

Notes from the Prairie



PRAIRIE CIRCLE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

September 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.

September 4th

Deepening the "American Dream" What Is the Future of the American Dream?

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler

During the last two years of PBS's ***Bill Moyers Journal***, Bill Moyers launched the **Deepening the American Dream** and the **Future of the "American Dream"** project. The project's quest was to reassess the definition of the American Dream by asking: Is the American Dream a vision or an illusion? Does social change depend on personal change? What values should the U.S. demonstrate in today's world? Are there ways to think beyond geographic boundaries toward a common dream for our world? How can we achieve those visions? In this service we'll hear selected responses to those questions from the ***Journal's*** archives. Members of the Congregation, Petros Petridis and Kadi Petridis will also share their thoughts for deepening the American dream or how they envision the future of that dream.

September 11th

Reflecting on the 10th Anniversary of 9-11

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler

This service offers the opportunity to be together to remember and honor those who died in THE event that profoundly changed America's psyche. It will be a contemplative service with meditations/prayers, readings, music, periods of silence for reflection and

time for people to share their thoughts about 9-11's impact on the life of our nation.

September 18th

The Seasons of Our Lives

Jim Jaeger

As we have passed Labor Day and approach the autumnal equinox, the true beginning of Fall, we come together for the beginning of our church year. As we celebrate the Water Communion, symbol of our ingathering as a faith community, Jim Jaeger, Meadville Lombard Theological School student, reflects on the transitions that we make in our own lives.

September 25th

How Do We Know What We Know? Exploring Epistemology

Part I of a 'What Do You Believe' Series

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler

With this service we begin a six-part series of services called "**What Do You Believe?**" This series covers some of the most basic philosophical/spiritual/religious topics of all time. In this service, we'll consider a prickly but central question for Unitarian Universalists: "How do we know what we know?" That is, what are our sources of authority in deciding upon life's most important questions? How do we know what is good and right and true and beautiful? And how do we actualize this in our lives? Please join us and consider inviting your friends.



Rev. Ziegler's Thoughts and Jots and Whatnots



Part I

As we start the new church year, I want to share two beautiful selections. The first is a meditation from my colleague, Reverend David S. Blanchard:

**'Come down off the ladder.
Wash out that paintbrush.
Shake the sand out of your shoes.
Get up off your muddy knees,
and give the garden a morning off.
Fold up the newspaper.
Turn off the coffeepot.
Close up your calendar,
already filled with dates,
and times,
and people,
and places that claim you.
This church is ready for you to fill its
rooms,
to create its spirit, to generate its
warmth,
to kindle its light.
This church is ready for you to make
community,
to create beauty, to bend it toward
justice,
to serve its ideals.
This church is ready for you to be here,
honoring our past,
invigorating our present,
and dreaming our future.
This is your church.
Here we are home.
Here we are whole.
Let us begin.'**

Yes, let us begin! Now, if you haven't been to church for a while, for whatever reason, you're invited to come back. Your friends here miss you and will rejoice in seeing you again. No questions will be asked, no recriminations, just "Geez, it's good to see you." And if I haven't met you, I'd love to meet you. As Reverend Blanchard says, "This church is ready for you to be here . . . This is your church."

As I thought about getting into the "swing of things" again, sweet memories about being in junior high and going back to school after summer vacation came to me. Then, as fate sometimes intervenes, a couple of days before I sat down to write this column I read a new meditation manual that I bought a couple of years ago. And, lo and behold, I found a gem of a reading to share with you as you prepare to be actively re-involved with your beloved faith community. So, the second selection I want to share with you is a reading called "Odiferous Beginnings" and comes from my colleague Kaaren Solveig Anderson's book, *Glad To Be Human*.

'The other day I sat on the beach in literary frustration. My hardcover book was a detailed, brilliant, biting commentary on contemporary society. A double latte, coffee house kind of book. I should have grabbed a paperback "lush trash" — one more suitable to frequent interruptions and water-seeped defacement. In short, without the latte, my mind wandered. I escaped into eavesdropping. For the first time in a long time, I was thankful for teenage lamenting prattle. The topic: going back to school. Romantic in their revelry, four lanky high school boys brooded over the end to their undisciplined days, their perfect tans, and their daily preoccupation and rapture over the sixteen-year-old Venus lifeguard.

