

Services

1st & 3rd Sundays

Potluck follows 1st

Brown Bag Option 3rd

www.norauuchurch.org

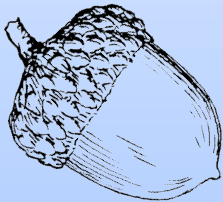


Schedule

Regular Services

resume in

September!



**Nora Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

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MERE LYS

August 2024 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Wind on the Hill

No one can tell me,
Nobody knows,
Where the wind comes from,
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere
As fast as it can,
I couldn't keep up with it,
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding
The string of my kite,
It would blow with the wind
For a day and a night.

And then when I found it,
Wherever it blew,
I should know that the wind
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them
Where the wind goes...
But where the wind comes from
Nobody knows.

—A.A. Milne



Ministerial Update

The Nora Board is very happy to announce that the Rev. Laurie Bushbaum has accepted our offer to be our part-time minister for September 2024 to June 2025. She will preach for 4 Sundays throughout the year and be available for counseling and funerals, either by phone, Zoom or in person when she is here to preach. She is hoping to spend more time with us on the Sundays she is here, possibly with a discussion after church about the sermon. She is open to other ideas as well.

September 25 Event

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato on Wednesday, September 25, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. His talk will be about the importance of voting in and protecting the electoral system of our democracy. Nora Church is co-hosting this event. Watch for a ZOOM link. Please attend this important event, in person or online.

August Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, August 21 at 8 PM. Notice time change.

Braver/Wiser: Hard, Brave Choices

By Martha Durkee-Neuman June 26, 2024

When I was a youth, the young adult fantasy series by Philip Pullman, His Dark Materials, was an important source of spiritual guidance for me. Something I love about being a Unitarian Universalist is drawing sacred texts from places such as the shelves of the middle school library. In the final book of the series, one of the young protagonists has a decision to make, upon which possibly the fate of our world and the next world hangs. Before he decides, he evaluates his options as if they are lit candles before him.

This short passage returned to me recently when I was faced with a hard, brave choice. I saw all my options in front of me as lit candles. Waiting there for me, representing different things. Different paths. All looking particularly enticing and bright and shiny and glittery and some maybe a little frightening and all of them on fire.

Before I chose, when all my options were still in existence, I felt attached to all those candles. I didn't want to choose, and snuff out all my other options. Eventually, I made my choice but I still grieved the candles I had blown out.

This is a year in which hard, brave choices will be required of all of us. Our world is changing, so much is in flux. Increasingly we are faced with questions and decisions about our money, our time, our place in history, how we act, how we don't act, what matters, what we give our attention to, what kind of world we're building. We cannot afford to linger in front of all the candles aflame in front of us. Will had to choose, after all.

It takes courage to blow out the candles of the



roads we will not travel. But in this moment, our task is to find this courage and lift it up and—lucky for us—we have each other. We do not have to do this alone. And on the other side of that decision, we can travel forward together, with our one remaining candle to light the way.

So come and find me. Travel alongside me. Bring me your courage, because Lord knows I don't have enough on my own. Together we can blow out the candles of the roads not taken. And then we can go forward side by side.

Prayer

Spirit of discernment, be with us as we make the hard, brave choices that lie in front of us right now. Help us to know that when we lean on each other, our shared courage infinitely grows, and we can move alongside one another into the world to come.

A Note From the Treasurer

Income and Expenses

June Income: \$192

June Expenses: \$4,038

Church Year Income: \$37,507

Church Year Expenses: \$38,927

Income/expenses presented at the last board meeting(s). Income doesn't include memorials/gifts.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Newsletter content should be sent by the 20th of each month. Orders of service content by the Thursday prior to service. Please send content of any kind to the Nora email.

Office hours are not set, mostly working from home. I can be contacted through the Nora email. If you need to get ahold of me directly, or quickly, please connect with Sally.

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

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