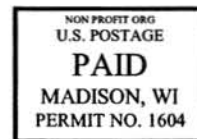


Prairie UU Society 2010 Whenona Drive Madison WI 53711-4843
(608) 271-8218 prairieu@execpc.com
Located off the south Frontage Rd. of the West Beltline Hwy near the Seminole Hwy exit



Barbara & Bob Park
5610 HAMMERSLEY RD
MADISON WI 53711-3408



PRAIRIE FIRE

... 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.

From our Bond of Union.

*The Prairie Fire is the newsletter of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and is published semi-monthly.
The two most recent issues may be seen on Prairie's Web site at <http://www.execpc.com/~prairieu>*

September 6, 2002

President: Ken Skog; (608) 273-4813

Editor: Wendy Williams; webet@chorus.net; (608) 249-7703

PRAIRIE CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 4
"Prairie UU Day" with IHN.

Sunday, September 8
10:00 a.m. INGATHERING SERVICE
11:30 a.m. Book Club "A River out of Eden" by John Hockenberry.
1:30 p.m. CSS High Holy Day service

Monday, September 9
7:30 p.m. WOW—Nancy Graham facilitates a discussion of the Bishop Spong reading.

Wednesday, September 11
7:00 p.m. "Remembrance and Reflections" by Rick Ruecking.

Sunday, September 15
10:00 a.m. John Nichols presents "Reclaiming Our Civil Liberties."
11:30 a.m. WOW—Open Discussion.

Saturday, September 21
Fundraising trip to the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Sunday, September 22
"Political as Religious" by Jean Darling.

Sunday, September 29

"Excited about UUA!" presented by Brian Kuzdas, Mary Mullen, Bob Reuschlein, Nancy Schraufnagel, and Pat Watkins, Prairie members who attended the UUA General Assembly in June.

Friday –Sunday, October 4-6
Prairie Fall Retreat!

Sunday, October 13

Program topic to be announced, presented by Mark Ward, Intern at First Unitarian Society.

Monday, October 14
7:30 p.m. WOW

Sunday, October 20
11:30 a.m. WOW—Open Discussion

Monday, November 11
7:30 p.m. WOW

November 24-Dec. 1
Interfaith Hospitality Network shift at Midvale Lutheran

**Next Prairie Fire deadline is
Sunday, September 15, 2002**

DETAILS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 8

10:00 a.m. INGATHERING SERVICE. Please join us for the beginning of Fall and Back to School Service. We will be having a water communion where individuals and families can bring a small vial of water from this summer's travels. Please bring water (a film canister works well) from your backyard swimming pool, Lake Mendota or the oceans or lakes of the world-wherever you ventured this summer. Water commemorating a river or lake you visited works just as well. We will be mingling the water in an earthen vessel and saving it for next year's ceremonies or child dedication services. The children participating in RE will be introduced as well as the new curriculum.

11:30 Book Club discusses John Hockenberry's "A River out of Eden."

1:30 CSS Service for High Holy Days

Sunday, September 15

10:00 a.m. John Nichols presents "Reclaiming our Civil Liberties." This summer's UU General Assembly challenged members across the nation to "Stand up and reclaim the civil liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights." The Assembly's concerns included unrestrained executive power, the 2001 Patriot Act and privacy violations. Most of these concerns are executive power grabs that should come as no surprise given the rights infringements of

the presidential election. Now we have a proposed Homeland Security legislation, endorsed by the House and under consideration by the Senate, that gives the executive branch unprecedented power over enormous amounts of tax dollars. Debates rage in Congress over the right of the President to declare war without advice and consent of our elected representatives. John Nichols, Associate Editor of The Capital Times and contributor to The Nation, addresses infringements on our civil liberties and suggests positive action we can take to reclaim them. This is the first service in Doleta Chapru's lay ministry on social justice.

