

Notes from the Prairie



PRAIRIE CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

April 2011

Upcoming Services

April 3rd

Finding Happiness and Contentment in the Western World

Bhante Sujatha

Obtaining peace and happiness is a gentle process of loving, kindness and acceptance. By practicing loving kindness to yourself first, everyone around you will benefit from your compassionate nature. In this way, you become a radiant source of love and happiness to the whole world.

April 10th

Denise Tracy

Please check our website for more up-to-date information:

www.PrairieCircleUUC.org/worship/worship-calendar

The PCUUC Choir will be singing.

April 17th

Earth Day

This service, designed and delivered by our youth and Religious Education Team, will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about techniques you can do in your everyday life to reduce environmental impact.

This service will also increase awareness of both local and global ecological issues. Share in the music, acting, readings and fun of this interactive service!

April 24th

Easter Sunday

Breaking Through the Barrier

Reverend Dr. Clare Butterfield

In many ways, the Easter story is about what happens when we break through the barrier of fear. This service will reflect on what happens when that barrier is broken in the Biblical narrative and in recent events in the world.

The PCUUC Choir will be singing.



Our Caring Circle

Cares of concern were expressed by: Duane Shaneyfelt for Fred O'Donnell recovering from gout and Chris Kozlowski for a neighbor whose breast cancer has returned. Our Circle of Concern grows to include our global community as multiple expressions were shared for the people of Japan who have suffered through an earthquake, a tsunami and a nuclear disaster.

Expressions of awareness were conveyed by: Juanita Cruz on the importance of compassionate life-ending decision-making and universal love of humanity, Leslie Kratoski on the importance of a Living Will.

A note of condolence was mentioned by Ken Klick on the passing of Dick Young who was the county environmentalist for Kane County until 1987. He continued to work as a consultant until his retirement in 2008. Dick also was a co-founder and director of the Kendall County Forest Preserve District. Notably he had a forest preserve named after him in both Kendall and Kane Counties.

Marty Vershaw announced the approval of a drug to help fight lupus. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently gave lupus patients their first new treatment option in more than 50 years when it approved Benlysta as a way to ease the painful symptoms of this debilitating autoimmune disorder.

Julie Palumbo expressed appreciation and gratitude for all who participated in PCUUC's Affirmation Chili Cook-Off fundraiser which raised over \$2,000 and will offset expenses for their upcoming Boston trip. The DeWitt family welcomed spring as well as chickens to raise. Likewise, the Vernal Equinox was celebrated by the Klick family observing the many signs of the changing season.

Announcements of Joy were expressed by: Juanita Cruz for the congregational support given to the Affirmation group, Kent McKenzie for double family birthdays - Penny Sue and Tempest, Marty and Tonia Vershaw for their son's involvement in the

Illinois Science Olympics (ISO), Joyce DeWitt whose parents have decided to comfortably relocate, Mike and Sally Merritt on finalizing daughter Amanda's decision of college to be attended and Ralph Churchill whose parents are celebrating their 49th anniversary. It was noted that the Avon Food Pantry facility will be expanding to include a Sustainable Community Garden where participants will be able to grow and harvest their own fresh vegetables.

Congratulations to Amy Morton Miller who has successfully defended her dissertation (UW, Milwaukee) on women living with HIV.

Let us each be filled with the joys and sorrows of our PCUUC family.

If you have a joy or concern to be published, contact the Caring Committee at: Caring@PrairieCircleUUC.org.



We Need You!

Part of your being a member of our Church is your active participation in its leadership. There will be openings on the Board. There will be openings on the Nomination Committee. Volunteers to serve on each one are needed. Please be a volunteer. Contact Ric Sarmont at: RicAntioch@aol.com



Easter Plant Dedications

As in past years, the Caring Committee invites you to remember your loved ones by purchasing an Easter plant. A separate insert in the order of service will indicate who is being honored or remembered by whom. This serves as a meaningful, visible sign of our love for those we remember and honor as well as adding beauty to our service on Easter Sunday, April 24th.

Colorful blooming, six-inch potted bulbs will be delivered to us on Easter morning to adorn the Barn for our service. Plants may be taken home, given as gifts or left in the Barn for delivery to someone in need.