I joined their revelry. Daydreaming commenced. School days of old wafted across my thoughts with visions of new school clothes: sweaters, jeans, and boots. The fall kind of clothes we always wore on the first day of school despite an eighty-degree August swelter. Teachers, likable and unlikable, flickered before my eyes. And then I was bemused by an odiferous cacophony of memory. The smell of school. It was right before me, like a visual image, only more pungent. We all recognize that scent. It banters with you when you walk into any educational institution. The co-mingling of gym shoes, industrial cleanser, dime-store perfume, and rotting lockers. The smell that reminds me what time of year it is. But, as I was thinking about school

smells and autumn approaching, my mind turned. So did my nose. Another equally familiar, equally discernible odor, pierced my Nordic snoz. The aroma of church.

It's that time of year again. Yours is calling you back. When you walk in those doors on Homecoming Sunday, it's the odor that calls you back. Ours is not a gym locker, dime-store ingredient, crisp clothes kind of reek. No, the church odor is more of a strong perfume that beckons us back to new beginnings, to friends known and unknown, to history prophesied and history awakening. A delicate combination of our treasured yet timeworn building, warm, overcooked coffee, with a base note of the peculiar yet oddly familiar linger of laughter, tears, and thanksgiving. Open your windows and breathe deeply. Heed the beguiling aroma and follow your nose back to church. Come celebrate, rejoice together. Come. Breathe in the perfume of your church, your community, your home.'

The new church year begins on September 11. For many Unitarian Universalist congregations, including Prairie Circle, the first service of the new church year is usually a Homecoming and Water Communion service. However, this year the new church year begins on the 10th anniversary of 9-11. Thus, I will be offering a special remembrance service. Many, if not most, Unitarian Universalist congregations will be offering some kind of 9-11 service so that their members and friends can be in the company of friends as the nation reflects on that infamous day from many different perspectives. I invite you to come and be in the loving company of your Prairie Circle friends as together we remember, mediate, pray, sing and share stories about that day and its impact on our country. 'Come . . . Breathe in the perfume of your church, your spiritual community, your religious home.'



Part II

I would like to meet as many of you as possible over the next two to three months. Therefore, I will call all members and friends to schedule an individual, confidential meeting. However, feel free to call me first!

The goal of our meeting is to give me an opportunity to get to know you and visa versa. As you know, on Sundays, it is difficult to have any meaningful sustained conversation where we can really get a sense of who we are, or who anyone is! I also want to hear to your hopes and dreams for Prairie Circle's future as well your thoughts and feelings about the Congregation's past.



Part III

I had the opportunity in August to attend three excellent Sunday services. I have heard from a number of people that all of the summer services were great. I invite all of you to thank the Worship Committee for putting together these services. As the old saying goes, "We couldn't have done it without you!"

I want to end my column by saying what may be obvious: endings lead to beginnings. I am excited about what the beginning of this new period in the life of this Congregation portends. I invite you to come and be a part of creating a beautiful and healthy future for your beloved religious community.

I look forward to boldly stepping with all of you into a known and unknown future . . . both of which promise to be exciting and busy.

Good people, may your noses help you sniff out your old friends pals and then lead you to additional **new** sweet-smelling friends! See you . . . ah, I mean **sniff** you in church.

Bright Blessings, Rev. Jackie



Our Caring Circle

A multitude of welcoming joys were expressed by members on the arrival of Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler.

An expression of concern was expressed by: Scott Helmke for all affected by the recent collapse of a concert stage in Indiana and Carol Niec for the Tar Sands Project which threatens global environment.

Healing wishes were expressed by: Carol Niec whose family is experiencing personal struggles, Jan Kirch whose friend has been diagnosed with brain cancer and Duane Shaneyfelt for the healing of Fred O'Donnell's recent health problems.

Condolences were expressed by: Marty Vershaw on the passing of a friend who had no healthcare benefits and Jan Kirch on the sudden passing of a friend who also had no health care benefits.

