



Prairie Fire

January 9, 2013

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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, January 13, 2013

8:45 Choir rehearsal

10:00 Service – "God Speaks to Me in Bookstores, or How I Learned to Love the

Carbon Tax," presented by Madeline Para from Citizen's Climate Lobby.

11:30 Soup Sunday

Monday, January 14, 2013

7:00 Prairie Board meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2013

8:45 Choir rehearsal

10:00 Service – "How Media Violence Affects Children," presented by Karyn Riddle.

11:30 2006 Whenona house discussion

Monday, January 21, 2013

6:30 Spanish Speakers Potluck at the home of Ema Pachon

Sunday, January 27, 2013

8:45 Choir rehearsal

10:00 Service – "Still Living in a Culture of Violence," presented by Rev. Sandra 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

Sunday, February 17, 2013

8:45 Choir rehearsal

10:00 Service by Rev. Sandra Ingham

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, January 13, 2013, 10:00 a.m. "God Speaks to Me in Bookstores, or How I Learned to Love the Carbon Tax," presented by Madeline Para from Citizen's Climate Lobby.

Sunday, January 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m. "How Media Violence Affects Children," presented by Karyn Riddle.

Karyn Riddle, a University of Wisconsin assistant professor of journalism and mass communication, is an expert on effects of exposure to media violence, with a focus on children's reactions. Her presentation will be about talking to kids about frightening/disturbing topics in the news.

Sunday, January 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m. "Still Living in a Culture of Violence," presented by Rev. Sandra Ingham.

America's culture of violence is nothing new. Does that mean that violence is so ingrained in American life that there is no point in trying to change the culture? Rev. Ingham will explore how changing the way we think about violence is a good place to start and how violence is so accepted that we don't often recognize its presence in our everyday lives. You may even be startled or offended at some of her thoughts about violence.

Announcements

A 2006 Whenona house discussion is scheduled for Sunday, January 20, after the service. This discussion will focus on financing and possible uses for the house. If you have any questions, contact a member of the ad-hoc committee: Dirk Herr-Hoyman (chair), Anne Urbanski, Peter Anderson, Mary Mullen, Gary Peterson, Jim Lyne, Bob Park, and Barb Park as an ex-officio member.

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!

Prairie's Board will meet on Monday, January 14, at 7:00pm.

RE Wild Wintering! On Saturday, Feb. 2nd we'll meet and go sledding on the big hill at Cherokee Heights Middle School at the corner of Midvale and Cherokee Drive. Then at 2:30 we'll head over to Prairie UU Society for cookies, hot chocolate and popcorn and watch a Dr. Seuss movie on the movie screen upstairs. Everyone is welcome to attend!

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 give me a call at 271-8218 or email at admin@uuprairie.org.

The next Soup Sunday will be January 13. Stay after the service for a soup lunch and conversation! A donation of \$5 is suggested, but, as always, guests and visitors are on us! This month's Soup Sunday will have a table designated as a Talk Back table to continue the discussion from Madeline Para's talk.

Minster's Muses

"Along the Way"

Just a little over a month ago, I was at the bottom of Grand Canyon, where my sister and I stayed for four days before making the challenging trek out (a trip that had to be reserved almost 13 months in advance). And only ten days before that trip, I had finished the journey between Arizona and Wisconsin in my car with my "stuff", driving from Flagstaff to Madison. Amazing adventures, all of them, though I'm pretty sure I'm not in Kansas any more, let alone Colorado or Nebraska or Iowa. I am really here, in Wisconsin, at least physically... emotionally and psychologically, well, that hasn't entirely happened yet. I am still adjusting in so many ways; thoughts, feelings and emotions keep bouncing around in my monkey-mind.

But, you are all being tremendously helpful and I greatly appreciate the welcome that I have received. You have been thoughtful and caring about how my settling in is going.

Madison is, of course, not the Madison that I moved to in 1974; I wouldn't expect it to be. Nor is it the Madison that I left in the summer of 2002, when I moved to Burlington, Iowa, to be the Unitarian Universalist minister there. It is not even the Madison that I left a year ago when I went off to spend a year hiking in the Southwest. Things change, not only restaurants and stores -- what, there are no movie theaters downtown or at Westgate, anymore?... and, there is a new chocolate shop on the Eastside that I look forward to exploring. These are easy changes to get used to; far more difficult is learning to be in a Madison where some of my closest friends are gone. Some have died; others have moved away; some are not who they used to be.

Yet, things also stay the same. Some of my favorite State Street places are still there.

Many people whom I knew fairly well are still here and healthy. And, Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society is still here, full of wonderful folks who have high hopes and aspirations for their faith community. I have been observing you for the past month, as I try to get my bearings. I have been attempting to absorb some of Prairie's culture, ambience, way of being. So far, I like what I see. I am blessed to have found you at this point in my life. Despite my struggles with the big changes in my life and my annual wrestling with winter, I am excited about being your minister and I am looking forward to working with -- and for -- you.

I have some goals that will slowly be revealed as time goes by. One thing I hope to do is have "one-on-ones" with as many of you as possible over the next few months. Don't worry! I will not suddenly, unexpectedly appear at your door. But, I hope to be giving you a call -- and, please don't hesitate to call me if you would like to get together.

Speaking of goals, I have some questions for you, as I go through this adjustment period. Here are the current "Big Three", in no particular order of importance, although they are intertwined: (1) is there a social justice project that you would like to have Prairie get involved in?; (2) how can Prairie become more visible in the wider community?; (3) what adult religious education classes might you be interested in? Oh, and some "housekeeping" questions.... what times of the day and of the week would you be most likely to stop in and see me in my office at Prairie? (I'm trying to decide when would be the best times for me to have office hours.) ... and when are the best times to meet for adult religious education, by which I mean discussion groups about any number of subjects, such as Universalist history or our different theological outlooks.

Please feel free to respond via e-mail, phone, or in person. In the meantime, I'll keep on turning, turning, hoping, in the words of the song, to at least come down where I ought to be, if I can't quite manage to "come 'round right".

Happy New Year!

Rev. Sandy