

# Prairie Fire



Photo by Stefano Tanasi on [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

## Table of Contents

2	Calendar	3	All Voices Guest Column
2	Staff Office Hours	4	Ministry Moments Shared
2	Invitation to Submit Article	5	What's Going on in RE?

## Prairie Contacts

**Ken Skog**, President - [president@uuprairie.org](mailto:president@uuprairie.org)

**Mary Sue Reutebuch**, Pastoral Minister - [minister@uuprairie.org](mailto:minister@uuprairie.org)

**Karen Deaton**, Director of Religious Exploration - [dre@uuprairie.org](mailto:dre@uuprairie.org)

**Nancy Wunderlin**, Administrator - [admin@uuprairie.org](mailto:admin@uuprairie.org)

**Anne Pryor**, Prairie Fire Editor - [prairiefire@uuprairie.org](mailto:prairiefire@uuprairie.org)

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

Published April 24, 2025

# May 2025 Calendar

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

2

## Saturday 3

- 10a Women of Wonder (WOW)

## Sunday 6

- 8:45a Congregational Discussion
- 10a "Dwelling in your Grit: It's a Good Place to Bel" by Mary Sue Reutebuch
- 10a RE: Cook&Learn - Jewish Passover
- 11:30a Potluck Sunday
- 11:45p Humanist Union

## Sunday 11

- 10a "Keeping it Real-Keeping it Kind" by Mary Sue Reutebuch
- 10a RE: Peer group classes
- 11:30a Visitor Orientation

## Thursday 15

- 7p Prairie Guys Group

## Saturday 17

- 1p Prairie Game Group
- 2p Book Discussion Group

## Sunday 18

- 10a Spring Parish Meeting
- 10a RE
- 11:30a Interweave

## Thursday 22

- 6p Prairie Evening Potluck

## Sunday 25

- 10a "Frances Dana Gage" by Robin Proud
- 10a RE
- 11:30a Prairie's Journey Circle

## Office Hours

**Pastoral Minister Mary Sue Reutebuch**  
Most Tues and Thurs & by appointment

**Administrator Nancy Wunderlin**  
Sun-Tue on site in the Annex  
Wed-Fri working remotely

**Director of Religious Exploration  
Karen Deaton**  
Wed 1-4pm and by appointment



Photo from [First Unitarian Church of South Bend](http://www.firstunitarianchurchofsouthbend.org)

## Invitation to Add Your Voice

Prairie's vision statement opens with, "We aspire to be a community where all voices are heard and valued." Toward that end, all Prairie members and friends are invited to contribute a column to the *Prairie Fire* on a topic of their choice. Please send to [prairiefire\[at\]uuprairie.org](mailto:prairiefire[at]uuprairie.org) by the 21st of the month for inclusion in the following issue.

# All Voices Guest Column

**Dan Proud, Board Secretary**

3

My wife Robin Proud and I joined Prairie in 2002 after moving from Minneapolis where we were long-time members of a similarly sized UU society. What we sought and found in Prairie UU Society was a friendly, connected, and committed group that invited our personal growth and contributions.



I like that each of us can participate, speak our minds, join a group, or spark interest in new ventures. I've been thrilled to share with Prairie my particular musical interests—folk music, folk dancing, and my involvement in Welsh culture and veterans concerns. We've had online sings on Zoom during Covid, Sunday programs with my Vets on Frets friends, and playing the occasional Welsh song (*diolch yn fawr*—thanks much)!

A while back I served as administrator and joined the Prairie board, and in recent years I have been church secretary. In all these activities I've delighted in everyone's infectious enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to each other. I love being infected like that!

On my wish list: continued involvement with Second Baptist Church and with MOSES and other social action initiatives.

I hope to see you at Prairie for the Guys Group pancake breakfast on Mother's Day, the Maypole Dance on April 27, and the choir's final spring appearance on May 25.





# Ministry Moments Shared

**Mary Sue Reutebuch, Pastoral Minister**

4

Recently I had the privilege of joining a few other Prairie members for a WISDOM Day of Action. It was a powerful day of community action and advocacy for social justice, equity, and policy change.



WISDOM is a statewide network committed to bringing diverse communities together to work for racial and economic justice. WISDOM works diligently to help build the “Beloved Community” by joining diverse faith communities around various issues, such as unjust incarceration practices and connecting families of incarcerated individuals, immigrant rights, or respect of the environment with “rights of nature.”

As I was preparing to share this event experience with all of you, I asked myself these questions: *How do I help to build the beloved community? Am I doing enough?* These questions do not pose easy answers.

Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned a beloved community of love and justice where there would be true reconciliation between races. “Our ultimate goal,” MLK said, “is genuine intergroup and interpersonal living—integration.” Physical desegregation is not enough, he insisted, for it leaves us “spiritually segregated, where elbows are together and hearts apart.”

It is my life goal, that starts one day, one moment at a time, to intentionally be a part of building this beloved community. Here at Prairie UU, we are well on our journey and together, we must keep moving forward, asking hard questions, being truthful within right relations, and focusing on love within justice. I am grateful to walk this journey with you.



Photos from the WISDOM event: Mary Sue with James Morgan, the lead organizer for MOSES (Madison Organizing in Strength, Equity, and Solidarity), a WISDOM affiliate, and a performance by the Raging Grannies.

# What's Going on in Religious Exploration?

**Karen Deaton**, Director of Religious Exploration



## What's been happening in RE

The first Sunday of April, on a Cook&Learn day, we learned about the Christian Easter story and made "Resurrection Rolls" for the congregation's potluck - they're hollow cinnamon rolls that represent Jesus' empty tomb after his resurrection. Thanks to Johanna for finding and sharing a UU picture book about Jesus!

On April 13, Avalon and Chelse helped our 5 & 6-year-olds learn how a chick develops inside an egg. On the same day, our OWL class (children about 10-years-old) learned about reproduction and avoiding STIs with Matt and Casey. The 7- 9 year olds that day worked with Andrea and me to prepare 338 plastic eggs for our Easter Sunday egg hunt. Tim led pre-teens in games.

On Easter, Carl, Robin, and our childcare workers Jesse, Liam, Betty, and Ollie, supervised the egg hunt. The eggs had tickets in them and children traded their tickets for prizes in the Prize Store operated by Avalon. Thanks to all who donated prizes, especially the Tokarczyk family who donated lots of books! Andrea and Mariana also helped the kids enjoy the party.

## Coming up in RE

As I write this, we're anticipating the intergenerational service on April 27 with a visitor from the Dane County Humane Society bringing a live snake! Come early for a good seat. Cook&Learn on May 4 will be about Passover. Then we'll have the last few Sundays of our Religious Exploration year.

June 1 will be our Bridging Service, where we celebrate our children and our RE program as children cross the bridge from this school year to the summer and the next year. Summer will bring all-ages fun with tie dye, giant bubbles, playing at the park, and other outdoor activities.

I'm delighted to say that we will have new flooring installed in the RE space this summer! Thanks to John Gernandt (chair of the Housing & Property Committee) for lots of time researching flooring options.