Announcements of Joy were expressed by: the Klick Family on their return from the Czech Republic and their son Loren's employment, the Merritt family as daughter Miranda starts her freshman year at University of Northern Iowa, Diana Fox on the birthdays of her daughters, Julie Palumbo on the celebration of her parents' 40th anniversary and Bruce and Cathy Moon on the celebration of their 34th anniversary.

Congratulations to Leslie Kratcoski who recently completed a Chicago Triathlon.

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.

Reverend Ziegler's Office Hours? What Office?

As Prairie Circle doesn't have a central office (yet) for me to use, a room in my home will be my office. You can call me directly at my 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 me. Just be aware that I might not always be there.

Being a three-quarter time minister, I want to experiment with my office hours. So, for now, as a "**general**" guideline, please call me between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Be aware that you can also make an appointment to meet with me at a mutually convenient time. Why not Monday? If I am in the pulpit on Sunday, I can be exhausted on Monday and need some recuperation time. If these hours/days don't work, I'll change them.

Note that I am always available for emergencies. Please call me even if it is in the early morning hours. If I am not home, please leave a message stating that it is an emergency and also provide the number where you can be reached (please speak slowly and repeat the number twice) and I will call you back as soon as I can.

September Board Meeting

This month's Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15th, at 6:45 p.m., at the Grayslake Public Library. Please contact Andrea Mills, Church Administrator, for more information:
office@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

PCUUC Celebrates the Earth and a New Church Year!

Each year, PCUUC holds a summer picnic to celebrate the end of one church year and the beginning of another. This year's all-church gathering is Sunday, September 11th, following the service, at 11:30 a.m., at Nippersink Forest Preserve, Shelter D, in Round Lake. All church members, visitors and their families are invited to participate.

PCUUC has made a commitment to become a "green" church. To honor that, this year's picnic theme will be "Celebrate the Earth!" Participants are encouraged to bring a dish made from natural, organic or locally grown ingredients. Also, if they submit a recipe card for their dish, the recipe will be entered in a drawing for a gift card to an earth-friendly restaurant! Two prizes will be given away. In addition, the recipes will be included in PCUUC's Recipe Book forthcoming this fall!

The Hospitality Committee is collaborating with the Social Action Committee, Children's Religious Education and individual church members to make this truly a planet-loving event. Resources and information on sustainability practices will be available. There will be a guided "Un-nature Trail" and "Camouflage Trail" as well as earth-fun games and education for both adults and children.

The church will provide beverages as well as veggie and naturally-raised meat patties and hot dogs. Earth-lovers' music, as well as a few songs in memory of 9/11 victims and their families, will play in the background.

So, don't miss out on an opportunity for good food, good company and good stewardship! Please RSVP to Teresa at Social_Events@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

President's Message



Dear Friends,

The PCUUC Board has been hard at work preparing for an exciting church year. A lot is going on behind the scenes and I thought I would take moment to share some of the highlights with you.

Although we have been working with Rev. Jackie Ziegler for several weeks now, her debut from the pulpit was Sunday, August 21. Many hands and hearts have been involved as Rev. Jackie and the PCUUC community have worked together to move her into her home in Ingleside, bring her up to speed on PCUUC's current approaches to various aspects of our church and we have already begun learning a great deal from her.

A "Getting Started with Rev. Ziegler" session was held on August 18 for the PCUUC leadership (Board and Committee heads) and was moderated by Rev. Ian Evison who is the Director of Congregational Services for the Central Midwest District. We uncovered and clarified some potential source of confusion which will help to alleviate future problems. In addition, it became glaringly obvious that this year's Board must spearhead and support planning efforts across all critical aspects of the church in order that we can move toward the visions many of us have for our future. I will have more to report as these efforts take shape.

Thank you to all who have played very important roles (big and small) in transitioning Rev. Jackie into our community.

The final thing I wanted to share with you this month is that the Board, under the leadership of Chris Kozlowski, has made progress setting up and training our Health Congregation Team (HCT) as called for within the Conflict Resolution Policy the PCUUC community adopted in February of this year. In addition to the work of learning how the HCT can best offer value to our community, we will be organizing additional conflict management learning opportunities as we progress in the church year.

I am quite exciting and optimistic about the journey before us. In a nation and a world with some many deep challenges, I find comfort and joy in the opportunities we have to together make our world just a little bit better.

