

Services

1st & 3rd Sundays

Potluck Follows 1st

Brown Bag Option 3rd

www.norauuchurch.org

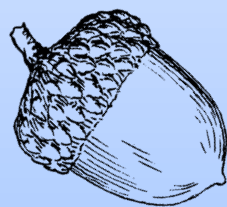


Regular

services

resume

September 21!



**Nora Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

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MERE LYS

July/August 2025 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hoeing

by John Updike

I sometimes fear the younger generation
will be deprived
of the pleasures of hoeing;
there is no knowing
how many souls have been formed by this
simple exercise.

The dry earth like a great scab breaks,
revealing
moist-dark loam --
the pea-root's home,
a fertile wound perpetually healing.

How neatly the great weeds go under!
The blade chops the earth new.
Ignorant the wise boy who
has never rendered thus the world
fecunder.

Summer Supper Club Events

Gather at the River's Edge Grill, St. James Golf Course, Wednesday, July 9th at 6:30 pm, for Supper Club! Please contact Julie Sellner (507-920-0131) for dinner reservations.

Supper Club is hitting the road on Thursday, August 14 with plans to dine at Plaza Jalisco Mexican Grill in Windom, so our southern friends can join us. Please contact Julie Sellner (507-920-0131) for dinner reservations and for possible carpooling from church.

Anyone interested in more adventure, a group will be leaving from church at 2:30PM that day for a tour of the Jeffers Petroglyphs by our own Joy Rathman, continuing on for dinner in Windom. If you would like to join this group, contact Julie Peck (507-317-4939).

Annual County Park Service

Sunday, July 6th, Lake Hanska Lutheran and Faith Lutheran of Madelia extend a warm welcome to you to gather for worship at the Lake Hanska County Park, 10977 Cty. Rd 11, Hanska, in the main park shelter above the beach. 9:00AM coffee, juice & rolls (free will offering), 10:00AM worship (with communion). Rides available to shelter for those needing assistance. Bring your own chairs/blankets. In the event of rain, worship moves to Lake Hanska Lutheran Church.

July & August Board Meetings

Nora board next meets on Zoom Wednesday, July 16th at 7:00PM. Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, via Zoom.

Update from the Board

The monthly meeting was held virtually Wednesday, June 18 at 7PM.

- **The Treasurer's report** indicated a checking account balance of \$46,151. The property tax of \$1,344 for the year was paid now that Nora is receiving rent for the parsonage. Also, the UU dues for two quarters = \$2,034. A motion was made to move money from the checking to the savings account where it would earn some interest. As treasurer, Julie will determine the amount.
- **New Board member** Lee Schmitt was elected at the Annual Meeting and begins serving in July.
- **A new committee** will be formed to address the issues for Nora Church as it faces potential closure in the upcoming years. We are looking for interested members of the congregation to join the committee which will include Board representation. It may require only a few meetings at this time. Julie Sellner volunteered following the discussion at the Annual Meeting.
- **Nora website:** Gil Hanson built the Nora Church website and has been the sole administrator out of his love for Nora Church and passion for computers! Besides his time and talent, Gil has also provided all of the financial obligations of our website since its inception. The Nora Board wants to thank Gil for his long-term generosity keeping our website up-to-date and running. Future costs and subscriptions relating to the website will be transferred to Nora Church to ensure continued access.
- Next Board meeting Wed., July 16 at 7PM.
- Minutes of the meeting are available by contacting Brooke.

Notes from the Nora Office...

Newsletter content should be sent by the 20th of each month. July/August is combined. Please send content to the Nora email.

No set office hours. I can be contacted through the Nora email. If you need to get ahold of me directly, or quickly, please contact the Board.

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

A Note From the Treasurer

We appreciate the giving to Nora in any way its given. Just a reminder that if you can't make it to church for services and fellowship, that pledges can be mailed directly to the church. This is especially important during the summer break. The church still has expenses when we're not here Thank you.

Income and Expenses

May Income: \$5,395.00

May Expense: \$6,709.00

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

Summary of Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of the Nora UU Church Congregation — held JUNE 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by president, Sally Hanson at 11:26 AM.

Thirteen active members were present and determined to be a quorum.

Reverend Laurie Bushbaum expressed her personal connection to Nora Church and looks forward to continuing to serve the congregation in the upcoming year.

Three projects voted on by the congregation at the previous meeting were completed – new pillars on the parsonage porch, new siding on the garage and new shingles on the roof of the museum. All projects were completed within the estimated cost. The repairs to the roof in the foyer from the fallen tree limb were also completed. The insurance coverage was sufficient to have the repairs made and the foyer repainted. We are in a queue for repairs to the wind turbine, which will require a crane to take down and replace the motor and blades. Nora Church received a gift of \$20,000 specifically for repairs to the turbine.

Darrell Hinsman made a motion to increase the board authority on maintenance expenditures without congregational approval to \$10,000. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Mt. Pisqua report was approved as submitted.

Julie Peck presented the treasurer's report. Additional investments have been purchased and there

is currently over \$150,000 in cash assets. The budget was approved for the upcoming church year.

The program committee has been working with Brooke to assist with booking speakers. This has been going well. We will have the same schedule of services the first and third Sundays, September – December and March – June.

There was no old business.