You may use the order form at the end of this newsletter or the order form in your order of service on Sunday, April 10th and on April 17th. Return orders with your payment of \$10.00 per plant to Jan Kirch. CHECK OR CASH must accompany this form. Checks should be made payable to **PCUUC with "Easter Plant" in the memo area.** You may also submit orders in the Easter Basket on the welcome table by Sunday, April 17th. For more information, call Jan at 847-816-7602 or email her at Caring@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Adult Enrichment: Upcoming Events and Activities

Video: "The Economics of Happiness"

All are invited to a screening of the newly-released documentary *The Economics of Happiness* on Sunday, May 1st, after the service and coffee hour. This 65-minute video, produced in Australia and filmed

worldwide, recognizes the harmful effects of economic globalization on people, natural resources and the environment. It offers a vision of how the re-localization of economic and social activity can reverse these harmful effects. There will be a group discussion following the video. Friends and guests are welcome to attend. Location to be announced. Please use the sign-up sheet in the back of the Barn.

Voluntary Simplicity Discussion Course

The PCUUC Adult Enrichment Committee is pleased to offer another of the popular Northwest Earth Institute discussion courses, *Voluntary Simplicity*. At this time of deep economic distress with rising food and energy prices coupled with persistent job market uncertainty, we will explore together the concept of "simplicity" as a religious practice or philosophy of life. When do material possessions add meaning to our lives and when do they detract? Are there alternatives to the fast pace of mainstream culture? How much consumption do we really need? Guided by a series of carefully-selected readings, participants will address questions such as these and have the opportunity to develop a personal Action Plan to integrate simplicity into their lives.

This course will be given in five sessions in May and June, dates and location to be determined. Inge Crowley will serve as course facilitator. Each participant will be provided with their own 96-page course book at a cost of \$21 each. The course itself is free. **Indicate your interest in this course by April 17th** using the form in the back of the Barn and please include your preferred meeting dates/times.

New Book Discussion Group

Summer is on the horizon and if you would like to be part of a new book discussion group to meet periodically in the weeks and months to come, now is your opportunity! Our first book will be *The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living*, by the Dalai Lama, available from Amazon.com at \$14.19 (hardcover). It is anticipated that the new group will decide among themselves what books they will want to read thereafter. Choice areas of interest for future

exploration appear to be theology, environmental- and sustainability-related themes, and family-related issues. Please indicate your interest using the form in the back of the Barn. Meeting dates/time/place to be determined by group consensus.

Watch the PCUUC website, the Sunday Orders of Service and future newsletters for details on these and other PCUUC Adult Enrichment offerings. Additional program ideas and suggestions are welcome! Contact Mike Honegger (Chair), John Crowley, Inge Crowley, Fred O'Donnell or Duane Shaneyfelt. Or, you may e-mail the committee at: AdultRE@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Did You Know?

Your Caring Committee's mission statement is:

- to offer nurturing, supportive assistance as needed while honoring requests and respecting the privacy of PCUUC members and friends
- to celebrate joys and recognize significant milestones of PCUUC members and friends

Members are invited to contact the Caring Committee when they or someone they know require assistance in the form of: meal delivery, transportation, errands, child care, pet care, etc. The Health Care & Counseling Resource List the committee created is posted on the PCUUC website and is another useful tool.

In addition, the Caring Committee has many other roles:

- works with the Worship Committee when approached about memorials and baby dedications; procedures for these services are outlined on our website.
- coordinates requests for chancel flowers; Chancel Decoration Procedures are initiated by members wishing to honor special

events (anniversaries, graduations, etc.) by bringing flowers to church. Contact Flowers@prariecircleuuc.org or the Caring Committee.

- assists members wishing to dedicate funds in memory of loved ones to a memorial fund; all procedures are posted on the PCUUC website under Procedures and Guidelines in the Document Library link
- notes when Joys & Concerns are announced which are then published in the Caring Circle section of newsletter

Members/friends are encouraged to inform the Caring Committee of specific needs or milestone celebrations by telephoning Jan Kirch at 847-816-7602 or emailing Ideasjan1217@comcast.net or Caring@prairiecircleuuc.org

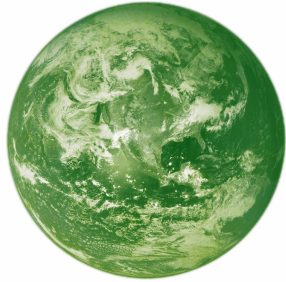
We are always joyfully and thankfully amazed at the generosity and thoughtfulness of our members and friends when there is a need within our PCUUC family. Our committee role has expanded reflecting our growing membership. We gratefully invite members into our committee to ensure we capably meet the unpredictable needs of our congregational membership.



Mark your calendar!

Back by popular demand, our **Stone Soup Auction** will be held on the evening of Saturday, November 12th, 2011 at the Libertyville Civic Center. This is our congregation's "**MAIN EVENT**" in terms of fundraising.

