



Prairie Fire

December 21, 2012

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The *Prairie Fire* is published by Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society around the 6th and 21st of every month. View past issues at www.uuprairie.org

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Calendar

Sunday, December 23, 2012

- 8:45 Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 Service – “Far and Near - a Joyful Noise,” presented by Rosemarie Lester.
- 5:00 HumanLight Holiday potluck and party for all

Sunday, December 30, 2012

- 10:00 Service by Reverend Sandra Ingham

Sunday, January 6, 2013

- 10:00 Service – Wisdom's Well

Sunday, January 13, 2013

- 8:45 Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 Service – Madeline Para on Climate Change
- 11:30 Soup Sunday

Monday, January 14, 2013

- 7:00 Prairie Board meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2013

- 8:45 Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 Service

Sunday, January 27, 2013

- 8:45 Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 Service by Reverend Sandy Ingham

Sunday, February 3, 2013

- 8:45 Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 Service

Sunday, February 10, 2013

- 8:45 Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 Service – Standing on the Side of Love

Prairie Web Sites:

Home Page
www.uuprairie.org

News Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairie-news/>

Views
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prairie-views/>

Social Action
<http://socialaction.madisonwi.us>

Humanist Union
<http://humanist.madisonwi.us>

Input Deadlines:

Calendar items, announcements, and program descriptions are due on the 1st and 15th of each month. Please send to Dan Klock at admin@uuprairie.org or call 271-8218.

Upcoming Programs

Sunday, December 30, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Service by Reverend Sandy Ingham.

Sunday, January 6, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Wisdom's Well

Sunday, January 13, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Climate Change by Madeline Para

Announcements

The Winter WomanSpirit 2013 conference, There Is Something About the Women: Art and Activism, will be held from February 1-3 in Brookfield, WI. This year's presenter is Holly Near. For more information and to register online, visit www.womenandreligion.org.

HumanLight Holiday Party Tonight! The Humanist Union sponsored annual HumanLight holiday party will take place from 5 to 8 pm at Prairie's Meeting House tonight. Bring the whole family for our potluck supper, singing, dancing and a generally festive time. (Donations of non-perishable items for the Allied Drive Food Pantry will be collected at the door.)

Lost and Found! A pair of Simmons binoculars were left on the podium at Prairie. The binoculars are the type used for watching wildlife. Also found was a wooden recorder. Both are safe and sound in the office. If either are yours, please please contact Dan Klock (271-8218 or admin@uuprairie.org).

The next Spanish Speakers Potluck will be held on Monday, January 21, at the home of Ema Pachon, 1459 E. Main St., Madison. Please bring a dish to pass if you can – everyone is welcome! Please call Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382 for directions, parking tips, or for more information. See you there, and Happy New Year!

President's Corner

Merry Christmas, Happy Solstice, Happy Human Lights, Happy New Year. This is clearly the season for celebrations brought forward from ancient times to get us through the cold, the dark, and the snow (of which we now have PLENTY!)

We are starting a new practice for the Prairie Fires for 2013. Sandy and I will alternate writing a column, so once a month there will be a President's Column and in the alternate Prairie Fire there will be a Minister's Column. (She will undoubtedly pick a more interesting title than that!)

At this time of year, it is tradition to look back at the old year and forward to the new. For Prairie, I think this has been a good year. We passed the new by-laws and are plugging along with a changed governance system. We hired Sandy Ingham as our minister and she is finally settled into place, although she says that she hasn't quite wrapped her head around being back in the Midwest and back into Parish ministry. Granted, it is a big change from the hot, dry southwest and hiking the Grand Canyon. We also continue to mourn those who we have lost in the past year and beyond, our all purpose musician and dear friend, Doleta Chapru, our far flung wanderer and teacher of small children, Dave Zakum, and, further back, our friend, woodsman, and thoughtful commentator, Dave Johnson. Their passing has left us with a gaping hole in our

hearts. On the other hand, we have increased our numbers with many new friends. Such is the circle that constantly moves around us.

So...on to the New Year. It will hold joys, especially with all of the children crowding the rug on Sunday mornings, and new members and friends to get to know and who will hopefully become an important part of our community. We will also grapple with the dilemma to purchase or not to purchase the house next door. That will be a big challenge for us going forward and may we tackle it with the same wonderful community spirit that everyone has shown during the governance discussions.

So a Happy New Year to all.

Barbara Park

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Mission Statement

Prairie is a diverse, lay-led congregation. We aspire to be both open-hearted and open-minded. We welcome all who enter our doors with any combination of strengths and weaknesses, beliefs and doubts.

Our small size allows us to be like an extended family: we aspire to support one another and nurture the growth of each of our members. By sharing joys and sorrows, we keep each other company on the journey through life.

We seek to learn with and from each other in an atmosphere that respects diverse ideas, lifestyles, cultures, and wisdom traditions. Our shared values include respect for all forms of life and stewardship of the environment. Helping our youth to understand and appreciate these values is part of our mission.

We seek to promote dignity, worth, and justice for people worldwide by supporting individual and collective social action.

