



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

JUNE 2008

VIEW FROM THE HILL

Sometimes it seems like a glass-half-empty kind of world, doesn't it? Wars, earthquakes and cyclones afflict the innocent and the poorest among us. Fear is a commodity, whether sold by tribal lords or presidents. Trouble is everywhere and people are no damn good. Give 'til you're broke, complain 'til you're hoarse and pray 'til your knees grow calloused, still the suffering and injustice just keep on coming.

Sometimes our personal lives get crazy, too. I bet you've noticed. I bet, Nora friend, you're worried about something right now. Your health is shaky or your kids are nuts or your relationship is troubled. You're broke. You're lonely. You're depressed. You're addicted. I bet you're worried about something.

But, hey, sometimes the perpetual, obsessive-compulsive, glass-half-full, sunshine crowd is not what is needed. Ending an enterprise as brutal as modern warfare is not to be trusted to anyone who can't summon courage and strength from disaster, and coming to terms with one's raging depression or addiction is not for dreamers. Sometimes these spirits of ours need that valley of despair in order to get us off the spiritual schlide; nobody said we have to like it.

Sometimes what is needed is not simply an encouraging word, helpful though that might be. Sometimes what is needed is a *place* - a place where, well...everybody knows your name. They know you and like you, anyway. They don't always agree with you, but they never discount you. They struggle with life - just like

you - but they make time and emotional disc space for your troubles, too. They know how to cry but refuse to be victims. They will not abide a lack of laughter, trouble noted and be damned.

Nora Church is not the only place where our glass-half-empty and glass-half-full selves can find welcome, but it's *our* place. At our best, we know that everybody - *everybody* - is an Exhibit A example of the irrational, inconsistent, imperfect human being. And that's okay. At our best, we know that we exist to affirm that truth, benefit from that truth and extend that truth.

In the June 8 service, the Sunday of our 2008 Annual Meeting, I'll speak about two things: pledging and welcoming. The kind of place I'm talking about requires what every healthy institutional incarnation of grace requires: money. Second, the kind of place I'm talking about stands or falls on its willingness to reinvent itself in the service of its mission, its times and its future. As to the former, I'll give you my take on why pledging is a good thing. As to the latter, I'll tell you why I think it's time to re-imagine Nora Church - why become even more welcoming is a good thing.

Is this world cause for a glass-half-empty outlook on life? Sometimes. Are we better-off dwelling on the good stuff, the glass-half-full stuff? Sometimes. Is there a place where you and I can bring both those selves? Yep.

Blessings,
Don

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

Loose change on the 2nd Sunday of each month will go to "Food For All"

UU and YOU

Unless notified differently, June 7 will be out last UU & You service for this church year. It begins at 6:30 PM at St. Peter's Church, 125 S. Broadway, New Ulm

FOOD FOR ALL

June is "our" month to help distribute food items at Food for All in St. James at the First Presbyterian church. It will be Saturday morning June 14th from 8:30 until 11. If you haven't volunteered before, give it a try. We need 4 volunteers. Let Darrell Hinsman (507-359-7494) know if you're able so we can keep track of numbers and car pooling. Thanks.

FLOWER COMMUNION final service of the season

Our last service of the church always features the Flower Communion. Each of us brings a flower (or more) to be placed in the front of the church. After reading the original prayer and blessing, we choose another flower as a symbol of our connections to one another, our congregation and the holy. Please join us on June 15 as we mark the church year's end



The Lunch Bunch will meet again Thursday, June 19, 11:30 a.m. at the Encore Cafe in St. James. We met in St. James in May in hopes of seeing Mimi Kamleiter. The good news is that she has gone home from the hospital. The bad news is that we did not get a chance to visit her. We hope that she will be able to join the Lunch Bunch in June.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2008-2009 SEASON

The Worthington Service, an annual gathering of regional UU congregations (10:30 A.M., Pioneer Village, Worthington, MN), will be on Sunday, August 10. Our first Nora service of the 2008-09 church year will be held on August 17.

FOOD SHELF BENEFIT

ALL YOU CAN EAT ~ 'Dad's Belgian Waffles' Benefit for the New Ulm Food Shelf, Sunday, June 22, 2008, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Ulm, 201 North State Street. Serving 8:30am - 12:30pm Cost: \$6.00 per person. See Darrell Hinsman or Angie Becker Kudelka to buy tickets. Tickets also available at NU Chamber.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Our Annual Meeting will be on June 8th following the morning service. If you haven't turned your report in to Cindy, do it ASAP.

