

Prairie Fire

July
2021



After the 6/20/21 music service in the Annex backyard, people enjoyed visiting. Pairs at left – Bob Park & Dan Proud; Membership co-chairs Deesa Pence & Patty Stockdale. People on right facing forward – Marilyn Ruecking & Mary Frantz; Phoenix Wardell, Ron Frye, Millie Moffett, Renee Deschard, Nancy Wunderlin, Al Nettleton. Small group behind Phoenix – Margit Moses, Barbara Chatterton, Suzanne Gernandt. Group of 7 middle of picture in back – Carol Steinhart, Aileen Nettleton, Nancy Schraufnagel, Marie Andre, Paula Pachciarz, Barbara Park, Jon Andre. Group of 3 at far back – Visitors Michael and Marie visiting with Prairie President Rachel Long. Photo by Mary Mullen.

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Please see www.uuprairie.org for other contacts, including board members and committee chairs.

Table of Contents

Calendar	2
Summer RE is Off to a Great Start	3
News from Social Action Committee	3
Music Service Fun	4
Membership Committee Report	5
RE Committee Report	6
Archives Committee Report	7
Hospitality Committee Report	7

July Calendar

Please see www.uuprairie.org for detailed descriptions & public event links (where applicable)

2

Friday 2 (every Friday)

- 4:30p Advanced D&D

Saturday 3

- 10a Prairie WOW
- 12pm Beginner D&D (every Saturday)

Sunday 4

- 10a Service: "Small Group Discussion & BYO Picnic" by Prairie

Tuesday 6

- 7p Trivia (1st & 3rd Tuesday)

Sunday 11

- 10a Service: "Flower Ceremony" by Prairie

Tuesday 13

- 6p Board Meeting

Sunday 18

- 10a Service: "Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America - Madison" by Gwyneth Hughes

Saturday 24

- 10a Creativity & Connection

Sunday 25

- 10:15a Joint Service with Free Congregation of Sauk County



Our first 2021 outdoor service on June 13th featured poetry.
Picture taken by Renee Deschard.

Summer RE Fun is Off to a Good Start

Karen Deaton, RE Committee Chair

3



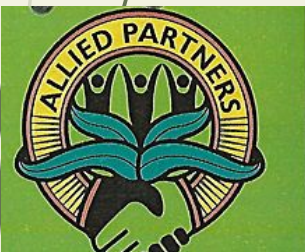
Our first three Sundays in person, we've taken kids and a wagonful of supplies to Marlborough Park during the service. It's been great to welcome some new families. We've examined flowers and bees, done art, explored the playground, and played lots of hide-and-seek.

Would you like to help the kids have fun together?
Fill out this volunteer form:

<https://forms.gle/znJaKSzBT1FPE47>

News from Social Action Committee

Pam Gates, Social Action Committee Co-Chair



The Social Action Committee met June 16 after a long COVID hiatus. We agreed to continue our focus on homelessness; our shared offertory donations will reflect this. The third quarter's recipient will be Allied Partners. Co-Chair Molly Plunkett will give a report on Allied Partners in this issue or the next. We also will be restarting our collection of household goods for The Road Home and possibly the Tenant Resource Center. We spoke of inviting Sunday-service speakers from agencies addressing homelessness.

We discussed other community projects focusing on homelessness: JustDane's community conversation on Housing for All (Molly will attend); One City Schools' down-payment assistance program for its families; and a similar program some Prairie members are involved in under Katrina Thompson's leadership. The Beacon may need volunteers to help guests fill out forms on the computer; Pam will check. There is possibility of a joint project with RE; Molly will talk with Alice.

Pam gave a MOSES update, noting that MOSES has created a Racial Justice for All Children task force, which focuses on traumas that may lead to later involvement in the criminal justice system, including homelessness. Paula had mentioned the possibility of an environmental project. We will follow up with her. Molly also planned to share a table with FUS at the Juneteenth celebration.

