

Feb
2020

Prairie Fire



Erin Bosch leads a Baby/Child Welcoming Ceremony on 1/5/2020

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February Calendar*

Please see www.uuprairie.org for detailed descriptions

**All events take place at Oak Park Nakoma, unless stated*

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Saturday 1

- 5:45a Men's Shelter Breakfast
- 9a Prairie WOW

Sunday 2

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a Youth Program: (see RE article)
- 10a Service: "The Return of Light - An Imbolc Celebration honoring Margot Adler"

Sunday 9

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a Youth Program: (see RE article)
- 10a Service: "Five Love Languages" by Robin Proud & Renee Deschard
- 11:45a Board Meeting (Annex)

Tuesday 11

- 2p Archives Committee (Annex)

Saturday 15

- 9a Prairie UU Parents (PUUPs) (Annex)

Sunday 16

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a Youth Program: (see RE article)
- 10a Service: "An Introduction to The Work that Reconnects" by Dr. Penny Andrews

Sunday 23

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a Youth Program: (see RE article)
- 10a Service: "2020 Complete Census - Counting Everyone" by Aileen Nettleton"

Wednesday 29

- 7p Program Committee (Annex)

Sunday March 1

- 8:45a Choir Rehearsal
- 10a Youth Program: (see RE article)
- 10a Abbreviated Service & Service Auction



Congregation listens to author Jacqueline Houtman talk about Bayard Rustin on 1/19/2020

Calendar Notes

NEW Group!!! Prairie Unitarian Universalist Parents (PUUPs)

Come and join fellow Prairie parents/caregivers (non-members are welcome as well!) to snack (please bring a snack to share) and talk with fellow parents/caregivers. We will have free on-site childcare upstairs. Please mark if you plan to attend on Facebook so we plan accordingly. Located at The Annex, 2006 Whenona Drive the 3rd Saturday of every month 9-11am.

Information for 1/26/2020 Parish Meeting

Rachel Long, President

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Contract vs. Called (or “Settled”) Ministry

At the 12/8/19 Parish Meeting, the Parish voted to pursue contract ministry at this time (no opposition, 3 abstentions.) A large majority are willing to consider calling a contract minister in the future if they are a good fit (30 approved, 4 opposed, 2 abstained.)

Full time vs. part time preferences

There is wide agreement that we want to continue frequent lay led services independent of FTE status of our minister. Average appears to favor minister speaking about 2 Sundays per month. Wide range of preferences on FTE status were expressed at the 12/8/19 meeting as follows –

- Full time – 10
- 80% time – 10
- 60% time – 11 (same as previous minister)
- less than 60% - 7

Cost of ministry

This year we have budgeted for 60% time minister, though we will have a large portion of unspent funds since we do not have a minister at this time. Our budget line for the minister is about 59% of our current budget. Increased cost of higher %time would need to be covered by more pledges, rental income or other sources.

Cost for a minister in 2020-21 and impact on budget is estimated as follows -

- 60% time - \$52,000, budget unchanged
- 75% time - \$65,000, budget increase of 12%
- Full time - \$87,000, budget increase of 31%



Yoking to another congregation

There has been brief discussion at our meetings and more behind the scenes about sharing a minister with another congregation, which would allow us to create a higher FTE position and make us more attractive to an applicant. Members have already informally identified 2 congregations in our area that would be interested in working with us. Yoking would require us to work with another congregation to create our job posting.

From the Search Committee

1. Contract ministry – UUA recommends following the Settlement Handbook (101 pages) and its timeline, but there is more flexibility in the process than for a settled (called) minister. The Transitional Handbook outlines how to move from contract to called minister. These handbooks are on the UUA website.
2. Any ministry of less than 75% (3/4 time) is considered a contract ministry by the UUA Transitions Office.
3. Congregations must be clear about the percentage of time they are requesting from a minister before posting a position.
4. Historically, congregations receive fewer applicants for lower FTE positions. (A bigger pool means a greater likelihood of finding a good fit.) Estimate from our UUA transitions representative of what we could expect -
 - 100% - 10 applicants, 75% - 5 applicants, 50% - 2-3 applicants

5. This is a good year to look for someone as there are not as many Settled job postings as normal; however, we are a bit late (congregational records normally due December 1st)
6. 2 year contract with option to renew is much more attractive than a 1 year contract and will get more applicants.
7. The possibility of being called is attractive to candidates
8. A partnership (called yoking) with another nearby congregation to make a 100% position is more attractive to most candidates than a single part time position
9. Compensation (with benefits) matters more than any other factor in a search.

