

Notes from the Prairie



PRAIRIE CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

May 2011

Upcoming Services

May 8th

Honoring our Mother by Walking the Earth with Intention (How to Make Your Mother Happy)

Suellen Semekoski

Earth as our “mother” can teach us profound lessons on interdependence and how to become better human beings through our relationship with nature. What if we chose to cultivate the spiritual practice of walking upon the Earth with embodied intention, mindful and gentle in our steps? Stepping gently, we honor the lessons of love taught by our mother. We learn to calm ourselves as any good mother knows how to calm a child. From a calm, grounded place, we can respond instead of react to life and begin to practice compassion toward ourselves, toward others and toward the world.

The PCUUC Choir will be singing.

May 15th

No Service

The Barn is unavailable due to the Liberty Prairie Conservancy’s Prairie Pedal to celebrate and support the Conservancy’s land preservation work.

Please check our website for information on our plans for that Sunday morning:

www.PrairieCircleUUC.org/worship/worship-calendar.

May 22nd

Teacher Appreciation and Flower Communion

We will be celebrating the contributions of our religious education teachers and the arrival of spring with a Flower Communion.

The PCUUC Choir will be singing.

May 29th

Principle #6: The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all

We will be examining our 6th principle and how we can best live its spirit in our daily lives.



Our Caring Circle

Cares of concern were expressed by: Ralph Churchill for the many unemployed, Peg Fredrickson for her brother's declining health, Quinn McKenzie for residents of the southern United States after recent, devastating storms, Petros Petridas for many global issues - social, environmental, political and human, and Carolyn Aehl for her niece's recent diagnosis of lupus.

Healing wishes to: Diana Fox after her recent surgery and Marty VerShaw's mother after recent surgery.

Condolences by: the Nieces on the passing of their daughter's mother-in-law and Lynn Hepler on the passing of a dear friend.

Appreciation expressed: for the beautiful sounds of our many musically-inclined members including vocalists & musicians, by Ralph Churchill for his employment, by the McKenzie family for spring weather, by Peg Sheaffer for spring farm animal activity, for the inspirational Earth Day intergenerational service under the direction of Julie Palumbo with the youth leadership of the PCUUC 2011 Affirmation class and youth musical offerings under the direction of Joyce DeWitt, by Joe West declaring his pursuance of a writing career after two years of unemployment, by Carol Niec for the visit of her active, inspiring 80-year old aunt and for all who purchased potted Easter dedication plants which adorned our church for the Easter service.

Announcements of Joy from: the DeWitt family celebrating their nephew's first birthday with extended family, Carol Niec on the recent birth of first great granddaughter, Belle Suzanne Wood, born April 13th at 9 lbs, 13 oz. and residing in St. Germain, Wisconsin and Diana Fox for her return to church following recent surgery

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.

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@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

To view the entire policy, please go to:

<http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/ChancelProcedure.pdf>.

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

Adult Enrichment: Upcoming Events and Activities

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 presented on:

- May 8th
- May 29th
- June 12th
- June 26th
- July 10th

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.

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 will 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.



Stone Soup Auction Planning Begins

We Need Your Help to plan and run this year's main fundraiser (The Stone Soup Auction and Dinner on November 12th, 2011). We are hosting a volunteer kick-off meeting on Tuesday, May 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Grayslake Library (100 Library Lane, Grayslake, 847-223-5313). Questions or concerns? Can't come but want to volunteer? Contact Jan Kirch or Dayle Kozlowski at:
Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Social Action News

Avon Township Food Pantry

The Food Pantry provided emergency sustenance to over 29,000 township people in 2010. As of February 28th, over 4600 people have been served. A parcel of land adjacent to the Food Pantry has been officially designated as a produce garden. PCUUC volunteers will be needed to weed and harvest the garden.

Earth Day Service – April 17th

The Social Action Committee provided information tables on various topics such as ethical eating and water conservation to stimulate green awareness. The Hospitality Committee donated food on the same theme.

Norine Fendrych volunteered to represent PCUUC at the Lake County Green

Congregation for the remainder of the season.

PADS Family Center in Waukegan

The PADS dinner, organized by Lynae Sampson, was provided by Lynae and volunteers to approximately 20 family members on April 17th. Additional cleaning supplies were also donated to the shelter.

Treasurer's Corner

In this quarter's update, I want to share how we're doing through the first three quarters of the year, and make a call out to interested people who may want to succeed me in the Treasurer's role starting in July 2012.

