big sister is Elizabeth. They live in Goodland, Kansas.



Clarice Sandmann, continue to keep her in your hearts.

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the following Caring

Committee members:

Georgine Tepley (chair)

359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)

Shirley Olson - 439-6879

Carol Chambard - 354-2242

THANK YOU! - Caring Committee

NEW BOTTLED WATER REPORT

Choosing tap water over bottled water is better for consumers' health, their pocketbooks, and the environment, according to a new report released by Food & Water Watch.

In 2005, Americans spent \$8.8 billion for almost 7.2 billion gallons of non-sparkling bottled water. Consumers drank even more in 2006, about 26 gallons per persons. The bottled water industry spends billions on advertising that promises purity in a bottle while implying that tap water is somehow less safe, something that is simply not true according to the report.

"Bottled water generally is no cleaner, or safer, or healthier than tap water. In fact, the federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring of municipal drinking water." "Rather than buying into this myth of purity in a bottle, consumers should drink from the tap."

Food & Water Watch is encouraging consumers to Take Back the Tap by choosing tap water over bottled water whenever possible and supporting increased funding for safe and affordable public tap water.

Among the facts highlighted in Food & Water Watch's report, are the following:

- Bottled water costs hundreds of thousands of times more than tap water. Compare \$0.002 per gallon for most tap water to a range of \$0.89 to \$8.26 per gallon for bottled waters.
- The Food and Drug Administration regulates only the 30 to 40 of bottled water sold across state lines.
- The Environmental Protection Agency requires up to several hundred water tests per month by utility companies while the FDA requires only one water test per week by bottling companies.
- Nearly 40 percent of bottled water is simply filtered or treated tap water.
- U.S. plastic bottle production requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel 100,000 cars.
- About 86 percent of the empty plastic water bottles in the U.S. land in the garbage instead of being recycled.

The report is posted at <http://www.fodandwaterwatch.org/water/pubs/reports/take-back-the-tap>.

Pass this information on to someone who doesn't receive this newsletter



Positive Parenting of Teens Series Program
Taught by: Kari Beran, Licensed Parent Educator

Cost \$20.00 for the Series

Register with the Community Education Office • 359-8561

If you attend all three sessions your fee will be reimbursed by the Underage Substance Abuse Coalition (USAC) Parent Communication Network

Fall 2007 (End of October and First part of November)

Oct. 22, 2007 – Parenting Teens Today

Additional Fact Sheets: Teens, Competition, and Sports

Learn why teens are unique individuals because of their life experiences, and how this affects your parenting. You will identify the joys and challenges of parenting teens. Even develop a strategy for parenting teens in today's world so your youngsters mature into responsible, capable adults, yet recognizing and appreciating the role community plays in the life and development of teens.

Oct. 29, 2007 – Development

Additional Fact Sheets: Teens and Depression
Teens and Suicide

Parents will identify three areas of fundamental change that adolescents experience (physical, emotional, and thinking) in this class. You will have a greater awareness and understanding of how your own development interfaces with the development of your teen. Development will be discussed in several contexts (family, health, social, community, school, etc.).

Nov. 5, 2007 – Communication

Additional Fact Sheets: Teens and School
Teens and Employment

Find out that successful communication is a team effort with your teen. Recognize that communication messages can have many different purposes and that individual factors and personalities influence communications. Develop skills and strategies that will lead to positive communication with your teen and not to barriers. Learn that parental behavior and communication patterns have a significant impact on teenagers' communication level and skills.

****Each session will be held from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the New Ulm High School Lecture Theatre.***

Scholarships will be available upon request.

Sponsored by:

Please contact Carol Davis at Community Ed.





NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

September 2007



Parsonage: 507-439-6240
Don's cell: 507-276-8464

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																		
						1																		
2 9:00 Adult Discussion 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	3 	4	5	6	7	8 "Food For All"																		
9 POTLUCK SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 9:00 Adult Discussion 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Nora Women's society meeting	10	11	12	13 		15																		
16 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	17	18	19	20 Newsletter articles due	21	22																		
23 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	24	25	26 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch @ Pizza Ranch, New Ulm	27	28	29																		
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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net

please be sure to include "NORA"

in the subject line

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6, Hanska, MN 56041
Thanks for your help in getting articles to me.
Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator



DON'S SCHEDULE

Monday is his day-off and Fridays are reserved for sermon writing. While he continues to have other set commitments, don't hesitate to call to schedule an appointment.

Remember SMORGASBORD OCTOBER 7th



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
12333 155th Avenue
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Hanska, MN 56041



EMAIL
Nora church @ sleepyeyetel.net

WEB SITE
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

September 2007

Nora Church Sunday Services September 2007

Social Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

9/2 "The Labor of Personal Healing" – Show me a person that's not in process of healing from something, and I'll show you somebody who's either reached Nirvana or is dead from the neck down. Real life can hurt, and it can hurt for a very long time.

9/9 "Curing What Ails Us; Healing the Whole Human" - Dr. Jamia Hill, guest speaker.
How can we fix what is broken in ourselves, in our society? Even as we seek to eliminate problems in our world that we dislike or fear, the path of healing suggests a radical departure from our traditional approach to solving problems. Dr Hill is a nurse, a chiropractor, and a researcher in the field of alternative healing systems. She has provided health care in traditional and non traditional settings in both physical and mental health areas. She holds a vision of health that is unitive, non-dualistic, and based on a deep respect for the inherent wisdom of our bodies and minds.

9/16 "Phase II: Peter Benchley, Lyndon Johnson and Nora Church" – There seems to be general agreement that it's time to focus on our church's unique mission and strengths. The bad news? We're more or less on our own. The good news? We can do it. Oh, yes, we can.

9/23 Our Board and Committee on Ministry have invited Lyn Burton, a new UU minister with experience in long-range planning, to facilitate as we plot our course for growth. As part of that process, Lyn will be our speaker.

9/30 "The Life, Times and Legacy of Jerry Falwell" - Few American religious leaders have drawn such intense support and disdain as the Rev. Jerry Falwell. He's no longer with us. Or is he?