Search Committee Update

Jennifer Johncox, Search Committee Member



We had our first meeting on January 8th and were able to get a good idea on the next steps we need to take. We elected Renee Deschard as our Chairperson; Peggy Small and Renee Deschard will manage communication outside of Prairie UU; Jennifer Johncox will be keeping Prairie informed; Steve Hingle and Barbara Park are our treasurers; Jane Richards, Peggy Small, and Katrina Daly Thompson will share secretarial duties. Our upcoming Prairie meeting on January 26th will inform the committee what the congregation is looking for in terms of percentage of ministry. Together we plan to uphold UU principles, as we search for Prairie's next minister. Our search committee can be reached at ministerialsearch@uuprairie.org

Remodeling Update

Heidi Hughes, Interior Committee Chair

We have made many choices with help from our architect, Todd Barnett, and Interior Designer, Christina Robotka, former member of Prairie and designer for the Annex. They have both been instrumental in the overall look of the space, always looking at the big picture, flow and how things fit together. The updates are too long to list in the Prairie Fire [so please click here for the entire article.](#)



Heidi Hughes, Chair of Interior Committee
Members: Karen Deaton, Renee Deschard, and Paula Pachciarz

February - Let's REgulate

Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education



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"If you have control over yourself, you have no desire to control others." — Miya Yamanouchi

February's learning theme is REGULATION...

All month we will be offering opportunities for kids of all ages to build skills in noticing, naming and taming big emotions. What do emotions feel like in my body? How do I know which emotion I'm feeling? How can I help myself and others when big emotions are present? What benefits do I notice when I use my tools and skills to regulate myself and my emotions? What does it mean to regulate my emotions? How does an individual's ability to regulate affect groups? What is our collective responsibility to supporting the emotional well-being of those in our communities? How do we self-regulate without threat of consequence? These are the types of questions we'll be exploring in age-appropriate ways this month in RE through group activities, games, crafts and discussions.

If you are interested in joining an opening circle with our oldest learners on any Sunday - please feel free to drop in!

10:00-10:20 a.m. - Our 7th-12th grade learners have an opening circle for trivia & current events. Feel free to bring your coffee and drop in on these discussions anytime - these kids have lots of opinions and love to debate :)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Here's an overview of our month of learning! Please reach out anytime with questions or to inquire about joining us!

February 2nd: Littles: Self-regulation tubes & Body Breathing, **Bigs:** Intro to Humanism (Neighboring Faiths)

February 9th: Littles: Mindfulness jars & Emotional Release Techniques **Bigs:** Humanism Contd (NF)

February 16th: Littles: Animal Yoga & Body Scanning, **Bigs:** Humanism Contd (NF)

February 23rd: Littles: Music & Movement, **Bigs:** Humanism Contd (NF)

Our Whole Lives for Grades 4 - 6 continues in February!

Our 4th-6th graders will continue to meet all month at the Annex on Sunday mornings from 9:45-11:30. The program will run from January 19th-March 22nd on consecutive Sundays.

Prairie RE has made a commitment to **training facilitators at all levels of OWL instruction** because we believe that offering age-appropriate, comprehensive, inclusive lifespan sexuality education is **vital social justice work**.

We are always **looking for folks who are willing and interested to become facilitators** - we especially are interested in helping more male-identifying or transgender folks get trained as facilitators to provide **balanced representation** to our students. Please reach out if you are interested, or if you know someone else who might be interested who perhaps isn't affiliated with Prairie, please ask them to contact dre@uuprairie.org





Program Survey Results

Program Committee

Thanks to the 34 people who filled it out! Highlights below.

