

Notes from the Prairie



PRAIRIE CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

January 2012

Upcoming Services

All services are held at 9 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Sunday service topics may change without notice at the discretion of the speaker or because of other circumstances. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

January 8th

***What Are the Purposes of Our Lives?
Exploring Teleology***

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

Join us for Part III of our "What Do You Believe?" series. Teleology is the study of the ancient, perennial questions: What is the purpose – or what are the purposes – of our lives? For what should we live? Or for what would we be willing to die? Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler offers this reflection.

Petros Petridis will be the Service Leader and Lynn Hepler will provide the Story for All Ages. Jim Cubit is the Music Coordinator.

January 15th

What Would Martin Say?

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

In honor of the national celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., this reflection will contemplate what he might have to say about the soul of our nation today. The Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler offers this reflection.

A simple, yet eloquent, ceremony welcoming new members will be offered during the first part of the service. As this would be an add-on to the service, some of our regular liturgical elements Joys and Concerns would not be offered but will return in future services.

Cathy Moon is the Service Leader. Our Director of Religious Education, Julie Palumbo, will offer the Story/Time for All Ages. Our Choir, directed by Joyce DeWitt and accompanied by Jennifer Swartz, offers its melodious voices to enrich our experience of the service. Jim Cubit is the Music Coordinator.

January 22nd

***Scouts: Nature & Reverence vs.
Discrimination***

Guest Speaker Rev. Rudra Vilius Dundzila

For decades, the Boys Scouts of America has done phenomenal work in helping to instill a respect and love of nature. However, the organizations discriminatory policies are difficult to reconcile for many UUs. This sermon will explore the spiritual side of exploring this dichotomy.

Rev. Rudra Vilius Dundzila is the Community Minister at Second Unitarian Church and Professor of Religion and Humanities at Truman College in Chicago.

January 29th

***The Rainbow Only Comes After It Rains:
Precious Anguish***

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

This reflection will explore how our experiences with grief, sadness and failure can paradoxically deepen and broaden the joy in our lives. Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler offers this reflection.

Diana Fox is the Service Leader. Our Director of Religious Education, Julie Palumbo, will offer the Story/Time for All Ages. Our Choir, directed by Joyce DeWitt and accompanied by Jennifer Swartz, offers its melodious voices to enrich our experience of the service. Jim Cubit is the Music Coordinator.

Rev. Ziegler's Thoughts and Jots and Whatnots



Greetings Good People,

I hope your holiday season was wonderful in that you had opportunities to enjoy the company of family and friends and time to relax and reflect. I look forward to seeing all of you and hearing your holiday stories.

As you may know, one of the responsibilities stated in my contract is to help you prepare for working with a professional minister. To that end, I want to introduce you to the types or categories of sermons that Unitarian Universalist (UU) ministers offer. I offer this information for a variety of reasons and here are **some** of those reasons:

Compared to most, but not all, Christian and Jewish denominations, UU ministers do not work with a lexicon or any mandated or prescribed topics and thus we choose our sermon topics free from the constraints of the lexicon, etc. With the possible exceptions of the High Holy Days, Christmas, Passover and Easter, on any given Sunday the sermon topic offered will most likely be different from one UU minister to another.

As we honor other wisdom traditions and their spiritual teachers, it is our responsibility to enlighten, so to speak, the congregation about a religion's wisdom tradition and its teacher and put that into a UU context.

As a significant number of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) formerly were members of other religions or were never members of any religion and, more often than not, do not know any of the long history of this denomination or our spiritual leaders, we teach members and friends through sermons on these topics.

Related to the above statement about UUs being former members of other religions or unchurched at all, UU ministers offer sermons that in respectful ways help

congregants come to understand religious teachers like Buddha, Moses, Jesus, Mohammad, Confucius and Lao-tzu and their views on life, death, resurrection, grace, etc., within a UU context.

With those reasons in mind, below is a list of some of the categories of sermons I offer. Note that my list will be different from another UU minister's list but much in the list will be the same. I offer sermons about:

- Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist history and traditions
- Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist religious and spiritual leaders and heroes
- Our Principles and Purposes and the sources that our "Living Tradition" draws upon
- Spiritual Assets such as love, compassion, hope, peace, prayer, humility, humor, grace, charity, forgiveness, faith, etc.
- Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist understandings of God, death, the after-life, resurrection, goodness, evil, what is the purpose of living/life, reality, etc.
- Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist understandings and approaches to social and ecological justice concerns
- Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist understandings and approaches to rites of passage
- Prophetic calls to justice work and why (which members might not agree with)
- Contemporary secular topics considered through a UU lens

These are some of the categories of sermon topics that I work from. In regard to my sermons, which as you know, I call reflections, I share the sentiment of the Rev. David E. Bumbaugh, retired Associate

Professor of Ministry at Meadville Lombard Theological School, a Unitarian Universalist seminary, who was fond of ending his sermons with this thought: "This sermon is not the last word on a topic but is an invitation to further discussion."

