

Fun Facts...

This fellowship began meeting in Ripon in 1991 as a reorganization of the UU Fellowship of Oshkosh, chartered in 1962.

PLUUF purchased the Eureka Street property, its first church home-of-its-own, in 1996.

The mortgage was paid off in November 2009 and we celebrated with a "mortgage burning."



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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street Ripon, WI 54971
(920) 745-2446 www.pluuf.org info@PLUUF.org

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PLUUF Kids Camp page 2



"Service of the Jeans"
and more on page 7

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, July 30: 11:00-ish Potluck picnic at Dave & Judy Harris's lake house in Neshkoro: N203 E. Cedar Springs Drive Neshkoro. Carpooling from PLUUF offered by Jerry Davidson. Please contact Judy Harris for more details: jdlake@centurytel.net or (920) 293-8652. Please bring a dish to pass, water toys, land games, sunscreen and mosquito protection.

"Join us in a celebration of summer, the completion of camp, and the pleasure that water offers all of us!" -Judy

Sunday, August 6: 10:00 AM Alternate Sunday TED talk at PLUUF by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks: "How We Can Face the Future Without Fear - Together." Join us to watch the video and discuss Rabbi Sack's talk.

Later in the day on August 6, venture to Neenah for an Interfaith opportunity at Neenah's Islamic Mosque. See page 7 for details. (Carpooling available).

Sunday, August 13: 10:00 AM Worship Service Brother Steve Herro will help us understand the Pope's Encyclical on Climate Change - and hopefully offer suggestions on how we can impact current political decisions.

Please stay after the service for our second Sunday Potluck!!

Sunday, August 20: 10:00 AM Alternate Sunday To Be Announced

Sunday, August 27: 10:00 AM Worship Service Brian Smith returns to discuss NOT using the Bible to bash LGBTQ's. He'll examine the context of biblical texts that do deal with same-sex activity and elucidate us on what those texts really condemn. (See page 4 for more details.)

A 10-MINUTE MEDITATION SESSION FROM 9:40-9:50 TAKES PLACE ALMOST EVERY SUNDAY.

Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship 2nd Annual Kids Camp

On Thursday, July 27th, 2017 at 8 a.m. nine children in grades 2-5 entered our doors at Prairie Lakes to attend our 2nd annual one-day summer camp called Water is Life. Long time PLUUF member Judy Harris coordinated this event. With the help of several Prairie Lakes UU members and friends and a grant from the **Webster Foundation**, the 2nd annual kids camp was a huge success! Although we were hoping for a 2-day camp, we had to reduce it 1 day when the campers from the Boys & Girls Club had to cancel. There's always next year ☺!

The morning began with an Opening Circle and Lesson 1 led by Nicole Roost. Nicole talked about how water is essential to life. After lesson 1 and bracelet making, Linda DeCramer led Lesson 2: *Where Water Comes From* followed by special guest David HB Drake performing songs, dialogue and wonderful maps of Wisconsin's bountiful water. David HB Drake is an award-winning folksinger and Milwaukee legend. After the



**Thank you
Webster Foundation!**



Campers pictured with performer David HB Drake
(Camper not pictured Miguel Luna)

performance, Linda DeCramer presented a demonstration on water filtration that awed the crowd!

Jerry Davidson led the children on a hike to Selfridge Park where they played on the park toys, had a picnic lunch thanks to Jessica French, Becky Feyen and Kate Klumb's planning and preparation. Nicole gathered water samples from Silver Creek. Jake and Zack Mills helped supervise the children at the park.

Once the children hiked back to PLUUF from the park, they were divided into two groups. One group gathered their water and other specimens from the lunchtime hike, which Jim Goyette then put under the microscope and projected onto the big screen creating a lively discussion led by Nicole Roost. Meanwhile Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

took the other half of campers for an hour of papermaking. Campers used blenders and water to turn scrap paper into pulp. Wooden molds were used to form multiple sheets of beautiful, colorful, one-of-a-kind sheets of paper. Both groups of campers participated in microscope and paper activity for an hour.

By mid afternoon the children were ready for *Lesson 3: Protecting Our Water* taught by Jill Stiemsma. After Lesson 3, Judy Harris shared an interactive story about a fish named Fred.

Nicole led the Closing Circle and camp concluded.

