

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



August 5

**“Far From
Civilization”**

**Tri-State Gathering
Nobles, Pioneer Village,
Worthington**

August 12

No Service

August 19

**Regular services resume!
“Not Free or Nothing
Left to Lose?”**

August 26

“To What End?”



MERE LYS

August 2018 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

A View From the Hill

I grew up through the 1970s and into the 1980s in a Unitarian Universalist church where the minister loved poetry. In the early 1980s I shelved books two afternoons a week and every other weekend at a suburban branch of a county library. In the mid-1980s I majored in English, with a concentration in American Literature in college. Those three experiences combined to fill my head with an easily accessed collection of poems and picture books and stories fit to accompany almost possible sermon topic. In the early years of my ministry the several paper (paper!!) newsletters from other UU churches I read each week, along with recommendations from colleagues, meditation manuals from Skinner House, and poetry collections from Beacon Press, filled in gaps in my interior library. Readings, stories, meditations, opening and closing words--it seemed like I almost had read *just the right thing* sometime in past. All I had to do was flip through that mental library, following vague associations to the AHA moment--and then search out the actual resource on my shelves, in the library, or increasingly on-line. And when I didn't have *just the right thing* floating around the edges of my memory, I had a set of dependable go-to authors, poets, writers, and story-tellers who seldom failed me. Jane Yolen, Charlotte Zolotow, Carl Sandburg, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Mary Oliver, Wislawa Symborska, Billy Collins, and others--wise, lyrical, witty truth-tellers. White wise, lyrical, witty truth-tellers.

I'm often complimented on my gift for weaving a theme throughout a worship service. That weaving is a favorite part of the worship preparation for me--both because the hunt is something of a game, playing with beautiful and powerful and dangerous and healing words, and because I know that some listeners are going to hear in the reading what they can't hear in the sermons and others will remember from the story what failed to resonate in the opening words.

About mid-way through last church year I decided it was time for me to "level up" in the game of worship prep. I started reaching first for the meditation manuals that are mostly or exclusively the words of Unitarian Universalists of color. I consulted lists including [28 Black Picture Books That Aren't About Boycotts, Buses or Basketball](#) and [28 More Black Picture Books that Aren't About Boycotts, Buses or Basketball](#). Our worship together didn't become exclusively built around voices of color and the shift toward more voices of color might not have been apparent, but it was a beginning of a shift that will continue this coming church year.

This summer, when it came time for me to choose quotes for the fabulous new Nora Church calendar Jeanie and Brooke have created, I read and searched and followed links way off my familiar paths, in order to weave the theme of voices of color into our year. Familiar words from Nora's founding members comprise this month's quote--in honor of our anniversary. Then, starting in September we'll have the opportunity to meditate each month on snippets of the world offered up to us by poets, novelists, modern day prophets, and Unitarian Universalists of color. I can promise their words will work blessings on your heart.

Lisa

Thank You!

From the board...

...Nancy Brudelic for heading up the Art with Attitude crew.

... Warren Paulson for all the work regarding the driveway and the fund raising.

Board Meeting

Nora Church Board will meet again Tuesday, August 21 at 6:00 pm.

Driveway Issue

Available members from the buildings and grounds committee met with Greg Sondag during the first week of July to discuss details and get questions answered about drainage issues in the church driveway. An agreement to do the work was reached at a cost of \$4,900. Thanks to a \$2,000 donation from Randy Paulson and other gifts from Karen Farrell, Algot Blomquist, Scott Schmiesing, Sally and Gil Hanson, Todd Paulson and Beverly and Wally Wellmann, the cost is being covered without using church operating funds. Greg Sondag anticipates beginning this work mid to late August. With the several heavy rains that fell this summer the necessity of a long term solution was most evident.

Thanks to the committee and especially to Warren for all the effort to get this underway. A heartfelt thanks to those who made designated gifts. You are much appreciated.

Financial Outlook

At the July meeting we were able to look at the end of year balance. Expenses for the 2017-2018 church year exceeded income by \$21,000. Once again we needed the use of savings to meet our obligations. This issue was discussed at length at our annual meeting and through discussions during the church year. It remains a concern for the ongoing health of our church community.

Board resignation

The board accepted a letter of resignation from Alicia Bayer. Alicia completed the remaining term of Jeremy Schmitt's position. According to by-laws, at a resignation, the board appoints a replacement. Scott Chambard has willingly accepted a position on the board. Thanks to Alicia for her past contributions and to Scott for willing to step up.

Ministerial Performance Review

At the May board meeting efforts were begun to conduct a ministerial performance review. We looked at sample formats from the UUA and recruited a team to take charge of this effort. Susan Allen, Lee Drogemuller, and Diane Becken are leading this charge. Eleven church members were mailed a three page questionnaire. Upon their return by August 1, the team will review responses, share them with Lisa, and mutually set goals for the 2018-2019 church year.