Lee Schmitt was elected to a board position with the end of the term for Sally Hanson. Julie Peck and Vicki Sieve were both elected for a 2nd term.

New Business:

A majority of the items in the museum have been moved to the church basement. Lee Drogemueller will start to catalog the items. A \$28,000 bid to repair the museum walls (new chinking) was discussed it was determined to be cost prohibitive.

The results of the recent survey regarding the closing of Nora Church were presented and discussed. The formation of a “closure committee” was requested to meet occasionally to discuss details about the financial needs of the cemetery for perpetual care and how to make a celebration of the closing.

Sally Hanson expressed her thanks to Darrell Hinsman, the program committee and Rev. Laurie Bushbaum for their service to the church. Sally was presented with a plant as a thank you for her service to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59.

Individual Spiritual Care

Are you struggling with emotions, anxiety or fear connected with acting for justice and caring for our communities in times of crisis? Get spiritually grounded care and support around: climate grief, navigating the news, personal impact of new laws or government actions, family, parenting or employment concerns, compassion fatigue, spiritual disconnect and more. Nico Van Ostrand (they/ them) has joined MUUSJA’s staff as a spiritual care intern through August 31, 2025. They are available for one-on-one conversations about anything in your life that is related to, hindering, or impacting your social justice work. To schedule time with Nico, simply email them at nico@muusja.org. If you’re intrigued, but unsure if

spiritual care with Nico is right for you, email them anyway! www.muusja.org/spiritual-care

You Can Make a Difference

Attend free in-person events for bridging the divide or take short and free online courses. Braver Angels is the nation’s largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to strengthen relationships of families, friends and community members across divides. The goal: strengthening our democracy. mn.braverangels.org

Song to Onions

by Roy Blount Jr.

They improve everything, pork chops to soup,
And not only that but each onion's a group.

Peel back the skin, delve into tissue
And see how an onion has been blessed with issue.

Every layer produces an ovum:
You think you've got three then you find you've
got fovum.

Onion on on—
Ion on onion they run,
Each but the smallest one some onion's mother:
An onion comprises a half-dozen other.

In sum then an onion you could say is less
Than the sum of its parts.
But then I like things that more are than profess—
In food and the arts.

Things pungent, not tony.
I'll take Damon Runyon
Over Antonioni—
Who if an i wanders becomes Anti-onion.
I'm anti-baloney.

Although a baloney sandwich would
Right now, with onions, be right good.

And so would sliced onions,
Chewed with cheese,
Or onions chopped and sprinkled
Over black-eyed peas:

Black-eyed,
grey-gravied,
absorbent of essences,
eaten on New Year's Eve
peas.

From the Nora 100 year Anniversary booklet:

MT. PISQUAH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Mt. Pisquah Cemetery Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota on the 15th day of August, 1947.

The first officers of the association were Hans P. Becken, Jessie Haugen, Marvin G. Ouren, Amund Running and Gilbert Sorbel.

The present officers are Paul Kjolstad, Maynard Moe, Rikka Hanson, Elroy Wellmann and Algot Blomquist Jr.

The cemetery has been used by Nora Church ever since Nora Church was organized in 1881 and some of the markers show burials prior to that date. The earliest one is dated 1873 (Thor Smesmo). This hill is called Mount Pisquah or Pishah, and in this name we have the only reminder of the Jesuit Missionaries who for more than one hundred years ago travelled the plains among the Indians. On this hill it is believed they built their poor shelters, from which their prayers ascended to God. Now the Jesuits and their devoted missionary work is forgotten, and only Mt. Pisquah in Brown County is one of the places which in name yet bears a faint recollection of their missionary work.

Early history tells us that the Hill was a holy place for the Indians. It served as their burial grounds prior to church ownership. When building the first church, which was destroyed by a cyclone, the remains of many Indians were unearthed, sitting on stones in a circle.

The cemetery has 1,088 plotted burial graves. As of this writing we have had 407 burials on the Hill, so Mt. Pisquah Cemetery will serve our needs for many years to come.

Mt. Pisquah Cemetery is situated on the highest point in Brown County. Its rugged beauty is complimented by the peace and tranquility of the countryside. Its exceptionally well kept grounds are indeed a very real living tribute to the untiring and inspiring efforts of our forefathers.

Our present grounds keeper, Fred Larson, at the age of 85, is starting his 40th year in that position. We are indeed indebted to Fred for his service to all of us. In recent years Fred has been joined by another dedicated worker, Algot Blomquist Jr., who assists him in caring for the church grounds and cemetery.

A flag pole, which was given in memory of the Running and Moe families in April, 1981, was a gift from Oscar and Maynard Moe. It was erected on the first church site on Mt. Pisquah.

Thirty-six pyramid arborvitae and six blue spruce trees were planted to replace all the elm trees which were lost to dutch elm disease the last few years. Paul Kjolstad, Ezra Sandmann, Maynard Moe, Elroy Wellmann and Algot Blomquist Jr. accomplished the project.

Hail to the springtime of
Deathless Creation,
That all things obey,
Glad in the morning of
Regeneration
Though forms pass away!
Still they go on:
Win to perfection more near
Ever new-born,
Out of the earth they uprear
Worlds die and others appear.

Psalm II, Bjornstjerne Bjornson



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