

Prairie Fire

September 2013

Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)



Sun. Sept 1 10am Service - "**Multi-media, Work Inspired Art Extravaganza**" - Prairie folks

12 noon - **Humanist Union potluck with program at 12:30**

5:30pm - **Men's Group**

Sat. Sept 7 9-11 am - **WOW@Prairie**

Sun. Sept 8 10am Service: **Annual Water Ceremony** - Anne Pryor

10am **RE Classes Resume**

11:30am **Soup Sunday**

Mon. Sept 9 6:30pm **Spanish Speakers Potluck**

Sun. Sept 15 10am Service: "**Building the Beloved Community**" - Rev. Sandra Ingham

Sun. Sept 22 10am Service: "**Dances with Taconite: the Mine Threat to Bad River's Wild Rice Beds**" - Patty Lowe

Tues. Sept 24 1:30pm **Prairie Elders**

Sun. Sept 29 10am Service: "**A Sense of Wonder**" - Steve Paulson, exec. producer of "To the Best of Our Knowledge" on WPR.

"Multi-media, Work Inspired Art

Extravaganza": To honor the working men and women on Labor Day weekend, Prairie friends and members will be performing art inspired by work: music written by Dolly Parton, Pete Seeger and Burl Ives; an art slide show; an interpretive dance; poetry by Langston Hughes and Walt Whitman; a reading from Studs Terkel's Working and the Ragin' Grannies leading a Sing-A-Long. You don't want to miss this extravaganza!!

Humanist Union: "Favoring Religion in the Workplace: current actions in Wisconsin and abroad" is Susan Hagstrom's topic for our September program at the Meeting House. From Wisconsin's new 'religious liberty' proposed constitutional amendment, the Federal contraceptive coverage, IRS coverage attacks, and all around the world, the religiously minded are arguing that they should have the

freedom to deny workers benefits and more, based on their religion. You are invited to come and discuss the issues.

Men's Group: The Men's Group meets the 1st Sunday of the month at Prairie. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Dan Proud derrproud@att.net

WOW @Prairie: Women of Wonder meets every 1st Saturday of the month 9-11 am at Prairie. Bring a breakfast/brunch dish to share. Contact: Anne Urbanski 221-4053 anneu53714@gmail.com

Annual Water Ceremony: It's not communion and it's not baptism, but it is a Water Ceremony celebrated by many UUs as we return from summer travels.

Bring water you may have collected from

your trips this summer. Or if you forgot, substitute water will be available so that you can fully participate in the service.

Participants pour their water into a special bowl to mingle with the water others bring, just as we mingle as ordinary but special people to form a whole. Children as well as adults take part. Each participant also gives brief remarks about the source of the water and its deeper significance.

RE Classes Resume: This year's Religious Education theme is "Our Religious Sources: World Religions".

Spanish Speakers Potluck will be held at the home of Prudence Barber, 124 S. Mills St. Apt. 1. Note Prudence's new address. Please bring a dish to pass if you can – everyone is welcome! Call Prudence at 251-0852 for directions, or call Rosemary Dorney at 238-4382 for more information or to arrange a ride.

"Building the Beloved Community": During September and October, as Prairie begins the new church/fellowship/society year, Rev. Sandy will explore the dynamics and tension that always exist between the desires of the individual and the needs of the community. What does that word community really mean? How can an organization, a community, flourish when it is made up of strong-willed individuals? This clash between rugged individualism and healthy institution has been a challenge for Unitarian Universalists throughout our history and it still is. How do we resolve this confrontation so that both organization and individual continue to grow and thrive?

"Dances with Taconite: the Mine Threat to Bad River's Wild Rice Beds": Patty will speak about the Ojibwe spirituality that comes from their interconnectedness with

the land that is threatened by the Gogebic iron ore mine.

Prairie Elders: Elders is a group of older UUs who meet monthly...for companionship, for talk, for learning. We talk about "serious" subjects and more personal things too. If you'd like to try us out, call Nancy Garst: 230-3299 for a sales pitch. The topic for September is "Significant times with our Grandparents".

