DEADLINE for the NEXT PRAIRIE FIRE will be SUNDAY, MAY 29TH. Submit notices for the period June 2nd - June 16th.

**CALENDAR**

**Sunday, May 22**

10:00 AM - RECOGNITION SUNDAY - "A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO SOME SPECIAL PRAIRIE PEOPLE"

11:30 AM - PICNIC POTLUCK LUNCH

12:30 PM - PARISH MEETING CONTINUES to decide on bylaw changes and remodeling issues. VERY IMPORTANT! DON'T MISS THIS!

5:30 PM - SPANISH SPEAKERS POTLUCK

**Monday, May 23**

7:30 PM - JOINT MEETING OF THE OLD AND NEW PRAIRIE BOARDS, at the meeting house.

**Saturday, May 28**

6:00 PM - DIANE KNOTT'S FAREWELL PARTY POTLUCK at the Meeting House. Members and friends welcome, including children. Bring a dish to pass and musical instruments and/or recordings to share. Call her at 262-2921 if you have questions.

Third Time's the Charm!

SORRY, but we need all you members again to finish PARISH MEETING business after the Picnic Potluck on May 22nd.

The Parish Meeting (part II) on May 15th only gave us an inkling of solutions to the problem of a bid on remodeling that was $35,000 above estimates! We need to decide whether to scale down, get other bids, get more members, go into a three-year fund raising program, or just simply drop the whole idea.

We must have 30 members - at least - to decide this issue and whether to revise the By-Laws as proposed. Come help decide the future of Prairie and celebrate the end of the winter term!
Spanish Speakers Potluck

The Spanish Speakers' potluck dinner will be held on May 22, at 5:30 PM. We have a nice group of "regulars" at all levels of proficiency, but would like to have some new faces. Please join us!

Prairie Canoe/Camping Trip

Following a tradition of several years standing, there is no service at Prairie and many join us for canoeing and camping on Memorial Day weekend. This year we will camp at Wildcat Mountain State Park and canoe on the scenic Kickapoo River. Do join us for all or part of the weekend.

Friday: Arrive any time and join us in Group Camp #1.

Saturday: We will meet at Bridge 1 in Ontario at 10:00 and spot cars downstream. We will follow the current for approximately 5 hours of canoeing to Bridge 10. Bring a dish to share for potluck dinner and a log for the campfire.

Sunday: We will meet at Bridge 10 at 10:00 and spot cars downstream. We will canoe for approximately 5 hours to Bridge 20 in LaFarge. Join us for another potluck dinner and campfire.

Monday: On your own. Consider exploring the other 75 miles of the Kickapoo.

Join us at any time, it is not absolutely necessary to let us know ahead. However, I must know ahead for canoe rentals, and it will help to know ahead for the campground. Please let me know and send your money -- Peg Stevenson, 628 Sheldon St., Madison, WI 53711.

Camping Costs: $2.00 per night per adult, $.75 per night per child under 18. You must have a State Park sticker on your car.

Canoe rental costs: One day - $19.00, two days - $27.00 (less if we rent several). This cost includes shuttle service.

Please call Peg Stevenson at 233-6449 if you have questions, need a ride, or need a canoeing partner.

Alcoholism Study Group to Form

A number of Prairie members have asked for a series of small group meetings to follow up on Julie Bonsers' lay ministry dealing with issues of alcoholism. The first meeting will be on May 31st at 7:00 PM at the Meetinghouse. For more information call Julie at 274-3248 evenings.

The Humanist Alternative

"The Twelve Steps" used by Alcoholics Anonymous place a heavy emphasis on traditional religious concepts which many non-religious people find unhelpful or outright offensive. Dr. B. F. Skinner has developed the following alternative statements for use by atheists, agnostics, and others who desire a non-religious version of the steps to recovery.

1. We accept the fact that all our efforts to stop drinking have failed.

2. We believe that we must turn elsewhere for help.

3. We turn to our fellow men and women, particularly those who have struggled with the same problem.

4. We have made a list of the situations in which we are most likely to drink.

5. We ask our friends to help us avoid those situations.

6. We are ready to accept the help they give us.

7. We earnestly hope that they will help.

8. We have made a list of the persons we have harmed and to whom we hope to make amends.

9. We shall do all we can to make amends, in any way that will not cause further harm.

10. We will continue to make such lists and revise them as needed.

11. We appreciate what our friends have done and are doing to help us.

12. We, in turn, are ready to help others who may come to us in the same way.
Playreaders to Meet

The Prairie Playreaders will meet at the home of Dorothy Wetherby, 341 W. Wilson St., at 7:30 PM on Saturday, June 4. The play will be “Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Momma’s Hung You In The Closet and I’m Feeling So Sad”. If you have questions, critical comments, or need directions, call Dorothy at 255-3536.