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Top 3 subject matters do you or would you most enjoy = Local non profits 68%, Social justice 68%, Environmental 68%

The other subject matters were also fairly popular so Program will continue to offer services on a variety of subject matters

What are your thoughts about 1 intergenerational (all ages) service per month = They are great or okay 88%

Program will continue to offer these approximately once a month

What do you think of (a couple of times Sept - May and once per month in the summer) taking the congregation on field trips (services not at Prairie but elsewhere like UW Arboretum or other location) = Great I'd attend or maybe 94%

Program will look into other locations (likely once the weather warms up) that we can take a field trip to. Please send Program ideas.

What do you think of occasionally having a non-traditional Sunday service at Prairie? (like a hobby fair where tables are set up to demo and explore different hobbies/activities)? = Great I'd attend or maybe 88%

Program will investigate non-traditional Sunday services (likely to start once we are back in our own space). Let us know if you have ideas.

Favorite past services

Too many to list although annual ones like Symbol Tree came up several times

Possible presenter contact info

We will look into these. Please continue to send suggestions to program@uuprairie.org. Program does look thru all suggestions; however sometimes presenters are not available/decline or we can't fit it in the schedule. Program will look into more panels or perhaps presentations outside of Sunday Services in the future.

Other comments (13 responses)

Program discussed them at our last meeting and will continue to work to meet member needs regarding programming.



Thanks!
The Program Committee

Chair - Penny Eiler
Members: Kathy Converse, Renee Deschard,
Barb Park, Robin Proud, Rick Ruecking

UU-ing the Vote

Mary Mullen, Archives Committee Chair



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January 12th, six members of Prairie (Randy Converse, Mary Mullen, Peter Anderson, Erin Bosch, Molly Plunkett) joined a Zoom call panel discussion by the UUA's "UU the Vote" team. Panelists discussed what their churches were doing or had done to bring out voters for national elections. The aim is to get local UU groups to work on getting a good voter turnout in the fall presidential election.

Listeners from all over the U.S. were urged to create "UU the Vote" teams. The teams would identify partner organizations, set goals, and lay out a timeline for activities. Some of the strategies discussed were working on voter registration and mobilization, combating voter suppression, talking about our values, joining coalitions that have like goals, and making the church buildings available for meetings.

Afterward, the Prairie group discussed what we might do to bring out the vote right here in Madison. Three suggestions were: (1) do voter registration at local food pantries such as the one on Allied Drive, (2) join groups that go door-to-door such as the Madison O's and the Teal Team, and, (3) contact Second Baptist in Prairie's neighborhood to see if we could join with them in some actions.

To get involved in Prairie's group, contact Molly Plunkett. To learn more about "UU the Vote," go to <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/news/blog/uu-vote>



Molly Plunkett, Social Action Committee Chair

The Tenant Resource Center (TRC) will **share our offertory collection** for the first 2020 quarter. TRC is a nonprofit agency that has for many years worked to promote good relations between renters and landlords statewide. The agency provides information, education, and access to conflict resolution for both parties. Besides extensive print materials about rights and responsibilities of renters and landlords, the TRC offers workshops and seminars. They offer an Eviction Clinic which provides information about legal rights and liabilities, housing assistance if someone is evicted, financial assistance with payment agreements with landlords, and limited rent payment assistance to large families facing eviction. They have a large staff that provides housing mediation. TRC representatives help with a program at the courthouse in which certified mediators negotiate agreements to avoid eviction. Homeless services are also available such as locating housing, limited case management, eviction prevention and rapid rehousing. Volunteers are much needed and trained and used as housing counselors, mediators and office assistants.

If the work of TRC sounds important to you and you have some time, volunteer. Until Prairie remodeling began we also collected household items for MoveIn baskets for folks that TRC helped find permanent housing. We hope to continue with that when we return to Whenona Drive. We hope to have a speaker from agency speak as part of a service.

Annual Prairie Auction

Patty Stockdale, Auction Coordinator

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On Sunday March 1, there will be a short service at 10am, a small meal, childcare...and the Auction!!!! There is no RE that day, so teachers and older children can come and enjoy the auction.

During the auction members and friends offer to other members and friends of the congregation privileges to come to events. meals, services or items of their own making! This is a wonderful way to better know your fellow Prairie members and friends and raise funds for Prairie.

