

MERE LYS

June & July 2019 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



June 2

“The More We Get Together”

June 9

“How Does Our Garden Grow?”

June 16

“Rise Again”

**Looking Ahead
Tri-State Gathering**

August 5

**Regular Services
Resume August 19**



A View From the Hill

During the lunch following our recent memorial service the folks sitting at one table called me over to ask who the child is in the painting of Jesus behind the pulpit. I said I've always assumed it is a visual reference to Mark 10:13-16:

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' 16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

I asked my questioners if they had any theories. They did. A couple at least. It seems to have been the topic of their lunch conversation. They thought maybe the man is really Joseph and child is Jesus. Or maybe the man is God the Father and the child is Jesus the Son.

Our conversation didn't go any further. The room was crowded and noisy, and I had other people to talk with. But the question, the theories, and the painting have stayed on my mind. That painting evokes strong feelings. Some—often those who grew up at Nora—love it. Others—often those who came into Nora and Unitarian Universalism from other faith traditions—can't stand it. Some think it is lovely in its portrayal of a human Jesus. Others think it is a bit creepy the way Jesus has his hand on the child's head. Some want the painting on display always. Others would just as soon the door be permanently closed, hiding it forever.

We bring our own life stories as well as the sensibilities of the times in which we live to any piece of art we encounter—including this 1899 Julius Holm painting. We are apt to stop seeing any view that becomes too familiar—including this painting we gaze upon many Sundays a year, for years and decades. I'm grateful to our recent visitors. For their fresh vision and curiosity and ideas about that man and that child. And I wonder what else we—I—have stopped really seeing. How has our vision what Nora could be become restricted and constricted by our experiences and stories of what it once was? How might we look at the same picture and see an entirely different cast of characters and possibility for the future?

-Lisa

Thanks From the Board

The May Mere Lys deadline came earlier than our April board meeting so there is a delay in our appreciation to those kind folks who helped with Easter Breakfast, Easter Music and our April Hanska Community Dinners.

The board would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Hanson Family for the wonderful music on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Diane Becken and Nancy Brudelic for coordinating the Easter breakfast and all those who brought delicious contributions to our meal. Thank you to Joy Rathman and Susan Allen for their help with the Hanska Community Dinner and to Vicki Sieve and Nancy for help with cleanup.

A very special thank you to Nancy Brudelic for organizing Art with Attitude these past years and for all your generosity of time and spirit in so many ways through your years at Nora. We are grateful for all the blessings you shared. We wish you tons of happiness as you transition back to your Pennsylvania life. You will be missed!

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:35 a.m. on Sunday, June 2nd, 2019. At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the 2019/2020 church year, elect members to the Board of Trustees, and undertake other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.

Nominating Committee Report

Scott Chambard's first term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. Nita Gilbert's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st.

Respectfully submitted, Nita Gilbert & Edith Beckius

Nora Board Updates

Nora's Annual Meeting will be held on June 2nd following the service and prior to potluck. While we all get anxious to head into the Fellowship Hall for a fine meal, please stay around to engage in discussion and voting on three issues of concern.

First there will be a proposal to reduce the board of trustees from a seven person board to a five person board. The two terms that expire this year are Nita Gilbert and Scott Chambard. Scott has served on

the board since July 2018 as he was filling the vacancy left by Alicia Beyer. Nita has served on the board for six years. Accepting the new language of a five member board would mean that no new positions would be filled this year.

A second vote will be taken on the affordability of ministry. The question has been brought up at the request of the board due to our consistent need to withdraw from savings to meet our budget. If the congregation votes to reduce the cost of ministry to less than full time, the change would take place effective July 2020.

The third item is the board is also going to be introducing an idea for change in Sunday programming. Church attendance is in decline. Frequently, attendance is only around 20. The suggestion is to try a Wednesday evening service on the second Wednesday of the month. There would be no church the following Sunday. Sometime, this "Sunday Off" falls on the second Sunday (January, July, October) but other months the Sunday off would be the third Sunday of the month (Feb, March, May, Sept, Nov, Dec). Another calendar change suggests that we start the church year the Sunday after Labor Day.

There are pros and cons to all of the items listed above. Please attend the annual meeting so your voice can be heard and your vote can be counted. Other items can certainly be brought up from the floor. We look forward to a productive meeting and feedback from the congregation.

Summer Solstice

The Summer Solstice will be on Friday, June 21st at 7:30 p.m. at Flandrau State Park. There will be children's activities from 7:30—8:00. At 8:00 p.m. we will have a Grand March accompanied by Tina Losleben on piano accordion and her son Josh Norman on Tuba. Following the grand march we will dance around a Maypole, twining colorful ribbons of connection. There will be time for reflec-

A Note From the Treasurer

April Income and Expenses

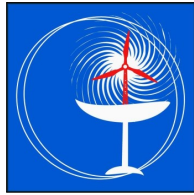
Income: \$ 6,230

Expenses: \$ 6,110

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.



tion and quiet to consider the significance of the longest daylight of the season.

