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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

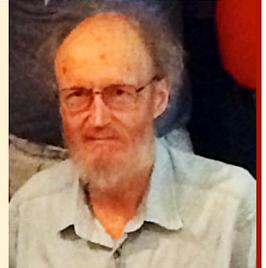
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FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Thursday, December 21
Please invite family and
friends to attend this
very special celebration
of nine winter festivals.

In memory of Daniel Wehrwein.
A friend of Prairie Lakes from
August 2016 –November 2017.
Please join us
Sunday, December 3, at
10:00 AM for a special service
remembering this special man.



May the Spirit of this Holiday Season bring you Hope, Peace & Love

PRAIRIE LAKES CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE (More details on pages 3

Sunday, December 3: 10:00 AM [A Special Service Honoring Daniel Wehrwein](#)

Sunday, December 10: 10:00 AM [Worship Service](#) Readings from Richard Rohr's [The Naked Now](#)
led by Jill Stiemsma.

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

Sunday, December 17: 10:00 AM [ENGAGE Sunday](#) Conclusion of the book discussion led by Pat Dobrinska, "Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet" by Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope. Please join us whether you are reading the book or not ☺

Thursday, December 21: 7 PM (Doors open at 6:30) [Festival of Lights](#) Please join us for a very special celebration of the winter festivals from around the world. Celebrate the hope and joy of the light returning again as the long nights begin to give way to lengthening days. Elements from many traditions will be presented. We hope you can join us!

Reminder: PLUUF will be closed on December 24th.

5th Sunday, December 31st: 10:30-2:00 [Special Off-Site Gathering](#) Members and friends are invited for an indoor/outdoor gathering in Green Lake on the Schwartz/Roeper property. You're invited to spend time outdoors gathered around an open fire and/or gather indoors. Bring snowshoes, x-country skis or hiking boots to explore the maple woods. Chili and hot beverages will be served. W907 Scott Hill Road Ripon (Ripon address but it's really Green Lake) Corner of Hwys A & K Green Lake.

More details will be provided as we get closer to the event. Hope you can join us!

Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



Welcome December! Here we are at the end of another year, except this was not just another year. I do not want to focus on the obstacles & heartbreaks, but rather the unity, compassion & resilience of our Prairie Lakes community. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate what you all do for each other and for me. Being around people who step up & give of themselves by sharing their time, talents, ideas, possessions, etc., is inspiring.

December can be overwhelming in the best of times; fortunately we are surrounded by inspiration to help us through. Everyone's challenge is unique, so each of us needs to find our source and reason for inspiration. Do you need to take a step back from the usual festivities; take a walk in nature, or curl up in a sunny chair? Do you want to get the house clean & decorated; welcome company? Do you just want to find a reason to get out of bed; volunteer your time, or attend Sunday gatherings at Prairie Lakes? Need a little beauty, maybe lovely museum? Need a festive boost, consider our Festival of Lights?

Memories often create inspiration, from times we have enjoyed with people. Prairie Lakes is fortunate to have so many inspirational people. I want to remember those people we hold in light & in our hearts. Thank you for sharing your time on earth with us and being an inspiration:

Jean Johnson

Linda Holloway

Gil Knight

Daniel Wehrwein

I also want to send extra hugs to our members & friends who lost dear family members, may your gatherings be blessed with happy memories.

Please find your inspiration & create the December you need.

Wishing you the blessing of inspiration –

Becky

When someone
you *love*
becomes a
memory...that
memory
becomes a
treasure



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Thursday, December 21, at 7 p.m.





December Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Hello, everyone. Again, let me thank all of you who helped to lead our Gratitude Service - and especially Tanya Schwartz-Roeper for her beautiful photo composition. And Linda DeCramer's solo - wow!!! We are so fortunate to have such a talented group of volunteers, aren't we?

