

Notes from the Prairie



PRAIRIE CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

November 2011

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.

Don't forget! Turn your clocks one hour before you go to bed Saturday night!!!

November 6th

Epic Fable: The Problem of the Hero in Modern Culture

Pat Gonder, Guest Speaker

This sermon will look at alternative conceptions of the hero and explore how ancient myth and modern superhero comic books offer a radically different, and much more complex, mode of heroism than is often seen in contemporary, mainstream texts.

November 13th

Unforeseen Happenings

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler

There are times in our lives when we find ourselves in an unexpected place, a place we did not seek and often times do not necessarily welcome. Yet there we are and, one way or another, we need to deal with it. These are the places, and the types of experiences, that Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler will reflect upon and Bruce Moon will share a story.

Cathy Moon is the Service Leader. Our Choir, directed by Joyce DeWitt, offers it melodious voices to enrich our experience of

the service. Scott Helmke is the Music Coordinator.

November 20th

Praise for the Attitude of Gratitude

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler

This service will consider the many ways, even in these tumultuous times, that our lives are abundantly graced and blessed. Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler will offer the reflection. You'll also be offered the opportunity to give thanks for all of the abundance which you feel you, your family and/or we as a community are blessed with.

Diana Fox is the Service Leader. Our Choir, directed by Joyce DeWitt and accompanied by Jennifer Swartz, offers it melodious voices to enrich our experience of the service. Scott Helmke is the Music Coordinator.

November 27th

Marty VerShaw

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

<http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org/worship/worship-calendar/>



Rev. Ziegler's Thoughts and Jots and Whatnots



Greetings Good People,

Part I

I want to thank Diana Fox, Kent McKenzie and Tonia Becker VerShaw for helping put together and for volunteering to be readers for the Friday, October 21st, evening program "Experiencing the Evolution of the Universe: The Cosmic Walk." I am sure that those of you who attended the presentation would agree with me that they were awesome readers!

I want to particularly thank Kent McKenzie for all of the extra work he did in getting the audio-visual system together for the evening. I also want to thank Ric Sarmont, Chris and Dayle Kozlowski and John Crowley for helping in the setting-up and taking down of the Community Room, laying out the spiral and candles that were arranged on the floor as well as a myriad of other things that made the program work so well.

Approximately 40 people attended the presentation, and a good number were members and friends of the Congregation. There were 6 people from the larger community, too. A couple of tweens (not teens yet but not children either) were in attendance and they seemed spellbound by the spiral slowly lighting up accompanied by the resonant, melodic voices of Diana, Kent and Tonia.

I received a number of calls asking if we're going to offer the presentation again and/or if we could offer the presentation in other areas, too. With that number of requests, stay tuned, as we might offer it again - all things being taken into consideration.

Part II

A couple of times when I've offered the Sunday service, as part of the liturgical

element "Extinguishing the Flame of the Chalice," the Service Leader and I will end facing the Congregation and say together "Peace and Unrest." From past experiences with other Congregations, I suspect that some of you are wondering about or concerned about the use of the word "unrest" in the phrase, thinking I am telling or saying that you should go out of the service and have chaos, pain and suffering in your life. I want to immediately assure you that is not what the word "unrest" means, in this instance.

I'll share what I **do** mean, but first, let me offer historical background information on the phrase "Peace and Unrest." I first heard it in 1993 when I was a field minister working with the Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen, the Senior Minister for the Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church of Racine in Wisconsin. Rev. Larsen used the phrase as the final words as he extinguished the flame of the congregation's chalice and he still uses it.

It is a variation of the saying "the afflicted shall be comforted and the comfortable, afflicted" that preachers have used for over a hundred years. A more modern way of saying this is "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted."

As I use it and taking its meaning from Rev. Dr. Larsen, (and other Unitarian Universalist ministers), the word peace in the phrase lifts up and reminds us that our religion, Unitarian Universalism, seeks to "comfort the afflicted," i.e., offer comfort and help to those who suffer from injustices that are more often than not created by the powerful in the world. It also suggests that we comfort those who are experiencing personal pain and anguish such as the loss of a parent, spouse or perhaps the loss of a job, etc. At the same time, as Unitarian Universalism is a religion of deeds not creeds, the word "unrest" lifts up and reminds us we must vigilantly work to bring more peace and justice to the world by "afflicting the comfortable."

I hope this clarifies things. Do feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Part III

I have a request that I hope all of you will seriously consider. My request is that when you are going to be in the news, you tell the reporter or write in your article that you are a member of or that you attend the Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Grayslake, Illinois. Also, if appropriate, note how one or more of our Principles and Purposes are related to what is being covered. When you include that type of information, you'll help Unitarian Universalism as well as Prairie Circle, become better known. The operative phrase to consider here is "if appropriate."

Part IV

I want to share with you this beautiful Thanksgiving poem by one of my top three favorite poets, Lynn Ungar. She is also a Unitarian Universalist Minister and serves as the Minister for Lifespan Learning for the Church of the Larger Fellowship and as the Editor for its publication, *Quest*. May you find it as beautifully meaningful as I do.