Please e-mail me or give me a call with suggestions, ideas and concerns. President@PrairieCircleUUC.org, 847-224-9809

In Faith,

Tonia Becker VerShaw
PCUUC Board President

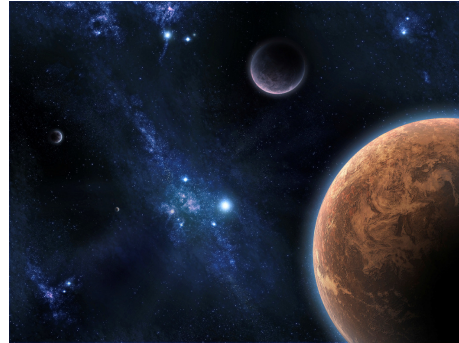
P.S. I do tend to be able to respond via e-mail more quickly, but am always happy to talk.

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.



Come Experience the Evolution of the Universe: The Cosmic Walk

At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 21st, in the community room of the State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake, Reverend Ziegler and others from the Congregation will present a profound visual and sound experience of the evolution of the Universe. This experience is called "The Cosmic Walk." It starts with the Big Bang and takes you through the evolution of Earth today. The Cosmic Walk places the evolution of the Universe and Earth into a sacred and spiritual dimension for the atheist, humanist or theist. It's a powerful presentation that people do not forget.

The larger Lake County community will also be invited to attend this program as a way to let the community know that Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that believes evolution and religion are fully compatible.

Watch for more information through future announcements in the Order of Service and through the on-line community announcements.



PCUUC Evolved Communications Approach

PCUUC communication approaches are evolving. This will be an evolution, your feedback will be greatly appreciated and appropriate adjustments will be made based on input from the community.

More information will be forthcoming shortly, but the basic elements of our tweaked communications approach will be:

- Weekly E-Updates e-mailed to PCUUC's database each Monday morning and the first Weekly E-Update is scheduled for September 19th. E-Updates will include a summary description of the upcoming Sunday service, a list of upcoming events with a link to the website church calendar, news items sharing information on the happenings within the church, communications on volunteer help needed, messages/reflections from Rev. Ziegler, the Board, committee heads and other members of the community, success/progress updates on various PCUUC initiatives and projects, information and news from the national and global UU community, and information from the wider PCUUC community. PCUUC Weekly E-Updates will be a work in progress as we will constantly be working to improve them to best meet the needs of the community.
- Nearly all information being shared with the community will appear as a post on our website and items within the

PCUUC Weekly E-Update will linked to these posts.

- A monthly newsletter will be compiled and with appropriate editing will be largely a compilation of items from the Weekly E-Updates and will offer longer-range planning information. The monthly PCUUC newsletter will be handled in a very similar fashion to our current newsletter approach.
- Announcements will continue to be printed in the Order of Service on Sunday mornings.
- Appropriate verbal announcements will continue to be made from the pulpit on Sunday mornings.
- All website posts will be posted to the Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Facebook page. PCUUC members and friends who "like" the PCUUC Facebook page will receive church news within their Facebook feed.
- If there are Twitter users within the church, it would be easy to create a PCUUC Twitter feed – just ask if this would be helpful.
- Single-item e-mails to the full community will be greatly reduced and will be primarily used for emergencies or very special and specific communications like congregational meeting packets or pledge drive information.

We are looking forward to these enhanced approaches as communication is one of the foundations of building stronger community. We will be asking for your comments and for participation from many of you. If you have comments or questions, please contact:

Rich Fendrych,
Membership@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Tonia Becker,
President@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Rev. Jackie Ziegler,
Minister@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Andrea Mills, Church Administrator,
Office@PrairieCircleUUC.org

Additional PCUUC members will be keys to the success of implementing and constantly improving these efforts. We are looking forward to their involvement as well.

Less than Perfect: The Humanity of Leaders

“When we recognize someone as a leader, we often place our faith in that person to a degree that exceeds what is humanly possible. In other words, we expect them to be beyond fault and to not make mistakes. This, of course, is neither realistic nor fair. Just like us, these people are living human lives, and part of the deal is learning through experience and working out our individual karmas. There will always be missteps and things they would do differently given a second chance. If we are to be fair, we must grant our leaders the same forgiveness, compassion, and understanding that we grant our closest friends as they navigate the complex challenges of this human life.

