

Prairie Fire

October 2016

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Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Sat Oct 1 9:00 a.m.—**Prairie WOW**

Sun Oct 2 8:45 a.m.—**Choir rehearsal** in the Annex

Sun Oct 2 10:00 a.m.—**I'm Sorry?** The Jewish High Holy Days are upon us again! For reasons that I do not fully understand, I am drawn to these days of introspection, contemplation and meditation. It is not that I think some kind of God-like entity is keeping track of what I'm doing in some Big Book of Life. But the ten-day period of reflection appeals to something in me, perhaps my "inner introvert" that seldom gets the spot light. Part of reflecting on how one has lived one's life during the past twelve months involves the phrase "I'm sorry." What exactly does that mean? To whom do we say this? -- Rev. Sandy

Sun Oct 2 11:45 a.m.—**Humanist Union** potluck lunch in the Annex

Sun Oct 2 12:30-1:30 p.m.—All are invited to the Annex for **An Inside Look at Local Politics** with Dorothy Krause, sponsored by the Humanist Union. Dorothy, a Prairie member, is on the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Fitchburg Common Council. We'll start with our usual potluck lunch in the Annex at 11:45 a.m.

Sat Oct 8 5:00 a.m.—**Men's Shelter Breakfast**

Sun Oct 9 8:45 a.m.—**Choir rehearsal** in the Annex

Sun Oct 9 10:00 a.m.—**Mastery and Mystery**—by Eric Severson, Ministerial Intern, First Unitarian Society of Madison. It is sometimes difficult to remain grounded when we strive to make order out of chaos—to control what we do not understand. It is easy to over reach, to try to tame that which need not or ought not be tamed. At the same time, each of us has expectations of and aspirations for ourselves and others. The challenge is in finding grace and acting with charity toward one another, balancing our own needs with theirs.

Sat Oct 15 9:30 a.m.—**Craft-N-Chat**

Sun Oct 16 10:00 a.m.—**It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time**—After King John Sigismund issued the first-ever religious edict of tolerance and made Unitarianism an official religion in his kingdom, alas, he died suddenly. Then, most unfortunately, his mentor, the person most responsible for the beginnings of Unitarianism, the court preacher Francis David was imprisoned. How did Unitarianism fare then, after these unfortunate events? And why did it begin in Transylvania? Why did this freethinking philosophy even take root there in the first place?—Rev. Sandy

Sun Oct 16 11:30 a.m.—**Soup Sunday**

Sun Oct 16 12:30 p.m.—**Book Club**—The September 18 meeting discussed parts 1, 2, and 3 of *Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara. At this meeting we will discuss parts 4, 5, 6, and 7. After the Soup Sunday lunch, we will meet in the Annex.

Sun Oct 23 8:45 a.m.—**Choir rehearsal** in the Annex

Sun Oct 23 10:00 a.m.—**Service**

- Tues Oct 25** 1:30 p.m.—The **Prairie Elders** will meet at 1:30, Tuesday, October 25, in the Prairie Annex, 2006 Whenona Drive. The topic this month will be “Will we leave our grandchildren a better world?” Elders meets in the Annex the 4th Tuesday of each month to chat and enjoy shared snacks, with coffee and tea provided. All retired or older Prairie folks are welcome. For more information, contact Al Nettleton (238-6053) or Penny Eiler (852-8750).
- Sat Oct 29** 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 29, Memorial Service for Orié Loucks at Atrium, First Unitarian Society
- Sun Oct 30** 8:45 a.m. **Choir rehearsal** in the Annex
- Sun Oct 30** 10:00—**Service**
- Sat Nov 12** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—**Prairie Orientation** in the Annex
- Sun Nov 20** 10:00—**Service**
- Sun Nov 20** 11:30—**Annual Fall Parish Meeting**
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MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER

Once upon a time in a land not too far away... okay, not far away at all, but right here at Prairie, there were merry bands of workers called Committees. Some were big. Some were tiny. Some were in between. All were necessary. And, they all had something in common. Each and every one of them had the same wish: to have at least one more person join their merry group. That person could be **you!**

On Sunday mornings at Prairie, when it is time to take the offering, we often say that Prairie runs on love. We usually go on to say that, although this is a wonderful sentiment, Prairie also runs on our monetary contributions. There is a third factor at work here in the saga of what makes Prairie run -- its volunteers. Serving on a committee is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow "Prairie-ites" better... and, you may not believe this, but being part of a committee can actually be fun!

Volunteer! You will find a full list of committees on Prairie's website, uuprairie.org/aboutus/#com. For more information, contact Prairie's Vice-President, Karen Deaton at wisconsinkaren@gmail.com.

I will be out of town from October 19-30. Part of that time will be study leave. I will be available by phone or email during this time period.

Upcoming Dates to Know About:

November 12 -- Prairie Orientation -- If you are new to Prairie and/or Unitarian Universalism, you might consider attending this Saturday morning orientation session. If you are not so new to either of the above, you are welcome to attend as well. There is always something more to be learned. Sharing of our faith journeys is one of the favorite elements of these orientations.

November 20 -- Annual Fall Parish Meeting

Happy beginning of the fall time of year! Rev. Sandy

Introduction to Prairie on November 12

We try to do an informational meeting for new members and recent visitors twice a year, spring and fall. Our fall session will be Saturday morning **November 12** from **9 am until 12 noon** in the Annex. Child care can be provided if requested.