Key points of the day were:

- The importance of water to all life.
- The uses of water in our daily lives
- Where our water comes from
- What each of us can do to preserve our water's quality and quantity

Thank you to everyone who made our second annual camp a huge success!



**One of the creepy
crawlly specimens
viewed under Jim's
microscope.**



The camper/volunteer end-of-day photo shoot.
(Not pictured: Jim Goyette, Kate Klumb, Linda DeCramer & Zach)

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
315 Eureka Street Ripon, WI 54971 920) 745-2446 info@pluuf.org

Camp Coordinator
Judy Harris

Assistants/Floats
Jerry Davidson, Jake & Zach (Judy's grandsons), & Kate Klumb
Food Prep/Cleanup & More
Jessica French, & Becky Feyen
(Lee Barczek- Cookies ☺)

Lesson 1 Nicole Roost
Lesson 2 Linda DeCramer
Lesson 3 Jill Stiemsma

Microscope Activity
Jim Goyette
Musical Session
David HB Drake
Paper Making
Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Tent
Brad & Brody Roost

August 2017

Message from our Moderator by Becky Feyen



I am writing this before the summer camp, so I am not sure how everything turned out – hopefully it was a wonderful time for everyone. The one thing I know ahead of time is that you all helped so much – THANK YOU!

OK, your board of directors will finally begin the process of updating our Mission Statement, Vision Statement & Congregational Covenant! Typically, this is managed through a Fellowship meeting where we walk through the steps & select the words that capture the intent of each document – are you yawning yet? Or running for the hills? Don't stop reading!! Well, maybe you do like that kind of a gathering; you will have an opportunity to voice your opinion on all the documents & approve the final version. The board has decided to approach this process differently, and hopefully expedite the process by crafting a version that they believe will best relate our message. (Laird – do you miss us yet? You owe Jessica HUGE!) The plan is to have

drafts of the documents completed & everyone's approval by the end of September – don't hold us too tightly to that plan, but your 'encouragement' might help (inquiries can be directed to Judy Harris ☺) This is actually a manageable timeline, as the documents will be distilled down to simple concise statements. Again, questions, concerns, or ideas can be directed to Judy (I am giggling with joy every time I type Judy's name), or anyone else on the board of directors, including me.

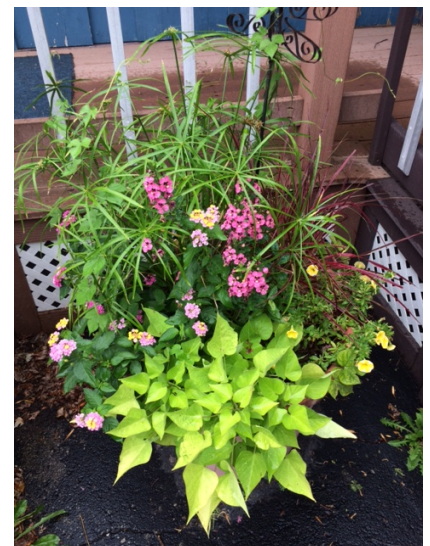
OK, here is something that needs to be completed by September 1, 2017, & we will need a little help. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has changed their 'Breakthrough Congregations' to "...celebrate and share innovative ways congregations are adapting to the challenges that they face in the changing religious landscape." Prairie Lakes is going to apply based on creating Alternate Sundays. (Do we want/need a name change by then?) I can handle the application questions, but we need recommendations: one from someone directly impacted by the innovation (other than Jill, who I am sure is so happy to plan services for only 2 Sundays a month) and another from someone outside the congregation (i.e., UUA staff or community member) who is familiar with the innovation. The inside person should be manageable, but does anyone have an idea for someone outside our Fellowship? Please let me know if you are willing to write a recommendation as a member or if you have an idea for someone outside our group. I will be asking, & asking & asking for your help with this (oh, maybe you want me to direct my inquiries to Judy Harris ☺).

We will also get back on track with our Welcoming Congregation Status & then working to complete the Green Sanctuary Program. So much good stuff happening! We make a difference in the world, & we will keep striving to improve our actions.

Images from the Outside



Thank you Brody Roost and others for keeping the grounds at PLUUF looking beautiful this summer.