Leaders are special people in that they have the ability to guide and represent large groups of people. In this calling, they agree, to some degree, to be responsible for the well-being of others. Because of this, we hold them up to a higher standard of behavior, and in some ways this is fair. However, we will only be disappointed and disillusioned time and time again if we expect them to be perfect. If they were perfect, they would not be here on Earth. Perhaps the most we can expect of our leaders is that they make it a practice to acknowledge their shortcomings and learn from their experiences. Beyond this, when our leaders let us down, it is up to us to forgive and move on. Dwelling on disappointment and negativity creates more of the same.

People who choose to lead are often extraordinary individuals blessed with vision, energy, and charisma. It is their path to inspire, guide, and represent us, but it is not possible for them to never let us down. Leaders are on a path of growth just as we are. Perhaps this is something to remember when we have the opportunity to choose somebody in a leadership role, or perhaps you are ready to step into a role of leadership yourself.”

~ Author Unknown

Save The Date! PCUUC Annual Stone Soup Auction and Dinner

November 12th, 2011
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. You'll hear more about this important annual fundraiser in the coming weeks and months. But now is the time to start thinking about what YOU can add to make the best 'Soup' possible! :

Volunteer for planning the event

All-volunteer meetings begin September 11th and will be held each Sunday at 8 a.m. in the Barn before the Service. Volunteers are needed in both planning the event and to help on the day of the event itself. Please let us know if you'd like to help!

Donate items, events and services for the auction

We need donations. They can be items, services, or events.

Mop a floor... paint a door... cook a feast... walk a beast... have a party on your boat... embroider a rainbow coat... repair a crack... massage a back... chart the stars... wash a window 'til it shines... share your cottage in the pines... bake bread... share your tickets... whitewash pickets... giggle with babies... gossip with ladies... feed the fish... grant a wish... design a room... build a

*loom... cater a dinner... photo the winner...
teach a dance... or alter pants.*

- Donations are accepted through October 23rd.
- Fill out the Contract on the last page of this newsletter.
- All donations and contracts must be in by October 23rd.

Sign up to bring soup, bread and baked goods

This is a stone soup party and we are planning a soup buffet. We need your favorite soups and breads delivered in a crock-pot and ready to share. There will also be a bakery table this year. The table will offer a variety of baked goods to be eaten at the event and or to take home and enjoy. We need your favorite baked goods to make this a success.

Finally, purchase tickets and attend the event!

Be sure to join in the fun and fellowship on November 12th. Don't forget to bring your friends and family or share PCUUC with someone new. Ticket pre-sales: September 25th – November 5th at the auction table.

Stay tuned for more info soon! Questions? Contact us or email:

fundraising@prairiecircleuuc.org.

Click [here](#) for more information.

We look forward to tasting the PCUUC Soup with you!

In The Spirit,
Your Event Coordinators
Jan Kirch and Dayle Kozlowski

Social Action News

The Social Action Committee continues to collaborate with the Hospitality Committee in planning for the Annual "Earth Day" Picnic on Sept. 11 and with the Greater Choir's Social Action theme for Music Sunday on August 28th.

International Dining at Lunch

Sunday, September 25th at 12:30 p.m!

Enjoy your favorite Polish dishes at our next International Luncheon scheduled for Sunday, September 25th, at 12:30 p.m. at the Reflections on Deep Lake, 38564 N. Edgewood Avenue, Lake Villa. A family-style menu including the following will be featured:

- Pierogi
- Goląbki (Stuffed Cabbage)
- Kielbasa (sausage) and Sauerkraut
- Mashed Potatoes
- Pork
- Coffee
- Tea
- Dessert

This amount and variety of food is being offered to us for \$18.00 per person including tax and tip. Cash bar will be available. Seating may be outside if weather permits.

Please RSVP by September 22nd so that we can assure your place at the table. Sign-up sheets will be available after the service, or reply to Leo Wazlo:

847-548-5732 or lwazlo@yahoo.com.

Menu and directions are available at the restaurant's web site:

www.reflectionsondeeplake.com

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 lots of great stores like Target, Best Buy, eBay, and Barnes & Noble.