I have been trying to read
the script cut in these hills —
a language carved in the shimmer of stubble
and the solid lines of soil, spoken
in the thud of apples falling
and the rasp of corn stalks finally bare.

The pheasants shout it with a rusty creak
as they gather in the fallen grain,
the blackbirds sing it
over their shoulders in parting,
and gold leaf illuminates the manuscript
where it is written in the trees.

Transcribed onto my human tongue
I believe it might sound like a lullaby,
or the simplest grace at table.
Across the gathering stillness
simply this: "For all that we have received,
dear God, make us truly grateful."

~ Lynn Ungar

May we have many more beautiful Indian
summer days before Old Man Winter comes
blowing in with all his awesome and awful

gifts. I look forward to seeing you at Sunday
services and around town.

Bright blessings,

Rev. Jackie



Our Caring Circle

During this past month joys were expressed by Carol Niec for her husband Tony's birthday, Diana Fox for Ric Sarmont's birthday, the McKenzie family for Penny Sue's birthday, and Bruce and Cathy Moon who recently became grandparents.

Concerns were expressed by Fred O'Donnell who requested wheelchair assistance to church from the car and back again, Tonia Becker Vershaw for her yoga teacher's illness, Rev. Jackie for a friend who is a victim of domestic violence and Rev. Jackie for Jan Kirch's recovery from sciatica. Healing wishes are sent out to Matt Sheaffer.

Milestone joys were shared by: Rory and Ken Klick celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary.

A special note of appreciation to Rev. Jackie Ziegler and her "team" who presented a visual/auditory experience of the evolution of the Universe, **The Cosmic Walk** on October 21st at the State Bank of the Lakes.

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.

Day of the Dead Celebration

Don't miss PCUUC's Day of the Dead, or Dia De Los Muertos, annual party **this Friday**, November 4th! Join us for this Mexican holiday that celebrates death as a transition from one life to another and acknowledges communication between the living and the dead. Ghouls and boils -- and adults too -- dress up and take a stab at winning best child or adult costume! Make traditional Mexican crafts! Bring a dish -- Mexican, if you can, to share. And, if you have drums, bring them along too! The bewitching hour is 6:00 p.m. Come to the haunted house of Joyce and Doug DeWitt at 26258 N. Hackberry Rd. in Mundelein. Hope to scare you there! If you have not had a chance to sign-up on the sheet available during service, please email your RSVP to Teresa Aguinaldo at Social_Events@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Please let us know how many will be attending and what food you will be bringing.

Directions: When nearing the DeWitt's home, the turn off of Midlothian is through a white picket fence (looks like a driveway) and has a wooden sign "Hickory." At the end of the road, turn left on Hackberry (no Hackberry street sign but look for the skeleton) and it's the first house on the right. There will be tiki torches marking the parking area. Their phone number is 847-393-7769.

Practicing Pluralism: A Workshop on Dealing Positively with Conflicts in Our Congregations

Conflict is a part of all of our lives and is an occasional part of church life. Avoiding conflict is often not possible nor productive. Rather, learning skills to positively and constructively manage conflict within our congregations and within our lives is a far more enriching, productive and less stressful approach.

Rev. Georgette Wonders, Minister at Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist in Kenosha, WI, will be leading this workshop.

Just some of the topics to be covered in this workshop:

- Frequent church stressors and issues
- Sources of church conflict
- Managing conflict while living Unitarian Universalism's 7 Principles
- Conflict phases and tools to manage them
- Communicating during conflict

Date, Time and Workshop Location:

Saturday, November 5th

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

State Bank of the Lakes Community Room,
50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, IL

PCUUC Annual Stone Soup Auction and Dinner

November 12th, 6:00 p.m.

Libertyville Civic Center



This year's theme is again based on the age-old tale of Stone Soup, a tale of cooperation and coming together of community, where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We have another great event planned for this year, but it can only be a success if everyone turns out for the fun. Tickets prices are:

- adults (18 yrs+) - \$15 (\$20 at door)
- seniors - \$10 (\$15 at door)
- children -\$10 first, \$5 each additional

We have a goal of selling 100 adult tickets to this year's event and as of now, we have a way to go. Remember, proceeds from this event account for 10% of PCUUC's annual budget AND 10% of the proceeds are donated to PADS and Avon Township Food Pantry. Just like in the age-old story of the Stone Soup, if we all come together with something to add to the 'Soup,' we'll have a great result – a successful event helps further our Congregation's mission of providing meaningful Sunday services, taking care of each other and serving justice projects in the larger community – among other important endeavors! Most importantly, this event is not only a fundraiser but also the largest community-building event of our year. Click [here](#) for more information. See you on November 12th!

Perspective Submitted by Rev. Ziegler Author unknown

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country for the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what the wealthy father considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?" "It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh, yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us but they serve others. We buy our food but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them." The boy's father was

speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends! "Life is too short and friends are too few."



Can You Host a Member or Members for Thanksgiving Dinner?

