

Prairie Calendar

Sunday, November 30, 2008

11:45 am - Prairie Board meeting. Tentative.

Saturday, December 6, 2008

Men's Homeless Shelter Breakfast. Please contact Kathy Converse to volunteer.

9:00 am - WOW meets offsite.

Sunday, December 7, 2008

9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am - Nifty Gifty

10:00 am - service - "This I Believe," featuring Marcia Johnson, Rick Ruecking, and Tom Lovett.

11:45 am - Denominational Affairs committee to meet at Prairie.

Saturday, December 13, 2008

6:00 pm - HumanLight Celebration, presented by the Humanist Union.

Sunday, December 14, 2008

9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am - Service - "Symbol Tree Intergenerational," presented by Erin Bosch.

11:45 am - Prairie Book Club meets to discuss The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf.

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

7:00 pm - Program Committee meets at Prairie.

Thursday, December 18, 2008

7:00 pm - Movie Group meets at Prairie to view "Singin' in the Rain."
Please bring snacks to share.

52 at least

PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

2010 Whenona Drive, Madison 53711

<http://uuprairie.org>

Rev. Ralph Tyksinski, Minister

Sunday, November 30, 2008

Prelude

Music from the "Prairie Chicken Plucker" collection - Prairie musicians
"Wildwood Flower," "I'll Fly Away," "Shall We Gather at the River," "Wild Mountain Thyme"

Welcome

Rachel Long, Prairie President

Chalice Lighting

Words from R. Lanier Clance

Silent Meditation

Hymn - #67, Prairie Song Book - "Let Us Sing Together"
Aileen Nettleton, Accompanist

Joys and Concerns

Hymn - #15, Prairie Song Book - "This Little Light of Mine"
Aileen Nettleton, Accompanist

Presentation

"Reflecting on Prairie's 40+ years"
"In the beginning there was a purpose" - Ruth Calden
"There is a first time for every ritual" - Warren Hagstrom
"Prairie is do-it-yourself religion" - Al Nettleton
"How can I keep from singing" - Ruth Calden

Hymn -#59, Prairie Song Book – "Garden Song"
Aileen Nettleton, Accompanist

Discussion

Offertory
"Simple Gifts" - Prairie recorder musicians

Introduction of Guests and Visitors

Announcements

Hymn – #7, Prairie Song Book - "Where Is Our Holy Church?"
Aileen Nettleton, Accompanist

Closing Words
Prairie 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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Welcome

Welcome to our service! We are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service. Our thanks to everyone who participated in making this program.

Announcements

The Cradle Club collections- now through Dec. 14th

Remember to bring in your donations of NEW infant supplies (or money to help with shipping costs) to put in the box for the Cradle Club. For more information see your Prairie Fire, or contact Vera Cunningham at 230-3367.

HumanLight Celebration

On Saturday, December 13th at 6:00 pm, the Humanist Union will hold a HumanLight celebration, with candles, music and food. Also, this year, bring your favorite quotation from our next president to share.

Prairie WOW to meet

Prairie's women's group, known as WOW, will meet on Saturday, December 6th, at 9:00 am at the home of Barb Park for a breakfast potluck and conversation.

Book Club

The book selection for December is The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf by Mojha Kahf and will be discussed on December 14th. For a list of books the Book Club will be reading for the next few months, please see your latest Prairie Fire.

Meditation Canceled

Sunday night meditation has been canceled due to low attendance. If there is a resurgence of interest, it may be restarted at a later date.

Basement Work Begins Monday, December 1st!

Better Basement Systems will begin working on our basement drainage problems Monday, December 1st. Help will be needed after the service today to clean out areas where they will be working. The RE committee will be returning items and getting ready for Nifty Gifty Friday Dec. 5th starting at 5pm and Saturday Dec. 6th starting at 1pm, and they would love to have your help.

Nifty Gifty December 7th!

Kids have an opportunity to make crafty presents for friends and family on Sunday December 7th starting at 9:45 am. Volunteers are needed for set-up and helping the kids make crafts - please come at 9 am. Contact Rebecca Malke-Eliganti if you have questions.

Symbol Tree Intergenerational Service, December 14th

Families with children are encouraged to come a little early to get ready for the procession. Everyone is encouraged to bring something to share about your year to hang on the tree.