2nd & 4th August Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma



We've been privileged to have wonderful services this summer. And the August schedule should prove to be equally interesting. However, our team could surely use your input into potential service topics and/or leaders. Please let our members know your desires: Jill Stiemsma, Becky Feyen, Pat Dobrinska, Lee Barzak, and Bonnie Wagner. Are you personally interested in leading a service? Great!!! Come on down!

Here's the August schedule:

August 13: Brother Steve Herro will help us understand the Pope's Encyclical on Climate Change - and hopefully offer suggestions on how we can impact current political decisions. Second Sunday Potluck follows.

August 27: Hurray! Brian Smith returns to discuss NOT using the Bible to bash LGBTQ's. He'll examine the context of biblical texts that do deal with same-sex activity and elucidate us on what those texts really condemn. Good discussion should follow, huh?

Heads-Up: We will celebrate our annual In-Gathering and Water Sharing on September 10th. For those of you unfamiliar with this ritual service, bring a water sample from some place you visited this summer to pour into our communal water bowl. In case you didn't know you should have collected said water - or forgot - we provide symbolic water that you can use instead. The point is this: Summer has passed; perhaps we have more time to attend services again and thus dedicate ourselves once more to the principles and fellowship of Unitarian Universalism.

Hopefully, we'll have a great celebration (on a sunny day, please) at the Harris' estate on the 30th of this month. See you then!

1st & 3rd Alternative Sundays

5th Sunday, July 30 11:00-ish Picnic at Dave & Judy's Neshkoro Lake House. (Details on page 1)

Sunday, August 6 10:00: TED talk at PLUUF by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks: "How We Can Face the Future Without Fear - Together." Join us to watch the video and discuss Rabbi Sack's 15-minute talk.

Later on August 6 venture to Neenah to for an Interfaith opportunity at Neenah's Islamic Mosque. See page 7 for details. (Carpooling available).

Sunday, August 20: To be announced.

Committee Reports by Judy Harris



Community Outreach/Membership

Advertising continues in area shoppers and newspapers. Our camp brochure was distributed to the library, thrift store, etc. Thanks to Tanya for the tri-fold, attractive brochure! A total of 9 kids registered for camp. See page 2 for a camp summary. Special thanks to everyone who participated in the camp-planning meeting on Sunday, July 16.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
MADE OUR 2ND ANNUAL KIDS CAMP
A SUCCESS!**



Adult Religious Education

A hearty thank you to **Pat Dobrinska** for leading the discussion on *Being Mortal*. Also, thank you to **Jim Goyette** for his willingness to set up and show the PBS video that began the conversation.

Please let me know if you have a topic for Adult RE or Alternative Sundays. Book title suggestions are welcome. So are other Alternative Sunday topics such as videos, newspaper articles and activities. Please contact me jdlake@centurytel.net or Becky at rfeyen@yahoo.com

Special Alternative Sunday event on August 6 (See next page for more details)

"All are invited to the 18th annual Interfaith Gathering on Sunday, August 6 at 3:00 pm. The "Under the Tent" event will again be hosted by the Fox Valley Islamic Society. The Mosque is south of Neenah, one mile east of Highway 41 on County Road G. An estimated 250 people of faith will gather for presentations and discussion from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The event will close with a feast and fellowship. Please RSVP at fvis.interfaith@gmail.com" (Carpooling available)

Here's a challenge: Do you love to play with words? We are searching for better titles for our "Worship Sundays" and our "Alternative Sundays." We are open to suggestions on new names.

Eric Bartelme, Ellen Mueller and Becky Feyen were instrumental in creating PLUUF's new website.

Be sure to check out our amazing new website
www.pluuf.org

Thank you to Eric for keeping it updated on a monthly basis.



On Sunday, August 6 at 10 a.m. join us at PLUUF for a video and discussion about by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks: "How We Can Face the Future Without Fear - Together."

In the afternoon on August 6: Drive or carpool up to Neenah to attend the 18th Annual Interfaith Gathering. Information below:



18th Annual Interfaith Gathering



**Sunday, August 6, 2017
3 to 5:50 pm**

Learn, Interact, Feast

Fox Valley Islamic Society

103 Kappell Drive, Neenah, WI

Free For Everyone

RSVP Appreciated: Email fvis.interfaith@gmail.com Phone 618 203 6891

In case of bad weather, the Gathering will be held at
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Green Bay Road, Neenah

In Case You Missed It In July

Alternative Sunday July 2 Book Discussion: *Being Mortal*



More than a dozen friends and members of PLUUF (not all pictured) participated in the final book discussion of the Atul Gawande book, "Being Mortal." Participants shared personal stories of loved ones who have passed, the benefits of hospice and palliative care, and how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life – all the way to the very end.