For more information check: www.prairiecircleuuc.org/giving
Questions? Send an e-mail to: Fundraising@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

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. 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. The next meeting is September 28th at Rich Fendrych's home. 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. although there will not be a meeting in August. Check the website calendar for updates on the September 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.

Lifespan Religious Education



Teacher Orientation

We are approaching a new school year for the Religious Education Program at PCUUC! At this time the RE committee and DRE will be conducting a teacher orientation for all members and friends of PCUUC who are interested in volunteering to teach one of our three age groups during the coming school year. Every Sunday, there is a sign-up sheet on a clip board at the Barn next to the RE board. The orientation will consist of what to expect on a given Sunday, including our opening and closing rituals, code of conduct, content covered and design and overall goals intended for the program. We value your input and hope to see as many people as possible. You may attend the orientation even if you are unsure of signing up at this time. We look forward to your participation to assist our youth in their spiritual and personal growth in an ever so changing world!! This event will be held after the service on August 28th in the gymnasium (or Barn if available) from 10:45 - 11:15 a.m.

Please email Julie Palumbo, DRE at RE@prieircleuuc.org for more information.

The Religious Education Committee and Director of Religious Education set our curricula for this year as follows:

4-year olds and Kindergarten – 1st Grade

It was suggested by the committee to utilize some of the resources we have drawn from

in the past for this age group along with introducing them to Judeo-Christian stories. The curriculum DRE will be drawing from which has already developed lesson plans is *"God Images"*. The ancient stories will be drawn from *"Timeless Themes"* text.

2nd through 5th Graders

This age group we will be focusing on world religions. However in addition to that, we will be zeroing in on what Unitarian Universalism is as well. We will be using resources that have been useful from drawing from in previous years such as the developed lesson plans included in, *"Walking the Rainbow Path: Celebrating all the colors of love"* and *"Carry the Flame"* and also drawing from *"Articulating Your UU Faith"*.

6th & 7th Graders

This age group is for junior high school students. DRE will be choosing already-developed lesson plans from *"Neighboring Faiths: Exploring Religions with Junior High School Youth."*

High School Youth Program

The Religious Education Committee and Director of Religious Education are also spearheading PCUUC's first High School age Youth Program. This will involve the following:

Classroom Learning

Recent youth who completed our first Affirmation program and any other teenagers who are high school age will have the opportunity to attend a high-school based curriculum once per month beginning in September taught by Julie Palumbo alternating with Laura Franz. Lesson plans will be drawn from the "Truth and Meaning": Questions about the western religious heritage Unitarian Universalism for High School Youth curricula as well as the "Sacred Threads" curricula. DRE will also draw from text, *"What do you stand for?"* which deals with getting along with

others and developing a whole sense of self.

Religious Exposure

Inge Crowley has offered to bring youth once per month to various places of worship, meeting with various worship leaders to expand the youth's experience of world religious practices. She is in the process of coordinating contacts in the community with DRE for this fall.

Community Service

DRE and Inge Crowley will be spearheading getting the youth involved with assisting in needs-based activities in the community such as PADS meals, etc. ideally once per month. The next Youth PADS meal serving will be scheduled for the third Sunday in October.

Worship Service Involvement

Some of the youth expressed interest in getting more involved in worship services. Intergenerational services are not the only exception. They expressed interest in doing readings or providing music. DRE and Worship committee chair will coordinate this with service leaders/minister.

Socialization

The youth have expressed interest in meeting either 1x/wk or 1/mo. to do have fun social activity time, i.e. basketball, bowling, ice skating, etc. DRE will design an event calendar.

RE Leadership

Some of the youth are interested in guiding the younger PCUUC youth as co-leaders on special Sundays of interest in RE program. DRE will explore with them specific ways they can get involved.

Book Club

Our youth suggested they might be interested in developing their own book club.

PCUUC Involvement

On 9/11 annual picnic, Hospitality Committee suggested youth can get involved in leading and organizing green-related games and activities. DRE had the

opportunity to discuss this with some of the youth already, and they are interested.