Music Service Fun

Mary Mullen

About 45 people enjoyed Prairie's second in-person service, an all-music service held in the backyard of Prairie's Annex on 6/20. Actually, 7 of that number caught the service on Zoom since we are now holding hybrid services so that people both in the Madison area and those far afield can attend. Two of the Zoom listeners were in Chicago! Pictures show most of the acts.



Top row – Mary Frantz played pieces written by Robin Park when he was a high schooler. John Wunderlin presented a challenging but amusing French horn piece. (Robin Proud was the president.) Dan Proud and his sister Kit Reynolds performed the world premiere of a harp duet.

Bottom row – Ron Frye accompanied his singing on his new 12-string guitar. Carol Steinhart and Mary Mullen played a medley of jigs during the offertory as well as two pieces earlier on. At the end, four of the musicians led the crowd in Pete Seeger's "If I Had a Hammer." Also participating in different acts were Barbara Chatterton, Barbara Park, and Patty Stockdale. The service was planned by Dan Proud. Photos by Mary Mullen and Patty Stockdale.

Membership Committee Report

5

Membership Committee 2020 is composed of Deesa Pence and Patty Stockdale as co-chairs and Rick Ruecking and Dan Proud as committee members. Long time co-chair Erin Bosch stepped down June 2020. We thank Erin for her years of service welcoming and orienting new members as well as being a positive force for growing Prairie.

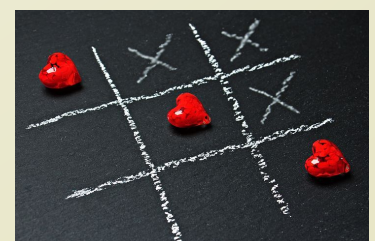
The **duties and responsibilities** of the Membership Committee have changed because of the pandemic. Since Prairie cannot have Sunday services in-person and only online, we cannot meet and greet current members and visitors in quite the same ways. As alternatives, we continue to look for ways to have social interactions both online and in-person, especially as the warm summer months are coming, people are increasingly vaccinated, and the pandemic wanes. We are looking forward to when the Prairie buildings open up and we can meet in person.

Circle Groups: Initially, we asked Circle Dinner Groups that were formed in the Fall 2019 to continue to meet. Often Circle Dinner Groups wind down in late spring or early summer, but some groups had stopped before that because of the pandemic. Prairie was resourceful enough to secure Zoom accounts for group video conferencing for members to use. Some Circle Dinner Groups continued to meet during the summer by Zoom or in-person, when weather permitted outside gatherings and group members could physically distance.

In the summer of 2020, the Membership Committee surveyed members and friends to see who was interested in gathering in small **self-directed circle groups**. Many like-minded individuals came together in virtual groups and met over Zoom around interest areas such as movies, poetry, arts and crafts, games and cards, and singing. The rest of the groups of 4 to 7 people who were interested, met outside to walk or hike with or without kids, with or without dogs

Membership Directory: We are currently working on **updating the Member Directory** and assessing our member count which currently stands at 102. Prairie's Administrator Dan Klock is assisting us in this effort. When we are done, we will republish the Membership Directory to the Prairie Website at www.uuprairie.org in the Members Only page which requires a password. Please ask Dan Klock or Patty Stockdale for the password to view.

Summer activities: Membership Committee 2021 continues to encourage small in-person social gatherings in driveways, yards, and parks. Renee Deschard with Dan Klock's help created a google map on the Members Only page where we can see each other with our addresses on a google map. The Membership Directory is there as well at <https://uuprairie.org/connect/for-current-members/>. Please ask us for the password.