We're looking for people who are willing to host other church members as Thanksgiving dinner guests (1 to 5). Some members don't have anyone to share dinner with while others miss dining with a big group of family and friends. Guests would contribute food and/or beverages to the dinner.

If you're interesting in being a host, please contact:

Rev. Jackie:

revziegler@comcast.net

847-629-5868

or Karen Achtemeier:

Karen.achtemeier@Pearson.com

847-986-6627

no later than Monday, Nov 14th.

No One to Spend Thanksgiving Dinner With? Sign Up With Us

Are you spending Thanksgiving alone but wishing you weren't? Does your immediate family live too far away to go to for

Thanksgiving? Would you like to spend Thanksgiving in the company of other Prairie Circle members or friends?

Rev. Ziegler and Karen Achtemeier think there are members and friends who would like to share Thanksgiving dinner with other Prairie members. If that is true for you, contact:

Rev. Jackie:

revziegler@comcast.net
847-629-5868

or Karen Achtemeier:

Karen.achtemeier@Pearson.com
847-986-6627

to sign up no later than Monday, November 14th.

Pathways to Membership Workshop – December 4th

We would like to invite all interested non-members, visitors and friends to our Pathways to Membership workshop on Sunday, December 4th, from 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This workshop is designed to help you learn about the responsibilities and benefits of membership in this Congregation, provide you with the opportunity to meet members, gain a mentor and ask questions. This meeting should provide you with the basics you need to get the most you can from your exploration of our church. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the visitors table.

If you are interested in attending or you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rich Fendrych (847.624.3763 or at Membership@prairiecircleuuc.org). We are looking forward to sharing this time with you.

If child care service is needed, please let Rich know at least two weeks in advance.

In Faith,
PCUUC Membership Committee



Looking Ahead to Special December Services

There will be two additional special services in December. They are:

December 21st:

A Contemporary, Contemplative, Winter Solstice Celebration

This beautiful service will be held in the Community Room at State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake at 7:30 p.m. It is a service of readings, moments of silence, songs and a candle-lighting ritual that takes us on a journey to honor the poignant and fertile darkness of the season and back to a joyous celebration of returning light. This service is offered by Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler and other members of the Congregation.

This service often becomes people's favorite and most meaningful holiday service. Invite your friends!

Please bring a treat to share for the social time following the service. Also, if you have a drum please bring it **or** bring anything that can be used as a drum (an oatmeal box, coffee can, etc.). Older children and youth are invited to attend. If you would like a ride to this service, please contact Rev. Ziegler.

December 24th:

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This service is offered through the unique perspective that Unitarian Universalism brings to this Christian holiday celebration. Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler, with other members, will present a service designed to delight the hearts of the young and old. It will feature sacred and secular readings,

including the story of Jesus' birth from the Gospel of Luke, special Christmas stories, special Christmas music and lots of carols to sing. We'll end this joyous service with a special candlelight ceremony. It will be held at the Byron Colby Barn. The time will be announced in the future.

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, 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 and consultant for the prestigious Alban Institute. It offers an overview of the current state of Unitarian Universalism in the nation and why UUism is not growing and it provides an important definition of leadership and the responsibilities of leaders in a congregation. However, as the author encouragingly states, "This book contains 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 live out and experience its hopes and dreams about what it means, from a justice perspective, to be Unitarian Universalists.

This workshop will be open only to members and friends who have read the book. Your Board has already read it and is making copies available for members to sign out for reading. Board Member Chris Kozlowski will have copies available on Sundays.



Coming in March 2012: Honoring Women Who Are Making or Have Made a Difference in Our Lives -- A Dinner Party Celebration

All women, men and older children are invited to participate in an exciting activity, which will be a part of Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation's celebration of Women's History Month in March 2012. The plan is for each person to create a dinner plate and/or setting honoring a woman of his or her choice, whether deceased or living, who has made a difference in his or her personal life (wife, partner, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, aunt, friend or in the larger world). All of the place settings will be used to set a beautiful table and a dinner party will be held to celebrate the women for whom the plates were created. The plate-making activity and culminating party are based on the famous larger-than-life installation artwork called *The Dinner Party* which the feminist artist Judy Chicago created in collaboration with other women.

Rev. Ziegler and Dayle Kozlowski are offering this event. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either one of them. You can reach Dayle at 847-477-3828 or daylerkozlowski@yahoo.com and 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: [www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/dinner party](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/dinner-party)

Rev. Ziegler's Home-Office Hours

As a friendly reminder and a point of information, as 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 the number to contact you at.

When Rev. Ziegler Will Be Gone

Rev. Ziegler will be gone from Monday, November 7th through Thursday, November 10th. She will be attending one of the oldest, if not THE oldest, Unitarian Universalist Ministers' study group, Prairie Group. The Group meets at the Pere Marquette Lodge outside of Grafton, IL. Its purpose is "to study thought as it affects religion." This year's study topic is apocalyptic thinking.