We’re All Invited!

The members and friends of the First Unitarian Society of Madison are invited to be a part of the community gathered to celebrate the ordination of Colleen Mary McDonald to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry of Religious Education. The event will take place at 7 PM on Sunday, June 5, 1988, at the First Unitarian Society Meetinghouse, 900 University Bay Drive. A reception will follow the service.

If you plan to attend, please call the First Society Office at 233-9774 before May 22 to let them know how many will be attending and what your child care needs will be.

Program Committee Seeks Members

The Program Committee is being reconstituted and is looking for new members. If you wish to influence and contribute to our Sunday programs, please join. Talk to Warren Hagstrom on any Sunday or call him at 238-4970.

Address Change

Prairie Friend Jerry Wikkerink has a new address. He can now be found at:
2323 Harvard Drive #35
Janesville, WI 53545.

Name Change

Prairie Friend Linda Driscoll has changed her name but not her address. Her new name is Melinda Morgaine.

ALL I EVER REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN
by Robert Fulghum.

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don’t hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don’t take things that aren’t yours. Say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup -- they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all, LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all -- the whole world -- had cookies and milk about 3 o’clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

(Robert Fulghum is Minister Emeritus of the Edmunds, WA Unitarian Church.)
Drop in for the Wednesday night dinners at the Pizza Pit on University Ave. We meet at 6:00 PM and are usually done by 7:00 or 7:15.

This summer, Channing-Murray will continue the Thursday lunches at the Memorial Union only instead of meeting inside, we’re going to meet out on the Union Terrace at noon. Considering that the Union Terrace is one of Madison’s favorite spots, we’ll really need to watch for one another and wave! At least we’re going to give this a try! Come and join us.

Recognition Sunday is May 22.
All children and their families are encouraged to attend the Recognition Sunday service planned for May 22. It is a time for us all to get together and celebrate another good year gone bye.

On May 29, there will be no R. E. classes because of the canoe trip.

Further notices about summer R. E. programs will be in future issues of the Prairie Fire newsletter.

Y R U U News

There will be a Y R U U conference at the Unitarian Church in Rockford, IL on June 10, 11, and 12. Entitled “Y R We We?”, the conference will feature musical events, swimming, dancing, discussion groups, a fancy dress dinner on Saturday night, and a great deal of creative fun and enjoyment. Sex, Drugs, Alcohol, and Firearms are prohibited, and written parental approval is required. Registration will begin at 7 PM on Friday and the cost will be $15. Advance registration can be mailed to:

Heidi Van der Ohe
4122 Cushman Rd.
Rockford, IL 61111

For more information, call Heidi at (815) 633-4380, Kristin at (815) 877-8788, or the Church office at (815) 393-6322.

Food Donations Urgently Needed!

Please help us to help our neighbors. We are collecting food for two families, a family of five - a mother and four children, two of which are teenagers - and a family of two where the mother is unemployed. These people are living near the meetinghouse. They need and appreciate our assistance.

It Does Make a Difference!

During the past year, Prairie has helped two families in the neighborhood who are experiencing financial difficulties. The first family is a single parent with four children. The parent works full time at a low paying job and does not qualify for public assistance because she makes $4.00 per month over the income limit. The second family is a single parent with one child who has been unemployed for nearly a year, so unemployment benefits have stopped.

We recently received a letter from the first family thanking us for our help. The cash they have received from us has enabled them to buy more fresh food to supplement the packaged food they have received.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this worthy project. I believe this is an important way for Prairie to lend a helping hand and act on our beliefs.

- Fredericka Schilling.

Recycling News

Due to the fact that we aren’t meeting every Sunday through the summer and may miss the first Sunday, I will collect plastic and newspaper every Sunday that Prairie is open. I expect the quantities collected to be small, so they won’t take up much space. I will re-evaluate this policy in September, based on volume collected. For Plastic, see the instructions below - for newspaper, package it any way you like so long as I can carry it.

- Judy Skog
273-4813

Pop bottles (rinse & remove caps)
Milk bottles (rinse & remove caps)
Household bottles (rinse & remove caps)
Acceptable: laundry soap, fabric softener, bleach, ammonia, dish soap, household cleaners, shampoo/conditioner, antifreeze, motor oil.