Calling all volunteers! Interested in joining one of the awesome Stone Soup Teams? Join us on Tuesday, May 10th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Grayslake Library. Specific details will be posted on PCUUC website and in weekly Orders of Service. Questions? Contact Jan Kirch or Dayle Kozlowski at Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org.



Green Living Fair

PCUUC participated in the Green Living Fair on Saturday, March 12th, at the Libertyville Civic Center. The Libertyville Civic Center Foundation sponsored the event with the founding group, Lake County Green Congregations. The event had over 25 educational exhibits including SWALCO, CLC Sustainability Center, Storm Water Management, Waste Management Educycle Center, Lake County Bicycle Club, farmers' markets, the Audubon Society, Lake County Forest Preserves, organic gardeners & farming, local Scout groups, and youth clubs to name a few. Our very own Lynn Hepler was there representing the Lake County Forest Preserves.



Additionally, there were many recycling opportunities available to the public including: electronics, styrofoam, plastic

bags, gym shoes, crayons and much more. Over 300 people attended the event. Admission to the public was free of charge and included a free raffle ticket.

A Brief History: The Green Living Fair's seed began to germinate in 2008 when a few area "church ladies" were inspired to heighten sustainability awareness within their congregation. The idea of sponsoring a Green Living Fair "blossomed". With no operating budget, the group of volunteers reached out to local agencies asking for their participation. The first fair was held at a local church in April of 2010 while many other area Earth Day activities were happening. This "grass roots" project took hold and expanded to the community at large. The group has expanded to include other local churches (currently eight, including PCUUC) calling itself Lake County Green Congregations. Area clubs, agencies and youth groups were invited to participate. Due to interest and increased participation, this year's venue was the Libertyville Civic Center where our Stone Soup Auction and Fundraiser was held last year.

Our Participation: We became involved this year as an outgrowth of our congregation's green initiative. Being familiar with the Civic Center layout, we offered floor plan ideas, procedural suggestions and free raffle materials. We also loaned our auction tablecloths for the event. Volunteers included: Norine Fendrych (refreshments/kitchen), Rich Fendrych (outside recycling), Duane Shaneyfelt (greeter), Jan Kirch and Dayle Kozlowski (planning, set up and tear down).

The Green Living Fair heightened community awareness of the importance of shopping locally, shopping green and taking greater care of our planet. Hopefully, we will expand our participation next year with increased involvement from RE and Social Action. Let us all be mindful to Reduce - Re-Use - Recycle & Re-Think as our planet's future is in our hands.

Your Presence and Contributions were Appreciated

Our First PCUUC Affirmation class and the Religious Education committee would like to extend a BIG thank you to all members and friends of the congregation who planned and attended the chili cook-off fundraiser!!! Our Affirmation class organized this function, along with future smaller fundraisers in the next couple of months to be able to go to the city of Boston, Massachusetts to learn about our faith as an important step in their journey before they present their projects, statements of beliefs and overall learning experience on Affirmation Sunday on June 19th, 2011.

Our affirmants: Gavin Achtemeier, Lauren Rudloff, Yasmeen Johnson, Emily Samson, Alex Kratcoski and Quinn Mckenzie, along with the dedication of their families, mentors, and other members of our congregation contributing food and those who contributed items for the silent auction, providing their time and energy making this event possible. In addition, a special thanks goes out to the members of our congregation who spearheaded this event: Leslie Kratcoski, Dena Hensey-Rudloff, Norine Fendrych, and the hospitality committee for jumping right in. Our cumulative funds raised thus far for our affirmants to go to Boston on June 9th-12th is currently at \$2909, thanks to your generosity. This will cover airfare and partial lodging expenses. It is apparent with the combined efforts of several thoughtful people, amazing outcomes endure. Thus rung true of Prairie Circle Unitarian Congregation caring on behalf of our expanding our youth's horizons on March 6, 2011.

For more ways to assist with Religious Education functions or sharing ideas please contact:

Julie Palumbo, Interim Director of Religious Education at RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org

Circle Dinners 2010-2011

There will be one final Circle Dinner for this church year which will be held on June 11th. This will be a small group dinner in a PCUUC members' home with a group of approximately 8 to 12 people.

Contact Sally Merritt with questions or an RSVP at merritt69_99@yahoo.com. Please let her know if you are willing to be a host/hostess for one of the dinners.

Social Action News

Avon Township Food Bank

Avon Township Food Bank and PADS continue to thank PCUUC's members and friends for their monthly donations of canned food and monetary gifts. Our total contributions this church year now have reached \$ 1,500!



Avon Township Community Foundation

The Avon Township Community Foundation is making plans to have garden plots available this spring. Several of PCUUC's members are interested in presenting a gardening workshop to people who are interested in starting a garden.

