



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

October 2009

VIEW FROM THE HILL

My former classmate, Unitarian Universalist theo-



logian Paul Raso-
r, asserts that
there are several
possible views of
the universe: That
world was created
by God and un-
folds according to

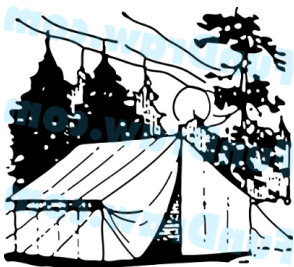
God's plan, toward an ultimate redemption. That the world is an evolving process, either with or without grand purpose, but with some sort of pattern, favoring life. That the world is an evolving process, but that the pattern tends toward entropy and deterioration rather than life. That the world is a random collection of energy and matter, with life itself some kind of accident. Unitarian Universalists hold all of these views—and probably more!

October, novelist Kaye Gibbons writes in the voice of her heroine Ellen Foster, "doesn't lie or leave out, [but says] death will be around eventually but only because life was already here, and here's some color and snappy weather and flocks of birds flying south to allow you to breathe deeply in trust that the universe knows what to do and when to do it."

We're awfully accustomed, on the one hand, to being in control, to making choices and taking actions to get us where we want to go—in our educations, our careers, our living arrangements, our health, and even our gardening, to name just a few areas of life we try to manage on our own. And on the other hand, we're also accustomed to occasional instances of wondering, "what exactly is the universe thinking?!" When a hurricane strikes or a wildfire blazes out of control or an earthquake shatters a country, for example.

Whatever our own particular view of the workings of the universe, we need reminders, from time to time, that the universe indeed knows what to do and when to do it—or alternately, reminders that the universe, with or without purpose, meaning, and intention, is not ours to control. Such reminders relieve us of the fruitless struggle to manage it all on our own. They free us to go about the business of living fully, humbly aware of our place in the interdependent web of all existence. The change of seasons, each in its own time, serve as reliable, astonishing reminders that we're human, no more and no less. Let us enter into this new season, thankfully, expectantly, joyfully.

Lisa



PREPARING FOR THE SMORGASBORD

Wednesday September 30, 5:30 PM

Raising of the tent and cleanup.

RSVP to Joy Rathman or Julie Sellner so they order enough pizza!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

To me, October bring the harvest season. To Nora, October brings the Smorg season! Both require much planning and behind the scenes work. I find it heart warming to see so many people come together for the same cause of making the Smorg a success. So here's hoping for good weather for Smorgasbord and then we take time to enjoy the beautiful fall colors of October.

-Scott Schmiesing, Board Chair

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board this month goes to all the people who have been working so hard making lefse for Smorgasbord. To Karen Farrell for the lovely fresh flowers she's been providing. Also to the Search Committees for all their preparation and hard work in the successful endeavor of obtaining a new minister!



The Lunch Bunch will meet at the Hickory Inn in St. James this month. Join us October 15 at 11:30 AM.

ADULT RE

A spirituality group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesday in New Ulm at approximately 6:30 p.m. The location of the gathering varies from meeting to meeting. We'll try to keep you updated in the Sunday service program about our topics and meeting locations. If you have questions or would like to meet with us, please feel free to talk with Anne Rieke, Colleen Tasto, Vicki Sieve, Nancy Brudelic, Kristine Paulson or Nancy Dickson and we will give the most current information.

THE NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Nora Women's Society met September 9 to finalize plans for Smorgasbord. The Women's Society has purchased a chest freezer to hold lefse and meatballs. A refrigerator also will be purchased. The ticket price has been set at \$11 for adults. Prices for children will remain the same.

It was decided to make meatballs on Friday, Oct. 2, beginning at 9 a.m. An extra 50 lbs. of meatballs

will be made and frozen to be sold in the Country Store.

The women already have made more than 50 lbs. of lefse, but at least 30 lbs. more is needed for sale in the Country Store. A lefse-making session is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26, at 9 a.m. at the church. Everyone is invited to come help make the meatballs and lefse.



There will be a clean-up and tent raising party on Wednesday, Sept. 30, starting at 5:30 p.m. There will be pizza for workers. Participants are asked to call Joy Rathman or Julie Sellner so they will know how much pizza to order.

In other business, the women decided to hold a bake sale on Nov. 7 in New Ulm. Lefse has been a popular item at the bake sale and there will be a lefse-making session on Oct. 17, starting at 9 a.m. at the church.

Again, everyone is encouraged to come help out. Profits from these events go the church in the form of the NWS pledge to the church budget.

UUSC FREE FILM IN MINNEAPOLIS

See the New UU Documentary, *Journey to Freedom*. Join your fellow UUs and others at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis on Friday October 9th at 7:30 PM to see the local premiere of a brand new feature-length documentary, *Journey to Freedom*, which tells the story of humanitarian heroes Martha and Waitstill Sharp, UUs who left their own children behind and risked their lives to rescue others' children from the Nazis during World War II. After the film, UUSC President and CEO Charlie Clements will host a discussion and reception following the film. You can learn more about the film and see a trailer at <http://journeytofreedomfilm.com/about/index.html> The event is free and open to the public. First Universalist Church, at 3400 Dupont Ave S in Minneapolis (near Uptown) will host this event as part of the 2009 Dietrich Bonhoeffer Lectures in Public Ethics; this year's conference is in Minneapolis at multiple sites and the theme is *Genocide: Past and Present*. Learn more about the conference at <http://www.genocidelectures.org/> If you have questions please contact Chris Bremer at bremner101@yahoo.com

NEW ULM AREA FOOD SHELF

In September, Nora UU volunteered to staff the New Ulm Area Food Shelf - restocking supplies and filling boxes of food for families in need. A special thank you to all who volunteered, including: Ann Nelson, Bonita and Algot Blomquist, Janet and Noah Rosenbloom, Carol and Alan Chambard, Shirley and Clayton Olson and Darrell Hinsman.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ENERGY SUPPORTING THE FOOD SHELF OPERATIONS!

