

Notes from the Prairie



PRAIRIE CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

January 2011

Upcoming Services

January 9

Solidarity Not Generosity: Reflections on Work in East Africa

Cathy Moon

In an overwhelmingly troubled world, complacency is an understandable, though unconscionable, response. The global disparity between rich and poor is growing ever wider with serious implications for all of us. But how do we responsibly engage in acts of disruption within the context of such a large-scale “community”? Why focus on global need when there is so much need close to home? What does it mean to act out of solidarity rather than generosity? This sermon will address these questions in relation to work undertaken in East Africa on behalf of children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic.

January 16

Martin Luther King Day – Justice Sunday

TBA

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

www.PrairieCircleUUC.org/worship/worship-calendar

The PCUUC Choir will be singing.

January 23

TBA

Monk Bhante Sujatha

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

www.PrairieCircleUUC.org/worship/worship-calendar

January 30

Our Third Principle: Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement to Spiritual Growth in our Congregations

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

www.PrairieCircleUUC.org/worship/worship-calendar

The PCUUC Choir will be singing.



Our Caring Circle

Cares of concern were expressed by the Sell family for the hospitalization of a sister. Continued recovery wishes are extended to Martina Shaneyfelt and Phil Swartz, respectively, who are both steadily improving in their health following recent surgeries. Healing wishes are extended to Chris Kozlowski's father following his recent hospitalization.

Congratulatory wishes to: Paul & Myrna Jaffe who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Family expressions of Joy were shared by: Tonia Becker Vershaw on the recent visit of nieces Regan & Emma; Diana Fox on an upcoming trip to visit family; the Klick family on Rory's birthday; the Kratcoski and McKenzie families on upcoming vacations and school reports.

Dedication of Trevin Fredrick Sell

PCUUC members and friends participated in a very special Child Dedication Ceremony on December 19th for Trevin Fredrick Sell, the son of Derrick & Samara Sell. Bruce Moon performed the Dedication with input from the Sell family. The following is the Prayer of Dedication.

Give us the spirit of a child
Give us the child who lives within: The child who Trusts
The child who Imagines, The child who Sings.
The child who receives without reservation,
The child who gives without judgment.
Give us a child's eyes, that we may receive the beauty and freshness of this day like a sunrise;
Give us a child's ears, that we may hear the music of the world;
Give us a child's heart, that we may be filled with wonder;
Give us the child's faith, that we may be cured of our cynicism;
Give us the spirit of a child, who is not afraid to need; who is not afraid to love.

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.

Intro to UU Class Starts January 16th

The Adult Religious Education Committee will present the three-part course "Introduction to Unitarian Universalism" in January and February 2011. If you are a member, prospective member or just someone who would like to gain a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism's principles, its beliefs-in-common, its "heretical" history, our shared spirituality and present-day actions to create a more just and environmentally-sustainable society, this course is for you. Each part of the course will cover different information about Unitarian Universalism and will be held on the following dates:

- January 16th - Part I: Who We Are: Unitarian Universalist History and Principles
- January 30th - Part II: UU Spirituality, Beliefs, Core Values
- February 20th - Part III: Community, the Wider World and Change for the Future

Course sessions will run from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. and will be held after the Sunday services and the children's religious education classes.

There is no fee for the course or course materials. Infant and child will be provided as needed. Classes will be held in a Prairie Crossing Charter School classroom next to the Byron Colby Barn. John and Inge Crowley, lay members of the congregation, will serve as the course facilitators. If you would like to register, please use the sign-up sheet in the back of the Barn. Registration for each session will be limited to 12 adults. This basic-level course for adults is different and more in-depth than the PCUUC Orientation presented by the Membership Committee.



Circle Dinners 2010-2011

The next PCUUC Circle Dinner will be on January 15th. This will be a small group dinner of approximately 6 to 10 people in a member's home.

Please RSVP by January 5, 2011 to Sally Merritt at merritt69_99@yahoo.com. Also, please let her know if you are willing to be host/hostess for one of the dinners.

Greeters Needed

We are looking for Greeters to welcome guests to our Sunday morning worship service. It is an easy and fulfilling way to help the Congregation. You will work with an experienced greeter for guidance and help direct new visitors to the New Visitors table. Only one or two Sundays per person are requested.

If you are interested, please contact Rich Fendrych at:
membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Chancel Decoration Reminder

The Caring and Worship Committees would like to remind members of the Chancel Decoration Procedure. This procedure allows our community to celebrate and honor a special person or event in their life.

If you would like to participate by purchasing flowers to decorate the chancel, email your intentions to flowers-worship@pcuuc.org.

To view the entire policy, please go to:
<http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/ChancelProcedure.pdf>.