Sunday, September 29

10:00 a.m. EXCITED ABOUT THE UUA-- presented by Brian Kuzdas, Mary Mullen, Bob

Reuschlein, Nancy Schraufnagel, and Pat Watkins. No doubt you have heard people rave about their experiences after attending the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly (GA). Come to

Sunday's service Sept. 29 to hear both raving and ranting. Well, that might be a little strong. But you will definitely hear about both some high points and low points of participating in the big UUA event of the year. Three of the panelist are veterans of previous GA's, and two attended for the first time. All agree that Quebec City was a great venue. Don't miss us!

Fall Retreat, October 4-6

The Prairie Fall Retreat is our way to reconnect with one another as Prairie children, teens and adults. Join us at scenic Bethel Horizons Retreat Center near Dodgeville for an enjoyable weekend of activities for all ages and interests. This is a great way for people who are new to Prairie to get to know others. We plan on a naturalist again this year and will have several workshops offering a variety of interests. Start practicing your skit, bring an instrument and music, or be ready to cheer on our performers. We need ideas and facilitators - call Robin Carre, 238-8725 or email at rcarre@tds.net soon. Combining all our creative energies, the retreat becomes a meaningful part of our lives together.

The retreat begins Friday evening from 7-8 p.m. with check-in registration and housing assignments at the main retreat center building followed by the evening campfire. Bring finger-food snacks to share during the campfire. The retreat center offers a variety of accommodations, from shared rooms and shared bathrooms to more private motel-type room (priority for those with limited mobility.) The Bethel Horizons staff serves excellent meals, with vegetarian options for those who designate such on the registration. Meals are served at specific times beginning with breakfast Saturday through breakfast Sunday. It is necessary to be on time for all meals. We help with table setting and clearing and clean-up at the conclusion of the weekend.

The Registration form is on page 6 of this Prairie Fire for those of you who have not already registered. *Registration must be received by mail at Prairie or given to Mary Somers or phoned to her, by Sunday, Sept. 15th, since we are required to inform Bethel of the expected attendance.* Some scholarship funds are available to assure all may attend.

To get to Bethel Horizons, take highway 18 (Verona Road) west to Dodgeville. Turn right on Hwy 23 and go north, past Governor Dodge State Park until you reach county road "ZZ". Turn right (east) on ZZ and in a mile follow signs leading to Bethel Horizons. On arrival, check in with Mary Somers at the Prairie Center. After unloading, your vehicle must be parked in the parking lot at the top of the hill. We look forward to an enjoyable weekend together as a community.

THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

On August 18th, Larry Nahlik, with the help of Sarith Ou of the Khmer Association of Wisconsin, described their trip to Cambodia to provide school uniforms and supplies to poor children in rural schools near Angkor Wat. Larry's slide show gave us a sense of the place with images of Angkor Wat and other ruins of the 1,000-year-old former capital of the Khmer Empire. The slides then took us through the experience of distributing clothing and supplies to the children and teachers. This annual effort by the Khmer Association was able to help 1,600 children this year.

OUR SOCIETY

Concerning Delivery of the Prairie Fire by the Saturday after it is published
by Ken Skog

It's Saturday evening... where is my Prairie Fire? Last Spring people were finding that the postal service was not always delivering our Prairie Fire by the Saturday of the week it was published. This was despite the fact that Wendy, our Administrator, was getting the Prairie Fire to the Milwaukee Street by Wednesday. In the past Marilyn had mailed it

Thursday morning and it would get to people by Saturday.

So.... it seems we cannot rely on 3rd class mail to be so prompt as in the past. We considered moving the deadline to the prior week rather than Sunday so it could be mailed Monday the next week. This deadline is less convenient and would stretch our predicting of events. We have decided to keep the deadline the same – the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month we ask the Program Committee and others to work to provide information for at least 3 Sundays beyond the deadline, and 4 Sundays for the second issue in months that have 5 Sundays – September 2002, December 2002, and March 2003. The remaining alternative is to go to 1st class mail, which would more than double our costs. We can consider this alternative if it is needed to keep people adequately informed of upcoming events. Thank you for your help.

