

# Prairie Fire



**May 2018**

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Pub. Date: 04/27/2018

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## Prairie Calendar

**(See descriptions of programs below)**

**Fri May 4** 6:00 pm—**Board Game Night**

**Sat May 5** 5:00 am—**Men's Shelter Breakfast**

9:00 am—**Prairie WOW**

**Sun May 6** 8:45 am—**Choir rehearsal** in Annex

10:00 am—**World Religions, Unitarian Universalism, and My View**—by Katherine Liu

11:45 am—**Forward! Marching Band History: Activism and Solidarity through Music**—by Doug Renk. The Humanist Union will be treated to a photo-illustrated presentation. As the band says on their website, they “believe in using music to help fuel social change, have fun and build community.” You can hear a sample of their music from the 3/24/18 March for Our Lives rally at the Capitol by going to the Humanist Union’s events page at <http://humanist.madisonwi.us/events.htm>. We’ll meet in the Annex for potluck lunch at 11:45, program 12:30 to 1:30. Everyone is invited.

**Mon May 7** 7:00 pm—**Program Committee**—meets in the Annex

**Sun May 13** 8:45 am—**Choir rehearsal** in the Annex

10:00 am—**Service**

11:45 am—**Board Meeting**—in the Annex

11:45 am—**Manhattan Beach**—This book by Jennifer Egan opens in Brooklyn during the Great Depression. Anna Kerrigan, nearly twelve years old, accompanies her father to the house of a man who, she gleans, is crucial to the survival of her father and her family. Anna observes the uniformed servants, the lavishing of toys...The Prairie Book Club will meet in the Meeting House for a potluck lunch followed by a discussion of this book. The book club is open to everyone and you do not have to have read the book to attend.

**Sun May 20** 8:45 am—**Choir rehearsal** in the Annex

10:00 am—**Service**

10:00 am—**Service**

11:30 am—**Soup Sunday**

11:45 am—**Parish Meeting**

**Sun May 27** 8:45 am—**Choir rehearsal** in the Annex

10:00 am—**Service**

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## **Circle of Friends—Holly Tellander, Director RE**

The theme for Summer (because summer starts now!) is innovation.

### **May is here—can't believe it! Another year wrapping up in RE!**

As you all know this year we rolled out a new program format to better meet the needs of our learners and families AND volunteers. We are currently working on a survey to gather feedback from parents, students and volunteers regarding how we can continue to improve our programming. Meeting the needs of our learners, families and volunteers is the most important thing to myself and everyone on the RE committee.

Keep an eye out for the survey and plan to be at the service on May 20th—where we will take a deeper dive into how the workshop model is growing within the UU community. We'll also learn more about the changing paradigm of education in general and you'll also have a chance to ask questions and get answers from other parents, volunteers, RE committee members and myself.

We are always open to suggestions and ideas!

Coming up!

May will be a busy month—we've got a lot planned!

May 6th—We will be traveling to the Colors & Kites festival at the Hindu temple on Fish Hatchery! RE kids got a chance to learn a little more about Hinduism and the festival of Holi (and sample some yummy treats) last week. Please let me know if you would like to accompany us on this field trip! Wear your play clothes—it might get messy!

May 13th—Mothers' Day! We will be traveling to visit our friends at Bright Star Senior Living Facility. We will be taking handmade cards and small gifts. Volunteers/chaperones/drivers welcome!

May 20th—Spring Parish Meeting and "RE-Imagining RE" service. Workshops as usual downstairs!

May 27th—No formal programming in RE—outdoor games and fun available.

June 3rd—Transitions Sunday! Please mark your calendars for this service. Jesse Garst and Katherine Liu will be graduating and I am currently collecting letters to compile into a memory book to gift to them on this special day. Please turn all letters in to me by May

20th at the latest. Other student transitions will be honored as well and we'll get a chance to celebrate another great year in RE and all of our wonderful students and volunteers! Summer plans!

We've got something exciting in the works for our summer programming, so keep an eye out for program announcements! It's okay if you won't be here every Sunday—we are specifically tailoring this programming to be taken on the go! Here's a hint...put your thinking caps on about how your family can live out your unique expression of our 7th principle!

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Prairie RE is first and foremost about building community. It's about meeting the needs of our students and families and providing programming that provides support and enrichment.

There are four main pillars of our program, three as consistently requested by parents & families in surveys collected at the end of each RE year, and the fourth a new addition this year to address the needs of our community of learners.