While she is away, you can leave a message on her home phone, **847-629-5868**. If you have a pastoral emergency you can contact her through her cell phone, **303-905-0271**. However, she requests that you still leave your pastoral emergency message on her home phone. Remember, cell phones don't work everywhere! If it is an emergency, she will call you back as soon as she can.

HumanLight - A Humanist Holiday Celebration: Should We Hold One?

Did you know that around the United States and other countries, on or about December 23rd, Humanists hold a **HumanLight** holiday celebration? Like Kwanzaa, HumanLight is a modern invention created to provide a specifically Humanist celebration near Christmas and the Western Hemisphere's winter solstice.

Humanists have cast HumanLight as a celebration of "a Humanist's vision of a good future." They celebrate a positive approach to the coming new year, generally through the lens of secular Humanist philosophy as opposed to a religious lens. The December 23rd date allows HumanLight to connect itself to the December holiday season without interfering with other winter holidays which many Humanists may also celebrate.

HumanLight began with a single event in Verona, New Jersey in 2001. In 2006, there were twenty American events listed on the holiday's homepage and the American Humanist Association became HumanLight's first national sponsor. In 2007, the first HumanLight celebration outside of the U.S. took place in Chester, England.

Should Prairie Circle offer a HumanLight celebration too? Rev. Ziegler is looking for people to organize one. She is naturally willing to help. Contact her at 847-629-5968 or revziegler@comcast.net.

Remembering and Honoring a Famous Unitarian

Excerpted from Church of the Larger Fellowship's KidTalk

<http://clf.uua.org/kidtalk/2009/11/index.html>

Since Thanksgiving is a holiday that centers on food and cooking, this month we honor Fannie Farmer, (March 23, 1857 to January 15, 1915) whose cook book introduced a whole new way of cooking, using science, accurate measurement and awareness of nutrition.

In her curriculum "Spirit of Adventure", Kate Tweedy Covey writes this about Fannie Farmer:

The publication of Fannie Farmer's 1896 cookbook, "The Boston Cooking-School Cook Book", was an event in cooking history and, in making domestic life a bit easier for family cooks, most of whom were women, she included very specific and accurate measurements. Before that cookbook, ingredient lists were estimates. "Your results will vary" was a phrase yet to become popular, but it sure described the older style recipes!

Red-haired, brisk, energetic and opinionated -- and endowed with a very good appetite -- Fannie was fascinated by every aspect of food. James Beard remembered reading that she loved restaurants and would often put a little sample of a dish she liked into her handkerchief to take home and try to recreate it. She would also go down to Boston Harbor when a French ship had docked to taste what the French chef had to offer and maybe have a talk with him.

Fannie Farmer had a far greater influence on American home cooking than we realize. Not only did she call for careful measuring (she was known as the mother of level measurements), but she was well ahead of her time in imparting important nutritional information to her readers. She told them how to judge the freshness of fish, how to select good poultry and game, what cuts of

meat to buy, and what was important to a well-balanced diet. She deplored the poor bread of the day, believing that bread was our most important food. The bread recipes in her early books are exceptionally good (my favorite is her Water Bread). She stressed buying fresh eggs, instead of the common practice then of buying "cooking eggs" which were older and cheaper. She was both an intelligent teacher and a passionate cook.

For some more information about Fannie Farmer go to:

http://digital.lib.msu.edu/projects/cookbooks/html/authors/author_farmer.html

President's Message



Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

- Albert Einstein

As I began drafting the message for this month's newsletter, this Einstein quote called out to me. It seems so very appropriate for Unitarian Universalists and certainly appropriate for the work of this year's Church Board as we, on an ongoing basis, recall the successes and challenges of the PCUUC Boards of past years. And, questioning, in a healthy manner, the courses of action we are taking and extremely importantly enjoying our current point on our journey as a church community.

During its October meeting, the Board agreed to adopt and implement a proposal to distribute the Board's energies to support what the Board has identified as key areas within the church to facilitate a stronger

community and church growth. The areas that have been identified are:

- Planning (short-term, near-term and long-term)
- Social Action
- Religious Education
- Communications (internal community and external)
- Conflict Management

The intent of the Board is to support these areas by brainstorming with the appropriate committee heads and committees while possibly offering a fresh perspective and providing other support if/as the opportunity presents itself.

At the November Board meeting, we will be discussing the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore meeting/worship space options and opportunities. If potential ideas and opportunities surface during the course of this exploration, ideas will be presented to the congregation for consideration and vote. If you have an interest in serving on this ad hoc committee, please e-mail me at President@PrairieCircleUUC.org. We will also be discussing ideas for improving communications and idea-sharing between the community and the Board.