I am excited about the programs, and activities being offered and planned for the rest of the church year. I hope you're excited too.

Cheers and blessings,

Rev. Jackie



Our Caring Circle

During this past month, Joys were expressed by: Joyce DeWitt on her dad's continued physical improvement, Norine and Rich Fendrych for their visiting family, Juanita Cruz for reuniting with her son via telephone, the Achtemeier family whose mother/grandmother is responding to treatment, Tonia and Marty Vershaw on the birth of their nephew, Phil Swartz on the birth of his niece, Ric Sarmont in appreciation of members opening their homes during the holidays, Diana Fox who was able to visit with her family and all her grandchildren, Juanita Cruz for the life, love and gratitude embedded within PCUUC, Diana Fox whose test results came back cancer-free, Rev. Jackie Ziegler for her visiting son and girl friend who attended the December 18th service.

Concerns were expressed by: a visitor, Patricia Axelrod, for peace in the world; Tamara Wamshek whose neighbor's 7-year old daughter has cancer, Joyce DeWitt

whose mother fell and broke her arm, Karen Achtemeier for problems at Prairie Crossing Charter School, the McKenzie family for a friend's 17-year old son was a victim of a head-on collision and for his brother undergoing chemo treatments, Jaime Churchill for the health of Nutcracker participants, Ric Sarmont for the increasing poverty level in our country.

Healing Wishes are sent to: Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler's husband recovering from a recent accident and Duane Shaneyfelt who was recently hospitalized and is recovering at home.

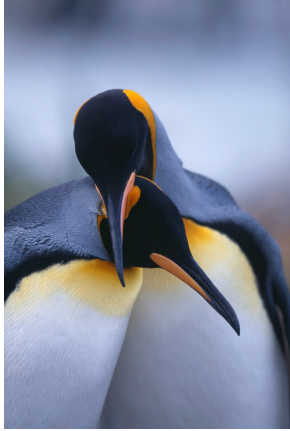
Expressions of Sympathy were shared by: Carolyn Aehl on the passing of a cousin, Petros Petridis on the passing of a dear friend and Jan Kirch for the passing of Laurie Cubit's mother. And, deepest condolences to Peg Fredrickson whose brother passed away after long illness.

Milestone Joys were shared by: Marty Vershaw on his son's 14th birthday; Paul and Myrna Jaffe celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary, Fred O'Donnell who will celebrate his 80th birthday in January and also his 54th wedding anniversary with wife Bobbie.

A Caring Note: an expression of gratitude for the many musical talents who enrich our services and uplift our spirits, to the Worship Committee for planning and executing services that dare to deviate from the norm and to Rev. Jackie Ziegler (aka Winter Star) who inspires us all. May we welcome 2012 with renewed spirit!

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.



Rev. Ziegler Offering a Recommitment to Vows of Love Ceremony

Before the February 12th Sunday service, promptly at 8:30 a.m., Rev. Ziegler will offer a simple, yet eloquent, "Recommitment to Vows of Love" ceremony. This ceremony is offered to all straight or gay couples who want to reaffirm their marriage or union vows, whether they've been together for one year or sixty years.

Rev. Ziegler has offered this ceremony for other congregations and, as it was so well received, she is offering it for Prairie Circle members and friends.

To Be or Not to Be? What Will the Future Bring?

A Workshop to Facilitate Prairie Circle's Future and Growth

On Saturday, January 14th, from noon to 5 p.m. in the community room of the State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake, Rev. Ziegler will facilitate a workshop focused around a short book called, ***The Almost Church Revitalized: Envisioning the Future of Unitarian Universalism***. It is written by Michael Durall, the highly respected Unitarian Universalist. He has a consulting practice helping congregations develop tailor-made plans for the future. His book offers an overview of the current state of Unitarian Universalism in the nation and why

UUism is not growing, provides an important definition of leadership and the responsibilities of leaders in a congregation, and as the author says, provides "scores of ideas that will help UU congregations become more influential in their communities and more effective in achieving their hopes and dreams."