Do you have ideas for offerings? [Click here for the list from last year.](#)

Let us know your ideas for offerings by [filling out an online](#) form here, use the paper form sent online or email auktion@uuprairie.org (can also ask questions and vet ideas)

Get to Know New Member

Morris Sendicario & wife Alice, Prairie Friend

What gets me up in the morning? Music. It's been a big part of my life. For the past 20 years, I could be found in the Verona Community Theater musicals orchestra pit. But, recently, I donated my violin to the Middleton High School for their student loaner program. With my remaining instrument, I sing in a few choirs, choruses and even Karleen's Uke gatherings. I am eagerly looking forward to singing in Carnegie Hall this May with several other Prairie UU and First Unitarian members. My wife, Alice, sings in other groups, and we are often in each others' audiences.



Other things that kept Alice and me on our feet include kayaking, walking in the woods, Road Scholar trips, water and land aerobics (progressively less of the former and more of the latter). Though I read, and am part of a feisty book club, I really appreciate movies. Favorites include "Spirited Away" (Ghibli), "Day After Tomorrow" (20th Century Fox), and Wagner's Nibelungen Ring Cycle (DGG-Solti). Sci-Fi and mysteries rank high on my reading lists. My career shift (aka "retirement gig") is to digitize audio, video and film to new media (papasvoice.com). Volunteering for READI (part of United Way) and Prairie activities round out my waking hours.

Why Prairie? Several Prairie members have also been good friends for many years. Members like Dan and Robin Proud, Carol and Dean Schroder. I joined them and others over the years in Prairie holiday sings and auctions. In a sense, I feel like a Prairie old timer, which probably accounts my choice of the prairie flower for my name tag. I treasure being around people who are intellectually curious, and who do not need dogma to develop their spirituality. Joining Prairie just seemed like the next step on my journey.



Member Spotlight

Get to know Mary Mullen

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Mary is currently Archives Committee Chair, she was History Committee Chair 14-19 and has held many other positions which you can find on page 907 in the Prairie History Book Volume 2. She has also done over 70 Prairie Sunday services (pp 893-895) and provided/provides special music.



Mary was born in Prairie du Chien, WI and grew up in the village of Wauzeka, WI. In 1962 she moved to Madison after graduating from North Central College in Naperville, IL, to live with her boyfriend, Francis Mullen. She then got a job as a high school English teacher in Barneveld, WI. After that she worked for the State of Wisconsin and then switched to being an elementary teacher and served as a fourth grade teacher in Brooklyn, WI.

In 1980, she was invited by the Program Committee to present a Sunday service about the neighborhood. Prairie had just moved into the building at 2010 Whenona Drive near her home on Milford Road. After speaking again, Mary was invited to be a lay minister in 1983 and organized 9 services on the environment (See pp 690-693 & pp 753-755)

Mary was first aware of and interested in Prairie when she heard someone playing guitar on its front porch probably in the spring of 1980, but never would have darkened its door if she hadn't been invited to speak there to talk about the neighborhood. She thought the informal way people dressed was weird since she was used to people dressing up for church. Mary was almost scared away when someone asked her to attend a singles group at First Unitarian Society. She didn't want to explain on her first day there that she was a lesbian. She joined because she was asked to be a lay minister and thought that she ought to be a member if she was being given the responsibility of producing services.

Mary is in Dark of the Moon Contra-Band, a women's folk band where she plays guitar and harmonica. They play a dozen or more gigs each year for listening or dancing. With Patty Stockdale, she attends two ukulele groups. She has been a member of the Meadowood memoir writers group since 2011. Prairie members Rick Ruecking, and Molly Plunkett also attend this group, and in the past Judy Lazarus and Faith Cholvin participated. They have self-published seven anthologies of their work and done several readings for the public. She is also a big gardener. She started the Marlborough Park Community Garden in 1970 and has the equivalent of four 20x20' plots there. Mary serves on the garden management Committee. (Until she got too busy with Prairie's History Committee, she was deeply involved in the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association which she helped start in 1973.) Mary belongs to a coffee group that meets several times a month, retired women who used to go to Curves exercise club. She watches way too much TV, a lot of it on PBS.

Mary is the oldest in a family of 7 children; her sister Sue grew up in the wrong family, being erroneously given to the wrong mother in the hospital. Consequently, Mary's sister Marti grew up with their family. The story can be heard on the PBS radio program archives for "This American Life." The episode is called "Switched at Birth."