PADS Family Center in Waukegan

The next meal at the Center will be served on Sunday, April 17th, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Peg Fredrickson and Lynae Sampson are the coordinators and will have a sign-up

sheet for additional cooks and servers (please volunteer!) on the Social Action table.



LCFP's Native Plant Sale

PCUUC Social Action Committee members have agreed to assist the Lake County Forest Preserves with their native plant sale on May 7th (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) and on May 8th (10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Inge Crowley will be the coordinator and will have a sign-up sheet at the Social Action table. If you would like to assist with this sale you can also contact Jan Ward, an environmental educator with the LCFP, at 847-968-3337, or e-mail her at jward@LCFPD.org. Several members have participated in past years and it has been a great learning opportunity and a lot of fun. You can volunteer for the entire day or just for a 2-hour slot.

UUSC Update

UUs for Social Justice

The next meeting of the UUs for Social Justice will take place on April 3rd from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Unity Temple in Oak Park, IL. The presenters will report on the research they have done on the subject of Ethical Eating. Their work is for the UUA draft Statement of Conscience to be presented as the major topic at the upcoming UU General Assembly which will take place in late June in Charlotte, SC.

Duane Shaneyfelt is planning to attend the meeting on April 3rd and will provide transportation for anyone else who is interested in attending.

Japan Relief Fund

A relief fund for Japan has been established jointly by the UUA and the UUSC. Go to www.uua.org/socialjustice for more information.

We Are One

Stand with U.S.-born and immigrant workers on April 4th. Momentum is building in support of workers' rights and immigrant justice and the two movements are coming together. On April 4th, native born and immigrant workers will stand together at We Are One events across the country along with allies from the faith community in support of all working people. Please check out the website, www.uua.org/socialjustice, for more info.



Green Team to Host Ethical Eating Table on Earth Day

On April 17th, the PCUUC Green Team will be participating in our Earth Day Celebration by hosting a table after the service that will feature posters, food samples, fliers and an opportunity to commit to UU Social Justice's (UUSJ) platform for education on Food & Environmental Justice. There will be a "Tree of Life" where anyone can pledge to

do something this year that supports helping our planet and our human society.

In addition, in conjunction with our ties to Lake County Green Congregations, Norine Fendrych will provide many fliers that were collected from the Green Fair in March at the Libertyville Civic Center. She would like to give away some great information in regard to proper recycling, gardening tips, free earth week programs at LCFPD, green products, bird walks and CSAs. Rich Fendrych is offering to collect dead batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, hearing aide, rechargeable) for proper disposal.



Does Your T-shirt Need a Little Pizzazz?

Decorate it with the PCUUC logo! Merchandise with our logo is now available at CafePress. We now have an online store for clothing and other items with the Prairie Circle logo. You can find it at: <http://www.cafepress.com/PrairieCircleUUC>.

Items are printed just-in-time and shipped directly to you, with Prairie Circle getting 10% of the profit. It's an easy way to get a T-shirt, coffee mug, water bottle or other item.

Please contact Scott Helmke

(scott@scotthelmke.com) if you have any questions.

Covenant Groups

A covenant group is a small group that meets to discuss topics of interest and develop bonds of friendship. Interested in starting a new covenant group? Contact Interim Director of Religious Education Julie Palumbo for more details: re@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Mother/Daughter Group

There has been interest in forming a mother/daughter based on the book "The Mother/Daughter Project: How Mothers and Daughters Can Band Together Beat the Odds and Thrive Through Adolescence". If you have a daughter of any age and would be interested in forming a group, please contact Julie Palumbo at: re@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Men's Group

Meets on select Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Check our website calendar for the next meeting date: <http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org/news-events/calendar/>
Contact Rich Fendrych if you are interested in attending: membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Father/Son Group

If there is any interest in a Father/Son group, please contact Julie Palumbo at: re@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Prairie Women's Covenant Group

The PCUUC Prairie Women's Covenant group meets twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Location rotates. Topics are varied. New members are always welcome! Contact Norine Fendrych at: nativeheart27@sbcglobal.net or Sally Merritt at: merritt69_99@yahoo.com for more details.

Our Wider Community

Central Midwest District of the UUA

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be the Keynote Speaker at District Assembly on April 29th & 30th. The event will be held in Bloomington, Illinois, at the Chateau Hotel and Conference Center.