During the workshop, Rev. Ziegler will lead participants in brainstorming exercises that will identify and then develop a few concrete activities and/or programs to help the Congregation experience and live out its hopes and dreams of being religious people working for justice.

The Board encourages you to read the book ASAP as the workshop is quickly coming up and it is open **only** to members and friends who have **read** the book. The Board has purchased additional copies of the book and, on Sundays, you can sign out a copy through Board Member Chris Kozlowski.

Miz Manners' Guide to Sunday Service Etiquette

**Adapted by Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler
Submitted by Rev. Ziegler, the Board and the Worship Team**

1. Please don't talk during the prelude or special music. It is a part of the worship experience and not background music. Remember, it is a real person who has worked hard to prepare the music, not a radio or stereo system.

2. For whatever reason, if you come into the service while a prayer, meditation, special music or dramatic piece is being offered, please stand quietly and **wait** until the piece is completely over and then quietly find a seat and sit down.

3. Please try not to applaud after musical or dramatic offerings. A moment of appreciative silence is the proper acknowledgment. Why? Because worship is something we do together. It is not about performance or entertainment. After the service, do feel free to let the individual(s) know you appreciated their offering. The

only exception to this is when our children or youth share their talents with us!

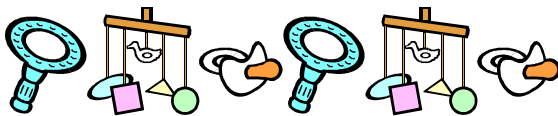
4. It is permissible to nudge gently the person next to you if he or she is snoring. Smile when you do it.

5. Turn off your beeper watch, cell phone and any other electronic communication devices before coming into the service.

6. Resist mightily the temptation to disguise an announcement, partisan speech as a joy, milestone, sorrow, or concern. This is a time for sharing how you are personally affected by events.

7. You may place proposed, legible, written announcements for the service on the designated board in the Barn. Better yet, email it to our Office Administrator, Andrea Mills, by the Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m, before the service you want it announced at and it will be printed in the announcements section of the order of service.

8. Leave your cares for a moment and open your heart and soul to the healing power of the gathered community.



Nursery Donations Needed

Our nursery is in need of donations of supplies, equipment and toys. Specifically, we need:

- wipes
- diapers
- sanitation wipes for toys
- baby gates
- napkins, sacks, juice
- bouncers or swings
- rattles
- wash cloths
- rocking chair
- pack 'n plays (and sheets, too)
- soft blocks,
- learning toys

- cloth or cardboard books
- baby blankets
- paper towels
- hand sanitizer
- puzzles and games
- outdoor activity items such as balls, racquets
- music toys
- CDs & videos, DVDs and tapes
- large wheeled bin for transporting these items

We need all of these items as soon as possible. We'll be able to pick up these items at your home for you if we have a volunteer offer to help us with that. If you have any questions, e-mail Julie Palumbo, DRE, at RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Rev. Ziegler's Home Office Hours

As a friendly reminder and a point of information, since Prairie Circle doesn't have a central office (yet) for me to use, I've set up a room in my home as my office space. You can call me directly at home, **847-629-5868**. However, the nature of ministry means I may be called away for meetings and pastoral visits and thus not be in the "office" when you call. I am not saying this to dissuade you from calling. Just be aware that I might not always be there.

For the time being and as a "general" guideline, please call me between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Please know that you can also make an appointment to meet with me at a mutually convenient time.

If you call with a pastoral emergency and I do not answer, please leave a message stating your call is a pastoral emergency and I will call you back as soon as possible. Please try to remember to say your name and state slowly and clearly, two times, your contact number.

PCUUC Community Discussion Forum - Tentatively Scheduled for Sunday, February 12th

On Sunday, February 12th (tentative date), the PCUUC Board will host a community discussion forum. The session will be from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Byron Colby Barn. The purpose of the gathering will be casual community discussion and brainstorming within small groups. Some of the topics for discussion will be follow-up discussion from the January 14th "Almost Church Revitalized" session, impressions relating to the ministry at PCUUC, social action and other topics of importance to the future of PCUUC. Nursery care will be provided. Please mark your calendars and e-mail Tonia Becker VerShaw at: President@PrairieCircleUUC.org with any questions.