"A Sense of Wonder": Steve Paulson, executive producer of "To the Best of Our Knowledge" on WPR will dip into his long experiences with To the Best of Our Knowledge to share the sense of wonder in a time of science.

Out and About with the Prairie Community

Lorry Bond has moved to her most favorite neighborhood in the whole world and is happily settling in. She can now attend Prairie more easily as well. Her new address is 1115 E. Wilson St. Apt.203, Madison. Welcome home, Lorry!

...and what did you do this summer?



Prairie News

Allied Partners Prairie Rep Needed:

Prairie is a member of Allied Partners which helps sponsor activities to support the Allied neighborhood, including the food pantry.

Pam Gates has been serving as our representative to this group but is unable to continue due to other commitments.

Meetings are once a month, normally the last Tuesday. Please let Pam know if you can take over as our representative. Pam's email is pml.gts@gmail.com or phone 255-2337

Calling ALL Musicians! You are needed to brighten our Sunday mornings. No matter your expertise, we welcome you to share your talent for preludes, offertories or accompanying hymns. Please let Mary Frantz know if you can help out ASAP! maryjohnfrantz@gmail.com

Afghan Slide Show: This auction item donated by the Frantz's will be held at Prairie (tentatively October 4th). You are welcome to attend for a \$20 donation if you aren't already signed up for it.

SAVE THE DATE! Next year's Prairie retreat: Bethel Horizons, Friday, May 30th - Sunday June 1st. This is the weekend after Memorial Day.

...and Now a Word from the Rev.

"Summertime and the livin' is easy." Or so the song tells us. As I write this, it feels more like the middle of summer -- heat advisories, high temperatures, high humidity -- than the winding down of the season.

Being a lover of summer, I am reveling in this one last chance to recharge my batteries and get ready. GET READY FOR WHAT, you might ask?

Ready for the beginning of a new year at Prairie, one that I hope will be exciting and challenging and fun and difficult! This will be a year when our young people will be learning about world religions; when our Sunday morning services will continue to be stimulating, thoughtful, sacred experiences; a year when we hope to revisit what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation; a time when there will be plenty of opportunities to be a social justice activist.

And, perhaps, most important of all, this upcoming year at Prairie will provide new opportunities for you to explore what it means to be part of a beloved community and what you can do to keep that community strong and healthy. ARE YOU READY???!
- Rev. Sandy

The President's Corner

As you know, we have just finished our first year using the structure created by the new by-laws. The one glaring weakness has been communication among the committees and between the committees and the Board. This year we are going to try something new. Lynn Pawelski, as the current Vice President, will take on the task of getting the committee chairs together on a regular basis. We are thinking that, initially, this will happen quarterly, although the timing may vary as we go along. The purpose of these meetings will be mutual sharing and problem solving among the committees. There may be tasks that work best if there is involvement of several committees. Lynn will then bring items of interest or action items from those meetings back to the Board. Of course, committee chairs are always welcome to attend Board meetings, as is anyone in the congregation. I'm grateful to Lynn for taking on this task. I think it will smooth out our communication and strengthen our ability to meet the needs of the congregation. - Barb Park

Getting to Know Our Committees

The **Housing and Property Committee** has 4 members: Gary Gates, chair, Dirk Herr-Hoyman, Al Nettleton and Bob Park.

Dirk is functioning as chair for all matters relating to 2006 Whenona. The committee is responsible for all repairs and maintenance of the church's buildings and physical property, although John Eligenti does most of the work.

Gary is not very active right now due to his knee surgery but is planning a building maintenance work party sometime this fall and burning our prairie in late October or November. Contact: Gary gig.gts@gmail.com or phone 255-2337

The **RE Committee** has two roles. A) to determine the mission and vision of the RE Program, and B) to support the DRE in implementation. We meet once a month and at the moment all members are active as teachers in RE at the moment, except the chair. So you can see that you don't have to be a teacher to be on the committee. We would be delighted to have other voices and perspectives join us as we work to create a dynamic program for the youth of Prairie.
- Susan Herr-Hoyman herrsm@gmail.com

The **Program Committee** meets monthly on the third Monday of the month. At these meetings we discuss Sunday morning program ideas and schedule them on the Sunday morning calendar. We review the previous month's services to see what worked and what needed fixing in the future.