These pillars are:

- 1) Unitarian Universalist Identity
- 2) Social Justice Work
- 3) World Faith Literacy
- 4) Social Emotional Learning

Every single one of our workshops ties in to one or more of these program pillars. We've had so many folks come down and share their gifts with our students and families. It's been a real treat to see the new connections made.

### Questions? Comments?

I love dialogue—especially when it concerns education, social justice, Prairie kids or creating exciting new learning experiences. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please reach out and schedule a time to have a conversation.

We are stronger together and your voice is important—be sure to share it with the folks who are working hard to create the best programming possible!

**How can you get involved in RE?  
So. Many. Ways.**

Whether teaching a workshop or series, or just coming down to hang out and learn with us—all are welcome.

Spending time downstairs is a great way to see how we are meeting the needs of our changing world and inspiring the next generation of socially motivated and connected kids—one cool experience at a time!

**This is how we change the world, folks!**

**The next generation needs you to show up**

**and share your Wisdom!**

**And with our new format it is easier than ever**



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## **More on Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network (WUUSAN)**

At the Prairie Annual Meeting on May 20, we will vote whether to join WUUSAN (yes, it's bad but no worse than MUUSJA, pronounced Moosejaw, in Minnesota). It can be changed.

“When you are out there fixing the world, it's good to have help.” (Donald Skinner, UUWorld 1/3/11).

Wisconsin has an organizing group that has been meeting for close to two years and has had active involvement by representatives from congregations around the state. Molly Plunkett and Rev. Sandy have attended organizing meetings for Prairie, as have representatives from the other Madison UU congregations. Twenty other states have organized social action networks, including Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan. The groups are made up of volunteers from member congregations within the state. They identify critical social justice needs within their state and coordinate action to advance an agenda—could be through legislative change or fundraising. The goal is to get UU voices heard in the public arena.

### *Mission Statement:*

The Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist State Action Network aims to build a statewide advocacy network employing the power of the collective voices of Unitarian Universalists in Wisconsin. We uphold the worth and dignity of *all* while acting to further justice, equity,

and compassion

*Vision Statement:*

By 2022 WUUSAN will be a strong network of UUs and allies with a track record of:

- Examining social justice issues;
- Collaborating to influence public policy, and
- Bringing about systemic change for those with our reach who need social justice.

What the work of the state action network might look like:

1. Be based on UU principles, especially those that honor the dignity and wellbeing of all.
2. Organize members and friends of our congregations to speak with a collective voice, develop relationships with public officials and legislators to work with them on the state budget and legislation.
3. Develop strong relationships among ourselves, understanding that process is often as important as outcomes.
4. Provide/access training for leadership development and for advocacy.
5. Plan to educate and advocate on certain issues, but be flexible enough to address issues that arise quickly.
6. Mobilize a critical mass and/or key people to help in different geographical areas.

The Wisconsin group will elect a Board of Directors which will meet on a regular basis. Every year there will be an Annual Meeting where all member congregations and member individuals can attend and vote on issues. There will be membership dues for member congregations to fund a part-time Communications/Administrative position though grant writing will also be pursued. Fees will be kept as low as possible as the goal is to involve as many of the 32 Wisconsin UU congregations as possible. Being an active member of a statewide organization increases Prairie visibility.

We think that active membership in a network can help attract new congregants who see the work being done by this UU organization.

Copies of bylaws are available on request to Molly Plunkett and will be available at the annual meeting.

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## **Moving Forward with Remodeling!**

Our community has been tremendously generous in pledging toward remodeling our main building house, making it clear that we have the money and the will to move ahead! Your remodeling planning group is meeting with our architect, Todd Barnett, to create more detailed plans and a timeline. We expect it will take several months to hammer out the specifics and get a builder on board. Since there will be major changes to the main floor, Todd indicated that during construction we will be unable to use the upper level for at least three months, depending on our final plans. Changes downstairs will take less time, but will likely make that area unusable for at least a month. At the Spring Parish Meeting

5/20/18, we will ask you to decide on the timing of the remodeling. Should we start as soon as possible, presumably late this fall, and rent space elsewhere to meet during that time? Or should we wait and remodel in the late spring and summer 2019 when our attendance is lower and we can use the Annex and outside space? We are eager to get started, but it's a big project, and the construction will disrupt our programming. Please come to the meeting and let us know how you would like us to proceed.

Martin Arnold and Rachel Long  
Co-chairs, Remodeling Planning Group

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***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 Gary Gates for more information at:***

***[gig.gts@gmail.com](mailto:gig.gts@gmail.com)***