Prairie Circle to Celebrate Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month and members and friends of Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation are invited to participate in various activities celebrating women.

One activity being planned is for people to create a design that represents a woman and then paint that design on a dinner plate. The woman can be someone who is deceased or living who has made a difference or influenced the chooser's life. It could be a wife, partner, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, aunt, friend, teacher, writer, artist, etc. All of the plates will be used to create our own version of the art installation piece **The Dinner Party**. Then, tentatively on March 31st, a potluck dinner party will be held to celebrate the women for whom the plates were created.

Another activity celebrating Women's History month will be that during the March 4th Sunday service, we will honor the little

known but highly influential Unitarian Transcendentalist, Margaret Fuller.

On International Woman's Day, Thursday, March 8th, at 7 p.m., Rev. Ziegler and Dayle Kozlowski will offer a presentation at the Grayslake Library on the famous art piece **The Dinner Party** which was conceived by the artist Judy Chicago and collaborated on by many other women artists.

At this point, Rev. Ziegler and Dayle Kozlowski are offering these activities. If you have any questions, feel free to contact talk to either one of them. You can reach Rev. Ziegler at: **847-629-5868** or revziegler@comcast.net. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

For more information about **The Dinner Party**, a phenomenal art piece that elevates women's achievement in Western history to a heroic scale traditionally reserved for men, go to: http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/dinner_party/home.php



Some Upcoming Events - Looking Ahead in 2012

Friday - Sunday, February 3 -5: 2012 Winter WomanSpirit Conference

This conference is sponsored by the Central Midwest District's Woman and Religion Committee and will be held at the Rockford UU Church. Rev. Ziegler and Dayle Kozlowski are offering a workshop. the keynote speaker is the world-renowned Kirtan singer Rgani.

Sunday, February 12: "A Recommitment to Vows of Love"

Before the service, at 8:30 am, this simple yet eloquent, beautiful ceremony will be offered to all couples, straight or gay, who

want to reaffirm their marriage or union vows.

President's Message



Happy New Year! Although I was not particularly anxious to see 2011 come to an end, I am looking forward to embracing the fun, rewards and challenges before us. Given our church year calendar, we have two obvious and natural points to pause, reflect and set goals and intentions for the New Year. Those two points being the beginning of a new calendar year and the beginning of a new church year (July 1). A fresh calendar year gives us all the opportunity to think about the things we did well during the previous year as well as the things that did not serve us. As I think about the last calendar year at PCUUC, we experienced a lot of successes.

- As a community, we made the decision to hire a Consulting Minister. The Minister Selection Committee worked with the UUA to undergo the process of interviewing and hiring a minister and ultimately recommended to the Board that Rev. Jackie Ziegler be hired.
- Although no transition is ever perfect, I am proud of the way we have worked with Rev. Jackie to both welcome her into our community as well as hit the ground running in doing the work of moving PCUUC forward; we have done a lot in a short period of time.
- As a community we donated \$4173.15 to the two primary targets of our social action efforts – PADS and the Avon Township Food Pantry. These dollars are in addition to the hundreds of pounds of food donated by the PCUUC

community and the meals we served at PADS.

- We have done some important work to learn how to better manage conflict and disagreement within our community.
- Under Rev. Jackie's direction and leadership, we offered two wonderful new programs, the Cosmic Walk and the Winter Solstice service, that energized many existing members of the church and attracted quite a number of new faces.
- The Adult Religious Education programming has been substantially strengthened.
- Our annual Stone Soup Dinner & Auction fundraiser was a lot of fun and a big success.

As I look into 2012, we have a lot of work before us, but I am confident we will make great strides and have a lot of fun in the process. Just some of the work before us includes:

- Seeking ways to further strengthen our Children's Religious Education programming.
- Identifying the social action/social justice work we want to focus on as a community. Where are our energies best spent to have the greatest positive impact on our local, state, national and/or global communities?
- Move forward in PCUUC long-term planning efforts.
- Exploring creative possibilities (long-term or perhaps short-term) for managing our space challenges as we would really benefit in many ways from having a more stable space for worship services, religious education and other programs.
- Continuing to improve communications within our community as well as

improving external communications with the community at large.

I know I have omitted many things from our list of accomplishments as well as I am sure I have failed to list priorities for our attentions in 2012. However, as I think about the brand new year before us, I am in the same breath energized, humbled and optimistic and I am so glad to be sharing this journey with you.

Happy New Year!

