

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

2010 Whenona Drive, Madison, WI 53711 * 608-271-8218 * www.uuprairie.org

Creating Meaning in Our Community: Decorating our Tree with Symbols of our Lives

December 18, 2011



Today's Order of Service

Prelude – performed by Rachel Hughes

Welcome and Announcements – Karen Deaton

Opening Words - “The Work of Christmas” (SLT #615)

Lighting of the Chalice

The light of this chalice reminds us that it is a symbol of all the world's religions. This small light shines as so the fires burned to ward off the darkness and welcome back the sun in the Celtic and Native American faiths; as do the Jewish Shabbat candles and the Christian altar candles; as do the oil lamps of the Hindu Divali and the candles of Buddhism; and it is a symbol of the light inside each of us, as recognized by Muslims; it is a symbol of the sun and evolution as studied by Humanists. As we light this chalice, may we be reminded that this light is a symbol that ties us to many faiths, beliefs, traditions, and customs from which we can learn and enrich our lives.

-Beth Casebolt

Silent Meditation

****Joys and Concerns**

****Introduction of Guests and Visitors**

Santa Lucia Tradition – Introduction by Karen Deaton

Special Music - “Silent Night”

(Hum for processional)

Santa Lucia Processional – led by Rachel Hughes as Santa Lucia, and James Hughes as Stjarnagossar (Star Boy)

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

Story for All Ages – “If Christmas Eve Happened Today” by Shannon Bernard, performed by the Children's Religious Education program.

Symbol Tree – Prairie Members

Offering & Offertory – performed by Mary Frantz.

Closing Words - “Winter Meditation,” SLT #541

***Hymn #238 (SLT)** - “Within the Shining of a Star,” Mary Frantz, accompanist.

**please stand as you are able.*

***please wait for the microphone before speaking; this allows those using the assistive listening devices to hear.*

Announcements

Green Note Find creative ways to reuse or repurpose gift wrap and ribbons. Robert Lilienfield, co-author of the book *Use Less Stuff: Environmental Solutions for Who We Really Are*, notes that if every family reused 2 feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.

Prairie Carol Sing, December 24, Christmas Eve, 4:30-5:30 PM, led by Kate Liu and Doleta Chapru.. We will sing carols from our hymn book and other sources. Some will have UU words, others will have traditional Christian texts. Our focus is on the beauty of the music, selected readings and the seasonal wish for peace on earth.

Prairie Elders will meet on Jan. 3 from 1:30 to 3:30 to discuss Wisconsin water access, quality, and ownership.

Two Bylaws discussions are planned for January. The first will be on Jan. 8, the second on Jan. 22. This will be the time to discuss language and wording. The new Bylaws will be voted on at a Special Parish Meeting on Feb. 19.

The Soup Sunday schedule for the first half of 2012 is out! Stay after the service on the following Sundays to enjoy good food and excellent conversation: Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 25, Apr. 8 (Easter Brunch), May 13, and June 3.

New Years Eve Party Join your friends at Prairie for a New Years Eve party! Festivities start at 7:00pm and will wrap up around 1:00am. Wine and cheese donations welcome!

Prairie UU Society Bond of Union

We, the members of Prairie, wish to associate ourselves together in a religious community which affirms that we share a common humanity, that we need one another, and that our futures are inescapably bound together. Together we would expand our intellectual horizons, enrich our sensory experiences, and deepen our emotional sensitivities. We would sharpen our ethical awareness and broaden our sense of social responsibility. We would stand tall in our quest for integrity of life, yet not at others' expense. As the prairie stretches out until it becomes one with the sky, let us reach out to touch and be one with the natural world, and with one another.

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Prairie Calendar

Saturday, December 24, 2011

4:30 Christmas Eve service

Sunday, December 25, 2011

Christmas Day – No Service

Saturday, December 31, 2011

7:00 New Years Eve party

Sunday, January 1, 2011

10:00 Service – Jazz Funeral for the Old Year

Tuesday, January 3, 2011

1:30 Prairie Elders meets. Topic: Wisconsin water access, quality and ownership.

Sunday, January 8, 2011

10:00 Service – “12 Steps to a Compassionate Life,” presented by Phyllis Long.

11:30 Congregational By-laws meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2011

10:00 Service

11:45 Humanist Union meets. Potluck lunch at 11:45 am, 12:30 pm presentation on "James Dobson: why his group Focus on the Family endangers America" by Susan Hagstrom.

Sunday, January 22

10:00 Service

11:15 Soup Sunday

11:45 Congregational By-laws meeting

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John (Veera Raju) Eliganti, janitor, janitor@uuprairie.org

Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian
Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Next week's service:

Christmas Eve – Carol Sing at
4:30

Christmas Day – No Service

