



Services

1st & 3rd Sundays

Potluck follows 1st

Brown Bag Option 3rd

www.norauuchurch.org



Schedule

October 6

*“A Prophet of Love and
Justice: Helen Hunt
Jackson”*

*Guest: Rev. Wesley
Hromatko D.Min*

October 20

*“Defining Moments”
Guest: Rev. Laurie
Bushbaum*



**Nora Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

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MERE LYS

October 2024 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

View from the Hill

On the evening of Sept. 20, my dear friend Karin, a neighbor and long-time UU, and I walked around the lake in our neighborhood to celebrate the last night of summer. It was breezy, 75 and the full, Harvest Moon glowed over the water. It still felt like summer. The next morning it was only 54 but we decided to walk around our lake to welcome the first day of Fall.

I can feel the wheel of the season turning. The grass is greener than it usually is this time of year but the arthritis in my big toe knows that the seasons are turning! The birds are migrating and the leaves are starting to turn. The squirrels in my yard are hard at work burying morsels for later. This morning I re-potted a few plants that I am bringing in for the winter.

The older I get, the less I fight the changes of the seasons and the changes in me. Having just turned 67, I know that there are many more changes coming. My husband and I have made a pact to be gentle with ourselves and each other as we age. We laugh as much as we can. For example, I recently started typing a phone number into the microwave!!! And my husband put the sourdough starter for his bread in the Tupperware drawer. He looked for it for 2 days. And we nearly rolled on the floor when he finally found it.

I still suffer from symptoms of long COVID that started 2 years ago, especially the fatigue. I still don't have the level of energy I had and doubt that I will fully regain it. I think and problem solve much slower than I used to. However, I savor everything more deeply: the warm sun on my skin, the beauty of the quilt I am making block by block, the rising up of the millions in this nation to protect our democracy. I guess I am moving from that season of life in which I judged myself by how much I accomplished. Now I wonder, "How deep can I savor this moment?"

As the seasons turn, I hope that your heart, too, turns to savoring. See you soon,

Rev. Laurie

September Tomatoes

The whiskey stink of rot has settled
in the garden, and a burst of fruit flies rises
when I touch the dying tomato plants.

Still, the claws of tiny yellow blossoms
flail in the air as I pull the vines up by the roots
and toss them in the compost.

It feels cruel. Something in me isn't ready
to let go of summer so easily. To destroy
what I've carefully cultivated all these months.
Those pale flowers might still have time to fruit.

My great-grandmother sang with the girls of her
village

as they pulled the flax. Songs so old
and so tied to the season that the very sound
seemed to turn the weather.

—by Karina Borowicz

October Board Meeting

Venue change! The next board meeting will be in
person Monday, October 21 at 11:30, Mankato
River Hills Mall Food Court.

News From the Board

There will be a congregational meeting after
church on Sunday, October 6 to discuss church
building & grounds concerns. This is also a pot-
luck Sunday.

October Services

**October 6 “A Prophet of Love and Justice: Hel-
en Hunt Jackson”** Rev. Wesley Hromatko D.Min

Helen Hunt Jackson is known now primarily for
the movies of her 1874 novel Ramona and the pag-
eant, the official state play of California, which has
run since 1923. There were five movies ending
with a 2000 Spanish telenovela. She was a well-
known novelist and short story author in her time.
Emerson praised her poetry. She is less well
known as a Unitarian and severe critic of US Na-
tive American policy in her 1881 Century of Dis-
honor. She spent a lifetime dealing with her own
traditional upbringing and going beyond it. Con-

vinced she had failed, she wrote Ramona to hu-
manize the struggle with prejudice.

October 20 “Defining Moments” by Rev. Laurie
Bushbaum

Remember Robert Frost's poem about two paths
diverging in a patch of woods? Every once in a
while in our lives, we stand at a crucial crossroads
and need to make an important decision that will
impact our lives for a long time. Or, sometimes,
the unexpected happens and our lives suddenly
change and we need to find a new path, a way
through the woods. These are Defining Moments.
Our nation is also standing at a life-changing, De-
fining Moment on the first Tuesday of November.
Will we choose compassion, diversity, and cour-
age - or hatred and authoritarian control?

Looking Forward

November 3 TBD & Potluck

November 5 Election Day! Get out the vote.

November 17 TBD & Brown Bag Lunch

A Note From the Treasurer

Income and Expenses

August Income: \$1,012.00

August Expense: \$1,251.99

*Income/expenses presented at the last board meet-
ing(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