

Prairie Fire

June 2016

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Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

Sat Jun 4 5:00 a.m.—*Men's Shelter Breakfast*

Sat Jun 4 9:00 a.m.—*Prairie WOW*—meets in the Annex

Sun Jun 5 10:00 a.m.— *Urban Candid Project* by Prof. David Drake. Prof. Drake heads the UW's Urban Canid Project, studying the behavior of the coyotes and foxes now living within Madison.

Sun Jun 5 12:00 noon—*Humanist Union Hears About Our Foxes and Coyotes*—On June 5th, after his presentation during Prairie's Sunday morning service, David Drake will stick around to give us more detail about the UW-Madison's [Urban Canid Project](#) and answer questions. We will start with a potluck lunch at noon, followed by the urban fox and coyote program 12:30 to 1:30. All are invited to join us.

Sun Jun 5 5:30-7:00 p.m.—*Men's Group*—Potluck followed by discussion

Sun Jun 12 10:00 a.m.—*Summer Reads* by Nevenah and Rose Smith. Weather permitting we will celebrate our annual Summer Reads program in the back yard of the Annex. This is one of our DYI programs. Bring a book recommendation to share and a lawn chair to sit on.

Sun Jun 12 11:45 a.m.—*Prairie Board*—meets upstairs in the Annex.

Mon Jun 13 6:00 p.m.—*Finance Committee*—meets

Mon Jun 13 7:00 p.m.—*Program Committee*—meets

Sun Jun 19 10:00 a.m.—*The Journey -- Jubilant and Joyful, Jolting and Jaded*—Summer is a time of journeying, even if our journeys don't take us far geographically, summer gives us a chance to find time for inner and outer trips, alone or with others. If we are fortunate, we begin the journey of life with loving caretakers, which may or may not include a father. but, whatever happens at the beginning of our lives stays with us, affects us for the rest of the journey. Will our journey include enough joy that we are at times jubilant? Or will the trip harshly and too soon and too often jolt us? Or will we just become jaded with it all, bored, cynical? Where is the balance? What are the best kinds of journeys? What makes a journey memorable? On this Sunday, Rev. Sandy will turn to one of her favorite poets and to our Unitarian Universalist faith for some answers.

Sun Jun 19 11:30 a.m.—*Soup Sunday*—This month it will be a salad only feast!

Sun Jun 19 12:00 noon *The Glass Castle*—The Book Club will meet in the Annex for a discussion of this book by Jeannette Walls, which is her 2005 memoir. The book recounts

the unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing Walls and her siblings had at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents. (Description from Wikipedia). As of 2007, this book had sold 2.7 million copies and had been translated into 22 languages. 289 pages. Suggested by Chris Porter.

Sun Jun 26 10:00 a.m.—***Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person***—by Anne Urbanski. Anne Urbanski will continue our series on the seven principles by doing a presentation on the first principle. Pride Sunday is an auspicious day to delve into the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Tues Jun 28 1:30 p.m.—***Prairie Elders***—will meet in the Prairie Annex, 2006 Whenona Drive. The meetings are always on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The June topic will be *Weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and other June celebrations*. We meet around a table in the Annex to chat and enjoy shared snacks. Coffee or tea will be provided by Prairie. The first half hour is used to check in and let others know how we are doing. Each month we also have a discussion topic. We ask that only one person speak at a time and keep his/her comments brief. For more information, contact Al Nettleton (238-6053) or Penny Eiler (852-8750).

Sun July 3 10:00 a.m.—***What is conscience?***—by Ken Heydock. The program committee chose the 4th of July weekend to do the 5th principle in our series on the seven principles. Ken Heydock was asked to do the presentation. His response says it all:

“If, as may well be the case, folks are looking for something along the lines of a Fourth of July oration on how great the Fifth Principle is, I'm not your guy....If, however, a short, subjective examination of 'What is *conscience?*' coupled with a critical look at 'How democratic really *are* the U.S. and UU'ism?' is acceptable, I have some thoughts along those lines I'd be happy to share.”

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER—Sandra Ingham

Because I was unable to attend Prairie's annual Spring Parish Meeting on May 22, here is a summary of the minister's report I would have given at that meeting. As I said in last month's column, growth is my main concern. By that, I don't mean only growth in numbers. Congregational growth, to me, comes in many forms, including: numbers; relationships with others within the congregation; outreach to the wider community; individual, personal, spiritual growth.