Religious Exploration (RE) Committee Report

Karen Deaton, RE Committee Chair

6

2020-21 RE activities

- Two Dungeons & Dragons campaigns are conducted over Zoom each week, with Prairie youth as Dungeon Masters. D&D provides a framework for creativity, teamwork, and imagination.
- Fun Night once a week - adult volunteers in rotation host 30 minutes of informal activities on Zoom for Prairie's preschool and elementary age kids. Show and tell, memory games, and crafts are frequent activities. Fun Night keeps familiarity with Prairie faces alive for our youngest participants.
- Our holiday gift-making tradition - Nifty Gifty - was conducted via Zoom over several days in early December. Supplies were delivered to participants' homes ahead of time.
- Two flocks of plastic flamingos have migrated around to the homes of Prairie members during the pandemic as a visible symbol of our connection with each other. Paula Pachciarz coordinates their migration. They went into hibernation when the snow fell, but they are back on the wing this spring!
- Sexuality Education for young teens (inspired by OWL) was conducted in thirteen 90-minute Zoom sessions January through March. Holly Tellander, Peggy Small, and Karen Deaton developed the curriculum; Katrina Thompson and Karen Deaton co-facilitated. Nine young people participated, three of whom were new to Prairie.

Director of Religious Exploration hiring

As of May 11 we have a new DRE - Alice Mandt! Thanks to the hiring committee made up of Carl Wacker (Chair), Lynn Currie (Board representative), Rebecca Strome (HR expert and RE parent), Karen Deaton (RE Committee Chair and DRE Supervisor), and Jesse Garst (RE committee member) for their time, skills, and insight!

We look forward to working with Alice to restart our in-person RE program as that becomes safe for our young people.

RE Committee

Karen Deaton (Chair), Pageen Small, Paula Pachciarz, Carl Wacker, Jesse Garst, Alice Mandt (DRE)



Archives Committee Report

Mary Mullen, Archives Committee Chair

7

Archives Committee members: Mary Mullen, Robert Park, Barbara Park, Rosemary Dorney

Since our 11/15/20 Parish Meeting report the Archives Committee has not met, but our members have carried on individual Archives duties.

Online Audio Recordings (most recent at top)				
Year-Mo-Day	Program title	Speaker	Length	Listen
2021-05-30	A Year into the Pandemic: Reflecting on Loss, Healing and Resilience	Christine Milovani	11:47	mp3
2021-05-09	What Do You See?	Matt Aspin	35:33	mp3
2021-05-02	Disability Discrimination During the Pandemic?	Mitchell Hagopian	39:29	mp3
2021-04-25	What is Your Legacy?	Laurel Ravelo, Valerie Showalter, Lailah Shima	30:34	mp3
2021-04-11	Elizabeth Blackwell	Robin Proud	34:06	mp3
2021-03-28	Restraining the Bead	Michael Eselun	29:44	mp3
2021-02-28	The Social Regulation of Speech	Franciska Coleman	39:18	mp3
2021-02-14	Forgiveness for Individual, Family, and Community Well-Being	Robert Enright	42:37	mp3

Bob Park continues to process each Sunday's service audio recording, posting public recordings of the speaker's part at <https://uuprairie.org/audio/index.htm> and adding as much of the full service as has been recorded on Zoom to the password protected Member's Page on the Prairie website. Barbara Park has continued to go through past Board and Parish minutes and Parish budgets, making folders for each year with duplicates for the Wisconsin Historical Society. She has completed years 1969 through 2017, a monstrous job. Barbara also collects paper copies of the monthly newsletters for our files. Rosemary Dorney has given Bob many copies of past orders of service to be scanned by him and then put in a paper file by Barbara. Mary Mullen often provides articles and photos to the Prairie Fire related to past Prairie history or history in the making (seven articles since the 11/15/20 report to the Parish).

A display cabinet has been purchased to display archival materials thanks to the help of Interior Decorations Committee member Nevenah Smith. The display cabinet is located in a corner of the lobby near the new stairs to the basement. We anticipate that one of the first displays will show photos of the building at various points as it has changed over the years. Expect to see some photos of those attending the dedication events in 1980 and 1988 as well as those at our 50th anniversary in 2017. Who knows, you might be there.

Hospitality Committee Report

Barbara Chatterton Frye, Hospitality Committee Chair



The Hospitality Committee has been almost non-existent during the last Covid year but Nancy Wunderlin and Kathy Gann are ready to go when it is called for. Nancy and I have talked about getting the kitchen back together and also will have some brand new dishes for those fun potlucks we used to have and will have again! I have some ideas of more socially distant food activities and we will work with the board in the very near future to see how those will look. We will dine together in the future. Looking forward to it!