

May
2020

Prairie Fire



Sun halo in
Madison on
4/20/2020, taken
by Renee
Deschard

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May Calendar*

Please see www.uuprairie.org for detailed descriptions

**All events take place online via Zoom (info emailed to News)*

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Saturday 2

- 9:30a Prairie WOW

Sunday 3

- 10a Service: "Great Reads and Little Libraries," by Karen Deaton
- 12p Board Meeting

Wednesday 6

- 6:30p Wednesday Fun with Holly Tellander

Saturday 9

- 10a Service: "Prairie Animal Blessing" by Prairie

Sunday 10

- 10a UU Streamed Service
- 11a Virtual Coffee Hour

Wednesday 13

- 6:30p Wednesday Fun with Holly Tellander

Sunday 17

- 10a FUS Service: Flower Communion
- 10a Teen Health Workshop
- 11:15a Prairie Parish Meeting

Wednesday 20

- 6:30p Wednesday Fun with Holly Tellander

Saturday 23

- 10a: "The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts" by Robin Proud

Sunday 24

- 10a FUS Service: Intergenerational Memorial Day Service
- 11a Virtual Coffee Hour (with FUS & Reeb)

Wednesday 27

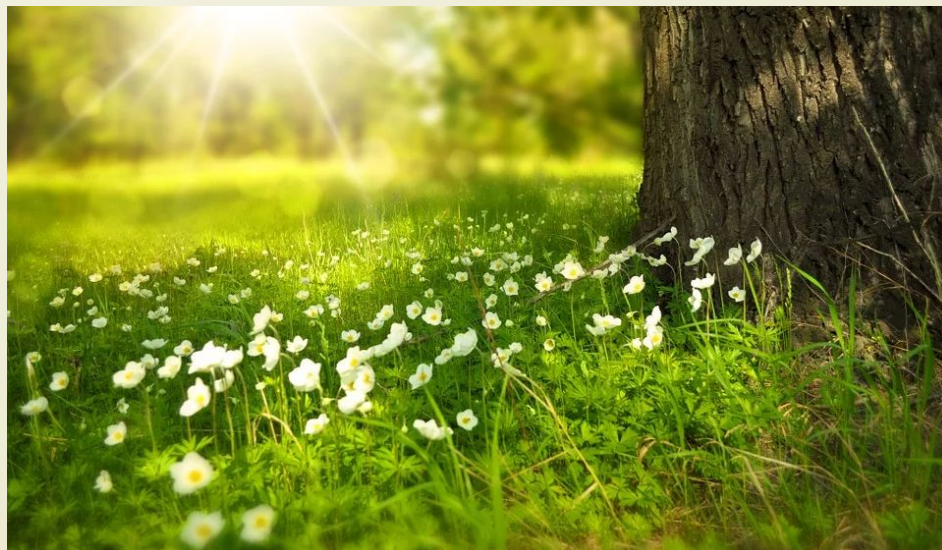
- 6:30p Wednesday Fun with Holly Tellander

Saturday 30

- 10a Service: "Bridging Ceremony" by Prairie

Sunday 31

- TBD



Annual Parish Meeting 5/17, 11:15am

Rachel Long, President

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These are unusual times, and our annual meeting will be held like no other before. The Board agreed to proceed with our planned meeting date (our Bylaws require that this meeting be held on or before June 1,) and to hold the meeting virtually as required by our governor's "safer at home" order. Our meeting, like our services lately, will be conducted on "Zoom." We understand that not everyone in our congregation is able to use this technology to join the meeting, so our administrator will be calling all members who have requested information by mail to invite them to join another member in their home (sitting 6 feet apart) in order to participate. We think this is the best we can do in the current circumstances to include everyone.

You will receive a link to join the meeting a few days ahead. Please join the meeting as soon after 11 am as you are able to allow time to be checked in. When you join, you will be in a waiting room of sorts until you are checked in by our administrator Dan Klock or his co-host. They will keep track of members present and assure we have a quorum. As those of you know who have participated in on-line services or "virtual coffee hours," we will be able to see each other, discuss items, and vote by a show of hands. The slate of candidates to be elected will be published as soon as it is complete. Here is the agenda:

1. Chalice lighting and opening words
2. Review of the process for this meeting
3. Elections
 - a. Board – President, Vice President, and 2 At Large Members
 - b. Nominating Committee – 2 Members
4. Program plans
5. Religious Education plans
6. Building update
7. Minister Search update
8. Finance update
9. Approve Minutes from winter Parish Meeting
10. Accept Committee Reports
11. Closing words
12. Adjourn

Please join us!
Rachel Long



Minister Search Paused

Search Committee



The Board approved the Search Committee's recommendation to pause our Minister search process due to covid19. The main factors were our inability to interview candidates in person and not having the congregation hear/meet the recommended candidate in person. The Search Committee will reconvene this summer/fall.