Final Steps in deciding if Prairie will hire a part time Minister

By Ken Skog for the Long Range Planning Committee

At the Spring Parish meeting the LRP committee was asked to complete some tasks by August 31 and specify a plan leading to a vote about hiring a minister.

As a position description we have prepared a table suggesting how much time a half time minister would devote to different activities to help meet our core objectives, and we have drafted an estimate of costs.

Here is our plan:

We ask that people meet in small groups of 6-10 (dessert potluck) to discuss the possible allocation of minister's time to tasks so as to meet our core value objectives and to discuss hopes and fears concerning meeting our objectives with a minister.

People will be asked to sign up for a potluck (with a request for volunteers to host in their home or at Prairie, or lead the discussion) for one of the following dates: Saturday Oct 12, Sunday Oct 13,

Wednesday Oct 16, Friday Oct 18, Saturday Oct 19, Sunday Oct 20, Thursday Oct 24. After the discussion people will be asked to write down their thoughts about priorities for a minister's activities, and hopes & fears and forward them to me (Ken) for compiling and sharing with all members. Sign up sheets will be circulated in early September.

The LRP committee will consider the discussion group comments in preparing motions for the November 17th parish meeting to hire a part time minister, set objectives and time frame for raising funds to cover first year costs, and establish a search committee.

If motions are approved, we hope for partial funding from a Chalice Lighter's grant from the Central Midwest District.

"Prairie UU Day with IHN"

Normally Prairie, as a "buddy church" along with Glenwood Moravian, helps out at Midvale Lutheran at different times throughout its week-long service with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. This week we tried something different. On Wednesday Prairie filled all of the IHN shifts for the day. We hosted breakfast, cooked and hosted dinner, talked with parents, played with kids, and spent the night. Prairie's next IHN shift at Midvale Lutheran will be November 24 to December 1. We may do another "PUU Day" during that week. For more information on how to volunteer, check the Social Action bulletin board or call Paula Pachciarz at 273-4806.

Book Club Schedule

Sunday, September 8, John Hockenberry's A RIVER OUT OF EDEN. If you have a good memory for characters that are introduced and then dropped while succeeding chapters introduce others, you'll be all set for the main part of the book that weaves their stories together. The river is the mighty Columbia. Characters include Chinook Indians, Columbia dam regulators, Army Corps of Engineers employees, right wing extremists, and Hanover Nuclear Facility employees. What a mix! Isolation, alienation, and unfulfilled dreams are among the themes. It took me a while to get into this book, but it gets to be quite a cliff-hanger. If you are like me, you'll be left with a whole lot to think about.

Bring finger food to share for this after-the-service discussion.

We will also discuss last month's book by Anne Tyler, BACK WHEN WE WERE GROWN-UPS, if enough people want to. We did not hold that discussion because of low numbers of club members on the August 4 scheduled date.

Saturday, October 5 (at Bethel Horizon's retreat), Adam Hochschild's KING LEOPOLD'S GHOST.

Sunday, November 10, THE GIRL WITH THE PEARL EARRING.

Sunday, December 8, RISE TO REBELLION.

R.E. CORNER

Prairie's Religious Education Committee and our new DRE, Kristi Sprague-Klepzig, are thrilled to announce some very exciting changes that will come to life this fall in our religious education program for children and teens. After considerable discussion and soul-searching, the R.E. Committee, with enthusiastic support from the Prairie Board, has decided to try an exciting new R.E. model called Children's Chapel.

A radical departure from traditional classroom-based UU religious education, the Children's Chapel" model was initiated last year at Michael Servetus UU Fellowship in Vancouver, Washington. Prairie's R.E. Committee decided to move to this new model because, like the R.E. leaders at MSUUF, we've come to the conclusion that *Sunday School is simply the wrong tool for the job.*

As MSUUF's minister, Rev. Mark Gallagher, says, "Sunday School was invented for Bible study. But that's not what we think religious education is. It's not a matter of learning about the Bible, nor learning about all the different religions and *their* Bibles. It's about drawing our children into *experiences* which help them align their inner lives deeply and truly with ultimate reality. And it's about drawing *families together* in a world with many forces driving them *apart*. Sunday School is *incredibly* labor intensive and is not well-suited for our purposes. Kids already spend *plenty* of time in classroom settings. They don't need more on Sunday." Additionally, we see Children's Chapel as a way to increase adult participation in our R.E. program

by lessening the amount of time adults need to commit to R.E.