Year to Date (YTD) Results

Through March 31st, YTD income is outpacing expenses. At this point, I am projecting we will have a surplus at the end of the church year, barring any unforeseen major expenses.

As you can see in the figure below, our year-to-date income is ahead of expenses. As we approach the end of the church year, I expect the income will come in right around the projected amount. Expenses will probably continue to run under budget

leaving us with a surplus at the end of the year.

Next Year and Beyond

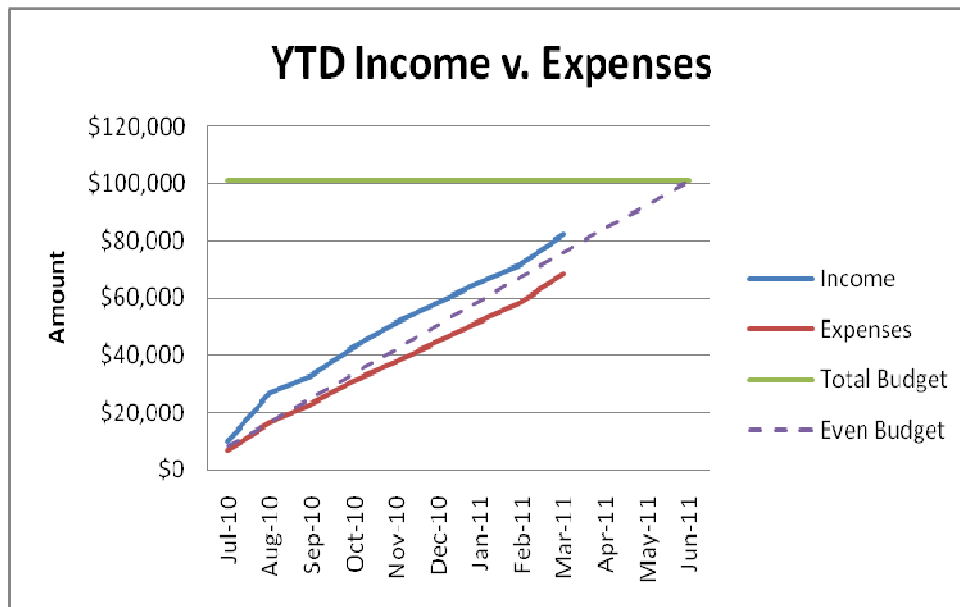
My tenure as Church Treasurer expires at the end of June 2012. I don't intend to serve again, so I would like to identify another member of the congregation who is interested in serving as the next Treasurer.

There is a good amount of knowledge transfer that needs to take place, so to ensure a smooth transition, I would like to begin training the next Treasurer starting early in the next church year.

Personally, I have found the position to be very gratifying and a new challenge for me. There will be plenty of support and training from me and other members of the finance committee. If you're interested in learning more about it, please contact me.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee welcomes new members who are interested in the church's finances. We generally meet the 2nd Sunday of each month before church services. If you'd like to attend an upcoming meeting, please email me at Treasurer@PrairieCircleUUC.org.



Painless Prairie Giving

While cutting corners has become important to us all, we also want to continue supporting what is important to us. If PCUUC is important to you, consider the "painless giving" options.

Did you know there are ways you can give to PCUUC without writing a check or putting money in the basket on Sunday? Support our church by searching or shopping online!

Good Search

<http://www.goodsearch.com/>

You Search...We Give! ... a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine and help raise money for our church! Simply type in "Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Grayslake, IL" on the home screen to begin your search. You may also download the goodsearch toolbar for searching ease.

Prairie Pennies

Did you know you can raise money for PCUUC by using gift cards purchased through our Prairie Pennies program? We all purchase food, gas, clothing, books, etc. so why not do so with a Prairie Pennies scrip gift card? A percentage of your purchase goes directly to PCUUC. Stop by the Prairie Pennies table for the full list of participating retailers or visit:

<http://www.shopwithscrip.com/>.

Good Shop

Did you know that a percentage of on-line purchases made at Good Shop earns money for our church? From the GoodSearch page:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/>,

you can click on GoodShop to help our church even more. At this online shopping mall, you'll find hundreds of great stores like Target, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble.