Adult Religious Education

The Adult RE Book Club is on to their 2nd book, *The Power of Myth*, by Joseph Campbell. The group will meet to discuss the book a few chapters at a time. Watch the OOS and website for dates, times and locations. If you haven't attended a book club meeting and would like to, please contact Mike Honegger. Watch the website, Orders of Service and newsletter for details on other Adult Enrichment offerings. Additional ideas and suggestions are welcome! Contact Mike Honegger (chairman), Inge Crowley or Duane Shaneyfelt. Or, you may e-mail the committee at: AdultRE@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Adult Enrichment Needs Your Help

Plans for several new activities are under way for the fall and winter. A consistent schedule is being developed for the book club and more movie viewings and other programs are in the works. However, the Adult Enrichment Committee needs your help. New committee members are needed to aid in planning and developing new ideas for programs and activities. If you are interested in serving on the Adult Enrichment Committee, or if you just have an idea for a book, movie, or other program for the Adult Enrichment Committee, please contact Mike Honegger at:

Adult-RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org.

Our Wider Community

UU Minister Wins Environmental Award

The Rev. Bob Murphy of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, Massachusetts, will be presented with the Sierra Club's National 2011 Special Service Award at a ceremony in San Francisco on September 23rd for his work in environmental justice. His attempt to make "green" mean more than a colorful slogan includes a push to allow marginalized low-income communities to participate in the environmentalist movement. For more information, [click here](#).



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.

Travel with Unitarians to Transylvania and Hungary June 4-18, 2012

How about travelling to a place where Unitarianism was founded 450 years ago? That's Transylvania! One fourth of all Unitarians live here. Their beautiful, unique churches are a joy to behold. We will have a 3-day stay in a Transylvanian Unitarian village - attending church, sharing a relaxed picnic and experiencing rural village life. We'll explore castles and other cultural places, enjoy the food and art and the beautiful landscapes. From Cluj-Napoca, Romania, to Budapest, Hungary, the cost is \$2075 US plus airfare. That includes 9 nights in Transylvania and 5 in Hungary, private coach, most meals, escorts and guides, 3 and 4-star hotels, as well as staying with a family or in a guest house when we are in the rural village.

This specially-designed tour for Unitarians everywhere will be facilitated by the UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimage Service that has more than a decade of experience facilitating UU visits to this part of Europe.

For all details go to www.nuuc.ca or contact Beverly Carr, bqcarr@rogers.com, Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto.

Midwest Central District Webinar Schedule

The Midwest Central District of the UUS has just published their Midwest Leadership School webinar schedule which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Final Notes

Newsletter Submissions

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



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

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



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

List of PCUUC Contacts

Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler	Developmental Minister	minister@prairiecircleuuc.org
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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
Scott Helmke	Trustee	Trustee@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Andrea Mills	Church Administrator	Office@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Julie Palumbo	Director of Religious Education	RE@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Joyce DeWitt	Choir Director	Choir@PrairieCircleUUC.org
Mark Wilson, Jim Cubit & Scott Helmke	Music Committee	Music@PrairieCircleUUC.org
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
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
	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
Steve King	Human Resources Committee	

PCUUC Auction Contract

Name: I, _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

agree to donate the following ITEM, SERVICE, or EVENT to the Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation Annual Auction: *(Please describe the item, service or event and any conditions that may apply. Please include only one item, service or event per contract.)*

Description: _____

Conditions/Limitations:

Estimated Value: \$ _____

Donation Type: ___Item ___Service ___Event

Minimum Age (if applicable): _____ Number of People (if applicable): _____

If you are willing to offer this more than once, how many times in all? _____ times

If this is an event, please include the following:

Event Date: _____ Event Time: _____

The deadline for Auction Contracts is October 23, 2011

Important Information about your donation:

- Auction items are required before the auction. Please arrange with Chris Kozlowski , Dena Hensley-Rudloff or Kent McKenzie for delivery on or before Sunday, October 23rd, or bring your item to church any time during the month of September or October.
- If you are unable to deliver your item to church, schedule a pick up by contacting Chris, Dena, or Kent.
- Please contact Chris Kozlowski (c_koz@yahoo.com), Dena Hensley-Rudloff (dmhr15@att.net), or Kent McKenzie (c.kent.mckenzie@gmail.com) with any questions.

Office use only	
___Live ___Silent	Item Number: _____

Growing our spirit, supporting community, nurturing the environment.