Peace and Blessings,
Tonia Becker VerShaw
PCUUC Board President
President@PrairieCircleUUC.org

Highlights Of Rev. Ziegler's Contract with PCUUC

The Church Board wanted to offer some information relating to Rev. Jackie Ziegler's role and the structure of her position with PCUUC. Rev. Ziegler's contract of employment is posted on the Member Documents page of our church website: <http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org/member-directory/>

This page is password-protected so if you do not know or have misplaced the password, please e-mail our church administrator, Andrea Mills, at Office@PrairieCircleUUC.org

You are welcome to read Rev. Ziegler's contract in its entirety, but the points below will be of interest if you are solely concerned in the more salient points of the contract:

- The Consulting Minister and the Congregation share responsibility for the leadership and ministry of the Congregation. Achievement and maintenance of this collaborative relationship must likewise be shared. It is a relationship of discovery, of both self and the other, in a context of mutuality.

- The Consulting Minister will provide spiritual leadership and initiative to the Board of Directors and PCUUC as well as being a consultant to help PCUUC in creating the conditions under which we will progress toward the achievement of key goals: grow the church membership and financial base and establish a positive working relationship with a professional minister that will serve the long-term goal of being ready to have a called minister.
- The Consulting Minister position is ¾-time.
- The Consulting Minister will preach a minimum of two services per month for PCUUC but variations may be agreed upon in consultation with the Worship Committee.
- The Consulting Minister will perform rites of passage as called for - child dedications, marriages, memorial services and services of union and similar events.
- The Consulting Minister will provide pastoral care as needed in coordination with the Caring Committee.
- The Consulting Minister shall have freedom of the pulpit. This freedom includes that the Consulting Minister has every right to associate with any particular cause, organizations or activity according to her own desires, and has the freedom to speak and act upon the truth as she sees it.
- The Consulting Minister is to adhere to the Code of Professional Practice and the Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.
- The Consulting Minister will meet, consult, advise and coordinate with the Board and the Worship, Religious Education, Membership and Adult Religious Education Committees and other committees as needed and/or requested by the Board provided she is

available and within the hours of this ¾-time position.

The contract is renewable for a second year as well as additional years upon agreement of both parties. It was understood that Rev. Ziegler would serve the PCUUC community for a minimum of two years assuming success in year one. The Board will be checking in with the congregation in February 2012 to assess the community's opinions and feelings relating to Rev. Ziegler's work with us. In coming years, Rev. Ziegler's contract can be renewed for additional years or Rev. Ziegler can be called by our congregation to serve as our called minister.

If you ever have any questions about Rev. Ziegler's roles and responsibilities please do not hesitate to contact Tonia Becker VerShaw, Board President at: President@PrairieCircleUUC.org or feel free to contact another Board member.

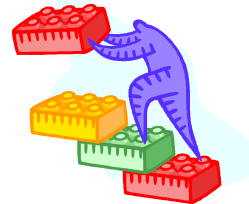
Adult Enrichment Program

The Adult Religious Enrichment Education Team (AREET) is pleased to offer members and friends of the Congregation the following selection of courses, events, workshops, etc. for the winter 2012 session. Please note that if there is a cost for a program, payment is required with registration.

Following the practice of other Unitarian Universalist congregations, we have adopted a fee policy for most of our offerings. We're doing this to insure the commitment of those signing up. The money collected will go into the Adult Religious Education Enrichment's budget to cover any costs associated with a course, presentation, workshop, etc., and any extra money would be kept in the budget to help pay for future events such as being able to bring in an important speaker.

Confidential scholarships are available through Rev. Ziegler.

Checks should be made out to PCUUC and, in the check's memo line, note what course, presentation or workshop is being paid for.



BYOT: Building Your Own Theology (Note New Dates!)

What do Unitarian Universalists believe? A creedless church offers no ready-made answers to this question. This popular class, led by Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler, provides tools for building a personal theology based upon the material of one's own life experience. Its purpose is to help us understand, develop and articulate our own spiritual values and meanings and to place them within a larger context of religious, spiritual and philosophical thought. This class is highly recommended for those new to Unitarian Universalism or to those thinking about joining us, but it is also helpful to thoughtful people at various stages in their life journeys. In fact, some have enjoyed taking it more than once over the years!