Volunteers Needed:

St. James Fiesta, September 15

We would like to participate in the community wide festival in St. James on Saturday, September 15. Last year there were around 400 attendees. This would be one way to do community outreach. It is typical for those having a booth to pass out some promotional item or novelty. Our thought is to have samples of the rice pudding served at Smorg. We need volunteers to make rice pudding for that day and four people to take shifts working the booth. Unfortunately it is the same day that Lisa, Jeanie H, and Julie P, will be attending training for the Nordic Church Grant in Sioux City. Please let Jeanie know ASAP if you are willing to make rice pudding and/or work hours in the booth.

Winter Solstice

Trying another outreach to the community, we are planning for a winter solstice service on Friday, December 21. Anyone interested in helping with the planning of this event, please let Jeanie Hinsman know.

A Note From the Treasurer

2017-2018 Church Year

Income:	\$ 79,341.84
Expenses:	\$101,127.13
Pledges received for 2018-2019 church year:	
\$47,720	

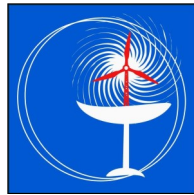
June Income and Expenses

Income:	\$ 4,375.00
Expenses:	\$12,710.38

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.



Office Hours

Beginning in August my office hours/days will change to Mondays (various) and Thursdays (mornings), 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. —Brooke

2018-2019 Server/Volunteer List

Volunteers are needed for all Sundays that are not a potluck. Sign up in kitchen or when the sign-up sheet is passed around in church.

If potluck assignments don't fit your schedule please call someone on the list to take your place. Contact information is in the Nora Directory.

Schedule changes, please let Lisa or Brooke know any schedule changes so the order of service can be corrected – norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net.

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

ATTENTION PARTNERS:

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

AUGUST

- 5: Tri-State Gathering in Worthington
- 19: Susan Allen, Scott Chambard
- 26: Susan Allen, Vicki Sieve

SEPTEMBER

- 2: Potluck—Susan Allen, Carol Chambard, Louise Guggisberg, Christopher Olson
- 30: No Service, Clean Up Day

OCTOBER

- 7: Smorgasbord—Greeters: Sally & Gil Hanson

NOVEMBER

- 4: Potluck—Georgine & Gene Tepley, Ron & Julie Peck

DECEMBER

- 2: Potluck—Edith Beckius, Lee Drogemuller, Colleen & Glenn Hokenson
- 24: Christmas Eve Greeters: Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska

Lunch Bunch

LAFAYETTE, WE ARE HERE! (Who else is old enough to know what that quote is about?) The adventurous Lunch Bunch gang is taking its area pub crawl to Dave's Place of Lafayette, 700 Main St., Lafayette, on Wednesday, August 8, 11:30 a.m. It's a great time to catch up on the summer's events, so we hope you can join us.

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

Art with Attitude

Art with Attitude lands on August 10 and 24, beginning at 10:00 am. Bring something to work on and a bag lunch. The dates may change if they conflict with lefse-making for Smorg.

If anyone has any ideas of things we could make for the Country Store, bring your ideas along!

Tri-State Gathering in Worthington

The Tri-State Gathering will August 5—see poster on the next page for full details. We hope many of you will join in. The setting is idyllic, the service uplifting, the drive is relaxing, and the congregants—genuine.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Order Of Service:

Content due Thursdays by 8:00 a.m.

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

September Newsletter ~ content due

Wednesday, August 15

late content due by Sunday, August 19. I will be out of the office August 27-31.

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Mondays and Thursdays.

Lisa on the Loose

Lisa on the Loose will return in August. Let Lisa know if there's a coffee house or diner in your community she should add to her rotation. Past locations have included Oak Hills, Ridgeway on 23rd and Lola in New Ulm, River City Eatery in Windom, Coffee Hag in Mankato.



Lisa on the Loose provides the opportunity for "office hours" and drop-in conversations in your community.

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.

Direct Deposit for Pledges

Direct deposit for pledges is an option. To initiate this, anyone interested would have to set this up with their bank, much like an automatic payment for a utility or credit card.

If you would like to make electronic pledge payments, please contact Julie Peck for Nora Church account information.

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

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

BROADEN THE CIRCLE OF OUR UU FAMILY. JOIN UUS FROM SOUTHERN MINNESOTA, EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA AND NORTHWESTERN IOWA.



2018 Tri-State Gathering

SERVICE: "FAR FROM CIVILIZATION"

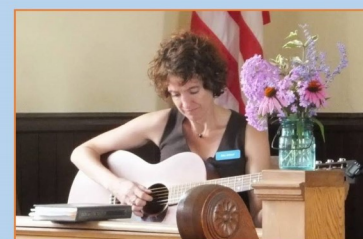
REVEREND LISA DOEGE, PREACHING

POTLUCK: PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND YOUR OWN PLACE SETTINGS.

Location: Nobles County Pioneer Village,
1600 Stower Dr, Worthington, MN 56187
Just off of Interstate 90

Organized with assistance from David and Sally Anne Benson and Rev. Lisa Doege, Nora UU Church (Hanska, MN).

For more information:
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

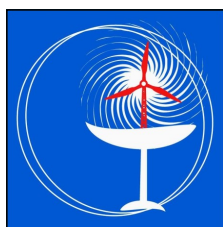


Sunday, August 5

10:30 Gather

11:00 Service

12:00 Potluck



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Phone: 507.439.6240

Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net Website: www.norauchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU