



MERE LYS

August 2016 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



August 14th

Tri-State Gathering

*“A Simple Faith:
Religion that Makes
Sense”* Rev. Wesley
Hromatko preaching

Regular services resume

August 21st

*“Heroic Independence
and Sacrificial
Loyalty”*

August 28th

“Us and Them”



A View From the Hill

In one of the later Harry Potter books the Minister of Magic holds a meeting with the Muggle Prime Minister (in other words, the ordinary Prime Minister of England). We learn that such meetings take place whenever there is a change in the holder of either office. The introductions go about as smoothly as you might expect between leaders of two intertwined yet separate worlds—one of which is largely oblivious of the other. In the particular meeting I’m remembering the Minister of Magic has solemn, urgent news to impart to the Muggle Prime Minister: a recent wave of violent crime, he says, along with several disasters such as bridges collapsing are the direct result of an evil at large in the magical world—malevolence so great that its influence and destruction are spilling over into the Muggle/non-magical realm.

While I tend to agree with Shakespeare (there are more things in Heaven and Earth... than are dreamt of in my philosophy), I don’t really believe in a world of witches and wizards existing right before my unseeing eyes. And I don’t really believe Voldemort and his loyal followers, the Death Eaters, are wreaking havoc in human affairs. But oh, how I want to believe that.

When another young black man is shot by police officers. When a gunman opens fire in Dallas or Orlando. When someone drives a truck into a Bastille Day celebration. When suicide bombers turn places of worship into houses of death and horror. When school girls are kidnapped. When civil unrest becomes bloody. When drive-by shootings claim the lives of babies. When each day’s headlines testify to hatred, willful indifference, casual violence, I want to believe Voldemort is out there, just beyond my sight, powerful, vengeful, calculating and singleminded. Anything other than believing, knowing in my weeping heart that we are doing these things to one another.

But if I believe (and I do) that acts of courage, kindness, and generosity, gestures of trust, faith, and forgiveness, the dynamic embodiment of love itself spring not from angelic beings but from the souls of flawed and holy human beings, then I must accept that so too do acts of hatred, greed, fear turned to bloody rage spring not from demonic beings but from the souls of flawed and holy human beings. Not from them, from Voldemort and the Death Eaters, but from us, from our small, ugly, personal imperfections and sins written into systems of oppression and injustice and disguised there for too long as the natural order of things.

There is work to be done in our hearts and on the streets and in the courts and at the ballot box. Joyful, angry, soul-rending, invigorating, exhausting, redemptive work. Prophets of love and justice have said it a hundred different ways: the time is at hand; the task is ours. As our new church year begins it will be good to gather with you to tend our wounded, weary, numb spirits, to rest in stillness and song, to prepare ourselves to go forth into a world that has broken our hearts over and over this summer and take up again our part in making it whole.

-Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

... to volunteers that helped with clean up .
... to our summer helpers.
... to our driveway maintenance crew.

Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, August 7th at Nora after the potluck, at about 12:00 pm.

Potluck August 7th

The brunch on July 3rd was a resounding success! So, let's do it again on August 7th at 10:00 am. Christopher has promised to make his grain-free pancakes again (they were YUMMY!) and I'm sure that there will be many tasty items again. In addition, following the brunch, John Masengarb, our resident Master of Horticultural Science, has offered to do a "Horticulture on the Hill" walk of the grounds explaining various plantings and what we're striving to attain. So mark your calendar and bring your appetite!

Let the Lefse Making Begin!

Tuesday, August 9 we will kick off lefse season with our first lefse making session.

We will get started at 9:00 am. Please let Diane Becken know if you can make it. The more people we have, the easier it is to meet our goal.

Lunch Bunch

As usual, summer is flying by, and the Lunch Bunch is going to grab a flight to La Salle's Village Inn on Wednesday, August 10 at 11:30 am. We'll save a seat for you.

Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to any Nora members, friends or visitors.

Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will meet in August on the 12th and 26th, 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. September meetings will be the 9th and 23rd. Dates are subject to change if they interfere with lefse making!!! We will not schedule a basket making day until after Smorg. Our prime focus will be on making quilts for NMUAS House and baby mats for the well-baby program.

Everyone is welcome. You may bring your own project to work on or just come to visit and spend the day. Bring a bag lunch.

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Pastor Lisa has Mondays off.
Friday is sermon writing day.
She can be reached on her cell when not in the office: 507-766-7822.



Tri-State Gathering August 14th

Gather with fellow Unitarian Universalists at Nobles County Pioneer Village, Worthington, MN. The service is ***A Simple Faith: Religion that Makes Sense***. "This sermon started when it was said our church couldn't be explained to a working person. This notion is backwards. We have been accused of being elitists, but we are welcoming. Come and find out." Reverend Wesley Hromatko, preaching.

10:30 Gather - 11:00 Service - 12:00 Potluck

Nobles Pioneer Village, Worthington, MN

Join the Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/1560314500939714/

Youth Religious Education

Religious Education for Children and Youth will reconvene in September. Watch the order of service, Grapevine, and September Mere Lys for more information.

A Note From the Treasurer

June Income and Expenses

June Income: \$9,389.76

June Expenses: \$12,793.75

Total Church Year:

Income: \$95,064.25

Expenses: \$114,407.92

Transfers from savings: \$12,043.67

Total savings (Citizen's Bank) \$81,852.39

Please send any summer pledge payments to the church.

Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not including special collections or memorial gifts.

In Memoriam

Bonita Annette Blomquist

February 29, 1932—July 23, 2016

Bonita Blomquist, wife to Algot Blomquist, passed away Saturday, July 23, at New Ulm Medical Center, in New Ulm. She was 84. The Nora community extends its sympathy, and we hold Algot's loved ones and their families, in the light of our love.