"Why has becoming more culturally and racially diverse been such a challenge for UUism? Why, when our intentions are so good, is it still a struggle? There is a surprising, and painful, truth behind Unitarian Universalist efforts to become more racially and culturally diverse. This truth must begin with taking an honest look at who we are and why we are who we are, and it ends in a conundrum but not without hope. If UUs really want to change, accepting the truth is the only place to start. Torn between our reality and our aspirations, what are we to do?"

This presentation will include viewing the DVD: *Black Pioneers in A White Denomination*, music and singing that explores what music has and has not appeared in UU hymnals over the last 50 years, small group discussion in which hard questions are reflected upon and a lecture based upon the findings in the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed's just released book *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*.

Join Mark Morrison-Reed for an inspirational exploration of these issues, combined with worship, music and fun! Saturday will consist of two sessions with our keynote presenter, including some small group breakouts. An extended lunch hour will offer 2 one-hour informal sessions for affinity groups, workshop-type presentations, resource sharing, or browsing the UUA bookstore and district vendors.

Mother Jones Attending NSUC Women's Breakfast

At the North Shore Unitarian's Women's Breakfast on April 16th, 8:30-11:00 a.m., attendees will have the great honor of welcoming Mother Jones, an irascible labor leader, an icon of her time. She is traveling from the turn of the 20th century in America with the assistance of Betsey Means from WomanLore (www.womanlore.com). Betsey will evoke a bygone era with an authentic costume, Mother Jones' own writings and a deep appreciation for women's impact on history. This will be an educational and entertainment experience! Be sure to reserve your seat for this one-woman show by contacting the event registrar, Pat Wozniak, at patricia.wozniak@comcast.net. Tickets are \$7.

UUA General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte

General Assembly (GA) 2011 in Charlotte will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. Join thousands of fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the country as we remember the persons and events that brought into being the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in May 1961.

Experience wonderful and uplifting worship services -- morning and night -- led by some of our best worship leaders, with glorious music and inspiring messages. Participate in our democratic process. General Assembly is the way that our faith does business, bringing together the distinctive character of our individual congregations. Hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of dynamic, entertaining programs and informative workshops.

Final Notes

Newsletter Submissions

All submissions for the May 2011 newsletter are due by the end of the day on **April 25th**. The newsletter will be posted on the website at the beginning of May. Please send submissions as attachments to Andrea Mills, PCUUC's Church Administrator at: office@PrairieCircleUUC.org.



To Discontinue Receiving Monthly Email Notices of the Publication of the Newsletter:

Please send your request to the Office Administrator at office@PrairieCircleUUC.org and include your name and email address in your request. Thanks.



Visit PCUUC on the Internet at <http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org>!

List of PCUUC Contacts

Mike Merritt	Board President	President@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Tonia Becker VerShaw	President Elect	VP@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Norine Fendrych	Secretary	Secretary@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Chris Kozlowski	Treasurer	Treasurer@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Diana Fox	Trustee	Trustee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Scott Helmke	Trustee	Trustee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Andrea Mills	Church Administrator	Office@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Julie Palumbo	Interim Dir. of Religious Education	RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Joyce DeWitt	Choir Director	Choir@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Mark Wilson, Jim Cubit & Scott Helmke	Music Committee	Music@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Tonia Becker-Vershaw	Worship Committee	Worship@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Laura Franz	Children's RE Committee	RE-Committee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Mike Honegger	Adult RE Committee	Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Inge Crowley	Social Action Committee	Socialaction@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Peg Fredrickson	Social Action Committee	Socialaction@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Rich Fendrych	Membership/Publicity Committee	Membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Mark Wilson & Diana Fox	Long Range Planning Committee	Planning@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Ric Sarmont	Nominating Committee	Nominating@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Teresa Aguinaldo	Hospitality Committee	Social_events@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Jan Kirch	Caring Committee	Caring@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Rory Klick	Transitional Minister Recruitment Committee	Minister_Recruitment@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Jan Kirch	Fundraising Committee	Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org

Easter Plant Order Form

We invite you to remember your loved ones and friends by purchasing an Easter Plant. This is a meaningful, visible sign of our love for those we remember and honor and a way of adding beauty to our service on Easter.

Please order _____ Easter Plants at \$10.00 per plant.

In memory of:

In honor of:

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

After the service on Easter morning on April 24 (check one):

_____ Deliver to someone in need

_____ I will pick-up after the service

A variety of 6" potted bulbs (daffodils, tulips and hyacinths) will be ordered. **The deadline is Sunday, April 17, 2011**

CHECK OR CASH must accompany this form. Please make checks payable to **PCUUC with "Easter Plant" in the memo area** and place in the Easter Basket on the information table or mail them directly to Jan Kirch, 30908 N. Pinehurst Ct, Libertyville, IL 60048.