

## Services

1st & 3rd Sundays

*Potluck Follows 1st*

*Brown Bag Option 3rd*

[www.norauuchurch.org](http://www.norauuchurch.org)



## Schedule

**November 3**

***“No Mud, No Lotus”***

***Guest: Rev. Terri  
Burnor***

**November 17**

***“What Our Evolving  
Faith Asks of Us”***

***Guest: Rev. Laura  
Smidzik***



**Nora Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church**

12333 155th Ave.,  
Hanska, MN 56041

507-439-6240

[norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)  
[www.norauuchurch.org](http://www.norauuchurch.org)

# MERE LYS

## November 2024 Newsletter

### Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

#### **View from the Hill**

*In Praise of Flexibility*

The Sunday, October 20 service didn't go as planned. Nita was feeling unwell that morning and not able to come to church to play the piano. Sally wasn't able to fill in either. So, with a few minutes notice, David and I chose a few other simple hymns instead. I discovered that I could pick out the starting melodies for each of the hymns, drawing on my early years of piano lessons. My mom would be so proud. David courageously led the hymns.

Without the usual amount of music throughout, we had some time left in the service. Instead of having a discussion about the day's theme during coffee hour, we "extended" the sermon by having congregation members contribute their own thoughts, feelings, experiences and reflections about the upcoming election.

Not surprisingly, we were all on edge about November 5; it was so helpful to be able to talk about it together, to share our fears as well as to also pool our hope. I think we all left feeling less alone. I know I did.

Sometimes things don't go as planned but they turn out rich and meaningful all the same.

Thanks to all of you who were there; I was so glad to be with you. See you in December. But do remember that I am on call for pastoral care. If you are not able to come to church but would like me to stop by your home for a visit, feel free to call me at 612-296-5882 or email me at [Laurie.Bushbaum@gmail.com](mailto:Laurie.Bushbaum@gmail.com).

Rev. Laurie

#### ***News From the Board***

The board would like to form a committee of those interested in helping with finding someone to restore the wind tower. Our wind tower hasn't been functioning since last winter, and we haven't been able to find someone to fix it. The original company has been sold. Any thoughts or questions, contact Darrell Hinsman or Julie Peck.

#### ***November Board Meeting***

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, November 20 at 8:15 pm.

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, via Zoom.

## ***November Services***

### **Nov. 3 “No Mud, No Lotus” Rev. Terri Burnor**

Rev. Terri Burnor is a Unitarian Universalist minister & community organizer. Mostly recently, she served as the Sabbatical Minister for our UU congregation in Eau Claire, WI. Previously, she was on staff with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, a faith-based climate justice org. Terri lives in St. Paul with her spouse and their 2 dogs. She enjoys sewing, gardening, and riding her electric bike.

### **Nov. 17 “What Our Evolving Faith Asks of Us” Rev. Laura Smidzik**

Change is never easy and that was evident at the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) pivotal General Assembly this past summer. Delegates representing congregations across the U.S. and beyond adopted new language for our core UU values and purpose. Laura will tell the story of the shift from the previous principles and sources and how we got to where we are today.

Rev. Laura Smidzik's home congregation is Unity Church Unitarian in St Paul. That is where she and her partner, Linda, raised their two sons and is where they attend today. Laura served Merging Waters Unitarian Universalist Congregation (previously Michael Servetus Unitarian Society) from 2016 until this past June.

## **The Sun**

*by Mary Oliver*

Have you ever seen  
anything  
in your life  
more wonderful  
than the way the sun,  
every evening,  
relaxed and easy,  
floats toward the horizon  
and into the clouds or the hills,  
or the rumpled sea,  
and is gone—  
and how it slides again  
out of the blackness,  
every morning,  
on the other side of the world,

like a red flower  
streaming upward on its heavenly oils,  
say, on a morning in early light,  
at its perfect imperial distance—  
and have you ever felt for anything  
such wild love—  
do you think there is anywhere, in any language,  
a word billowing enough  
for the pleasure  
that fills you,  
as the sun  
reaches out,  
as it warms you  
as you stand there,  
empty-handed—  
or have you too  
turned from this world—  
or have you too  
gone crazy  
for power,  
for things?

## ***Buildings & Grounds Updates***

Nora Church congregation recently approved three estimates of needed repairs.

The first was the siding of the garage. Steel was selected for its durability and longest life. From the inside of the garage you could see plenty of day light so it was an overdue project. White was selected to match the parsonage.

Second was to replace the three pillars on the north side of the parsonage porch. They were deteriorating and no longer doing their job in supporting the porch roof. They had already been shortened sev-

### ***Notes from the Nora Office...***

**Newsletter content should be sent by the 20th of each month. Orders of service content by Noon the Thursday prior to service. Please send content 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*

*In Memorium*  
**Viola "Mutsi" Becken**  
*Sep. 26, 1932-Sep. 19, 2024*

eral times. Before this could be done we had to see that there was a secure footing. To remedy this green treated posts were used that went down thru the frost line rather than building on previously used slabs above ground. The new support posts are round and in character with house. Our property is on the national historic register and replacing with similar material would be part of that agreement. The decking material was painted and will be reused.

The third project (not started yet) is replacing shingles on the museum. That was last done in the early 90's with cedar shingles which will the used again. The building has not leaked and we would like to prevent that. An under lay of plywood will be used to cover the old roof.

Mike and Larry Halla are doing the work on these projects. They are local and experienced. We asked to be on their "list" of projects. Luckily the fall weather made their jobs easier. They work with Pulmann Lumber and coordinate with them for needed materials.

As most property owners know you are never done with repairs and updates and Nora Church with it's facilities is no exception. Some projects are anticipated and others are not planned for but the board responsibly tries to maintain our historic property. Thanks.

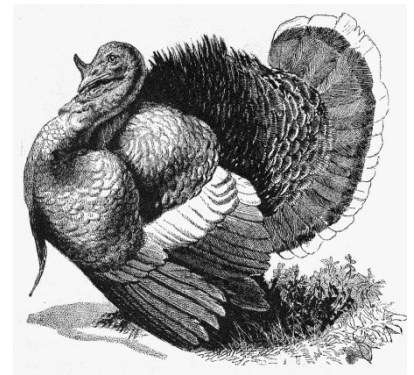
Darrell Hinsman, Buildings and Grounds



***Inclement Weather***

In case of Sunday morning inclement weather, the decision to cancel church service will be made no later than 8:00 a.m. Announcements will be made via Grapevine email, posting on the Nora website and Facebook page, and a cancellation notice will be sent to KNUJ and KTOE.

When church is not canceled, you are responsible for your own safety. We love to see everyone at church but we would rather know everyone is safe. Please do not drive to church when road conditions, high winds or frigid temperature feel unsafe to you. We'll see you the next Sunday, or the next month or in April!!



***Direct Deposit  
for Pledges***

Direct deposits for pledges are a good option for many. 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.

***A Note From the Treasurer  
Income and Expenses***

September Income: \$2,320.00

September Expense: \$7491.74

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