

**The living tradition  
we share draws  
from many sources:**

-Direct experience that transcends mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life

-Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love

-Wisdom from the world's religions which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life

-Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves

-Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit

Principles of the UUA:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Prairie is located 2  
blocks S. of Beltline  
2 blocks W. of Seminole  
Hwy.

Please call us if you  
need  
directions!

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**Prairie  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Society**



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*Religious  
Education  
Program  
2004-2005  
World Religions*

*Sundays 10 a.m.*

**Tel: 608-271-8218**

## *This year's program:*

I have always been fascinated with the myriad ways that various religions answer the big questions in life: why was I born, what should I do while I am here, why will I die and what happens then? Within these questions are layers of other questions: is there a God, why do bad things happen, how should I treat other people? It is wonderful to be starting as the Director of Religious Education at Prairie this year when we will be exploring World Religions. I know that these eternal questions come to us as children, and I hope to be able to help the children and youth at Prairie along the paths they will walk in search of their own answers. During YoUuth circles, intergenerational events, and our seasonal overnights, we will find fun and meaningful ways to talk about these questions and also explore major emotions such as anger, joy and fear. There will be crafts, movement experiences, community building, yummy food, music, and other wonderful people to search with!

In Peace,  
Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky, DRE

## Curriculum and teachers:

### Preschool:

**Teachers:** Paula Pachciarz, Melissa Gjestvang-Lucky

Text: Prairie UU Preschool Curriculum by Randy Converse

Simple lessons on UU principles are linked to a craft activity.

### Grades K-2

**Teachers:** Marcia Johnson and Robin Carre

Text: *Special Times* by Betty Jo Middleton

The students will learn about Judaism and Christianity by enacting the activities of the major Jewish and Christian holidays. They will create the resources needed to experience these celebrations through art, music, stories, and discussion.

### Grades 3-5

**Teachers:** Randy Converse and Linda Sheehy

Text: *Timeless Themes*

This text introduces the Biblical literature that is part of our UU heritage using games, songs, and stories.

### Grades 6-12

**Teachers:** Rachel Long and Carl Wacker

Text: *Neighboring Faiths* by Christine Reed and Patricia Hoerl

This group will learn about some of the religions of the world by visiting local congregations and/or inviting members of local churches to come to Prairie to talk about the activities of their congregations. After each visit they will reflect on what they learned and liked or disliked about each religion

### Grades 9-12/ Spring 2005

**Teachers:** Larry Nahlik and Rick Ruecking

Text: *Sacred Threads* by Jeff Liebmann

The intricacies of the major Eastern religions will be explored.

### Seasonal Events

Three times each year there is a social event open to all RE participants in grades K-12 and invited guests. The events are called Fall Frolic, Wild

Wintering, and Spring Fling and occur on Saturdays with an option to stay overnight.

Two additional events that are Prairie UU traditions are:

- 1) Nifty Gifty: in December students make secret gifts for friends and family using simple materials
- 2) Secret Friends: in March students exchange letters with Prairie UU adults. There are also several inter-generational services each year.

### Service Sundays

Three times during the year all of the classes join together to participate in a community service project.