The six sessions will deal with the following tentative topics:

- Preliminary Considerations – Spirituality and Religion
- A Unitarian Universalist Theological Model
- A Spiritual Autobiography – Your Own
- Religious Viewpoints: Staking Out a Position on God
- Jesus, Hitler and Human Nature
- Credo (“I believe...”) and Closure

The class consists of presentations by Rev. Jackie, sharing of personal views in groups, large group discussions, reading assignments, and the writing and sharing of

one's "Credo" ("I believe" statement). There are refreshments and a social time following each class for those who wish to linger.

Please note that there are readings and other homework assignments for each session, so a serious commitment of time is required. Please consider this before signing up. This popular class often fills up quickly, so sign up now!

Facilitator: The Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

Dates: January 24, 31,
February 3, 21, 28
March 6

Time: 6:30 p.m. gathering
6:45 p.m. start

Location: Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler's home,
25934 W. Laneville Dr.
Ingleside, 60041
for at least the first session and
possibly meeting at other
participants homes for the other
sessions

Cost: \$30.00 members
\$45.00 non-members
contact Rev. Ziegler for a
confidential scholarship

**Deadline: Wednesday, January 18th (if
there is still space available)**

Registration: Class is limited to 10 people. A minimum of 5 registrations will be needed to hold the course. Your registration must be secured by payment of the course fee – otherwise you may end up on the waiting list. Drop your registration payment off at the Religious Education Table during Coffee Hour or you can give your check to Rev. Ziegler or Mike Honegger. You can also mail your check to: Rev. Ziegler, 25934 W. Laneville Lane, Ingleside, IL. 60041. **Make your check payable to PCUUC and note "BYOT" in the memo section.**

Movie Club: *Casino Jack and the United States of Money* -- Sunday, January 22nd, 10:45 am

The Adult Enrichment Team is pleased to announce a viewing of Alex Gibney's film: **Casino Jack and the United States of Money**. Netflix describes the film this way: "documentarian Alex Gibney (*Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*) turns his acute focus on convicted Washington

lobbyist Jack Abramoff, reproaching him and other legislators for their negative impact on U.S. politics. Gibney's film plays less like a dry treatise and more like a high-stakes political thriller, fearlessly examining the ways American policies and political processes are undermined by an endless quest for power."

The film will be presented after the Sunday service at 10:45 on January 22nd in a Prairie Crossing Charter School classroom, next to the Byron Colby Barn. A discussion period will follow. If you are interested in attending the film and discussion, please contact Mike Honegger, Mike Merritt, or Rev. Ziegler.



**Reel to Real and a Meal:
An Evening Discussion with Rev. Ziegler
about *The Tree of Life*
Friday, February 10, 2012
(Note the New Date!)**

Rev. Ziegler is offering another evening gathering for members and friends to discuss the philosophical and theological implications of a designated secular movie, all while sharing a potluck dinner.

Rev. Ziegler will facilitate the discussion through open-ended questions and comments. In order to participate in this evening of exciting, thoughtful discussion and delicious food, you should meet the following two requirements:

- You must have seen the chosen movie no more than 4 weeks before the evening gathering so its themes are fresh in your mind.
- Reserve one of the ten places at the table through Rev. Ziegler

The second gathering will be Friday, February 10th, with the potluck dinner

discussion beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss the 2011 movie **The Tree of Life**. It was designated as a Critics' Pick by the film reviewers of The New York Times. This movie is available now through Netflix and various on-line sources and perhaps from your local library.

To reserve a place at the dinner table, sign up at the Adult RE table on Sundays, or contact Rev. Ziegler at: revziegler@comcast.net or 847-629-5868. As space is limited, reservations will be available only to the first 10 people who contact her.

The deadline for reserving a spot at the table is Monday, February 6th. Rev. Ziegler will call you to confirm your place and discuss your potluck contribution.

Constitutional Café, Coming Soon!

In the coming year, PCUUC will have an adult enrichment program on the Constitution. The theme will be American Democracy Now with the goal of encouraging the reading of the Constitution in the terms of society today. One thought will be to think about how we would write the Constitution for today's society. Another thought would be to see how the current issues of our society will be, or should be, influenced by our American document. The discussion will be coordinated/lead by one of our members, Mike Merritt. Mike is a political science instructor at CLC.

If there are topics connected with the Constitution that you would like us to discuss, please forward them to Mike Merritt.