BRAVOS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks to all the volunteers who came and worked on Clean up Sunday. A job well done!



NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Women's Society met on May 5 and made some momentous decisions. The women decided to go forward with purchasing cushions for the church pews! This idea has been discussed for many years and finally its time has come. Samples of styles and material were displayed at the meeting and at the May 11 service to get member input.

Another big change also was discussed: Whether to change the mission of the NWS and its name to reflect the change. The main function of the Women's Society lately has been to plan and carry out fund-raising activities for the church. In the process, more men have become involved, and the name doesn't reflect their contributions. Name suggestions would be welcome.

There will be a lefse-making session on Wednesday, Aug. 6, starting at 2 p.m. at the church and running until people get tired. All members and friends, including men, are welcome to participate. If you cannot be present, donations of ingredients and/or money are always welcome.

The supply purchasing committee has put up a white board in the kitchen, and if items are needed for the kitchen or housekeeping, they should be noted on it.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

It's that time of year again when we go into vacation mode. Even if we are not actually on vacation we tend to relax more with all the nice weather to distract us. Here at Nora there are only 3 services left before we take a vacation from Sunday morning services till August.

There is just one problem with this, there is still work to be done. It is very important to lay down plans for the fall now. If we wait till August it will probably really be September and then October. So please, when called upon, take the time now to get these things done so we can really relax and be ready for the fall. Thanks, Sheldon Rieke

LOCAL HAPPENING



Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth: New Ulm 2008 Youth Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, June 24th, 6:00-8:00 PM
at the New Ulm Country Club.

Youth Council and SPOTS award presentations,
SPOTS performances, a silent auction

Buffet dinner: \$20 per person
RSVP to HCHY by June 16
hchynuaq@newulmtel.net

LOOKING AHEAD

UUSC offers congregations meaningful and simple ways to incorporate faith in action into their worship experience.

Connecting with UUSC's human-rights work puts into practice almost every one of the seven UU principles. Helping to defend human rights for all people means upholding the inherent worth and dignity of every person; promoting justice, equity, and compassion in human relations on a macro scale; honoring the goal of the world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and celebrating the interdependent web of all existence.

This year's Guest at Your Table and Justice Sunday

programs will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We will make human rights an accessible concept, translated into upholding the worth and dignity of all people.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE 2008 - Sunday, November 23, 2008 - www.uusc.org/guest/ The Guest at Your Table tradition has built lasting connections to UU faith in action for more than thirty years. Resources will be available online and mailed to all congregations by September 1. Visit www.uusc.org/guest/ to learn more.

JUSTICE SUNDAY - Sunday, March 29, 2009 - <http://www.uusc.org/justicesunday/> Justice Sunday is the perfect follow-up to a memorable Guest at Your Table experience. Having learned about the intersection of UU principles and worldwide human-rights movement, congregants participating in Justice Sunday can unite with UUSC to take action on a pressing social-justice concern.

For assistance with either program, please contact me at volunteerservices@uusc.org or 617-301-4307.



As you may have heard, plans are being made to start a new, week-long, multigenerational UU camp in August of 2009. The planning group includes people from several congregations in Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. We will be renting a camp in the lovely Platte River Valley between Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. Features include hiking, canoeing, sitting on the porch to read or chat, swimming, celebration services in the mornings and vespers in the evening, excursions to area attractions such as the Omaha Zoo or the Strategic Air Command museum, and some of the best food we've ever tasted at any camp we've ever been to.

We're looking for people who would like to help us launch this new effort. We'll be meeting at the camp this summer, August 8 – 10, 2008, to sample the camp's amenities, get a feel for what it's like in late summer, and continue the planning process. We need people who have ideas and energy in areas such as music and the arts, programming for children and youth, finance, promotion, and more. We are eager to hear your ideas. We hope you, or someone from your congregation, will join us!

Information and registration forms are available here: <http://www.psduua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail> If you

have questions, please contact Nancy Heege, Prairie Star District Executive at nheege@psduua.org or Rev. Phillip Lund, Life-span Program Director at plund@psduua.org

MUUSA

Midwestern Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (formerly known as LGSA, Lake Geneva Summer Assembly, held in Williams Bay, WI for over sixty years) has searched for, and found a new home.