So what will Prairie's children do on Sundays instead of participating in traditional R.E. classes? On most Sundays they will spend the first 15 minutes in the adult service, then another 45 minutes in a communal religious service (the "children's chapel") designed especially for them, followed by 20-30 minutes in smaller age-based "friendship groups". They will also take part in a Service Sunday once a month. During March through May 2003, we will offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality curricula for K-1-2 and 4-5-6 age groups while continuing to hold chapel for our middle and high school students. We will need to recruit teachers to lead these OWL classes, which entail 8 classes at each level.

The attached Q&A factsheet provides more detailed information about how the Children's Chapel will function and how Prairie adults (non-parents as well as parents) can help. Our first official Children's Chapel will take place on Sunday September 15. Feel free to visit these websites, <http://www.msuuf.org>, and <http://www.uua.org/ga/ga01/newvision.html> to find out more about the Children's Chapel concept. – Anne Urbanski, RE Committee Chair

SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

A PEACE SYMBOL AND PROPOSAL FOR SEPTEMBER 11th (Submitted by Pat Watkins)

The Global Coalition for Peace, based in Bethesda, Maryland is proposing that all peaceseekers wear White on September 11th, as part of a national unified effort to illustrate the strength and numbers of those who seek non-violent solutions to problems. If all supporters and members of all the peace communities were to take this small step, it would help to show the world how many of us there are. 700 peace organizations have been contacted and asked to do this, and we ask that you pass this request on to all of the people you know of like sentiment.

There will be a national press release shortly before September 11th to let the media know what the wearing of white means and we ask, if possible, that you do a local press release or include this

information in any media releases about your events. Also, to be consistent in our message, we are asking that anyone who participates, if asked why they are wearing white, state that it signifies a belief in peace through non-violence.

Opportunities

LBT SPIRITUALITY DISCUSSION GROUP BEGINS OCTOBER 8, 2002

The UU GLBT Spirituality discussion group schedule is set and we are inviting anyone interested to join us. We are now ready to take your formal registration for attendance at the group. This is an opportunity to get to know one another better and to explore and share our various spiritual journeys. Each month there will be an assigned reading that will then be explored via group discussion. The discussion will be lead by UU ministers or leaders with UU ministerial training. The group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month, 7-9 p.m. at First Unitarian Society starting October 8 and ending May 13. The registration fee is \$20.00 for the 8 meetings. Please send your registration fee of \$20.00, made out to FUS (First Unitarian Society) with "Interweave" on the memo line by snail mail to Mary Mullen, 4337 Milford Rd., Madison, WI 53711. (Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address with your registration fee.) We look forward to seeing you there and to many meaningful spiritual discussions!

Shaarei Shamayim Calendar

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sat 9am–2pm. Upcoming Religious Services will be on September 8, 14 & 21st. Prairie Liaison: Bill Littman 829-1909

**Prairie Fall Retreat at Bethel Horizons Center
October 4-6, 2002**

Names _____ **Phone** _____
Address _____ **City** _____

Friends of Prairie and Members of other Congregations are welcome to join us.

I can drive ___ others on Fri or Sat. I need a ride ___ on Fri or Sat.
 I need scholarship assistance _____
 Persons requesting optional Vegetarian Diets _____ (all meals)

*Finding the means to assure all can attend our fall retreat is a priority of the Society.,
 please consider a small donation to help the few members who request some financial assistance.*

Accommodations: Bethel has made the Prairie Center and camping area available to our group. The Center has 16 comfortable rooms with individual showers to accommodate 72 people (14 rooms sleep 4 people with twin beds plus bunk/sofa; and 2 rooms have 4 bunk beds which sleep 8 people). All rooms require that we bring bedding (blanket, sheets, pillowcase, pillow), towels, and soap. However, linens and towels can be provided at \$4 per person. All rooms have heat, electricity and showers. Camping will be an attractive option in early October. The campground has running water with modern wash and toilet facilities. It has nice sites with trees and fire circles, and is but a short walk to the meal and activity center. A small day use fee may be assessed those who do not spend the night.