Book Club: Thomas Friedman's *The World Is Flat*

The Adult Enrichment Team is pleased to announce the new book club book: Thomas Friedman's ***The World Is Flat***. Thomas Friedman's website describes the book this way: "In this brilliant new book, the award-winning New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman demystifies the brave new world

for readers, allowing them to make sense of the often bewildering global scene unfolding before their eyes. With his inimitable ability to translate complex foreign policy and economic issues, Friedman explains how the flattening of the world happened at the dawn of the twenty-first century; what it means to countries, companies, communities, and individuals; and how governments and societies can, and must, adapt. ***The World Is Flat*** is the timely and essential update on globalization, its successes and discontents, powerfully illuminated by one of our most respected journalists."

A meeting to discuss the book will be held in early February, with exact date, time and location to be announced. If you'd like to attend or have any questions, contact Mike Honegger, Mike Merritt, or Rev. Ziegler.

Adult Religious Enrichment Education Team (AREET) Interviewing for New Members and Ideas

AREET is looking for "IDEAS" people to identify, brainstorm, develop and aid in the planning of courses, workshops, movies, lectures, etc. for PCUUC and, in some instances, the general public.

Please note that unless it is something they want to do, AREET members don't lead or teach the courses; they identify people who can lead or teach a particular course.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this exciting team, talk to Mike Honegger, Mike Merritt or Rev. Ziegler. You can contact Mike Honegger through Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org

If you're not interested in becoming a member of AREET but have recommendations for topics, speakers and/or teachers feel free to talk with a Team member about them.

Social Action News

Guest at Your Table

The annual Guest at Your Table program, 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 any service through January 15th. 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.

Volunteers Needed for Next PADS Meal on Sunday, January 15th

As part of PCUUC's commitment to providing social services in our community, we are looking for volunteers to either donate part of the meal or your time to help serve on January 15th. Please contact Peg Fredrickson or Lynae Sampson who will be leading this event for the sign-up sheets or contact Norine Fendrych at: Socialaction@PrairieCircle.org who will direct any of your messages to them. We appreciate your support!

Battery, CFL Bulb and Inkjet Cartridge Recycling

Household batteries, (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V, rechargeable and small disc batteries), compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and inkjet cartridges are harmful to our environment when disposed of improperly. We can work together to protect our environment by keeping these toxic items out of the landfills. PCUUC has a recycling box located on the table near the entrance. Just bring in your depleted batteries, CFL bulbs and inkjet cartridges to church on any Sunday, drop them in the box and you can be assured they will be properly disposed of.

Nearby locations that provide additional opportunities to properly recycle other toxic household items such as car batteries, automotive fluids, used tires, household electronics, computer components and accessories can be found by visiting: <http://search.earth911.com/> and entering your zip code in the search box.

January Board Meeting

This month's Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26th, at 6:45 p.m., in the community room at the State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake. Please contact Andrea Mills, Church Administrator, for more information: office@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

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 the Director of Religious Education, Julie Palumbo, for more details: re@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group normally meets each month on the 3rd Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Check the website calendar for updates: www.prairiecircleuuc.org/news-events/calendar/

The next meeting will be January 17th. The location rotates among member's homes and topics are varied. New members are always welcome. Contact Rich Fendrych if you have any questions: membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Monday Night Prairie Women's Covenant Group

The PCUUC Prairie Women's group meets once a month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Check the website calendar for updates on this month's meeting: www.prairiecircleuuc.org/news-events/calendar/

The next meeting will be January 16th at Sally Merritt's home. The location rotates among member's homes and topics are varied. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Norine Fendrych at: nativeheart27@scglobal.net or Sally Merritt at: merritt69_99@yahoo.com.

Our Wider Community

2012 Winter Women Spirit Conference: A Journey Into Sacred Sound

February 3rd-5th
Rockford Unitarian Universalist Church

All Prairie Circle women and girls are invited to attend the Central Midwest District Women and Religion Committee's 2012 Winter Women Spirit Conference. It will be held February 3rd through 5th at the Rockford UU Church. The Friday evening keynote speaker is world-renowned Kirtan singer ((Kirtan is a Hindu heart meditation technique), Ragani. A variety of workshops will be offered during the day on Saturday.

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler and Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation member Dayle Kozlowski are offering an afternoon workshop based on the famous larger-than-life art installation piece called **The Dinner Party**. The feminist artist Judy Chicago created it in collaboration with other women. First exhibited in 1979, **The Dinner Party** is a monumental example of a collective feminine yearning to write women back into history and end the ongoing cycle of omission in which women were written out of the historical record. The iconic feminist artwork represents 1,038 women in history -- 39 women who were great artists in their time are represented by place settings and another 999 names are inscribed on a special floor on which the triangular dinner table rests.

