



MERE LYS

May 2018 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



May 6

“Hymn Sing”

*With Nora and UUFM
Choirs*

May 13

***“An Infant on the
Senate Floor”***

May 20

***“What’s the Meaning
of This?”***

10:30 am

*Syttende Mai Service at
Hanska City Park with Zion
Lutheran Church and Lake
Hanska Lutheran Church*

May 27

“Four Freedoms”

Speaker: Karen Farrell



A View From the Hill

As I’ve written in this space before, May 1st is Labor Day around much of the world. A day to celebrate workers—those who labor—and unions that organize for little things like worker safety and living wages and worker rights.

This year as May Day approaches I’m cheering on teachers in several places across the U.S. who have been and are striking, walking out, and walking in, demanding living wages for themselves and adequate funding for books and supplies for their classrooms. In other words, demanding that their students, who are in a sense all of our students, receive the excellent education they deserve.

I’m less aware of other worker movements this spring. But I know that laborers across the U.S. and around the world—the people who make our clothing and other consumer goods, who grow and transport and prepare our food, who provide for the public safety and medical care—all these workers and more deserve adequate pay and safe working conditions and basic dignity, and too many of them must strike or walk out or demonstrate in order to secure even minimal improvements in their situations.

Labor Day will have come and gone before May is two days old, but I’m going to hold laborers in my prayers all month long. I owe them so much of what makes my life comfortable, safe, luxurious by global standards to them, it’s the least I can do in return. Will you join me?

-Lisa

From the board...

Thank You!

...all the Easter breakfast workers.
...the mysterious stump cutter/remover.

May 6: Busy Day Ahead!

Joint Choir

The Mankato choir will join with Nora choir members during the service on May 6. They will also be our guests at potluck. Gil has been working his magic again, achieving a blending of voices that are even more powerful with the union of two choirs.

Congregational Discussion

Our next congregational discussion regarding the future of Nora Church will follow potluck on May 6. This is our last opportunity to share conversation about the future of ministry at Nora. We will be voting at our annual congregational meeting on June 3. The discussion on May 6 will be facilitated by Ian Evison from MidAmerica Region, UUA. Ian was with us in April 2017.

Crop Walk

May 6 is also the day of the Brown County Area Crop Walk. The walk begins with registration at 12:30 at German Park in New Ulm. Nora Church has a long history of supporting Crop Walk; we remember Noah Rosenblom's dedication to this effort. The potluck collection on the 6th will be dedicated to Crop Walk, which is sponsored by Church World Services—25% of the collection goes to local food shelves, the remainder is used to feed those in need around the world. Please contribute generously and remember Noah's service when you do. If you choose, you may write checks to CWS.

And Then.....Road Cleanup

After we have sat through service, potluck, and congregational discussion, we'll be ready to MOVE. We have changed our road cleanup site to Highway 257 from milepost 2 to milepost 4. We'll be working close to the church and hope we'll have a renewed spirit of ownership for this project. Love the earth, respect the earth, clean the earth. If it is raining, makeup date will be Saturday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m.

...May 6 will be a great day!

Board Meeting

Nora Church Board will meet again Thursday, May 10 or Sunday, May 20. Jeanie will let us know.

May 13: Congregational Budget Meeting

On Sunday the 13th the proposed budget for 2018-19 church year will be presented immediately after the service. The board carefully drafted the budget at its April 22nd meeting. It will be presented for final action at the congregational meeting June 3.

Annual Reports

Plan ahead for June 3rd annual meeting. Committee reports should be given to Brooke by Monday, May 21st.

Nominating Committee Report

Susan Allen's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. Julie Peck's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. The committee is seeking nominees to serve a three year term. Respectfully submitted, Nita Gilbert & Edith Beckius

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:35 a.m. on Sunday, June 3rd, 2018. At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the 2018/2019 church year, elect members to the Board of Trustees, and undertake other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.

Board Minutes

Board minutes are always posted on the bulletin board in the entry. Please read them if you want a more complete report, or just ask any board member for an update.

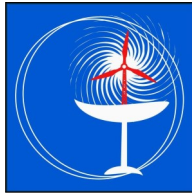
A Note From the Treasurer **March Income and Expenses**

Income:	\$5,344.00
Expenses:	\$9,580.68

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

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.



Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will meet May 4 and 18. And June 1 and 15. I'm hoping we can get back in the swing of things. May 4th we'll have a potluck lunch, so if anyone wants to just come for food and great company bring something to share and join us. We aren't in the middle of any project, so we'll probably talk about what we're thinking about for the future!