A few other important areas of note:

- On November 5th, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the State Bank of the Lakes, the Board will be hosting a Conflict Management Workshop. Georgette Wonders, Minister of Bradford Community Church Unitarian Universalist, will be leading the workshop. The entire PCUUC community, as well as UUs from other area congregations, is invited. The purpose of this workshop is to offer tools and techniques for addressing and managing conflict in our lives at church, at work, within our families and other areas.
- On January 14th, 2012, Rev. Jackie Ziegler will be conducting a workshop discussing the book "The Almost Church Revitalized: Envisioning the Future of

Unitarian Universalism" by Michael Durall. The entire PCUUC community is invited to read this book, then to participate in the workshop on January 14th, 2012. Approximately 15 copies of the book were purchased to be shared within the community. If you are interested in borrowing one of the PCUUC copies, please see Chris Kozlowski.

- We are striving to continue to open pathways of communication between the congregation as a whole and the Church Board to make sure all voices are being heard. As a Board, we are also working to make sure that our monthly Board meetings are as effective and organized as possible. We have created one tool to further assist in accomplishing these goals. We have created a mechanism on our website for anyone to submit Board meeting agenda items so that your item or issue can be included on the agenda of the next or an upcoming Board meeting. You can also view the items on the docket for the upcoming Board meeting before the formal agenda is completed. To use this tool, go to the following page:

<http://www.prairiecircleuuc.org/pcuucboard-planning/>.

This page is a password protected page and uses the same password as our other member pages. If you do not know what the member pages password is or if you have misplaced it, please e-mail our church administrator, Andrea Mills, at Office@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

This is a summary of the larger initiatives we are currently undertaking as a Board. Please never hesitate to get in touch with me or another Board member with comments and suggestions. Have a wonderful week.

In Faith,
Tonia Becker VerShaw
PCUUC Board President
President@PrairieCircleUUC.org

Assistant Treasurer Needed

The term of our current Treasurer, Chris Kozlowski, expires in June of 2012. In order to provide a seamless transition to a new treasurer at the start of the next church year, we would like to identify an Assistant Treasurer to begin learning the administrative details of the position as soon as possible.

The Assistant Treasurer would be expected to spend about 4-5 hours per month "learning the ropes" of the Treasurer position prior to the start of the next church year and then take over as Treasurer for the period of July 2012 - June 2014. If you are interested in becoming the Assistant Treasurer or just learning more about it, please contact Chris Kozlowski at: Treasurer@PrairieCircleUUC.org or 847-752-8663.

Treasurer's Corner

In this quarter's update, I want to provide a summary of the income and expenses for the church year so far.

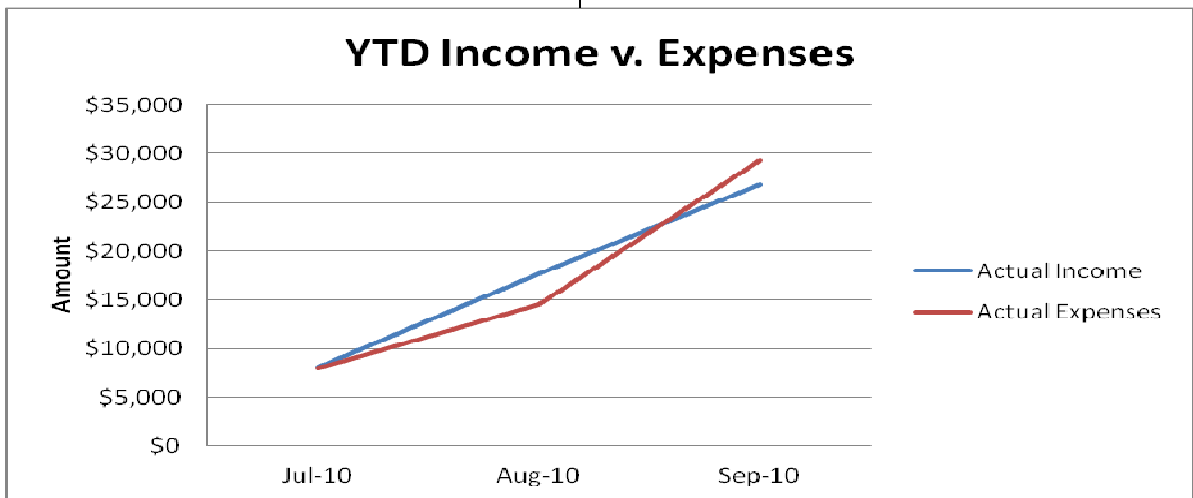
2011-2012 Financial YTD Review

As discussed during our annual meeting, we are planning to run a deficit this church year. We are essentially on track with our planned budget through the first three months. I will have a clearer picture of the full year outlook in next quarter's update (after the annual auction fundraiser).

Thanks everyone for your support of PCUUC through your annual pledge commitment. If at any time your personal financial situation changes and you won't be able to meet your annual pledge, please let me or another board member know.

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 have any questions about the church budget or would like to attend an upcoming finance committee meeting, please email me at Treasurer@PrairieCircleUUC.org.



Caring and Worship Committees Seek Your Feedback

The Caring and Worship Committees have been discussing the possibility of a series of sermons and discussions centering around End of Life planning. Kindly use the link below to complete this short survey by December 18th. The results will inform us as to whether to move ahead on this and, if so, what the greatest areas of interest are. Results will be shared with membership early in 2012.