For more information check:

www.prairiecircleuuc.org/giving

Questions? Send an e-mail to:

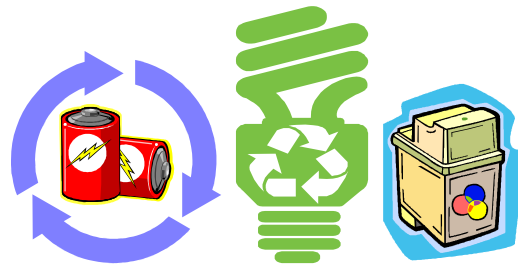
Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

UUSC Update

The UUSJ (Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice) met on the last Sunday in March. The task force report at that time was on future high petroleum prices with depleting available petroleum sources for the U.S. causing a poor economy for many of us and more interest in electric transportation. For details go to:

www.sierraclub.org/electric-vehicles/myth.aspx.

Other UUSJ members in the Chicago area were from several UU churches such as Evanston, Elgin, and North Shore. For the remainder of the meeting, these churches discussed activities involving environmental efforts such as local gardens with instructions and environmental activities in RE. These reports were discussed in our Social Action Committee and were relayed to Julie Palumbo, our RE leader. The next meeting will be May 29th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Transportation is available by contacting Duane Shaneyfelt.



Household Battery, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb and Inkjet Cartridge Recycling Couldn't Be Easier

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, such as throwing them out with

the normal garbage. We can work together to protect our environment by keeping these toxic items out of the landfills. To provide you with an easy and proper way to dispose of these items, PCUUC has a recycling box available located on the table near the entrance. Just bring in your depleted batteries, CFL bulbs and inkjet cartridges to church on any Sunday and drop them in the box. You can be assured that 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.

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.

Join Us for Our Next International Dinner!

The next International Dinner will be on Saturday, May 14th at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy Japanese cuisine, from steaks to sushi, at our next International Dinner at the Hanakawa Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi, 411 Milwaukee Avenue in Libertyville (847-247-0091). Watch as the chef skillfully prepares your meal at the teppan table or make your selections from the sushi bar. Sign-up sheets will be available at Sunday services or contact Leo Wazlo at 847-548-5732 or at lwazlo@yahoo.com. Please let

me know by Thursday, May 12th, so that we can assure your place at the table.

Hanakawa's web site:

<http://www.hanakawasteakhouse.com/>

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.

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. The location rotates among member's homes and topics are varied. New members are always welcome. Please consult the PCUUC website calendar for exact dates and locations or contact Norine Fendrych at nativeheart27@scglobal.net or Sally Merritt at merritt69_99@yahoo.com for more details.

Our Wider Community

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.

Trip to East Africa to Benefit Global Alliance for Africa's Therapeutic Arts Program for Children

In the fall of 2011, Global Alliance for Africa (GAA) will lead a tour to East Africa that features the ancient stone churches sculpted from bedrock in and around Lalibela, Ethiopia, and the traditional crafts and modern art practices of Kenya and Tanzania. The trip, a fundraiser for GAA's therapeutic arts program for orphaned and vulnerable children, will also include visits to some of GAA's partner programs

Global Alliance for Africa is a non-profit organization based in Chicago, Monrovia, Liberia, Nairobi, Kenya, and Arusha, Tanzania. GAA's mission is to work in partnership with African organizations to improve the lives of orphans and vulnerable

children in East Africa. Cathy Moon, a member of PCUUC, has been an active volunteer with GAA for the past 4 years developing the Therapeutic Arts Program and conducting paraprofessional trainings with local artists who provide arts programs for children.



The cost of this fundraising trip is \$5995.00 for an all-inclusive double occupancy trip, excluding airfare, visas, and immunizations. To reserve a space, or for more information, contact Linda Stolz, Director of Programs, at:

lstolz@globalallianceafrica.org
312-382-0607 or 708-525-2011.

Exploratory Meeting on Discrimination in the Boy Scouts of America

In 1999, a Resolution of Immediate Witness was passed at General Assembly (<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/14228.shtml>) on the issue of discrimination in the BSA. Local UUs are being asked to get involved in a local initiative on these issues. Second Unitarian Church (656 W Barry in Chicago) will have an exploratory meeting Sunday, May 22nd, at 12 noon. If you have questions, you may contact Reverend Rudra Dundzila at rdundzila@uuma.org.

Final Notes

Newsletter Submissions

All submissions for the June 2011 newsletter are due by the end of the day on **May 25th**. The newsletter will be posted on the website at the beginning of June. 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
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
Ric Sarmont	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