

Nov  
2020

# Prairie Fire



Friendship bracelet making night 9/26, part of Retreat activities

## Prairie Contacts

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Please see [www.uuprairie.org](http://www.uuprairie.org) for other contacts, including board members and committee chairs.

## Table of Contents

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Calendar                              | 2     |
| Fall Parish Meeting 11/15, 10:15am    | 3     |
| Prairie Policy & Procedure Manual     | 3     |
| Prairie RE: November Edition          | 4     |
| 2021 Pledge Campaign is Underway      | 5     |
| Learning From Our Virtual Experiences | 5 & 6 |
| What Does Our Administrator Do?       | 7     |
| Prairie Talent Show                   | 7-9   |

# November Calendar\*

Please see [www.uuprairie.org](http://www.uuprairie.org) for detailed descriptions & public event links

*\*All events take place online via Zoom*

2

## Sunday 1

- 10a Service: "All Souls' Day" by Prairie
- 6pm Sing Along (every Sunday)

## Monday 2 (every Monday)

- 4:30p Beginner D&D

## Tuesday 3

- 7p Trivia

## Wednesday 4 (every Wednesday)

- 6p Wednesday Night Fun Night

## Thursday 5

- 7p Program Meeting

## Friday 6 (every Friday)

- 4:30p Advanced D&D

## Saturday 7

- 10a Prairie WOW

## Sunday 8

- 10a Service: "What Matters" by Michael Eselun

## Monday 9

- 7p Study Group

## Tuesday 10

- 6p Board Meeting

## Sunday 15

- 10a Service/Fall Parish Meeting

## Tuesday 17

- 7p Trivia

## Sunday 22

- 10a "Guest at Your Table" by Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

## Monday 23

- 7p Study Group

## Saturday 28

- 10a Creativity & Connection (check with Peggy if you can attend)

## Sunday 29

- 10a Service: Tune into a UU service; 11am Prairie Coffee Hour



Nancy Schraufnagel posed with a wizard while on a service auction tour hosted by Jane and John Richards and Karen Deaton. Originally planned as an indoor event, the tour was moved outside because of covid-19. Many service auction events were modified and held outdoors in September before cold weather set in.

# Fall Parish Meeting 11/15, 10:15am

**Rachel Long**, President

3

We will be having our Fall Parish Meeting on Zoom after a very short service on Sunday Nov. 15. Here is the agenda, reorganized from what was previously published on prairienews so the items requiring a vote are earlier in the meeting:

1. Chalice lighting
2. Review the process for this meeting
3. Approve minutes from Annual (May) Parish Meeting
4. Minister search update
5. Plans for our RE (Religious Exploration) program
6. Finance update
7. 2021 budget
8. Building update and plans for use
9. Creation of “Widening the Circle of Concern” implementation team
10. Committee updates
11. Closing words
12. Adjourn

Please join us!

Rachel Long, President

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

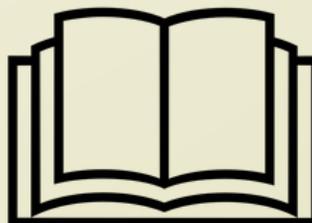
## Coming Up - Prairie Policy and Procedure Manual!

**Rachel Long**, President

For the last 3 years, Prairie’s Board and committees have been working in fits and spurts on creating a “policy & procedure” manual. Since we are a volunteer-led organization with frequent turnover in leadership, it is especially important to have a written record to guide us. The manual is organized by chapters, including one specific to each committee. Our administrator Dan Klock is currently reviewing these policies with committees to make sure they are as up to date as possible before publication to the membership. These documents will soon be available to view in the Members Only section of the website. Prairie’s P&P Manual will always be a work in progress, and will need regular updating. This is a really big project, and I want to thank the numerous members who have contributed (special thanks to Kathy Converse and Chris Porter) for all their help, and thanks in advance to our Administrator for finally getting it published!

Rachel Long, President

Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society



# Prairie RE: November Edition

Karen Deaton, RE Committee Chair

4

## What's Going on in RE

Though we're not conducting Sunday morning RE classes during the pandemic, your Religious Exploration Committee is busy. We're meeting every Sunday after the service to work on developing staffing plans and job descriptions so that we'll be ready to roll when we are able to meet again in person. Rebecca Strome is providing HR expertise in that process.

We're also working on our virtual sexuality education program, HAWKS (Helping Adolescents With Knowledge about Sex), which is based on the Our Whole Lives curriculum. We'll be offering that program for young teens January - March of 2021. Let me know if you are interested in having your child participate.

Thanks go to adults who have participated in Wednesday Fun: Kathy, Randy, Carl, and Paula are regular fun leaders. Thanks also to parents who have helped their children participate! We have loved seeing Coraline, Audrey, Mingus, Ellison, Maverick, Gabriel, Maddie, Kira & Miles in recent weeks. Please let me know if a different time would work better for your family to participate. We're always willing to adjust. And save the date for a **Virtual Animal visit on 11/11 6pm** - Dane County Humane Society!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84638913138>

Thanks, too, to our young Dungeon Masters Rowan and Harlan. Running a campaign takes lots of imagination and planning, and we appreciate your work!