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/657024/End-of-Life-Planning-Survey>

Requests and News from the Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has worked hard the last several months. We have all had great joy in receiving Reverend Ziegler into our congregation and are excited to work with her. In addition to working with Reverend Ziegler, we continued to reach out to the greater community and secured speakers for those times when she was not in the pulpit.

We wish to respond not only to her needs when she is speaking but we also want to continue to identify and offer a variety of quest speakers for the times when she is not available. To that end, we are asking the congregation to help us by identifying speakers for when Reverend Ziegler is not available. If you know of a speaker with a message for our congregation, either personally or by reputation, we would appreciate your providing us with their contact information. Then we will contact them to ascertain their desire and availability to speak to our congregation. We are also interested in hearing from you topics that you'd like to hear explored from the pulpit.

We'll continue to work with our new minister, Jackie Ziegler, to organize the schedule and present services that are both meaningful and informative. We are excited as a Committee to move forward with Prairie

Circle into a new era of services and programs. For example, coupled with the excitement of a new minister and gaining stability in our move towards growth, we presented a "Cosmic Walk" program in the community.

Some of the goals of the Committee and Reverend Jackie are to expand the roles of our youth in the services and to engage some willing adults to participate in the services.

This will be an exciting year for Prairie Circle and the Committee as it moves forward into the future. We welcome your ideas – your excitement – your participation – your presence.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Fox
Worship Committee Chair
Silverferbie@yahoo.com

Adult Enrichment Program

UU101: Introduction to Unitarian Universalism

The Adult Enrichment/Religious Education Committee presentation of the popular three-session course UU101: **Introduction to Unitarian Universalism** finishes up in November. The remaining course date is: November 20, 2011: Part III: Community, the Wider World and Our Participation in Evolutionary Change

The class session will run from 10:45 a.m. - noon, after the Sunday service and children's/youths' religious education classes. Classes will be held in a Prairie Crossing Charter School classroom, next to the Byron Colby Barn. There is no fee for the course or course materials. Infant and child care will be provided as needed. John and Inge Crowley will serve as the principal course facilitators.

Note: This basic-level course for adults is different from the **PCUUC Pathway to Membership** presented by the Membership Committee. Check [the PCUUC website](#)

regularly for descriptions of both courses, updates and scheduling information.

Book Club

The current book club book is “The Power of Myth” by Joseph Campbell. The “Power of Myth” is based on a series of interviews between Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers that resulted in a six-part series aired on PBS in 1988. The book is the companion to the television series but contains discussions not included in the PBS series.

A number of topics are covered that are major Campbell themes including the importance of mythology and the general lack of any modern mythology and that “follow your bliss” is the best way to achieve spiritual satisfaction.

The next meeting for this book will cover chapters 4 through 6: Sacrifice and Bliss, The Hero's Adventure and The Gift of the Goddess. The book is eight chapters long and one additional meeting will cover the remaining chapters. The date, time and location of the next book club meeting will be announced in the order of service. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Mike at: Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Movie Club

The Adult Enrichment Committee is pleased to announce a showing of Michael Moore's documentary film “Capitalism: A Love Story”.

Overture Films describes the film this way: “Capitalism: A Love Story examines the impact of corporate dominance on the everyday lives of Americans (and by default, the rest of the world). The film moves from Middle America, to the halls of power in Washington, to the global financial epicenter in Manhattan. With both humor and outrage, the film explores the question: What is the price that America pays for its love of capitalism? Families pay the price with their jobs, their homes and their savings. Moore goes into the homes of ordinary people whose lives have been turned upside down; and he goes looking for explanations in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere. What he finds are the all-too-familiar symptoms of a love affair gone astray: lies, abuse,

betrayal...and 14,000 jobs being lost every day. Capitalism: A Love Story also presents what a more hopeful future could look like. Who are we and why do we behave the way that we do?”

The film will be presented after the Sunday service at 10:45 on November 13th 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, or if you would like to suggest a film to be considered for screening at a future Movie Club event, please contact Reverend Ziegler, Duane Shaneyfelt or Mike Honegger. Or, you can email your suggestion to: Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Reel to Real and a Meal Evening Discussions with Rev. Ziegler

As part of the 2011-2012 Adult Enrichment Religious Education program offerings, Rev. Ziegler will host in her home a series of philosophical and theological discussions about secular movies, all while sharing a potluck dinner.

The first gathering will be Friday, November 18th, with the potluck dinner discussion beginning at 6:30 p.m. The 2009 movie “Avatar” will be discussed. It was designated as a Critics' Pick by the film reviewers of *The New York Times*.

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 “Avatar” no longer than 4 weeks prior to the evening gathering so its themes are fresh in your mind. The movie is available through Netflix and various on-line sources and perhaps from your local library
- you must reserve one of the eight places at the table through Rev. Ziegler

For this movie selection, the eight places have already been taken. **However, Rev. Ziegler is adding two more seats at the table!** If you'd like to reserve one (or both) of these two additional seats, email Rev. Ziegler at revziegler@comcast.net or call her at **847-629-5868 as soon as possible** as they will be reserved for the first two people who contact her. Rev. Ziegler will call you to confirm your place and discuss your potluck contribution.