COSTS

PACKAGE PRICE includes 2 nights at Prairie Center, four meals, and all programs.

ADULT PACKAGE \$63.00 * # _____ of people = \$ _____
CHILD PACKAGE \$31.50 * # _____ of people = \$ _____
TOTAL = \$ _____

Cost of Lodging	Adult	Children (aged 12 years or under)
2 nights # _____ x \$42 = \$ _____		2 nights # _____ x \$21 = \$ _____
1 night # _____ x \$26 = \$ _____		1 night # _____ x \$13 = \$ _____

camping (\$6.00 each or \$14 /family per night):\$ _____ **Sub-total lodging = \$ _____**

Cost of Meals	Adult	Children
Saturday breakfast: # _____ x \$4.50 = \$ _____		# _____ * \$2.25 = \$ _____
Saturday lunch: # _____ x \$5.50 = \$ _____		# _____ * \$2.75 = \$ _____
Saturday dinner: # _____ x \$6.50 = \$ _____		# _____ * \$3.25 = \$ _____
Sunday breakfast: # _____ x \$4.50 = \$ _____		# _____ * \$2.25 = \$ _____
(Adult total meals \$21)		Sub-total meals = \$ _____
(Children total meals \$10.50)		Scholarship Donations = \$ _____
TOTAL =		\$ _____

Retreat Programming: The coordinator of programming is Robin Carre 238-8725. He will need lots of ideas and volunteers to do pre-weekend tasks, develop programs and activities, host workshops, lead hikes, provide child care or supervise children's activities. There will be potluck finger foods and "get-togethers" on Friday evening and the big "Talent Variety Show" and party on Saturday night. So practice your arts, skills and talents.

Registrar: Mary Somers 276-8397 is the retreat registrar for questions regarding financial assistance, costs and special needs. She will also be the on site registrar for room assignments and on-site complaints.

Submit form & checks, to Prairie c/o Retreat Registrar, 2010 Whenona Dr, Madison, 53711 by **Sunday, Sept. 15th.**

Questions and Answers about Prairie's New Direction in Religious Education

By Anne Urbanski

Over the past few weeks, the RE Committee, along with myself, the Director of Religious Education, have been looking at two different models of religious education and experiences: one being the traditional classroom concept and the other being an idea called Children's Chapel. Giving much consideration to both models, we feel the Children's Chapel model would be an excellent change for the children and adults at Prairie. As this is new to all of us, I will do my best to outline what Children's Chapel Service is.

What is the philosophy behind Children's Chapel?

The idea behind Children's Chapel is to provide a richer, more spiritual experience for children while still having excellent religious education content. It is meant to be a place for children to "do" religion rather than have religion "happen" while they are listening and sitting. It is designed to be exciting and interactive. It will include precious rituals, stories, songs, movement, drama activities and games.

Will all children be involved in Children's Chapel?

A resounding, "Yes!" Children's Chapel will be appropriate for preschoolers through high school aged folks. Of course, different aged children will have different experiences in Chapelolders will be able to take the content to a deeper level of understanding, while all will have the opportunity to enjoy new multi-aged friendships.

What will the schedule for the morning be for our kids?