## The holidays are coming!

We'll soon begin working on virtual Nifty Gifty. Nifty Gifty is a beloved Prairie tradition where RE kids come together with adult volunteers to craft holiday gifts for loved ones. Clearly, we will not be gathering 15 adults and 40 kids in close proximity this year for our traditional extravaganza. Our preliminary plan is to have Zoom times for 2 or 3 projects set up over the course of a few days in early December. Some may use common household supplies; others may use supplies delivered to Prairie Kids' homes. Let me know if you'd like to lead a project. Information will go to our RE Families email list and Prairie News later in November.

Stay well and stay in touch!

Karen Deaton  
For the Religious Exploration Committee  
[re-committee@uuprairie.org](mailto:re-committee@uuprairie.org)

# 2021 Pledge Campaign is Underway!

Chris Porter, Finance Committee Chair



5

Hello Prairie members and friends,  
It's October! The pledge campaign for 2021 is underway! Year-to-date statements and pledge forms went out in the mail Tuesday 10/20.

It's been a crazy year. So many members and friends have really stepped forward to help our Prairie community with new ways of being together. I have hope 2021 will be much better. I have hope for more peace and better health. I have hope that we will be meeting together in our remodeled meeting house. I have hope that we will have a new religious education director and a new minister.

The proposed budget for 2021 is \$161,261. The Prairie auction is the second biggest source of funds for Prairie. We had a phenomenal auction in 2020. Unfortunately, we expect auction receipts to be significantly reduced in 2021 because we probably can't have big in-person events till much later in the year. We will work on options for the auction. Sunday offerings are down since we have gone on line. Remember, you can use the Give button on the Prairie home page to donate! We will use funds saved from not having a minister this year to help cover expenses in 2021. By doing this, we can ask Prairie members and friends to pledge \$115,231. This is virtually the same amount that was pledged for 2020!

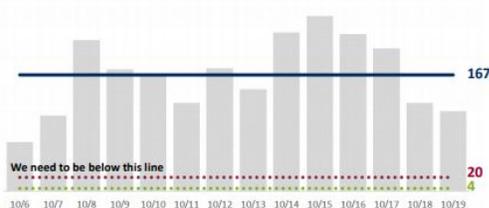
I hope you will join me in supporting Prairie financially so we can continue to provide and improve our support for one another. Please use the envelope provided with your letter to return your pledge form. It really will help to receive your pledge quickly. If you prefer to make pledge payments by credit card, you can set that up through the Give button on the Prairie home page. You do need a PayPal account to make recurring payments. Even if you will use the online option, please submit a pledge form. Thank you for all the ways that you support Prairie. And, particularly at this time, thank you for your financial support. Wishing you happiness and good health!

## Learnings from our Virtual Experiences

Barbara Frye, Caring & Hospitality Committee Chair

Deesa Pence, Karen Deaton, Mary Mullen, Renee Deschard, John and Nancy Wunderlin, Rachel and Martin Long-Arnold, Dan Klock, Barb Park, Kate Liu, Katherine Liu, Patty Stockdale and Barbara Frye met virtually on Sunday 9/27 to discuss Learnings from our Virtual Experience. The detailed health data is extremely sobering and we must follow the guidelines and neither the science, nor the UUA, would recommend such a large group of people gathering together unless there is an extreme downturn in the Madison area. Unfortunately, the Dane county recommended metric of 4 cases per day to feel safe enough seems like a very far away goal right now. Following Dane County guidelines would only allow 10 people inside the building. Churches are exempt from those guidelines but, as a group, we do not feel safe with that exemption and wish to follow what Dane county recommends. Martin and Rachel will share the data they showed us at the meeting on PrairieneWS.

There was an average of 167 cases per day which was above the level we need to be at.  
Daily cases ranged from 71 to 252.



The caring Committee is reaching out to our members to stay connected and we encourage others to reach out by phone or email or driveway visits to help our members feel as connected as we can.

6



The Flamingo Project is bringing a bright spot to households as well as advertising our community to nearby neighbors and passersby. The RE committee came up with that idea. Membership Committee has initiated drive by visits to members houses for birthdays, special occasions or just for more inclusiveness. New Circle Suppers (also other kinds of activity groups) will be set up soon to encourage small safe outdoor activities to get to know members better. Some Circle suppers have been meeting through the summer and fall unless the particular group included young children. We can take distanced walks, meet for a weekend brunch or perhaps other safe options can be worked out.

Per Religious Education members, it is nearly impossible to contain young children from running around and playing when we are meeting in groups and we do not have RE staff to set up multiple classes if we were to meet for in person services in an enclosed space.

