

\$2.50 in basket

# PRAIRIE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

2010 Whenona Drive, Madison 53711

<http://uuprairie.org>

Rev. Ralph Tyksinski, Minister

Sunday, December 7th, 2008

## Prelude

"When Our Heart Is In A Holy Place" - words and music by Joyce Poley  
Prairie Choir - Barb Park, director

## Welcome

Anne Lundin, Prairie Vice President

## Opening Words

In the 1950's NPR radio program *This I Believe*, Elizabeth Deutsch, a teenager from Cleveland, writes in her essay, "At the age of sixteen, many of my friends have already chosen a religion to follow (usually that of their parents) and are bound to it by many ties. I am still 'freelancing' in religion, searching for beliefs to guide me when I am an adult. I fear I shall always be searching, never attaining ultimate satisfaction, for I possess that blessing and curse - a doubting, questioning mind."

**Hymn - #1010, STJ- "We Give Thanks"**

Doleta Chapru, Accompanist

## Chalice Lighting

"I believe in people. I feel, love, need, and respect people above all else, including the arts, natural scenery, organized piety, or naturalistic super-structures. One human figure on the slope of a mountain can make the whole mountain disappear for me... We must encourage thought, free and creative. We must learn to better ourselves through art. We must rely more on the unconscious, inspirational side of man. We must not enslave ourselves to dogma. We must believe in the attainability of good. We must believe, without fear, in people."

From *The Mountain Disappears* by composer & conductor, Leonard Berstein

## Silent Meditation

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Presentation**

"This I Believe"

presented by Anne Lundin, featuring  
Tom Lovett, Marcia Johnson, and Rick Ruecking

### **Discussion**

### **Offertory**

"I Wonder As I Wander" - John Jacob Niles  
Marcia Johnson, pianist

### **Introduction of Guests and Visitors**

### **Announcements**

**Hymn** – #1059, STJ - "May Your Life Be As A Song"  
Doleta Chapru, Accompanist

### **Closing Words**

Responsive Reading, printed on a separate sheet.

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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

### **Cradle Club coming to an end**

December 14th is the final day for Prairie's participation in the Cradle Club. Remember to bring your baby gift to the Sunday service (no additional cash is needed).

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Christmas Eve, Carols, and Candlelighting, December 24th**

Christmas Eve program, presented by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski. We celebrate with readings, singing of carols, and candlelighting the story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. This, an intergenerational service, draws from Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by seeking peace and good will for humankind. No childcare will be available.

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network Week is December 14 to 21**

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 at this address: <http://nordengs.com/ihn/group.asp?eg=10&u=true>

## Prairie Calendar

### Sunday, December 7, 2008

9:45 am - Nifty Gifty

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.

### December 14 - 21, 2008

Interfaith Hospitality Network week.

### 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.

### Sunday, December 21, 2008

9:00 am - Choir rehearsal.

10:00 am - service - "Christmas Stories," presented by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski.

### Wednesday, December 24, 2008

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve program, presented by Rev. Ralph Tyksinski.

## RESPONSIVE READING

(congregation replies with lines in italic)

In a world with so much hatred and violence,  
*We need a religion that proclaims the inherent worth and  
dignity of every person.*

In a world with so much brutality and fear,  
*We need a religion that seeks justice, equity, and compassion  
in human relations.*

In a world with so many people abused and neglected,  
*We need a religion that calls us to accept one another and  
encourage one another to spiritual growth.*

In a world with so much dogmatism and falsehood,  
*We need a religion that challenges us to a free and responsible  
search for truth and meaning.*

In a world with so much tyranny and oppression,  
*We need a religion that affirms the right of conscience and the  
use of the democratic process.*

In a world with so much inequality and strife,  
*We need a religion that strives toward the goal of world  
community with peace, liberty and justice for all.*

In a world with so much environmental degradation,  
*We need a religion that advocates respect for the  
interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

In a world with so much uncertainty and despair,  
*We need a religion that teaches our hearts to hope and our  
hands to serve.*

Rev. Scott Alexander, Senior Minister of the River Road  
Unitarian Church, Bethesda, Maryland