Also, during the September 2009 food shelf meeting, board members voted to increase the number of times a family can receive food. These visits increased from 4 visits in 6 months - to 6 visits in 6 months. The food shelf director has discretion to help families determine the best use of each set of 6 visits in 6 months.

-Angie Becker Kudelka

FROM THE UUA BOOK STORE

New book offers inspiration for activists. The Rev Stephen Shick, senior minister at the Unitarian Church of Marlboro and Hudson in Marlboro, Mass., has written a book designed to, as he says, "inspire and sustain activists and others who are working for a better world."

Be the Change: Poems, Prayers and Meditations for Peacemakers and Justice Seekers is published by the UUA's [Skinner House](#).

Shick is founding director of the [Unitarian Universalist Peace Network](#) and former director of U.S. programs for the [UU Service Committee](#). He draws on his four decades of activist experience to offer motivation and encouragement to those just starting out in social justice work as well as reflections and insights for veteran justice-seekers. The book includes quotations from Jesus, Shakespeare, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Rachel Carson, Maya Angelou, and others.

He notes, "I offer this book to those people, to you, who look upon the carnage of war, the cruelty of poverty, and the destruction of our environment with open eyes and simply say, 'We can and must do better.' This book is for you, the ones who, despite fears and limitations, give hope and courage to all of us by the way you live. It is dedicated to you who have a pestering need to love more boldly and live more courageously so that others might live better lives."

Be the Change is \$12 from the [UUA Bookstore](#), 800-215-9076.

CHILDREN AND CHURCH

A Sunday School teacher asked her children as they were on their way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



To Keep In Touch

♥♥♥

Please keep our military personnel in your thoughts and prayers.

♥♥♥

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention...please call one of the committee members:

♥♥♥

Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson - 354-1866
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

THANK YOU! Caring Committee



NORWEGIAN SMORGASBORD & COUNTRY STORE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

10:00 a.m.
Coffee, Country Store,
Childrens Activities

10:30 a.m.
Church Service

Dinner Served - 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Adults: \$11.00 ~ Children 10 & under: \$4.00
6 and under—free

THE COUNTRY STORE will feature craft items, garden produce, baked goods, and various children's activities.

THE JORGENSON LOG CABIN MUSEUM will be open to the public that day with someone present to answer questions and discuss museum items.



**Come join us &
Bring a friend!!**

MENU

appetizers
tongue, deviled eggs, herring

dinner
meatballs, ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, glazed carrots, sot suppe, rice pudding, rommegrot, lefse, flatbrod
milk, coffee, lemonade

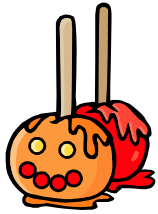
Norwegian Cookies
rosettes, krumkake, sandbakkels, fattigmand, and more
Take-outs available

Nora Church is handicap accessible
located one mile east of Hanska, just off Highway 257

SMORG NOTES

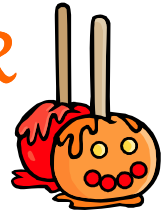
Smorgasbord is Sunday October 5th. On Friday, October 3rd we'll be making meatballs. The remainder of the preparations will be done on Saturday.




Bring your items for the Country Store to the fellowship Hall on Saturday. Please have them in proper containers and mark the price on them that you think would be appropriate. Baked goods, flea market items, garden produce, etc., are all welcome. If you are not able to come Saturday, please come early Sunday morning with your items. Thank you. - The Committee



NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 MEAT BALL MAKING 9 AM	3
4 SMORGASBORD 10:30 Service 11 - 1:30 Dinner	5	6	7	8 Spirituality Group	9	10
11 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	12	13	14	15	16	17 9 AM 
18 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	19	20 	21	22 Spirituality Group	23	24
25 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	26	27	28	29	30 	31 TURN YOUR CLOCK BACK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!

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
4 Sally Hanson	SMORGASBORD	Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman
11 Jordan Rathman	Gene & Georgine Tepley	John & Julie Schmitt
18	John & Anne Makepeace	Warren & Kristine Paulson
25	Elroy & Ardis Wellman	Joy Rathman & Kristi Paulson



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.
Friday will be sermon writing day.
She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:
763-656-7533



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Hanska, MN 56041

October 2009



EMAIL
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WEB SITE
<http://www.norauchurch.org>

Nora Church Sunday Services OCTOBER 2009

Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

October 4 "Before Us, A smorgasbord"

October 11 "By What Authority?"

October 18 "Celebrating Ordinary Time"



October 25 "Was St. Paul a Communitarian?" Our guest speaker is Nels Oas. I am basing my pulpit essay on recent scholarship by the Jesus Seminar and the Secular Humanist's research on early Christianity. Everyone knows about Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. But little has been noted on how we went through several more religious changes besides his versions of salvation in his epistles. Unitarians are enriched by his development of deep ideals and values for communities like ours that promote a life style that transcends our culture and the usual social banalities.