Per Housing and Property, we don't have enough sinks for everyone to wash up and sanitize. We don't have anyone staying at the door to monitor the safety of every person coming in. Nor do we know how effective against covid our building's air filtration system is inside the building and lack the knowledge and equipment to test it.

If we do have people sign up before a meeting starts and then a couple of them do not show up, as often happens within any group, it's too late to call the people on the waiting list so we end up with an even smaller group.

Penny expressed, and it was a good reminder to all of us, that if we have in person meetings (even small ones), many people would feel excluded because they are not comfortable attending any event in person. Excluding people is not what Prairie is about. Even though not everyone can participate on Zoom, we do have a good number of people and we had a successful Parish Meeting that way and anticipate a good number, making quorum, for our next one on November 15, 2020.



The Program Committee has done an excellent job with our Zoom services and we learn as we go along and improve the experience weekly. We have the advantage of the possibility having ministers and speakers from other parts of the country and don't have to pay travel expenses or experience travel delays in their trips to Madison. We save our members from driving in inclement weather

Video recording any in-person meetings may be too big a hurdle for our small volunteer pool as we use technology in the meeting room for the services. The technical difficulties would be very daunting to execute.

# What Does Our Administrator Do?

Rachel Long, President

7



Dan Klock has been serving our congregation for 9-1/2 years, and his role has expanded greatly in the last year. He took over as webmaster, and is now responsible for keeping the main web page up to date. He goes to all the Program Committee meetings, and puts out the orders of service, calendar and other announcements every week. He moderates prairienews, which includes approving all messages and new members to the group. He manages all snail mail, email (which is a lot!) and voice mail that comes to Prairie. He is also providing some member support in these strange times. He is a main host for our meetings for us on zoom. He is currently converting all Prairie's policies and procedures to read-only documents so we can publish the manual to the congregation by the end of this year, and writing up administrative procedures. He is our "G-Suite" administrator, so he gets all the committees up to speed on using their Prairie email addresses and G-Suite for documents. And he only works 15 hours per week! We have created a list of volunteers who serve as Dan's back up for these various roles so you know who to contact when he isn't working. You can find this information in the Staff section of the website.

Please thank Dan for the tremendous work he is doing, and especially his flexibility in these unusual times. He has been very willing to work in 15 minute blocks on off hours to host meetings in the evening and on weekends, something not every employee would do! I want to personally express my gratitude for all he is doing for our congregation. Thank you Dan!

Rachel Long, President  
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society

## Retreat Talent Show Incites Laughs & Awe

Mary Mullen, Archives Committee Chair

Though it was all virtual, the laughs and awe incited by the Prairie retreat's Talent Show rivaled that of live shows of the past.

Who wouldn't be awed by the yo-yo tricks of young Mingus Thompson, the first of only two live acts of the evening? Best of the show for serious music had to be Nancy and John Wunderlin performing on flute and French horn with an a piano accompanist. We all loved Aiden Small's serious cello performance, made amusing by his four-times change of clothes from casual to formal in a mere 45 seconds. For listening only, Dan Proud performed the opening music on guitar and singing in Welsh and the closing music on harp with his sister Kit. They were nice bookends.

Funniest and most surprising was the many-wigged performance of Paula Pachciarz, singing her original “Peanut Butter” song, accompanied on piano by Carl Wacker. Paula’s wigs and performances were so funny, I did nary a screenshot. She was pictured vacuuming, sitting in a tree, perched on a saddle, ready to drive a car, in bed, and more. Paula and Carl also did an original song and dance routine to Carl’s “Badger Bump.” In addition, Carl submitted his “Love Potion #9” recording from the 2019 retreat. It triggered the same laughing reaction from the 2020 Zoom audience.

Another prize original song and performance came from Ron Frye and Barbara Chatterton. They used the tune and format of Paul Simon’s “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover,” substituting lyrics noting “50 Ways to Beat the Covid.” The audience was rapt and edified to hear their own names cited.

The ukulele craze was well-represented. Patty Stockdale and Mary Mullen did three songs while the “Ramblin’ Prairie Roses” – Karen Deaton, Barbara Chatterton, and Jane Richards, decked out in cowgirl gear – performed two country-style tunes surrounded by waving prairie grasses on the location of land out off Raymond Road that once belonged to Prairie.

Not to be forgotten was Rachel Long and Rueben Arnold’s “Locomotion.” Rachel had recorded five of the six of the vocal parts, and in the second live performance of the evening, she and Martin Arnold locomoted in their living room and urged us all to do the same. Some did.

The talent show was well attended with 34 people in the audience. Those who didn’t come missed one of the highlights of the retreat as well as a lot of informal laughing and talking on Zoom afterward. A recording of most acts is on the Members Page (accessed via For Current Members <https://uuprairie.org/connect/for-current-members/>)



### Scenes from the Prairie Talent Show, 10/3/20, Music & Dancing Galore

