

# Prairie Fire

August 2018

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## Prairie Calendar

(See descriptions of programs below)

**Sun Jul 29** 10:00 am—***A Mathematician's Take on Gerrymandering*** by Prof. Jordan Ellenberg

11:45 am—***Humanist Union***—The Humanist Union is meeting for an informal Q&A session with Prof. Jordan Ellenberg as follow-up to his morning presentation. This will cover both his presentation and his best selling book, *How Not To Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking*. We'll have a potluck lunch at 11:45 followed by the program 12:30 to 1:30 in the Annex. Since this takes the place of our August meeting we will not meet on August 5th.

**Fri Aug 3** 6:00 pm—***Board Game Night***

**Sat Aug 4** 5:00 am—***Men's Shelter Breakfast***

9:00 am—***Prairie WOW***—meets in the Annex

**Sun Aug 5** 10:00 am—***A Photographic Study of State Street's Homeless***—by Mark Golbach

**Sun Aug 12** 10:00 am—***Service***—

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

**Sun Aug 19** 10:00 am—***Finding Wisdom in the Heartland***—In June, Barb Park, Nancy Schraufnagel, and Rev. Sandy made their way to Kansas City, Missouri, for the Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly (GA). The theme of the 2018 GA was "All Are Called". The three of us have been pondering what that meant to each of us. To what were we called? Did we have any expectations of what we might learn or experience at GA? What did we bring back with us? We had all been to other General Assemblies; as "veterans", we knew that all might be called, but all would not necessarily answer the call. We are looking forward to sharing our memoirs, so to speak, with you on this mid-August Sunday. See you then!

11:30 am—***Soup Sunday***

11:45 am—***The Lost Woman***—by Sara Blaedel. This is the August selection of the Book Club. A housewife is the target of a shocking, methodical killing. Shot with a hunting rifle through her kitchen window, the woman is dead before she hits the ground. Though murdered in England, it turns out that the woman, Sofie Parker, is

actually a Danish citizen who's been on a Missing Persons list for almost two decades--so Louise Rick is called on to the case. Meetings are held in the Annex, following Soup Sunday. Everyone is invited to attend—whether or not you have read the book!

**Sun Aug 26** 10:00 am—***Other Than What?***—A few weeks ago, Rev. Sandy talked about climate change and left you all in suspense! That was just the first of a series of Sundays when I will be talking about this huge problem of what we are doing to planet Earth. This Sunday, I bring you Part Two, borrowing a question—and title—asked by another Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. David Blanchard, on a completely different subject. Not only did I leave you in suspense on that previous Sunday, I fear that I also may have left you deeper in despair than was healthy or helpful. This Sunday, we will begin to look at what systemic change might look like as humans continue to attempt to come to terms with the complexity of this issue. There is an amazing amount of encouraging grassroots work being done “out there”! Using some of Bill McKibben’s writings, as well as those of David Biello, plus a brand-new Unitarian Universalist anthology, *Justice on Earth*, I hope to leave you with more hope than despair this time.

**Sat Sep 1** 9:00 am—***Prairie WOW***—meets in the Annex

**Sun Sep 2** 10:00 am—***Service***

11:45 am—***Humanist Union***—meets in the Annex

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### **(Not) Musings From The Minister...**

My column for this August edition of “Prairie Fire” was, oh, so close to being finished when I realized that I couldn’t continue to the end. I need to give it more thought, meditate on it a bit longer. So...due to “unforeseen circumstances” and because of a completely unexpected turn of events in my life, I give you this brief explanation of sorts. What I am really doing, though, with these not-musings is part of my ongoing experiment to see if anyone actually reads the newsletter! ***I greatly, greatly hope that you are all faithful readers of our newsletter!!*** This publication is one of Prairie’s best means of communication. *Many, many thanks to all the contributors, and especially to Phyllis Long, our amazing newsletter editor, who keeps diligently working away, bringing us a monthly means of (1) staying in touch with each other on a personal level, and (2) learning lots about what is going on at Prairie on an institutional level.* Check this space in September for my usual ramblings. I hope that each one of you is having a wonderful summer! Enjoy! Soon enough we will be complaining about the cold, snow, and ice... - Rev. Sandy

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### **Prairie Building Remodel**

Upper and lower floor plans have been developed and submitted to the building committee for review and feedback. The plans have also been submitted to Bauer Builders estimator “Dennis Bauer” who is helping the building committee with budget prices. He is doing this on a temporary basis without pay or obligation on our part. Hopefully we can have a final projected cost and floor plans to bring to the congregation by mid to late August.

Building Committee Chair

Tom Robinson

## **Focus on Homelessness**

The Social Action Committee is starting a collaborative effort with the Tenant Resource Center whose purpose is to find housing for homeless adult singles and couples without children. When these folks are placed in permanent housing they usually lack household items for daily living. Hence, our first initiative will be collecting consumable goods such as paper towels, toilet paper, basic cleaning supplies. Other items (which can be in used condition) include sheets, bath towels, blankets—must be clean! Laundry baskets are placed in the foyer for collecting. See additional ideas attached to basket. Thank you for any donations!

Millie Moffatt

Social Action Committee

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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 Chris Porter for more information at:***

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