Worship Service July 9 With Michael Ketterhagen



We welcomed the return of (now retired) Marian University Theology Professor Michael Ketterhagen who focuses on Eastern Religions. He is also the current (and only ever) Manager of the Fond du Lac Center for Spirituality and Healing.

As the first person in the United States to earn a Ph.D. in spirituality and healing, his motivations come from the heart, but are also based on research of the underlying history, theory and design of theology put into practice.

With the assistance of Jim Goyette, Michael presented a Power Point Presentation on the *The Vedic Tradition and Peace in the World*: The Vedic Tradition is an ancient pool of knowledge that is the foundation for many of the Middle Eastern Religions. The Vedas are considered sacred scriptures that guided people to live spiritual and healthy lives.

Worship Service July 23 with Dr. Jean Bruce *A Reflection on Humanism*

The late Dr. Jean Johnson, longtime PLUUF member, had hoped to lead this Reflection on Humanism. In her place, Dr. Jean Bruce, her longtime friend, offered to lead the Reflection that Jean Johnson had wanted to give.

Jean Bruce presented the reflection written by Bruce Clear of the UUA: *The Humanist In Me*. Here's an excerpt:

Humanism is non-dogmatic and open-ended. It is the belief that human beings are the source of meaning and values. It is a scientific search, self-correcting and open to change with new knowledge and new insights. Humanism is deeply concerned with ethics and values, but rather than telling people what they should or should not do, it assists their search for values and attempts to help them achieve their full positive potential as human beings. Humanists see humanity as having the capacity for continued growth and development, and they accept responsibility for encouraging that growth.

On the surface, this sounds suspiciously like Unitarianism, does it not? Well, it should, because Unitarians and humanists do, of course, have a great deal in common. It is not just a surface similarity. As a matter of fact, humanism—as an organized movement in the United States—began within Unitarian churches.

THANK YOU, JEAN, FOR LEADING THE REFLECTION and bringing your beautiful family!



Dr. Jean Johnson

August 6, 1941-April 29, 2017



Dr. Jean Bruce





Treasurer Report by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

PLUUF Accounts as of July 27, 2017:

BMO Checking	\$25,803.88 Operating Fund
BMO Savings	\$10,905.11 Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF* (As of 7/27)	<u>\$43,786.45 Long term Vision Fund</u>
	\$80,495.44

*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

This is the first month of fiscal year 2017-18

As of July 27, 2017

Expenses \$464.20

Income \$1,350

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request: tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

Board of Directors*

Moderator

Becky Feyen

Secretary

Linda DeCramer

Treasurer

Tanya Schwartz Roeper

At Large Representative

Judy Harris

At Large Representative

Jessica French

Standing Committees

Worship Committee Chair: Jill Stiemsma

Pat Dobrinska, Lee Barczak, Becky Feyen and Bonnie Wagner

Membership Committee Co-Chairs: Eric Bartelme & Ellen Mueller

RE Co-Chair: Judy Harris

Finance Committee: Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Facility Committee: Laird DeCramer & Brad Roost

Ad Hoc Committees and Task Groups

Alternate Sunday Programs Co Chairs: Judy Harris

Care & Concern Co-Chairs: Bonnie Wagner & Beth Howman-Combs

Social Justice Committee: ALL

Newsletter Editor: Tanya Schwartz Roeper

Community Outreach/Advertising: Eric Bartelme & Ellen Mueller, Tanya S-R

Music Coordinator: Jill Stiemsma

Supplies: Eric Bartelme

OWL Certified: Nicole Roost & Linda DeCramer

*Past and present board minutes and detailed treasurer reports are available for viewing at the fellowship or obtain a copy by request.

- Board meetings take place on the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4:30 p.m. If there is anything you'd like to put on the agenda, please contact Linda DeCramer lindadecramer@yahoo.com or Becky Feyen r.feyen@yahoo.com at least one week in advance.
- All board and committee members are encouraged to submit information to be included in the newsletter by the 20th of each month to tanyapapermaker@gmail.com