

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

2010 Whenona Drive, Madison 53711

<http://uuprairie.org>

Rev. Ralph Tyksinski, Minister

Sunday, December 20, 2009

Prelude

"Advent Meditation," by Patrick Liebergen
performed by the Prairie Choir, Barbara Park, director

Welcome - Rev. Ralph Tyksinski

Opening Words

Come we now into the dim light of
our awakening and the reflection of our gathering.

Come we now all together.

We bring, unilluminated, our dark caves of doubting;

Let us seek, unbedazzled, the clear light of understanding.

May the sparks of our joining brighten our spirits, reflect our love, and unshadow our days.

Come we now; embrace our time together.

Chalice Lighting

In this small flame dwell:

the beacon light of lanterns guiding travelers home;

the warmth of hearth fires tended through the generations;

the transforming energy of furnaces and the power and life of our sun.

May these blessings --

warmth and light and life-giving energy --

be kindled in each of us.

Silent Meditation

St. Lucia Procession

"Silent Night," performed by Ruth Calden and Karleen Tyksinski

Story for All Ages

Voyage of the Wee Red Cap, read by Rose Smith

Symbol Making

Readings and Candle Lighting

Symbol Tree Decorating and Personal Sharing

Offering

Offertory - "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella"
performed by Ruth Calden and Karleen Tyksinski

Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Prairie Announcements

Additional announcements are in your order of service

Hymn – "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,"
words by Unitarian Minister, Rev. Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876)
Aileen Nettleton, accompanist (word on insert)

Closing Words - joining hands:

The hand in yours belongs to a person
whose heart is sometimes tender,
whose skin is sometimes thin,
whose eyes sometimes fill with tears,
whose laughter is a beautiful sound.

The hand that you hold belongs to a person who is seeking wholeness,
and knows that you are doing the same.

As you leave this sanctuary,
may your hearts remain open
may your voices stay strong
and may your hands remain outstretched.



Welcome to our service! We are glad you are here. Thanks to everyone who made this service possible. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

Our Santa Lucia this year was led by Cheyenne Hale. In previous years, it has been led by Katrina Schroeder, Judy Wacker, Lushana Peterson, Madeline Arnold, Toby Wacker, Marie Nahlik, Valerie Anderson, Xena Anderson, Tatum Mueller, Jessie Garst, and Katherine Liu.

Announcements

Green Committee News Your Green Sanctuary Committee will be inaugurating a 6 week course on "Menus for the Future". This is one of a series of courses offered by the Northwest Earth Institute. The courses are directed and led by the participants and consist of readings from a course book with the meetings consisting of discussions of the questions listed in the readings. There is no "leader". Participants take turns chairing the meetings. Each participant, or couple if you wish, needs to buy a course book. The cost is about 20 dollars. Groups usually consist of 8 to 10 people. The groups decide when, where, and how often they will meet and how long the meetings will last. The final meeting is a feast, either a potluck or restaurant meal. Dave and Marcia Johnson will be facilitating the course (or courses, if there are enough people interested.) A time and place will be announced later but, it will start shortly after the holidays. For more information, contact Dave and Marcia or any member of the Green Sanctuary Committee. Their e-mail is pinefarm@uniontel.net .

Humanist Union to host HumanLight Humanist Union will meet Wednesday, December 23rd, at 5:30 pm at Prairie to celebrate HumanLight with the Madison Brights and Madison Skeptics.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Week is December 27 to January 3. Please consider helping homeless families. You can call Erin Bosch for more information about IHN (238-6285), or... you can go to this website for an explanation of the volunteer jobs: <http://midvalelutheran.org/ihnjobs.htm...> and you can sign up online by going to this address: <http://nordengs.com/ihn/group.asp?eg=14&u=true>.

Christmas Eve, Carols, and Candlelighting On Thursday, December 24th at 7pm, Rev. Ralph Tyksinski will lead our candlelight Christmas eve service. We celebrate with readings, singing of carols, and candlelighting, the story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. In the words of Sophia Lyon Fahs, "Each night a child is born is a holy night – A time for singing, A time for wondering, A time for worshipping." This, an intergenerational service, draws from Christian teachings which call us to respond to holy love by seeking peace and good will for humankind.

Prairie Elders December 22, 2:00 pm, at Oakwood. Topic is Ethical Buying (except ethical foods which we discussed in February.) Our purchases can support environmental sustainability and human rights or contribute to worker exploitation, global warming or the closing of small local shops. Computer users, search for "Ethical Consumerism" on Wikipedia for a good overview.

Admin News Holiday hours for your administrator: Monday through Wednesday, December 21-23, 10am to noon. Monday through Thursday, December 28-31, 10am to noon. Always available by email, admin@uuprairie.org, or you can leave a message on the Prairie phone, 271-8218. The next Prairie Fire deadlines are January 1st, 2010, for program and calendar items for the bulletin, and January 15th, 2010, for program and calendar items as well as articles and longer announcements.

Prairie Calendar

Sunday, December 20, 2009

11:45 am - Book Club meets to discuss The Yiddish Policeman's Union by Michael Chabon.

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

2:00 pm - Prairie Elders meet at Oakwood. Topic is Ethical Buying.

Wednesday, December 23, 2009 - 5:30 pm - Humanist Union hosts HumanLight at Prairie.

Thursday, December 24, 2009

7:00 pm - service - "Christmas Eve, Carols, and Candlelighting," presented by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski.

Sunday, December 27, 2009 - 8:45 am - Choir rehearsal.

10:00 am - service - "Socially Responsible Investing," presented by Nick Abts.
IHN Week Begins.

Friday, January 1, 2010 - Prairie Fire Bulletin items due.

Sunday, January 3, 2010 - 8:45 am - Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am - RE Committee meets. Childcare provided.
10:00 am - service - "Looking Forward to News Stories in 2010."
11:45 am - Humanist Union potluck, followed by group discussion.

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

7:00 pm - Finance committee meeting at the home of Barb Park, 5610 Hammersley.

Thursday, January 7, 2010

6:30 pm - Spanish Speaker's Potluck at the home of Dave and Marcia Johnson.

Sunday, January 10, 2010 - 8:45 am - Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am - service - "Prophetic Love," presented by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski.
11:30 am - Prairie Board meeting. Potluck at 11:30, meeting begins at 11:45am.

Friday, January 15, 2010 - Prairie Fire articles due.

Sunday, January 17, 2010

8:45 am - Choir Rehearsal
9:00 am - RE Committee meets. Childcare provided.
10:00 am - service - "Friends of the Deaf - Giving Help and Hope to the Deaf in Guatemala,"
presented by Chris Tackett.

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

by Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1810-1876

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, to all good will,
from heaven the news we bring
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of war and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And we who fight the wars hear not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, of battle strife
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.