“Zoom”ing Along: Online Services

Renee Deschard, Program Committee Chair

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Program Committee received 25 survey responses to how people wanted to collaborate with FUS until it's safe health-wise to have in person services. 48% wanted to collaborate with FUS, 36% wanted to collaborate with FUS for a few weeks and then do our own services and 12% wanted to start our own services right away.

Program discussed that we could provide multiple options to connect with others, so some weeks we'll have a Saturday Prairie Service, Sunday tune into FUS (or another UU) service and Sunday Virtual Coffee Hour, while other weeks we'll have a Sunday Prairie Service (or even a weeknight service). Dan will email upcoming services in the News of the Week or check the Services calendar at www.uuprairie.org

Here are a few **tips & tricks** for using our Zoom (note: if using an iPad or phone, some functions will not be available)

1. Click on Speaker View on the upper right to see whoever is speaking in a large box (note - this doesn't work if the host is sharing their screen)
2. Click on the pin icon on the upper left of anyone's video to make them the large box
3. Use the raise hand icon in the participant box if you'd like to speak in a large group meeting/service
4. Mute yourself when not speaking to prevent background noise
5. Sit with light/a window towards your face so others can see you better



Prairie has also changed several Zoom settings to make things more secure and prevent “zoombombing”. For example we have a “waiting room” for all events sent to News. Thanks for joining us online and hope you'll join us if you haven't yet!

Video Meetings and Gatherings

Rachel Long, President

The Program Committee, Board, DRE and Administrator have all been discussing how to help our Society stay connected virtually at this time of social distancing. The Program Committee decided to use the “Zoom” virtual meeting platform for our services. We have since purchased two Zoom accounts for Prairie. The Board has agreed to procedures for sharing use of these accounts with the congregation, taking into consideration Zoom's terms of service and the need to protect our membership from various kinds of hacking. We will use one of the Zoom accounts (Renee Deschard, Program Chair, is the account holder,) exclusively for adult and youth programming. The other account (Dan Klock, Administrator, is the account holder,) is available for Prairie business and social events. Our guidelines for using the Administrator's account are as follows:

- The account is for Prairie functions only
- For each function, there must be a designated “host”
- Individuals must be oriented on Zoom's features before they serve as a host
- The host will request a time slot from our Administrator, who will then reserve a spot on the Prairie Calendar, create a meeting, and send the link to access the meeting to the host
- Hosts are responsible for distributing the link either on prairienews or to the participating individuals. Links are not to be publicly posted for our protection.

Members and friends are of course welcome to use other platforms such as google hangouts, facetime, skype, etc. for events and meetings if they prefer. Whether you use Prairie's Zoom account or some other method, let's stay connected!

Recording Our Services

Rachel Long, President

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You are likely aware that Prairie has been recording it's services for many years. Digital archivist Bob Park has organized these services in the Members Only section of the website, and I urge you to explore the many gems available. Depending on speaker permission, excerpts of our recent services can also be accessed on the public portion of our website, and are broadcast on the low power radio station WIDE-LP 99.1 <http://widelp.org/>

The Board has developed a policy on recording and storing services that attempts to balance access, privacy and copyright considerations. Going forward, we will continue to record services, but will be careful to avoid saving material such as music that is protected by copyright. We will continue to limit public posting to the speaker presentation (and introduction of the speaker) to protect privacy of our members. Speakers' consent is obtained before posting any presentations. We are now including a statement on our Orders of Service informing members and guests that we are recording.

The Program and Archives Committees have been working diligently on these processes behind the scenes. Please join me in thanking them, and enjoy some of those recordings now that you are spending more time at home!