This is what typically happens at these gatherings. The meeting will be attended by newcomers plus a few veteran Prairie members. First, the veterans will share their personal religious backgrounds and journeys and how they ended up at Prairie. Then the newcomers will be invited to share their journeys, but it's okay to pass if you would rather just listen. Next, Rev. Sandy and Rick Ruecking will briefly share some UU history, some Prairie history, and how Prairie is currently organized and operates. There will be a continental breakfast. Please contact Erin Bosch to RSVP (hillfarms2002 at [yahoo.com](mailto:hillfarms2002@yahoo.com)).

Message from the President—Gary Gates

The next Parish meeting is set for November 20. Yes, that's right, it's time to approve a spending plan for another year. The Board and Finance Committee will present a plan, but what we can actually do is up to you.

I'm not certain that I'll be there in person. I am scheduled to have tendon-repair surgery on October 17, and I am told that it will require me to be off my feet for an extended time. If I can't make it, Karen Deaton, our vice president, will lead the meeting.

Pam and I will do our share to make the meeting a success, however, by increasing our pledge. I hope all of you will be able to do the same, so that we can continue Prairie's commitments to our RE kids and to meeting community needs of our members and friends.

I want to thank all of you for the welcoming and generous community you have made available to Pam and me.

Circle of Friends—Holly Tellander, Director RE

Prairie RE September Happenings

Off to a great start!

Our year is off to a great start in RE! We have new students, new classrooms, new curriculum and new teachers this year as well as a new theme – ‘Service’. You’ll see this theme reflected in our PAD workshops at the end of each month. Come down and check us out sometime!

Fall Frolic

We had a lot of fun at our annual Fall Frolic. This year we took a ride on the Pontoon Porch on Lake Monona – and many of our students took a 14-foot leap from the top deck into the water. It was pretty awesome! We hope to host this event again next year – register early!

September PAD (Principal Action Day) Workshop & Lunch

For September’s workshop (September 25th) we will have a visit from the Dane City Clerk’s office as well as the League of Women Voters. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to

spend some child free time in Madison and the kids will stay to hang out and do some work! We'll learn about the election process and voting requirements. After lunch together we'll canvas the neighborhood to help residents get registered to vote and ensure that they have transportation on election day. If you'd like to volunteer for October's PAD day on October 30th – when we'll be talking about community and then helping Dunn's Marsh residents with yard work – please contact Holly Tellander at prairie_uu_dre@outlook.com

Outdoor classroom

Check out the recent changes in our outdoor classroom! We have added a stump circle, a sandbox, a working sink, a tire dragon (in the works) a nature weaving station and a Hobbit Hole House. If you have ideas or suggestions for other projects please share!

Registration forms

Don't forget to bring your registration forms to Prairie as soon as possible!

Our website is always being updated and if you haven't done so yet, please 'Like' Prairie's RE Facebook page: [Prairie UU Religious Education Program](#).



As always, thanks for your support!



Memorial Service for Orie Loucks

You are invited to the Memorial Service for Orie Loucks at the Atrium, First Unitarian Society, 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 29. Join family and friends to honor and celebrate the life of one of Prairie's "heroes."

Orie Loucks was a founding member of Prairie and a frequent Sunday morning lay minister during his years in Madison, while professor of ecology at the UW. We remember his services on the ethics of ecology and the walks he led in prairies and woods following the services, along with camping trips and hikes at Prairie retreats at Upham Woods. Prairie's emphasis on the Seventh UU Principle, before it was a UU principle, is in major part due to Orie's commitment and leadership.

Orie was the major force behind the UUA Green Congregation initiative, working with his Oxford, Ohio, congregation and other congregations including Prairie, to present this resolution at the UUA General Assembly.

You can learn more about the significance of Orie's work by reading Bill Berry's tribute to Orie in the Capital Times: [Bill Berry: Remembering an ecologist who was ahead of his time ...](#) (Google search: Orie Loucks Bill Berry Capitol Times)

Your Generosity Grows Our Community

I want to take a few minutes to announce the start of Prairie's annual pledge drive which will be taking place during the month of October. We don't quite have the goal set, but it will be between \$105,000 and \$110,000, as we wait for two committees to finish their

budgets.

One of my roles at Prairie is the Finance Chair and therefore includes fundraising for Prairie. Many people say they hate fundraising, but my career as an accountant at WI Public Radio placed me in support of and proximity with both on-air hosts and WPR's development team.

I am happy to accept this fundraising role for Prairie, as I believe in Prairie as much as I do WI Public Radio. I am happy to say that I have always worked and volunteered where my heart is.

I am an ongoing supporter of Prairie although not quite from the start when I began at Prairie in 2003. At the time I was migrating between James Reeb UU Congregation on Madison's eastside where I pledged and volunteered my support from the late 1990s. I understand if you are brand new or sort of new to Prairie and hesitate to financially support Prairie's programs and activities. I do hope, however, you will think seriously about pledging this year. Everyone's support is important.

As October progresses, we will mail you a pledge form and then be collecting your pledges. We will be growing this flame (thermometer) as your pledges arrive and are counted. Please return your forms as soon as possible as the board considers this year's budget and its funding.

We have so many programs and activities to support and grow. Our Religious Education programs are top-notch. Our Sunday gatherings are stimulating and inspiring. For me it is always a joy to come to Prairie each Sunday to see my friends and welcome visitors. This past year Prairie has grown its Social Action program through its offering where we share 50% of the collection with local non-profits.

Please continue your generosity and gifts to support Prairie in the coming and ongoing years.

Patty Stockdale

Finance Chair

Please consider volunteering for and participating in one or more of Prairie's committees or groups. A full list is located on Prairie's website:

<http://uuprairie.org/aboutus/#com>

Or contact Karen Deaton for more information at:

wisconsinkaren@gmail.com