Lunch Bunch

The optimistic Lunch Bunchers are still hoping for an end to winter weather, so we plan to have a Welcome Spring gathering -- better late than never—at Joni's Restaurant, 24 N. Minnesota, New Ulm, on Thursday, May 10, at 11:30 a.m. As always, we hope to see you there.

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

Lisa on the Loose

Lisa holds "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in New Ulm, Mankato and Windom.

In May find Lisa:

Thursday, May 10 at Oak Hills, at 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 29 at the River City Eatery, Windom, at 11:00 a.m.



Early Money Is Like Yeast

Some good laughs and chuckles were shared at our April 22nd potluck. We also distributed Lisa's letter addressing the importance of pledging. Emily's List is an acronym for Early Money Is Like Yeast (It makes the dough rise!). With pledge cards, attendees chose a loaf of bread baked by a board member. We hope it encourages each member to

reflect on how important your pledge is to the financial security of Nora Church. Pledging helps provide a good indication of the funds we can plan to spend. Without your fidelity to the monetary stability of Nora, we have an uncertain future. Please pledge what you can comfortably afford. We don't twist arms but we sure hope you feel our ardor for preserving the health of our congregation. Thank you.

Tri-State Gathering in Worthington

Mark your summer calendars! Our Tri-State Gathering at Pioneer Village in Worthington will be the first Sunday in August—August 5, 2018. This is a change from previous years when we have met on the second Sunday. We hope many of you will join in; it's an enjoyable time spent with UU's from Sioux Falls, Spirit Lake/Okobojo, and Sioux City. The setting is idyllic, the service uplifting, the drive is relaxing, and the congregants—genuine. You can't beat it.

Notes from the Nora Office...

2018 Directory Update

An updated version of the Nora Directory will be published at the end of May, so you can grab one before summer. Please update your listing by May 13th, using the forms in the entryway. If you would like your listing emailed to you for review please let me know. Thanks! Brooke

Order Of Service:

Content due Thursdays by Noon

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

June Mere Lys and

2018 Annual Report ~ content due

Monday, May 21

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

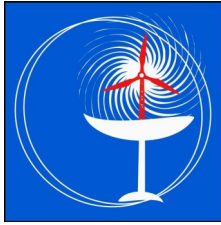
Phone: 507.439.6240

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

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United Church of Christ Community Dinner

UCC is grateful for our help in providing bars for the monthly community meal. Thank you to all who have generously volunteered to do this. We completed February, March and April. We will see if we have interest in continuing through the summer months. Signup will be on the bulletin board in church entry. If you sign up a reminder call or text will be made a few days ahead. Bars can be delivered after 4:00 p.m. to the church or arrange with Jeanie to drop them off. Community dinners are generally the last Wednesday of the month.

The Strength That Defines Us

"What I do with my hair shouldn't affect how I'm treated or perceived, but unfortunately it does."

—journalist Christiana Amarachi Mbakwe

My son was five when he announced that he would no longer cut his hair. He hated going through the whole process. He also liked his hair and was done. I agreed; I, too, was done fighting with him about haircuts. As time went on, I marveled at the beauty of his hair and the way his curls frame his face.

Soon the questions started about why his hair was so long, and comments about how I was "confusing" him by not cutting it. I ignored it all.

Then the bullying started. At first it was a few people calling him a girl. We would correct them and move on. Then it became vicious enough to send him home from school in tears, the teachers all say-

ing What did you expect? and that if I want people to see my son as a boy, then he should look like one.

My heart broke the day he stood in the bathroom crying. He handed me a pair of scissors and told me to just cut it. He was done and he was tired. I told him how beautiful his hair was and how sad I would be to see him cut it. When I asked him why he grew his hair, he said he felt things through it. He said it connected him to his indigenous heritage that he could not claim officially. He said that sometimes it was his hiding place. But he was tired of being teased and tired of being called a girl when he wanted to be called a boy.

So I found pictures of indigenous men with long hair, and asked him what he saw in the pictures. He said he saw strength and pride; fierceness and sadness. I asked if he thought these men were teased over their hair. And he said no, but that if they were, they probably wouldn't care. I told my son that the strength he saw in those men was the same strength I saw in him.

My son is now fourteen, almost six feet tall, and has facial hair. His hair is still amazing. He pulls it up in a messy bun and no longer lets me comb and brush it. He still gets questions about cutting it. He's been called gay and Trans and queer. None of which offends. He sees it as a compliment. He endured the bullying and now stands strong. Not because he has long hair, but because he didn't let others define what being a man or male meant to him.

—Rayla Mattson

Prayer

Spirit of Life, may we all be so bold as to not let the world define us by its standards but rather by what is in our own hearts.

—Rayla Mattson

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