Guest at Your Table

This annual UU tradition in support of the work of the UUSC has come to an end for this year. Please be sure to fill out the information section on the box and return it to Janice Simpson at either the January 2nd or January 9th service. It would help greatly if you would write a check, payable to UUSC, for the amount you've collected. Contact Janice Simpson at sgranjan@comcast.net if you need to make other arrangements for returning your contribution. Thank you for welcoming the Guest at Your Table.

Social Action News

The Social Action Committee would like to thank members and friends for their contributions to the Guest at Your Table program. Our donations will benefit UUSC, the social service outreach arm of the UUA.

We would also like to thank everyone for their continuing donations to the two agencies that PCUUC has selected for support this church year, the PADS Crisis Center and the Avon Township Food Bank.

Dave, the manager of the food bank, reported that 2010 was a great year for the pantry. More than 28,000 persons were served with donations from groups, individuals, businesses and other food banks. Last year only 17,000 persons were served. The increase was from a large increase in needy families and also the large increase in donations throughout the year from organizations and individuals! The pantry workers were especially thankful for PCUUC food and personal toiletry items including for children, infants and families. They also mentioned the books, for children and adults, for their new library.

We will continue throughout 2011 to collect these donations as brought to our church

services every week. At the appropriate season, the pantry will again begin taking garden produce as donations for recipients. They will have plots again later in 2011 for gardens on the township's land.

On January 16th, our Affirmation class will cook and serve the meal at PADS in Waukegan. Inge Crowley will be the coordinator.

The next Social Action Committee meeting will take place on January 9th at Inge Crowley's home. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Inge at: SocialAction@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

UUSC Update

UUSC issued their annual 2010 report in December. Here are the highlights:

UUSC has made a commitment to use its special partnership focus to "Walk hand in hand" with the most needy in special development areas of the world where the "promised land is but a dream now". The four projects chosen are:

- Haiti - earthquake relief
- Ecuador - defending human right to water
- Kenya - supporting workers
- United States - building religious understanding and supporting "living wages" and employment

These partnerships are referred to as "eye to eye". They involve 50 grassroots social-justice organizations in 23 countries. There are 45,000 members and supporters involved in this effort. The focus of work in the U.S. now involves "building bridges" with Muslim and Arab Americans.

PCUUC was added to the Honor Roll of major donors this year at the Creating Justice Banner Society. Only three other congregations in Illinois (Deerfield, Palatine and DeKalb) received this honor. Our strong donations to Guest at your Table

have been instrumental in this endeavor. Thank you!

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

Winter WomanSpirit 2011

February 25th through 27th, Winter WomanSpirit 2011 will welcome Margot Adler to keynote a weekend about Balancing Our Power: Self, Spirit, Earth. It will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart, Indiana. The dates to save are February 25th through February 27th. Reduced registration costs are available to those registering prior to January 10th. More information available at:

www.womenandreligion.org

NSUC Concert Series

On Sunday, January 30th at 2:00 p.m., James Kryshak, Tenor, assisted by Yasuko Oura, Pianist, will present the third concert in the 2010-11 North Shore Unitarian Church Concert Series. The pair will offer songs by Franz Schubert, Franz Liszt, Benjamin Britten and Francis Poulenc. Admission is free but a donation is requested.

UU Vacation Opportunity

For thirty years, the UU bed and breakfast directory, UU're Home, has been providing UUs a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals. Host travelers in your home to meet new friends and earn extra money. For more information, visit www.UUreHome.com

or write to info@uurehome.com.

Midwest Youth Leadership School

Registration has begun for the Midwest Youth Leadership School. All teens entering 9th through 12th grades next fall are encouraged to apply. It is a great opportunity for youth to grow as leaders, learn more about Unitarian Universalism and meet other UU teens from across the Midwest. For more information and to register, please go to http://www.mwls.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=15.

Women's Friendship Breakfast at NSUC: Healthy Habits and Other Tricks to Kick Start the New Year

Come learn some methods for living a healthier lifestyle from Julie Martin James at the NSUC Women's Friendship Breakfast which will be held on Saturday, January 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Julie is a naturopathic physician who favors a holistic approach to well-being, which includes focusing on natural remedies and the body's ability to heal and maintain itself. For more information, call Pat Wozniak (847-247-0617) or email her at:

patricia.wozniak@comcast.net.

Final Notes

Newsletter Submissions

All submissions for the February 2011 newsletter are due by the end of the day on **January 25th**. The newsletter will be posted on the website at the beginning of September. 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!](http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org)

List of PCUUC Contacts

Mike Merritt	Board President	President@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Marty 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	Ministerial Study Committee	RKlick@CLCIllinois.edu
Jan Kirch	Fundraising Committee	Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org