This year will be our first year in a very exciting location, especially for the youth! I am so thrilled about the programs we will be able to offer at YMCA Camp of the Ozarks, in Potosi, MO, not only for our Senior High Program, but for all ages.

There are miles of hiking trails, a gorgeous lake, boats, horses, CAVES!, one of the more amazing ropes courses I have ever seen, as well as introspective workshops, team building, and youth led worship every night. This is one killer CON for my campers. The best thing about MUUSA is that individuals and families can come together in this place, and enjoy the programming offered for their peer group. At the end of the day, take a walk, share a meal, hang out on the dock--- to come together again to share the experiences of that day. THEN-go to Club Cratty and join in the intergenerational dance!

I realize it may be a ways to travel, but I know it's going to be great. We will have room for 450 souls at camp, there will be camping as well as nice covered housing available (showers! Beds! Sheets!), and MUUSA is intended for the youngest to the oldest. We hope that individuals/families from all over the Midwest will be able to make it, as well the folks that have been coming to MUUSA for generations. All MUUSA members will have programming available, and each can enjoy their peer group for the duration of camp.

Registration information & more is available at our website: www.muusa.org.

UU UNITED NATIONS

The words of Yitzhak Rabin ring truer today than ever before. The world needs peace and the United Nations needs [your support](#) to achieve peace. A few weeks ago, nearly 160 people from across North America, and even Sri Lanka and Russia, came together for our annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar whose theme this year was "Picking up the Pieces: Building a Culture of

Peace". Over the course of three days, adults and youth discussed peacebuilding and planned for a more just and peaceful world. They were also inspired.

The [Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office](#) [deserves your support](#). We invite you to [become a member](#) of the UU United Nations Office. For more information go to their website: uu-uno.org.

WORD SEARCH

WORLD RELIGIONS

G M R J G Y P P S I N B N N U
P S U N I T A R I A N U O R N
S I S H O H X Z I H C D M W E
P N X V I L S T K I B D R I Z
D A P O C N S I T Y S H O C H
Y R G D A I D L W K P I M C E
K E M A R T E U O E I S L A M
W T F H N C S R I B J M P R I
F S C T P I T Z K S N I A J B
J A Y B K H R V Q S M R E T D
G R D H O C I L O H T A C B Y
D O V D J I I K B A D N N S F
I Z O A I D O V A B Z J C Q V
C X H J D A F V I Z F P B W I
A O H Q P T J Q F E S E A O Y

BUDDHISM	CATHOLIC	CELTIC
CHRISTIAN	HINDUISM	ISLAM
JAIN	JEWISH	MORMON
ORTHODOX	PAGAN	SIKH
TAO	UNITARIAN	WICCA

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE 2008

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	2	3	4	5	6	7 UU & YOU 6:30 PM @ St. Peter's Church, New Ulm
8 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service Congregational Annual meet- ing (after church) Followed by a pot luck lunch	9	10 6:30 PM Program Comm. @ Kunerth's home	11 6:30 PM Board Mtg @ Nora	12	13	14 Food for All- St. James
15 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Flower Communion	16	17	18	19 Lunch Bunch Encore in St. James - 11:30	20	21
22 New Ulm Food Shelf Benefit: Dad's Belgian Waffles @ St. Paul's Lutheran, New Ulm	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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

MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS - USHERS
1 Muffy	POTLUCK Ron & Julie Peck Pat & Laurie Kunerth	Doug Anderson Diane Becken
8	Wayne & Janet Johnson	Krist Bodick Edith Beckius
15 Jordan	Alon & Carol Chambard	Roger & Norma Breu

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.



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church
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<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

June 2008



Nora Church Sunday Services JUNE 2008

Social Hour 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

June 1 "A Ministry Remembered" – The Rev. Fred Doty will preach and Don will serve as service leader as Fred shares stories from his new, soon-to-be published book, a series of reflections on service, tragedy, children, humor, conflict and more.

June 8 "A Door and a Window: Whose Church is This?" – Jacob, the Baker, took a lesson from a carpenter that speaks to the purpose of congregational life. As we gather for our Annual Meeting, let's see what Jacob has to say.

June 15 "Flower Communion" – We'll once again celebrate the end of our church year with the Flower Communion, the ritual based on Norbert Capek's gift of love to a congregation as it gathered in the shadow of the Nazi regime. *PLEASE BRING AN EXTRA FLOWER OR TWO TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.*