My original contract called for an evaluation of ministry (mine and Prairie's) to be done within three years of my being hired. This evaluation was conducted by the Committee on Ministry (COM) in the fall of 2015. Upon its completion, the COM provided me with "general affirmations" and "constructive criticisms", both of which I am trying to be mindful of as I go forward in my collaborative ministry with you. (If you would like details about affirmations and criticisms, please let me know; I will be happy to discuss them with you.) Many thanks to the COM, in general, for all its work with me over the past couple of years, but also, in particular, for the time and effort this committee put into the evaluation. The current members of the COM are Heidi Hughes, Kate Liu and Rick Ruecking.

My covenant (aka agreement or contract) with you refers to something called "Consulting Minister's Focus Areas", which is a one-page document that attempts to summarize the goals for ministry -- my goals as well as those of the congregation. The current goals fall into at least one of these seven categories (there is lots of overlap): Sunday morning services; pastoral care; Prairie's infrastructure; supervision of staff; meeting with the board and committees; social justice/action work; adult religious education.

I do not have room in this column to go into detail about these goals. I encourage you to ask me questions about them and what I am doing to reach them (or, at least, to make progress towards them). Once you know what the specifics of the goals are, I invite you to give me feedback about what I am doing right now and to share ideas with me about what I might consider working towards in the future. The more we make time to communicate with each other, the better we will become in both our interpersonal relationships here at Prairie and in our outreach to the world outside of our particular community.... and the more time we will have to welcome and celebrate and enjoy the upcoming summer months.

There is one more important item that is always a part of my minister's reports: MANY, MANY THANKS, KUDOS, PRAISES to all of you in the Prairie family who serve on our committees and on the board (often, on both) and the same "SHOUT-OUT" to all of you who give your time and energy in our R.E. classrooms Sunday after Sunday, resulting in one of the most exciting, dynamic and fascinating R.E. programs you'll ever encounter!

Rev. Sandy

Message from the President—Gary Gates

As usual, Kate Liu did a fantastic job as registrar for our Retreat. She has made scheduling the location of the Retreat and getting everyone signed up for meals and rooms seem easy. We all owe Kate and Phyllis Long, who has scheduled the activities for the Retreats, a big thank-you.

However, Kate has stated that she thinks 10 years of being Retreat registrar is long enough. We need somebody to take over from Kate very soon, because the first job of the Registrar is to decide on the location of the next year's Retreat and to make a reservation before all the available slots are filled up by other organizations. Kate will be around to help advise on what needs to be done. Please consider how important Prairie is in your life, and volunteer to ensure that we can continue to have wonderful Retreats.

I would also note that we have not had a Communications Committee chair for almost two years. This is having very negative effects on our ability to effectively reach out beyond our community in a rapidly changing communications environment. If being registrar for the Retreat doesn't seem challenging enough for you, the responsibility of Communications chair is equally vital to the future of Prairie.

Circle of Friends—Holly Tellander, Director of RE

Another year is all done and dusted in RE ~ and we're still busy!

SUMMER IS HERE!

Please consider donating your time, energy and enthusiasm for environmental stewardship to our youth this summer. The time commitment is very small and the reward is very great! All activities are already planned and materials are already gathered. All we need is your presence and your enthusiasm!

May 29th – Field Day/outdoor games

June 5th – Ojos de Dios

June 12th – Neighborhood Chalk Walk

June 19th – Giant Bubbles

June 26th – Mala Beads

July 3rd – Tie Dye T-shirts

July 10th – Super Soaker Day #1 - water shooters welcome!

July 17th – Homemade Ice Cream

July 24th – Balloonapalooza

July 31 – Super Soaker Day #2 - water shooters welcome!

August 7th – Painted Rocks

August 14th – DIY Kazoos

August 21st – Nature Art

August 28th Slipper Socks for Seniors

Sept 4th – Trash Pick Up Service Day

PLAYING IS HUNGRY WORK!

Please consider donating bags of mandarin oranges or string cheese to our program this summer. The kids will appreciate it!

SUPPLIES STILL NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

A few supplies are still needed to keep our kids busy this summer ~

Glycerin (for giant bubbles)

Hula hoops

Cheap sponges from dollar store

White cotton socks in adult sizes

Brightly colored washable fabric puff paints

ANOTHER RE YEAR IS COMING!

And that means teachers are needed! Currently we are looking for 2-3 new faces in grades K-2 & 3-5. Grades K-2 will be participating in a Montessori-style 'spirit play' story-based, free-play experience. Grades 3-5 will be running a "Jedi Academy" to engage with the idea of mindfulness.

The time commitment for teachers will be minimal - no more than twice a month. Please talk to Holly Tellander ASAP if you are interested in either of these opportunities!

As always, thank you for your support!

Here's to a warm and sunny June!

Please consider volunteering for and participating in one or more of Prairie's committees or groups. A full list is located on Prairie's website:

<http://uuprairie.org/aboutus/#com>

Or contact Karen Deaton for more information at:

wisconsinkaren@gmail.com