

Services

Services will resume
in September.
Watch for further
updates this summer.



Schedule

June 5

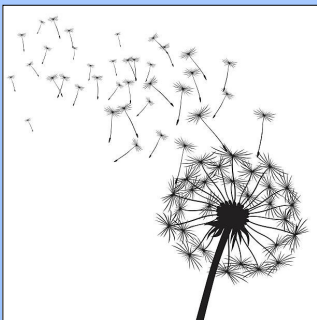
10:30 am

*Annual Meeting &
Potluck*

June 15

7:00 pm

*Farewell Gathering
for Lisa*



MERE LYS

June/July 2022 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

A View From the Hill

Just weeks from now Lucia and I join the ranks of Nora Church members, friends, children, grandchildren who have moved on from this beloved community. It's hard to leave knowing you have been left too many times, by too many people, some forever, and some who return only for fleeting visits. But I also know this:

Those who have moved on from here, called to adventure or to follow their life's path to a different destination, carry the blessing of this sacred place with them, in their capacity to give and receive love, in their devotion to local community and global concern, in their sense of the way of the Holy moves through creation. So, too, with Lucia and me. Our time at Nora is forever marked on our hearts and in our ways of being in the world

And each person who has been at Nora for a time—a lifetime or a season or a few weeks—left their blessing on this sacred place. Their voice lifted in song or laughter. The impact of the work of their hands on the grounds or in the kitchen or the RE space. The impact of the work of their minds upon the programs they shaped and the perspective they offered. Their words of welcome or solace or bare truth—each in its appointed time. Their love. So, too, with Lucia and me. We leave Nora with our blessings—the ones you recognize and we can only trust are real and lasting.

Good-bye and farewell.

God be with you. And fare you well. These are the blessings of departure we toss to one another without much thought, dozens of times a day. I say them to you now with great intention: *May God be with you. May you fare well.*

Furthermore, I say them to you with deep faith in the future unfolding before you: God will be with you. You will fare well.

God, the Love that holds us all, is with us always and never more than in times of uncertainty and pain. And God will be with you as you enter the next turning of Nora's existence—in the love with which you boldly and tenderly hold the church and one another, and in all the mysterious and hidden and eternal ways of Love.

And by that Love, and through that Love, with all the gifts that have made Nora Nora from its very inception—courage, determination, progressive vision, embracing welcome—though it may well be in ways you cannot yet apprehend, you will fare well, individually and as a congregation. In this my faith is unwavering.

—Lisa

June Schedule

June 5: Annual meeting will convene in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30. Potluck after the meeting (approx. noon.)



Wednesday, June 15th 7:00 p.m. program in church followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall in honor of Rev. Lisa's thirteen years at Nora.

June Board Meeting

The date and time for the next Nora Church board meeting will be set at the annual meeting, June 5th.

News From the Board

The Nora Church board met May 18 on zoom. All members were present along with Julie Peck and Lisa. Most discussion centered on the upcoming transitions, new board members coming on duty after the June annual meeting and Lisa's pending departure.

Brooke will attend a June meeting when outgoing and incoming board members meet up so that we can facilitate communication and determine what expectations we will have of Brooke next church year.

The board approved the digging in of a service line for internet from the parsonage to the fellowship hall, Digging in a line as opposed to using wireless connections will provide more reliable service. After the line is installed Brian Leske, M & L Computers, will hook up the router for connection to both the fellowship hall and the sanctuary.

Jeanie Hinsman reached out to Bob Finley, pres. of the Mankato UU Fellowship, to inquire about their support for ministerial services for funerals next year and for possible programming help. Bob was very receptive to our appeal but we haven't heard back regarding any details.

Finally the board had discussion about the agenda for the annual meeting.

Jeanie Hinsman

A Note From the Treasurer

April Income and Expenses

Income:	\$ 4,179
Expenses:	\$ 5,867

Income and expenses presented at the last board meeting(s). Income does not include memorials and gifts.