Possible future movies to be discussed include "Gattaca", "The Tree of Life" and "The Dark Knight".

Adult Enrichment Needs Your Help

Are you passionate about a topic that might be of interest to our congregation? Are you willing to put together a single-session program on that topic to present to a group of 8-14 people? Do you know someone not in the congregation who is knowledgeable and passionate about a topic that would be willing to give a presentation to a group from our congregation? If so, please submit your proposal to Reverend Ziegler, Duane Shaneyfelt, or Mike Honegger, or email your proposal to: Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org. All proposals will be considered for future Adult Enrichment programs.

The Adult Enrichment Committee is also looking for some new members. So, if you're interested in serving on the committee, please contact any of the current members.

Social Action News

Green Bean Tips

Here are three tips to help you get green:

- Keep old squeeze bottles from your kitchen to use as bottles for your hair care and cosmetic needs. Plastic salad dressing and cooking oil bottles can be cleaned and filled with soap, lotion or shampoo.
- Cleaning the dryer lint filter slashes energy use by 30% so clean it after every use.

- Plan ahead and combine your shopping and appointments by location. Map out a route and make a sweep to reduce the mileage and gas use. Do you really need to make a trip for a single item?

Guest at Your Table - 2011

A couple of years ago I did the children's story as part of our Guest program. When I reached the part of asking who helped this woman get water, and I was going to tell them UUSC did, one of the younger children shouted out, "We did, because we put money in the boxes." It was such a great moment!

- Davalene Cooper,

Old Ship Church First Parish, Hingham, MA

This holiday season, PCUUC continues its participation in the UU tradition, Guest at Your Table. Guest at Your Table is an annual program to promote awareness of the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and to raise funds to sustain that work. We will open our 2011 Guest at Your Table program on **November 20th** as part of a service of thanksgiving.

The UUSC is an associate member organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), but receives no general financial support from the UUA. Its mission is to advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

The major program areas of UUSC are:

- Advancing economic justice. UUSC addresses the issues of globalization and privatization with a focus on defending workers' rights and supporting living wage campaigns.
- Defending civil liberties and access to democratic processes. UUSC partners with civil liberties organizations and civil society groups working to defend freedom and rights by strengthening individual liberty and democratic processes in the Global War on Terror.

- Promoting environmental justice. UUSC's primary focus in this area is promoting and defending the human right to water especially in communities facing water service privatization and resource depletion.
- Protecting rights in humanitarian crises. UUSC responds strategically to disasters, whether natural or man-made, focusing especially on defending the rights of marginalized and oppressed populations.

When we bring home our Guest at Your Table boxes and place them prominently where we regularly gather, our families and friends have the chance to learn about real struggles for justice and how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights in the United States and around the world.

With each box comes a copy of *Stories of Hope*, which helps children, youth and adults learn more about how UUSC works to change our world for the better. One of this year's stories features a partner organization in Kenya that is working to save that country's last remaining rain forest, thereby protecting a major water source for a large rural area.



Consider making it part of a mealtime ritual to read through one of the stories and discuss its meaning and how we can help. When we share our blessings with our "guests," we ensure that UUSC and its partners can continue their important work. **As often as you can, please drop coins or bills into the box. The program will conclude on Sunday, January 1st, 2012. Please return the filled box, or write a check to UUSC, by January 15th.**

Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from the UUA or the U.S. government, UUSC members are vitally important. And, thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of **\$100 or more are eligible to be matched**, dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your support!

Learn more at UUSC.org, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

If you miss picking up your Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope, you can do so at the Social Action table on Sunday or by talking with Jan Simpson, our UUSC Guest at Your Table program coordinator.

Lake County PADS

PCUUC has been supporting Lake County PADS (Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter) with donations and volunteer service for several years. Our members have worked on a rotating basis with the North Shore Unitarian Church to serve the Sunday dinner meal at the Family Center. This has entailed preparing a menu, buying the necessary food, preparing the meal and serving the meal to the residents. We have also donated offering plate loose change to PADS on six occasions during the year. With our strong commitment to PADS, it is important to occasionally review this agency and its programs.

PADS was founded in 1972 as a telephone crisis line. When it became clear that the most frequent calls were for shelter, the agency widened its focus to include providing emergency shelter. The model adopted by PADS was a rotating church-based shelter program. Each participating church provides one night of shelter per week, resulting in a church-shelter available every night. Homeless people arrive at the designated church where they receive a hot meal and a safe, warm bed for the night. The next morning, they receive a hearty breakfast before they leave the church. This program model serves people who are homeless, but it also offers communities an opportunity to serve those in their midst who need assistance.