To accomplish these tasks we need a wide variety of people. We need long time members who know the talent pool of members. We need new members who can give us a fresh take on programming. We need people who keep their eyes and ears open for potential program ideas. We need

people who enjoy brainstorming on how to present ideas. We need people who are comfortable presiding at services and people who prefer to work behind the scene.

There are various ways a member of the committee can help out. You can be a Coordinator of a service - contacting and work with a speaker; Sunday program assistant helping with Sunday morning set up and details; Sunday presider of the service or you can assist with such things as Story for All Ages or ensure the mics work throughout the program.

Two auxiliary members of our committee are Orange Schroeder and Mary Frantz, who coordinate the music for our services. They would welcome volunteers.

RE Circle of Friends

On Sunday, September 8th we'll start our youth religious education classes and I warmly welcome you all to what will be another successful year!

Our first day of RE class will be Sunday, September 8th, which is also the day of the Water Ceremony. The Water Ceremony is an intergenerational service and will be a time for you and your family to take part in the sharing of the waters. I look forward to hearing about your summer experiences!

The service will begin with a parade of students during the prelude. This is a great way for adults upstairs to see all the youth and welcome them back.

This year's RE theme will be "Our Religious Sources: World Religions". We'll focus on how the world's religions have influenced Unitarian Universalism. Our young people will learn about our Judeo-Christian heritage as well as other major

world religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Wicca and Sikhism, to name a few. They will also learn how some UUs practice these faiths along with UUism to gain a wider perspective of the different forms of Unitarian Universalism. Older students will be going on field trips to various places of worship in and around the Madison area.

Check out the Prairie website as well as the Prairie Fire, emails from myself and the RE Committee, the RE board upstairs by the visitors table, and my Facebook page: Rebecca Prairie DRE for upcoming events.

Please keep in touch with the RE Committee and me about any questions, concerns or ideas you have about RE throughout the school year. We welcome your input and participation.
Here's to another great year!

Rebecca Malke
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuprairie.org

RE Committee: Susan Herr-Hoyman (chair), Karen Deaton, Rachel Long, Robin Proud, Rev. Sandy Ingham, Rebecca Malke (DRE)

Flights of Imagination

Meddling Sorcerer

Meddling sorcerer, meddle with me.
Yours is a magic that I want to see.
You in your cleverness now have the skill
to make all that touches you bend to your
will.
You have discovered what I want to know,
riddled the riddle of why it is so.
Show me what's real and what's only
disguise;

show me the workings of truth and of lies.

Meddling sorcerer, all that you teach
is bringing me knowledge, expanding my
reach.

You turn the universe into your toy,
and as I follow I do so with joy.

Now I know some of the questions to ask,
how to uncover what's under the mask.

All this enchantment was always at hand,
but only this moment do I understand.

Meddling sorcerer, all that I know
shows me the distance I still have to go.
Dancing within me is many a spell,
but when I cast one it's tricky to tell.
I have been learning forever, it seems,
but all the power remains in my dreams.

Have I been growing, the way that I feel,
or is it illusion and none of it real?

Meddling sorcerer, all that you say
deepens in meaning, revealing the way.

Now I am focusing, daring to dare,
touching bewitchery, solidly there.

I am awakening, starting to fly,
weaving a pattern of water and sky.
Shadows and light ripple out from within,
shaping a world, as again I begin.

Meddling sorcerer, meddle with me.
I have become what I wanted to be.
Both of us now are sufficiently wise
to conjure awareness of what we devise.
Thunder and lightning and whispering vines,
even the stars, are within our designs.
Truly I thank you, as freely we part;
you taught me the meddling sorcerer's art.

Meddling sorcerer, that's me indeed.
You say my magic is something you need.
You want to know how to master the tides,
how to reveal what the mystery hides.
Share in my secrets; I'll meddle with you,
sing you a song of the false and the true.
Open your mind as you listen today,
learning the meddling sorcerer's way.
- Sky
Check out www.storyspirals.com

**Visit Prairie's website (see below) for
further information**



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Pub date: 9/1/2013