Religious Education programming would last from 10AM until 11:30AM with 2-3 Sundays being devoted to Children's Chapel and one Sunday a month being set aside as a Service Sunday. From 10-10:20 all children will be upstairs with the adult community, including preschoolers. From 10:20-11:00 there will be Children's Chapel. Someone will be responsible for safely carrying a flame from the Chalice upstairs to the Chalice downstairs. The Chalice will be lit with some opening words. Candles, in containers that are the colors of the rainbow, will be lit-each representing a UU Principle. Children will have an opportunity to "check-in" or share thoughts/feelings/concerns with the group. Content will be presented about a UU Principle using a song, story, game, meditation and the like. A project will be done that is connected to the lesson for the morning. There will be a closing, possibly a favorite song or poem or other ritual.

When will kids have a chance to be with their similar aged peers?

After Chapel, during the adult social time, children will break into Friendship Circles with similar aged kids. They will have snack, play and discuss, a bit more, the content presented in Children's Chapel.

Will this mean that we don't need adults to help downstairs?

Adult help will be needed but it will be a smaller time commitment than teaching all year long. We will need support in a variety of ways, which are detailed fully on the other side of this page.

Who should I talk to if I have questions?

Please feel free to talk to anyone on the RE Committee: Denise Jess, Jani Koester, Brian Kuzdas, Kristi Sprague-Klepzig (DRE) and Committee Chair, Anne Urbanski.

For more information about the Children's Chapel model, see these articles from the Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Vancouver, Washington: <http://www.msuuf.org/sermon121000.htm> and <http://www.msuuf.org/ReMarks501.htm>.

How Can I Help?

Ways the Prairie Community Can Support the Religious Education Program

We believe that a strong religious education program is nurtured by the gifts of Prairie's talented and compassionate members. There are a diverse means by which you can help support our efforts.

Lead or Co-Lead a Children's Chapel

- *Do you have a special interest or talent that you would like to share with our young people? (music, storytelling, art, craft, environmental concerns, spiritual practices, experience with other cultures, etc.)*
- *Do you enjoy working with young people?*

If so, please consider leading or co-leading a Children's Chapel service. We can assist you with ideas for making the service experiential and developmentally appropriate for all of our kids.

Lead or Co-Lead a Youth Service Sunday

- *Do you feel it is important for the young people of Prairie to make positive contributions to their communities?*
- *Do you have ideas about ways that our kids can create a positive influence in the world?*

If so, please consider leading or co-leading a Youth Service Sunday. As with leading a Children's Chapel service, we can offer support in designing the service project to meet the diverse needs of our young people.

Be a Children's Service Assistant or Friendship Circle Leader

- *Do you enjoy spending time with Prairie's young people?*
- *Would you like to assist them in growing spiritually?*
- *Does the idea of leading a Children's Chapel or Service Sunday sound a bit daunting, yet you'd still like to help out.*
- *Are you more comfortable working with young people in smaller groups?*

If so, then we have the perfect job for you. Come spend four consecutive Sundays helping with either Children's Chapel or Service Sundays. This will help you get to know the kids and the routine and enhance your abilities as a helper. Assistants will work with a particular age group to support them during the service and lead friendship circles. Friendship circles allow kids to meet with same-age peers to further examine the lesson from chapel and to socialize.

Prepare Snack

Each week kids get a snack while in RE, generally juice, crackers or fruit. If you would like to help, consider preparing snack for the kids. Either before or during service, pour juice into cups and set out fruit or crackers for the kids. When snack is finished, the snack preparer washes juice cups. All will help the DRE to spend instructional time with the kids.

Gather Materials

Another great behind the scene job is helping to gather necessary materials for the children's services. Periodically, we'll publish a list of needed items in the Prairie Fire. Items might include things that you are no longer using at home and were wondering what purpose they might serve. Such things may include recyclables, like margarine and yogurt containers, pieces of fabric and other things that lend themselves well to art projects.

Clean-up Crew

Yet another behind the scenes job is to help tidy the RE area on a monthly basis. This might entail giving counters and tables some extra scrubbing, washing pillows or stuffed animals that have seen better days, touching-up paint, etc.

Other Ways to Help

Perhaps your creative minds have found other ways you can support the RE program at Prairie. If so, please talk with Kristi, DRE or an RE committee board member (Anne, Brian, Denise or Jani).