Visitation is 4 – 7 p.m. Friday, July 29, Minnesota Valley Funeral Home, South Chapel, New Ulm
Service is 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 30, Nora Unitarian-Universalist Church

Please share your memories of Bonita with Rev. Lisa Doege by sending an email to revlmd.nora@gmail.com.



Lisa on the Loose Resumes

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in your community.

During August Lisa will meet at the following locations:

Tuesday, August 16 River City Eatery, Windom from 11:00 - 12:30

Wednesday, August 24 Coffee Hag, Mankato from 10:30 - 12:00

Tuesday, August 30 Encore Coffee, St. James from 10:30 - 12:00



**Send your news, announcements, congratulations and events to us at
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
or put hard copies in Brooke's mailbox!**

Notes from the Nora Office...

Please send content of any kind, for the newsletter or order of service to the Nora email. Announcements generally run for two weeks.

**Order Of Service ~ content due Thursdays
September Mere Lys ~ content due August 23rd**

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
Phone: 507.439.6240

*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.*

2016 Tri-State Gathering

DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

TIME: 10:30 GATHER

11:00 SERVICE

12:00 POTLUCK

Service: "Roots and Stems"

Reverend Wesley Hromatko, preaching.

Potluck: Please bring a dish to share and your own place settings.

Broaden the circle of our UU family. Join UUs from Southern Minnesota, Eastern South Dakota and Northwestern Iowa.

LOCATION: NOBLES COUNTY PIONEER VILLAGE
1600 STOWER DR, WORTHINGTON, MN 56187
JUST OFF OF INTERSTATE 90

In memory of Marilyn Hromatko.
Organized with assistance from Rev. Wesley Hromatko and Rev. Lisa Doege, Nora UU Church (Hanska, MN)

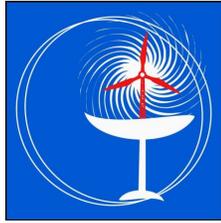
For more information:
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net



Gather

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

12333 155th Avenue
Hanska, Minnesota 56041-4310



Phone: 507.439.6240

Website: www.norauchurch.org

Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

2015–2017 Server/Greeter/Usher/ Partner List

If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, contact Susan Allen 359-2856.

If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please call someone on the list and try to arrange a switch, or contact Susan Allen. Contact information is in the Nora Directory. Please let Lisa or Brooke know any schedule changes so the order of service can be corrected – norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

ATTENTION PARTNERS: Please communicate with each other regarding food provision, as necessary.

AUGUST

- 14—Tri-State Worthington—TBA
- 21—Sally & Gil Hansen, Nita Gilbert
- 28—Susan Allen, Diane Becken

SEPTEMBER

- 4—Potluck—Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman, Sally Ann & Dave Benson
- 11—Vicki Sieve, Julie & Ron Peck
- 18—Carol Chambard, Wendy Tuttle, Christopher Olson
- 25—Clean Up Day

OCTOBER

- 2—Smorgasboard—Greeters: Sally & Gil Hanson
- 9—Alicia Bayer & Daryl Hrdlicka, Cindy Backman
- 16—Shirley Olson, Lara Fletcher, Mimi Kamleiter
- 23—Georgine & Gene Tepley, Diane Becken
- 30—Kate & Jason Monnens, Nancy Brudellie

NOVEMBER

- 6—Potluck—Susan & Jerry Allen, Scott Chambard
- 13—Julie Sellner, Susan Evers, Jordan Kuelbs
- 20—Edith Beckius, Beverly & Wally Wellman
- 27—Janet Rosenbloom, Louise Guggisburg, Vicki Sieve

DECEMBER

- 4—Potluck—Norma & Roger Breu, Kristine & Wayne Paulson
- 11—Colleen & Glenn Hokenson, Lee Drogemuller
- 18—Diane Becken, Cindy Backman, Lara Fletcher
- 24—Greeters: Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska
- 25—Susan & Jerry Allen

JANUARY

- 1—No Service
- 8—Potluck—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Julie Sellner
- 15—Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman, Shirley Olson
- 22—Nancy Brudellie, Wayne Johnson, Nita Gilbert
- 29—Christopher Olson, Julie & Ron Peck

FEBRUARY

- 5—Potluck—Susan & Jerry Allen, Scott Chambard
- 12—Carol Chambard, Janet Rosenbloom, Vicki Sieve
- 19—Joy Rathman, Jeremy Schmitt, Louise Guggisburg
- 26—Lee & Lynn Schmitt, Christina Schmitt

MARCH

- 5—Potluck—Georgine & Gene Tepley, Wayne Johnson, Edith Beckius
- 12—Norma & Roger Breu, Michelle Bethke
- 19—Sally Ann & David Benson, Christopher Olson
- 26—Kristine & Warren Paulson, Kristy Paulson

APRIL

- 2—Potluck—Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman, Scott & Tracey Schmiesing
- 9—Julie Sellner, Shannon Hoescht, Susan Evers
- 16—Easter—Edith Beckius, Diane Becken, Nancy Brudellie
- 23—Beverly & Wally Wellman, Joy Rathman
- 30—Carol Chambard, Julie & Ron Peck

MAY

- 7—Potluck—Sally Ann & Dave Benson, Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska
- 14—Syttende Mai
- 21—Colleen & Glenn Hokenson, Lee Drogemuller
- 28—Shirley Olson, Lara Fletcher, Louise Guggisburg

JUNE

- 4—Potluck—Joy Rathman, Cindy Backman, Scott Chambard
- 11—Sally & Gil Hansen, Nita Gilbert
- 18—Service at Lake Hanska

To ♥ Keep In Touch

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members:

Georgine Tepley (chair): 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)

Shirley Olson: 354-1866

Carol Chambard: 354-2242