Donating Online Update

Chris Porter, Finance Committee Chair & **Evan Creed**, Treasurer

We've updated the method of taking online payments on the website. This new method:

- Does not require a PayPal account. You can enter credit or debit card information directly.
- Allows you to indicate the purpose of your payment (offering, pledge fulfillment, auction payment, etc.)

You can find it on Prairie's website, the 'Give' button on top of the page. Alternatively, [here's a direct link](#)

Full disclosure: PayPay takes their cut (as a registered non-profit, we're at a reduced rate of 2.2% + \$0.30 / transaction).

We definitely also welcome mailed checks or whatever you're comfortable with as we all figure this out together. Thank you for your continued support through these new and different times!



Donate to
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society of Madison Wisconsin ✓

\$ 0.00
USD

(Optional) Use this donation for

Make this a monthly donation ?

Donate with PayPal

or

Donate with a Debit or Credit Card

RE - Wednesday Fun Nights

Holly Tellander, Director of Religious Education

Come and join us Wednesday nights online - everyone is welcome!

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1st Wednesday of the Month ~ Storytelling ~

On the first Wednesday fun of the month, we'll dive into storytelling. Depending on how many people show up and how many want to tell stories, we may break into small virtual groups, or we may share as one big group. Feel free to join us from your phone wherever you are. Tell a story about something that really happened, or about something that may have happened or anything at all. You could even choose to read a book. Maybe sometimes we'll all sit around a fire if we can. Wherever you are, whatever the story, grab a cuppa something good, get cozy and settle in. Snacks encouraged.

2nd Wednesday ~ Quarantine Olympics ~

Family teams compete in a series of Minute To Win It Challenges where everyone single person wins. Really. (And BTW we affirm and promote the inherent dignity of ALL SIZE families. Even families of 1. We'll make it work. Don't you worry.) You'll receive a list of standard, fairly common household items to assemble prior to the meeting. Creative substitutions gleefully encouraged.

3rd Wednesday ~ Scavenger Hunt ~

On the second Wednesday of the month we go looking. Families work as teams, sometimes to find odd, random or meaningful objects that they must incorporate as they navigate a series of challenges. Other times we all go searching for items that have certain meanings to us. Either way we share a laugh and learn some more weird things about each other and that's always a bonus. Challenges require extreme levels of communication and ingenuity. Wit doesn't hurt.

4th Wednesday ~ Talent Show ~

We are all squirreled away and maybe we have time to get really good at something really random and weird. Why the heck not? In this Wednesday fun, anything goes. Show us your talent. We don't care how weird it is. Actually. Scratch that. The weirder the better. Depending on how many people show up and how many people have peculiar talent to share we may break up into small virtual rooms or stay as one large group. Because I know how talented you all are, let's agree to keep the talents at < 4 mins. Seriously. Use a stopwatch.

5th Wednesday BONUS! ~ Bam! Voter's Choice ~

Vote in the weekly Facebook poll to choose which of the stunningly first-class evenings of fun listed above will get a to make a comeback. Hey. It's our fifth principle. And it really matters right now. Let's vote in ALL THE THINGS. Just so we can practice.

I have created a [Google Form](#) (It's only 2 questions) to give families some options for how we might like to continue to stay connected throughout this time of uncertainty.

I hope to see you at a Wednesday fun coming soon! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas you'd like to discuss.



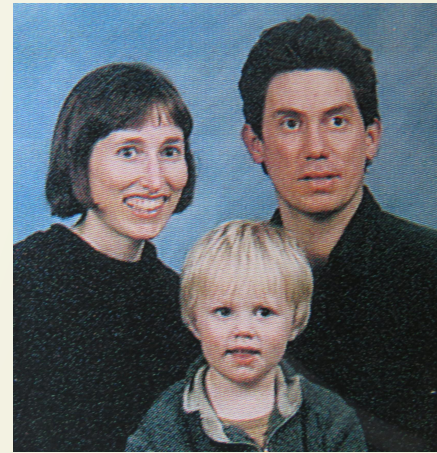
Remembering Robin Carré, RE Director 1997-1998

Mary Mullen, Archives Committee

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Prairie folks are still in shock and grief following the murders of Robin Carré and his wife Beth Potter at the end of March. Both were well-known to and loved by Prairie members from the mid 1990s through the early 2000s when they attended Prairie.