Rev. Jackie and Dayle will reflect on the importance of **The Dinner Party** and explore its impact on women when it was created and now. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to reflect upon for whom they would create a plate for to be set at a contemporary Dinner Party table and share why.

Rev. Jackie and Dayle hope a number of PCUUC women will sign up for and carpool to the conference. Women who attended

past conferences say they had a wonderful time and met really interesting woman. Questions? Talk to Rev. Jackie or Dayle. You can register for the conference at: <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1016651>



Jazz at the Unitarian Church of Evanston

The Unitarian Church of Evanston presents legendary jazz pianist, Junior Mance, Evanston native, in performance on Saturday, January 14th at 7 p.m. This will be a great evening of music at UCE. Tickets are available at: www.ucevanston.org or at (847) 864-1330.



NSUC Women's Friendship Breakfast

On Saturday, January 21st, at 8:30 a.m., the North Shore Unitarian Church Women's Programming Committee will be hosting another of their always popular Women's Friendship Breakfasts. The two speakers will be Jan Sullivan and Barbara Spencer from the Congo Education Excellence

Project, an organization formed by a group of U.S. and Congolese Presbyterians. Jan is a retired school social worker and has been to the Congo four times. Barbara has also traveled to the Congo and is a retired elementary teaching associate. Learn about conditions in the Congo directly from those working at the frontlines. The breakfast will begin at 8:30 on Saturday, January 21st. You may register by contacting Pat Wozniak at patricia.wozniak@comcast.net. The cost of the breakfast is \$7.

Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism

Dr. Melanie Joy will present a program at North Shore Unitarian Church on Sunday, January 15th, at 1:30 p.m. Melanie Joy, Ph.D. Ed.M. is a Harvard-educated psychologist and professor of psychology and sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and is the leading researcher on carnism. Dr. Joy has written articles on psychology, animal protection, and social justice, as well as the acclaimed "Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism, and Strategic Action for Animals". Commended by the national UU Ethical Eating Core Team, Dr. Joy's presentation helps her audience to understand Carnism and the belief system that accompanies it. Audiences appreciate her accessible, engaging and levelheaded approach, regardless of their dietary choices. This presentation is appropriate for an audience of ages 15 & up.



Meet Up, Get to Know and Party with Other UUs

The Board and Rev. Ziegler invites and encourages members to submit their names to be one of the Congregation's representatives to the Unitarian Universalist Central Midwest District's (CMwD) 2012 Annual Assembly. By being a representative for the Congregation, you'll get to experience the joy and power of meeting other Unitarian Universalists from across the CMwD and at the same time learn more about UU ways. The 2012 CMwD's meeting is being held in the Chicagoland area at the Marriott Oak Brook Hill Resort April 27th – 29th.

Friday night's opening ceremony will feature special guest Rev. Bill Schulz, past President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) and currently the President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The Rev. Marilyn Sewell will be the keynote presenter on Saturday morning. She is very excited about exploring leadership from a theological perspective.

There will be two sessions of workshops on Saturday afternoon and then, in the evening, there will be a showing of the raved-about documentary **Raw Faith** which is about Rev. Sewell's life as a Unitarian Universalist minister and about Unitarian Universalism.

Chris and Dayle Kozlowski attended a previous CMwD Annual Meeting and can share with you the fun they had.

Final Notes

Newsletter Submissions

All submissions for the February 2012 newsletter are due by the end of the day on **January 25th**. The newsletter will be posted on the website at the beginning of December. 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

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Kent McKenzie	President Elect	VP@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Donna Marshall	Secretary	Secretary@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Chris Kozlowski	Treasurer	Treasurer@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Kadi Petridis	Trustee	Trustee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
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Diana Fox	Worship Committee	Worship@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Laura Franz	Children's RE Committee	RE-Committee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Mike Honegger	Adult Enrichment Committee	Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Norine Fendrych	Social Action Committee	Socialaction@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Rich Fendrych	Membership/Publicity Committee	Membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Ric Sarmont	Long Range Planning Committee	Planning@PrairieCircleUUC.org
TBD	Nominating Committee	Nominating@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Teresa Aguinaldo	Hospitality Committee	Social_events@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Jan Kirch	Caring Committee	Caring@PrairieCircleUUC.org
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TBD	Fundraising Committee	Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org
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