Traditionally, the PADS emergency shelter program ran from October through April, with no shelter available May through September. The rationale was that people could find shelter outside in the warmer months of the year. But, as the homeless demographic has changed from single adults to more families and children, that model needed to be revised. Therefore, this summer, PADS was fortunate to extend their seven-month winter emergency shelter program to run throughout most of the summer. Although this was expensive, the value has far outweighed the cost. The PADS staff determined that more than 90% of the people who utilized the summer program are currently in permanent housing. This is far greater than success rates with a summer interruption of service.

PADS currently collaborates with 15 churches throughout Lake County that each provide a night of shelter. Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Grayslake is one such church providing outstanding overnight assistance for 45 men, women and children. Including the people served through this rotating shelter program, the Family Center and the other PADS specialized shelters, the agency projects 2000 people will be served this year. This compares with the approximate 800 served only a couple of years ago.

The PADS program with which we at PCUUC are most familiar with is the Family Center. This permanent shelter, located in eastern Lake County, can accommodate 42 people in their large, flexible space. Single adults and families with children up to age 18 can live there while, with the help of an advocate, they seek permanent housing. These advocates are former homeless people who treat residents with dignity through 'empathic advocacy.' Dignity is not only in the PADS name. It is the way people are treated at Lake County PADS.

How can you get involved with this valuable service? You can assist with the PADS meals by donating food and helping serve the residents. You can make a donation through your Social Action Sunday offering. Or, you can donate directly to or volunteer at Lake County PADS. Please visit their

website at:

<http://www.padslakecounty.org/home.html>

Our Youth's Evening at PADS

On a Sunday evening last month, our youth worked to serve a delicious meal. Present were Quinn, Rowan, Gavin and Alex, Riley, Jasmine and Emily. There were 15 adults and as many kids all under 6 years of age. There was just enough food for all of them and a nice little surprise in the "pretzel handouts" thanks to Penny Sue's donation. The kids were great helping our littlest guests to their tables and even helping to feed them. Thanks to Karen Achtemeier and Norine Fendrych who were the adult supervisors.

Why UUs Should Care About Immigration Reform

by Norine Fendrych (excerpts from The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and uua.org/justice & diversity)

Immigration policy affects all aspects of society. Regardless of status, immigrants have always played a central role in the life and growth of our nation. Immigrants contribute \$10 billion a year to this country's economic growth. Unfortunately, in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks, immigrants in the United States have increasingly been targets of discrimination and suspicion. Our country must be defended, but one must not forget this nation's commitment to the ideals of equality and freedom for all peoples. The [Palmer Raids](#), the [McCarran-Walter Act](#), the [Chinese Exclusion Act](#), and [Japanese internment](#) all serve as painful reminders of how our overreactions can have drastic implications for the civil rights of those who are not perceived as being fully "American."

Since H.B. 56, the nation's harshest immigration law, went into effect, the crisis facing immigrant and Latino children is reaching alarming proportions. The federal court's denial of emergency requests to block harmful provisions of H.B. 56 will

make a terrible situation even worse for Alabama's children and families.

"Everybody is suffering and the children are suffering the most. It is a dark day for Alabama and for America when politicians praise a law that dehumanizes people and pushes children out of school. This unjust law not only affects unauthorized immigrants, U.S. citizen children are also bearing the brunt." The implementation of the law has led to thousands of students staying home from school in fear of repercussions from the state. And, in at least one instance, children were asked to assemble in their school cafeteria and then raise their hands to indicate whether or not they were born in the United States. Other reports show increased incidents of bullying and stress among children afraid of having to leave their schools, homes and friends.

Working for civil rights and combating oppression are essential parts of our spiritual journey. Our faith community has worked for justice for [hundreds of years](#), from advocating for free speech and the free practice of religion as far back as the 1500s to helping to abolish slavery and supporting women's rights beginning in the 1800s.

We continue to work for justice today in ways that resonate with our [Principles](#), from protecting our environment to standing up for the full rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people. While we cannot always take action on every issue that arises, we do our best to make our congregations, our communities, our denomination and our world a better place.

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.

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 Group

The Men's Group meets on select Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Check the website calendar for updates:

www.prairiecircleuuc.org/news-events/calendar/

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 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



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.

Who Would Be at Your Table? The Dinner Party Then and Now!

A Workshop Offered by Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler and Dayle Kozlowski for the 2012 Winter Women Spirit Conference

All women and girls are invited to attend the Central Midwest District Woman and Religion Committee's 2012 Winter Women Spirit Conference. It will be held February 3rd – 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.

This workshop is based on the famous larger-than-life 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.

This iconic feminist artwork represents 1,038 women in history — 39 women are represented by place settings and another 999 names are inscribed in the Heritage Floor on which the table rests. The installation is comprised of a triangular table divided into three wings, each 48 feet long. Rev. Jacqueline Zeigler and Dayle Kozlowski will reflect on the creation and importance of *The Dinner Party* and explore its impact then and now. Who would **you** include at your Dinner Party? Bring the spirit of the woman or women you would set places for at the Dinner Party.

Registration information will be made available in future newsletters.

Final Notes

Newsletter Submissions

All submissions for the December 2011 newsletter are due by the end of the day on **November 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>

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