Robin was Prairie's RE Director from 1997-1998 and chaired the Religious Education Committee from 1999-2001. He also did a lay ministry about OWL (Our Whole Lives) in 2001. More recently he talked on the subject of adopting their daughter Mimi from Guatemala and getting to know her birth family. The audio of that service, presented on October 15, 2017, can be found on the Prairie website. Go to Connect/Archives/Podcast page and then scroll down to the date of the presentation.



Beth Potter, Robin Carré, and their older son Jonah, 1998

The rest of this article is from a longer article about all our RE Directors which appears in the Prairie history book on pages 819-820. Paula Pachciarz is the author.

Robin Carré came from a “very secular” as he describes it, Jewish background. To find out more about his roots he began attending the Shabbat held by Shaarei Shamayim, the Reform Jewish congregation that at that time rented Prairie’s meeting hall. Our UU displays and information caught his eye and he realized that our religious philosophy was a better fit for him. Soon after, Robin applied for and was hired as Prairie’s DRE. A bonus was that his wife, Dr. Beth Potter, and their son Jonah also began attending. Later Prairie welcomed another son, Ezra, and a daughter, Miriam. At the same busy time that he was making the DRE job his own, Robin was completing a PhD in French History.

During the 1990s our RE curricula were on a three-year rotation cycle. In one year the focus was on social justice, the next year on what was then called “The Church Across the Street” (now “Neighboring Faiths”), and the next on UU principles and sources. The fourth year the cycle would begin anew. The UUA provided excellent curricula guides that were periodically refreshed. Robin continued this rotation.

Robin’s years of experience coaching soccer for all ages and his wide range of knowledge helped him connect with both kids and grownups at Prairie. His monthly all-class RE “Spirit Circles” and inter-generational services upstairs were popular, but he was also highly regarded as a speaker for the Sunday services for adults. After he moved on from the DRE position, he presented a lay ministry on Sexuality for Adults, or adult OWL, as some referred to it, one of the better attended lay ministry series.

Perhaps Robin is best remembered for something he did after his tenure as DRE. Prairie at this time did not have a consulting minister, and it was Robin who, on September 12 in 2001, brought church members and friends together at the meeting house to share our grief and support each other after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.



Maypole dancing, around 2005, photo by Carl Wacker

Robin Carré in the Audio Archives

Bob Park, Archives Committee

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In her article Mary Mullen mentioned Robin Carré's 2017 Sunday program at Prairie about the adoption process he and Beth went through when they adopted their daughter Mimi. There are two ways to connect to the public recording of the speaker part of that program from our website's Archives Portal page, which you can reach by entering <http://archives.uuprairie.org/>.

1. Scroll down the portal page and click on "Podcast page" to go to that page. There you can jump down to Robin's Oct. 15, 2017 program by using ctrl F (on a pc) or command F (on a Mac) to create a search box where you enter Carre. You will find a brief description of the program and a "Play Now" link. The podcast page mainly contains recordings from 2012 to the present.

2. Higher on the portal page click on "Archive of Past Public Audio Recordings" instead. This will take you to a list of speakers and titles that includes many earlier recordings. When you search this page for Carre (as above) you will find both the 2017 program and one from 2001. You can listen to either program by clicking on "mp3" in the last column. Again, since these recordings are public, they contain only the speaker part of the Sunday service.

The remaining recordings of Robin's programs are available only as full service recordings, so they require a trip to the password protected Members' Page. You enter the password sent on April 7th by our Webkeeper, Dan Klock, on the password entry page reached either via the link at the bottom of the Archives Portal page or by clicking Connect on the home page and selecting "For Current Members." (Any Prairie members who don't have the password can call Dan or a member of the Archives Committee.) On the Members' Page you will find a Robin Carré section in the right column with links to audio recordings and orders of service for 6 programs, the first of which was the Transitions Intergenerational Service he did with Erin Bosch when he was our RE Director. If you place your cursor over the title for that 1998 program you will see the names of the four 8th grade graduates that year.

These Transitions programs feature performances by our talented 8th graders. To hear such programs from other years click on the link in the Sortable List of Full Service Recordings box at upper left on the Members' Page, click on the "Program title" heading in the table that appears, and scroll down to Transition. The audio links are in the last column.



Eighth Grade Graduates
Nicolo Giorgi,
Katrina Schroeder,
Erica Skog and
Heather Lawrence