Refreshments will follow with an array of rhubarb desserts. If you can help with furnishing a dessert, please let Jeanie Hinsman know. This will be publicized throughout the community so we will need a sufficient amount of desserts for an anticipated eager crowd. Come for fun and fellowship and remember all friends are welcome!

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunchers are going clubbing again in June, this time at Shoreland Country Club's Woods Grill. The date is set for Wednesday, June 12, at 11:30 a.m. I'm using directions from the last time we went there, so I hope they were correct. Directions: Go to St. Peter. Take Hwy. 99 east out of St. Peter and turn right on CR 21. The Club is the first driveway on the left. The map says it's 45-50 minutes from New Ulm, but you may need to allow extra time for road construction or maybe flooding. We hope to see you there.

Art with Attitude

A big thank you to everyone who took part in Art with Attitude. We certainly did a variety of projects whether we were painting rocks, pour painting, making baskets, sewing, doing string art or just having coffee and goodies and catching up on our lives.

We made quilts for NUMAS Haus, the Well Baby program and some for ourselves. We helped the environment by making tote bags out of pet food bags and a lot of fabric bowls wound on clothesline. Those were donated to the Country Store for Smorgasbord. Lisa taught us how to make pictures with torn paper and we all made new scarves for colder weather. I'm sure there's some things that I've forgotten. Suffice it to say I was very pleased to be a part of it!

I will miss getting together. But it's time to go home. I have a grandson who wants me to teach him to draw. I can do circles, squares and triangles which doesn't make me the most qualified, but the spending time together is important too. This is a trade off for him teaching me Spirit of Life in ASL (sign language)! I actually did it although he says I'm slow because I have arthritis and I'm old. Not much to argue about there.

Seriously, if there's any one who can draw, who could give me some tips I would truly appreciate it. Drawing has always been my downfall although every book I read says anyone can do it! Not so far!

Thanks again for a lot of fun times. I have a workroom at home about the size of the social hall so plan a trip on your way to somewhere more exciting! Stop and see us. We can do a project, visit some exciting tourist places. The beautiful Amish farms aren't far away. Neither is Yuengling Brewery (oldest operating brewery in America!)

Seriously, I will miss all of Nora. It's been wonderful to be back for a while.—Nancy Brudelic

Lisa at Large

In May I ate with Nora folks (Lunch Bunch and Supper Club), and met with non-Nora folks (NUMAS Haus and United Way board meetings, as well as weekly meetings with the NUMAS Haus Shelter Coordinator). I offered the prayer at the Hanska Memorial Day Observance, officiated at Jerry Fischer's memorial service, and attended the first of the season's round of grad (and other) parties.

Looking ahead, for both family and medical reasons, I'll be temporarily relocating to the Twin Cit-

Notes from the Nora Office...

August Mere Lys ~ content due

Monday, July 22nd

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

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

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

ies from early June through at least the end of July. Lucia and I will return to Nora for weekends in June, as I will still be preaching. But I'll have shoulder surgery in late June, and unable to drive for several weeks following. We'll stay with my mom during July for recuperation/vacation. She and my siblings will double as nurses and chauffeurs. I hope to be back in the parsonage by early August, certainly in time for the Tri-State Gathering, and later, the start of services. I'll be in touch with the board during my absence, and available by phone and e-mail in June and in August (July is my vacation month).

Annual Flower Ceremony

Sunday, June 9th will be 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.

End of Year Picnic

It's that time of the year for our annual picnic. Please join us on Sunday, June 16th. Our service will take place at the regular time at Nora, followed then by a potluck picnic. There will be seating both indoors and outdoors—weather permitting. Some of the guys will even be grilling! Please bring a dish to pass.

Super Club

Supper Club will be Wednesday, June 19th, at 6:30. Location TBA.

Welcome Summer Open House

Karen Farrell and Dick Gurska invite you to their Welcome Summer Open House Saturday, June 22, 1p.m. to 6 p.m. address 825 North Washington Street, New Ulm, rsvp to 507-354-6222 or gurska@msn.com or fargurskarelli@hotmail.com.

Summer Hours

As mentioned in "Lisa At Large" - summer hours for Nora will begin June 16th with Lisa out on leave.

Looking Forward to August

Regular services will begin again on August 19th.

Trip State Gathering

The Annual Trip-State Gathering will be on Sunday, August 5th at the Nobles County Pioneer Village. There will be more information in the July and August Newsletter.

Prayer

Grant me the bravery to step forward and offer whatever I have. Grant me the wisdom to see myself as part of something greater. And grant me the compassion to see, and draw out, the gifts that are found in every person.

From Braver/Wiser



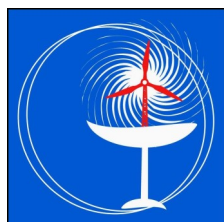
To ♥ Keep In Touch

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



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