



MERE LYS

June & July 2018 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am

Worship 10:30 am



June 3

“Ahead of the Vote”

June 10

*“Sunshine, Food and
Medicine for the Soul”*

Our annual Flower Ceremony. Please bring a cut flower for each member of your family in attendance this morning.

June 17

“What about Dad?”

Annual potluck picnic.

Looking Ahead

Aug. 5

Tri-State Gathering

Aug. 12

No Service

Aug. 19

Nora Services Resume



This issue of Mere Lys has a slight change in format. Several significant actions are coming up. To many of you this is not news but for those who may have missed Sunday congregational discussions or announcements in church we're using Lisa's front page as headline space for important news (more important news on page 2).

Pledge Process

The board tried their best to entertain at our April pledge drive kick-off. Who knew we had so many jokesters in our midst? As of this writing only 13 pledge cards have been turned in. Knowing what possible resources we have to work with affects our confidence in the budget especially as concerns ministry and maintenance. PLEASE send your pledge card to Julie Peck if you have not done so already and thank you for responding to this role of membership.

Ministerial Package Ballot

_____ As Is - \$76,000

Will require using some reserves.

_____ Reduced Ministry - \$57,000

May require using some reserves.

_____ Reduced Ministry - \$38,000

No reserves necessary.

Draft ballot language.

Congregational Vote at Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting on June 3 a paper ballot will be distributed giving three options for ministry during the 2019-2020 church year. No changes in ministry will occur for the 2018-2019 church calendar.

Option One: Maintain 100% ministry as we have now, using some reserves to makeup the shortfall between church income and expenditures. A best guess scenario is that we would exhaust reserves in approximately 5 yrs.

Option Two: Spend \$57,000 toward ministry. This is 75% of what we now spend. It may require a limited use of reserves dependent on pledge income.

Option Three: Spend \$38,000 toward ministry, 50% of what we now spend. It is anticipated that no reserves would be needed.

As was brought out at congregational discussions these scenarios pose many questions that we cannot answer. Specifics as to how many Sundays a minister would preach, whether or not the parsonage is used as a residence, the professional experience of the incoming minister as a factor in salary, whether or not we need to accommodate for additional employment, these issues and job duties defined by the contract would be up for negotiation. In any scenario we likely will be putting together a search process starting next fall.

At the May discussion the question of proxy voting or absentee ballots was brought up. The board's decision is to abide by our by-laws which is really our only option. Honoring the by-laws is a question of integrity and respect for church governance. We recognize that not everyone can be in attendance on June 3, while that is unfortunate, we hope everyone who can be present will be.

Thank you to all who participated in our May 6 discussion. It was a deliberative process, much meaningful sharing took place, albeit time consuming.

Tiling Church Driveway

A second decision to be made at our annual meeting will be whether or not to spend \$3,000 on tiling of the church driveway. The hope is to prevent the loss of gravel and the big ruts that occur from heavy rains and run-off. More information will be shared at the time of the meeting.

Nordic Heritage Church Grant

In late April the church was invited to participate in a grant writing proposed by Sacred Places.org. Sacred Places is a support organization for churches of all denominations. They have been in existence for over thirty years and have offices in Texas, Chicago and Pennsylvania. Our application was for funding to repair the damage to our bell tower. The grant, if won, requires training attendance by three or four church members (one of whom must be the minister). The training is designed for asset mapping and how to message the church's heritage to a regional audience. Grant awards are for up to \$15,000 and must be matched by new local funding. Volunteer labor is considered an in-kind contribution toward the match. Hopefully we will have news about the grant application by the time of our annual meeting.

New Church Calendar

We will be printing a new church calendar for distribution in August. In addition to church related events we will include birthdays and anniversaries. The draft of the calendar will be available for you to review on June 10, and 17. Please add, correct, or delete info as needed. The first church event of the year will be the Tri-State Gathering at Prairie Village on August 5. Please note this will be the first Sunday of August, a change from past practice.

From the board...

Thank You!

...the road clean-up crew—Julie Peck, Jeanie Hinsman, Louise Guggisberg, Lee Drogemuller, and Scott Chambard.

... John Masengarb for cleaning out the garden.

... to Alicia Bayer for organizing the flower fundraiser.

Board Meeting

Nora Church Board will meet again Sunday, June 10, after church.

Lunch Bunch

School kids get off in the summer, but not Lunch Bunchers! No sir! We must soldier on in the heat. In this heroic vein, we will meet on Wednesday, June 20, 11:30 am, at Swany's Pub, 221 Main St., Courtland. No homework or schedules. Look forward to seeing you there.

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

Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude will meet June 8 and 22. Bring something to share for lunch and something to work on!

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

Income:	\$5,719.50
Expenses:	\$7,312.90

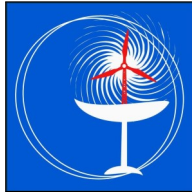
Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not including special collections or memorial gifts.

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Pastor Lisa has Mondays off.
Friday is sermon writing day.

Lisa will be on vacation the month of July, and be in and out of town throughout the month.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office: 507-766-7822.



A View From the Hill

I've had some shoulder pain for several weeks now. After ignoring it for a while I went to the clinic and was referred to physical therapy. My primary care provider called tendonitis. My physical therapist called it shoulder impingement. Either way, I don't have to live with it. A couple weeks anti-inflammatory med, some attention to my posture, and a few minutes of gentle exercises a day should have me back to being able to dress myself and use the computer mouse without pain.

About those exercises, my physical therapist cautioned me to stop if/when any one of them causes me pain. Sort of like the old joke: Doc, it hurts when I do this. Then don't do that. Ba dum bump.

I want to generalize from the caution about physical pain to all of life. *If it hurts, don't do it.* I want to say that's sound wisdom for our spirits, our hearts and souls, as well as our bodies. But I think it's probably not true. I commend to you the poem by [Karin Boye, Yes, Of Course It Hurts](#). So much of what is good and vital and necessary for heart-growth, soul-growth, spirit-strength is going to hurt—a little or a lot.

Still, I found some wisdom to carry from PT into other areas of my life. Here is something else the physical therapist said, "I'm okay with you experiencing some mild fatigue, as long as there isn't any pain." And she went on to say that once I can do the exercise for twice the initial number of reps with no fatigue at all, I can add a tiny, little, bit of weight.

Fatigue is acceptable (and not reason to quit) generalizes pretty well. And right now I am fatigued by so much: parenting, politics, inhumane treatment of human beings by our government, violence against bodies and lives of color, violence against bodies and lives of women, the erosion of reproductive health care rights, incivility.... But

the antidote to my fatigue isn't turning away or hiding or tuning out. The antidote is turning *toward* the sources of my fatigue. Looking, listening, and engaging these sources of fatigue, daily, several reps a day, until the fatigue goes away. And then looking, listening and engaging at a deeper, more weighty level, until the new fatigue goes away. And then looking, listening and engaging at still deeper, more weighty levels, to the point of fatigue and beyond again and again and again.

That's the way my spirit will become strong, conditioned for a long and joyous life participating in the healing and transformation of our world.

Lisa

Notes on June Services

The Annual Meeting of Nora Church will follow immediately upon conclusion of the service on **Sunday, June 3**. We will elect trustees, approve the 2018/2019 budget, vote on the future of professional ministry at Nora, and undertake any other business that comes before the congregation.

The service on **Sunday, June 10** will include our annual Flower Ceremony. Please remember to bring a cut flower for each member of your family attending service that morning. You won't want to miss the beauty we create together and then carry home with us that morning.

We're moving our end of the year picnic home for comfort and convenience. On **Sunday, June 17**, our service will take place at the regular time, in the regular place (10:30 a.m. Nora Church sanctuary), followed by a potluck picnic, with seating both indoors and out to suit the weather and individual preferences. Some of the guy will fire up grills. Bring a dish to share.

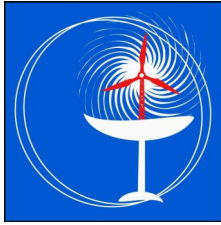
Looking Ahead

Lisa will be on vacation the month of July, and be in and out of town throughout the month.

Our annual Trip-State Gathering will be Sunday, August 5, at Nobles County Pioneer Village. More information in the August newsletter.

Regular services at Nora will resume Sunday, August 19.

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Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

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.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Notes: Beginning in August my office hours/days will change to be Mondays and Thursday afternoons, due to my farm work schedule. As always, I will respond to emails on these days, as I only have email access when I am here.

During June I will be out of the office Fridays, June 1, 8 and 29, working Thursdays instead.

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.

No July Newsletter!

August Newsletter ~ content due

Friday, July 20

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays (Mondays and Thursdays beginning in August)

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 nominates Lee Drogemuller to serve a three year term. The committee is seeking one more nominee 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.

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/Okoboji, and Sioux City. The setting is idyllic, the service uplifting, the drive is relaxing, and the congregants—genuine. You can't beat it.

Prayer

May we each be blessed by the presence and power of music in our lives.

—Connie Simon

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