A Prairie Society Chronology

1964 First discussion among members of the First Unitarian Society about forming a group like Prairie.

1967-68 Prairie buds off from First Society, with some financial help and the support of Rev. Max Gaebler.
Chairperson: Charles Davidson

1968-69 Prairie meets at the Holy Name Seminary. The name is chosen: members thought the "Holy Name Unitarian Society" didn't sound right. "Far West" and "Way Out" were rejected. "Prairie" selected because of a hoped-for building site on a Raymond Road prairie.

1969-1971 Prairie meets at the YWCA. First Upham Woods Retreat. The Prairie Chicken Pluckers organized and provide music to 1976. Debates about serving coffee during the program.

1971-72 Prairie moves from the YWCA to the Portal-Foster Center on West Lawn in mid-year. Minister, part-time: David Meyer. "Soul- Searching Committee" reports in April favoring a system of lay ministers.

1972-73 Still at Portal-Foster. Bond of Union adopted. The Prairie Recorder group performs. Circle dinners organized.

1973-74 Still at Portal Foster. Orie Loucks led a hunt for fiddleheads in the Kickapooe River valley on a Sunday in May.

1974-75 Still at Portal Foster. "About Your Sexuality" for middle schoolers. A program about the life and music of W. A. Mozart, music provided by members of the congregation.

1975-76 Still at Portal-Foster. There was an April program on "Shaker Life and Rituals," with music by the Prairie Shape-Note Singers and dancing with almost everyone.

1976-1978 Still at Portal-Foster. Presidents were Charles Davidson followed by Henry Pratt. Where to place ads during a newspaper strike turned out to be a divisive issue.

1978-1979 Prairie moved to Woodland Montessori on Colby Street.

1979-1980 Prairie moved from Colby Street to its own building on Whenona Drive. Dedication of the Prairie U-U Meeting House, May 4, 1980. Max Gaebler gave the main address on "The Need for Roots."

1980- 82 A quilt was constructed as part of Peg Stevenson's lay ministry. Prairie sponsors the "Ethnic Connection," which with its non-Prairie section continues to perform at Prairie and in the community. On Valentine's Day we created a 4' by 5' foot "Cosmic Valentine" and sent it to Ronald Reagan.

1982-83 There was a program on bird and frog songs as part of Mary Mullen's lay ministry on ecology and the e-way. September saw the publication of the **Prairie Kitchen Companion**, printed by Lee and Alice Bullen



.....**Prairie Chronology**, p. 3

1983-84 The RE program had the first Nifty-Gifty project.

1984-86 There were programs on men's issues (a divisive subject) and on spirituality in sports.

1986-1988 George Calden's program on "The Gospel According to Woody Allen" saw the first use of VCR in a Sunday service.

1988-89 The Meeting House was remodeled to permit handicapped access, increase RE space, and have an upstairs kitchen. While construction was going on from August through December, we had to meet elsewhere, in Garner Park (flying kites one Sunday) and McConnell Hall at Madison General Hospital.

1989-1990 Installation of the prairie in front of the Meeting House.

1990-1992 "Secret Friends" between children and adults is established by this year.

1992-94 Annual retreat moves from Upham Woods to Bethel Horizons through 2008.

A Memorial Day canoe outing at Catskill Mountain is dampened by cold rain.

1994-96 (Gap in records)

1996-97 Paul Soglin speaks at Prairie (as do Tammy Baldwin in 1999 and Dave Cieslewicz in 2007).

Shaarei Shemayim shares space with Prairie to 2008.

Help with Men's Homeless Shelter is ongoing.

1997-1998 An "annual" June service at Picnic Point. GLSEN links to Prairie. Prairie PYGs active.

1998-2000 (Gap in records)

2000-2001 "Growth Discussions Continue"

2001-2002 Long Range Planning Committee recommends that we invest in land.

Another Labor Day picnic at Wingra Park with boats.

2002-03 25th Anniversary Party

2004-05 Jody Wheldon part-time minister.

2005-06 Land for a new building purchased from the Fitchburg Center.

Ralph Tyksinski appointed as part-time consulting minister, initially 1/4 time, then increased to 1/2 time, continuing to present.

2008 Land sold back to Fitchburg Center.

The Halloween service included a procession of children in a great variety of costumes.

This is a very abbreviated chronology, but errors of commission should be brought to the attention of Warren Hagstrom.)