Nominating Committee Report

Jeanie Hinsman's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. Julie Sellner's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. Dick Gurska's second term on the Board of Trustees expires on July 1st. The committee nominates Sally Hanson and Julie Peck to serve a three year term. The committee is seeking one nominees to serve a three year term.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 5th, 2022. At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the 2022/2023 church year, elect members to the Board of Trustees, and undertake other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.

Mt. Pisqua Updates

Mt. Pisqua is a centerpiece of the history of Nora Church. Issues with burials were part of the reason for the founding of the church.

A number of ministers are buried here (Norman, Olofson, Wallen, Holmgren, Kjelshus) and we take

In Memorium

Scott Kirby Penrod

September 12, 1952 - May 12, 2022

pride in our UU heritage. We appreciate the fact that we become the final resting place building connections from past to present.

I'm not sure when the cemetery was platted but it consists of the south part (74 lots) and the north section (64 lots) with a drive in between. A lot has 8 graves, 4 on the west and 4 on the east. This means Mt. Pisqua has over 1000 grave sites. It appears to me that originally members could be buried here and that in the 1950's families picked lots in different areas. Lots of 8 graves sold for \$100. I also remember hearing that what you were really paying for was perpetual care.

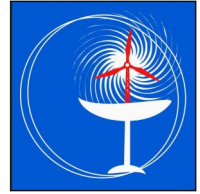
Having savings for future upkeep was not such a concern originally since mowing was done for the cost of fuel and repair but now we hire the grass mowed which is more expensive. The cemetery board has increased the price of graves with an eye toward building up savings and also being competitive with other cemeteries.

Graves can be purchased in any number but generally no longer in the full lots of 8. A grave is now \$100. Certificates of the purchase can be kept with personal records. We seldom have a full burial (caskets and vaults), most all are cremations. After a death some families may wait for warm weather for a burial.

This time of year we are contacted by individuals, sometimes in other states, for information on using

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Lisa is available Wednesday through Friday.



Please be in touch with her, via email or her cell phone, if you want to arrange a time to meet with her before June 20. Wednesdays and Thursdays are the best times for these appointments.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office: 507-766-7822. After June 20, please bring matters of concern to the new congregation president.

graves that their father or grandfather purchased. Inquiries of this nature happen frequently enough that it would be helpful if the board prepared an informational handout. The process might start with the records of who bought the lots, identifying the right location, whether they want to have the grave dug (or do it themselves) and whether or not they want a minister involved. Additionally there may be questions about stones and markers and their placement.

We do not have an abundance of cemetery policies, at least written ones. We allow up to two burials per grave. We do not have a removal of flowers policy. As we know it is a windy site so we



Farewell Reception for Rev. Lisa Doege

Lisa is leaving Nora UU Church after thirteen years as our beloved minister.

Wednesday, June 15th 7:00 pm

Program in the Nora Church sanctuary.

Refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Please join us in sending Lisa and Lucia onward to their next journey in Savannah, Georgia.

Nora Church 12333 155th Ave, Hanska, MN 56041

If unable to attend, messages may be sent to Rev. Lisa Doege at the Nora Church address.

can't control Mother Nature. There is water on site in warm weather. When trees are mature they create problems with uneven ground and are expensive to remove. It would be best not to have young trees planted on the cemetery proper.

Maintaining the cemetery has been a labor of love by numerous people in the past and some that I have personally known including Algot, Gordy, and Warren. We are grateful to their dedication as well as to Lisa Doege and past ministers who have graciously provided care to grieving families.

Institutional knowledge is invaluable and we welcome and need newer cemetery board members interested in the continuation of this site. Cemetery officers are Warren Paulson, Shirley Olson, Scott Chambard, Scott Schmiesing and Darrell Hinsman. Duplicate sets of records are kept for safekeeping.

Direct Deposit for Pledges

Direct deposits for pledges become even more pertinent during this time of distance worship.

To initiate this, anyone interested would need 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.

Notes from the Nora Office...

**Mere Lys Newsletter content due
the 20th of each month**

The next newsletter will be for August.

Please send content of any kind, for the newsletter, grapevines, and more, to the Nora email.

Summer office hours will likely be once per week, with odd hours at home as well. Emails will be checked twice per week. Summer deposits will be made twice per month.

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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