Important notes:

1. I always send out email notices announcing our services. Are you receiving those emails? If not, PLEASE let me know so I get you on "the list". jstiemsma@icloud.com
2. After Dan Wehrwein's death, Pat Dobrinska and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper dropped by his Hospice room. During our reminiscing, I learned that Dan was a pianist. Who knew! But then I started wondering: Who else has a musical talent that they'd be willing to share if only we knew about it??? That talent could include voice, piano, guitar or xylophone...doesn't matter. If you'd be willing to share, I need to know about it! Again, my email is in #1!
3. As always, if you have a topic idea, a potential presenter, etc., please be sure to share those ideas with the Worship Services Committee. These are your services; obviously, we want them to meet your needs. Again, my email is in #1!
4. Finally, thank you to all Greeters. You've willingly signed up and made yourselves available to newcomers and "oldcomers" alike. The sign-up has worked like a charm.

Okay, then -- the December schedule will be somewhat different given the holidays. Here's "what's up":

December 3: Normally, this would be an Engage Sunday. However, we've pushed back the discussion of Climate of Hope to host a special Memorial Service for Dan Wehrwein. We invite all of you - whether or not you really knew Dan - to honor his memory in this service, held at our normal 10:00 hour. His was an interesting journey. Come learn about it.

December 10: We've considered Bruce Clear's "The Humanist in Me," "The Theist in Me," and "The Christian in Me". Now I'll bring some closure to the discussion with readings from Richard Rohr's The Naked Now. And we'll sing some Christmas tunes! Afterward, we'll eat - it's Second Sunday Potluck!!!

Thursday, December 21, Festival of Lights 7 pm (Doors open at 6:30): A number of religious holidays, not just Christian, are celebrated this time of year. So it's a wonderful time to honor celebrants around the world through music, story, and ritual. Come celebrate the spirit of the season with your PLUUF friends, take some time to de-stress and renew your spiritual side - and bring a treat to pass if you can!

Sunday, December 24: Because Christmastime is often so busy, **PLUUF will be closed** on Christmas Eve Sunday. Happy Holidays, all!

5th Sunday, December 31st: 10:30-2:00 Special Off-Site Gathering (See page 1 for more details. Additional information will be provided as we get closer to the date.



1st & 3rd ENGAGE Sundays by Judy Harris

Dec. 3rd: Daniel Wehrwein’s time with PLUUF was only a year, but his influence on our community was timeless. Fascinating conversations, keen insights, and a marvelous presentation on one of our ENGAGE Sundays are etched in PLUUF’s history. Join us on Dec. 3rd as we honor Dan.

Dec. 17th: Pat Dobrinska leads us as we conclude our discussion of Climate of Hope. Be sure to read the hand-outs Jerry Davidson bought about Fracking, a method of retrieving fossil fuel from earth touted in the book. Look forward to a lively discussion.

THURSDAY Dec. 21st: Festival of Lights 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30)

PLUUF has made commitments over the last few years that are amazing:

- 1) Renewing our status as a “Welcoming Congregation”
- 2) Becoming identified as a “Green Sanctuary”
- 3) Sponsoring “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change”
- 4) Supporting Standing Rock protests
- 5) Providing education about treatment of Native Americans
- 6) Supporting a refugee family
- 7) Being represented in a presentation about political division at Ripon College
- 8) Participating in a state-wide conversation with all WI UU churches
- 9) Joining other churches in providing a meal at Ripon College
- 10) Welcoming “Families United “ and allowing them to use our facility for their meetings.
- 11) Providing a free environmental summer camp for kids
- 12) Agreeing to try “Meatless Mondays”

Explore
No Boundaries
Gather
Activism
Go! Be the change
Educate

While this list is certainly not complete, I wanted to remind you of all that we do. Add memorial services. Though our numbers are small, we get done what needs to be done—and with a flare! Bravo to each of you! Here is my challenge to each of you: Most of the above need someone who cares deeply about this issue and is willing to lead the charge to get it done. PLUUF friends and members will show up and do what is needed, but someone has to be in charge. For instance, to maintain our status as a “Welcoming Congregation,” we need to offer two services per year that help us learn more about the GBLT+ community—someone needs to lead, organize, and take care of the documentation involved. If we truly want to be a “Green Sanctuary,” we need a leader and a group of 3 or so individuals to take on this challenge. And we need ideas for other issues that are important to YOU that support our mission and vision and that YOU are willing to lead. As you begin thinking about the year ahead, think about leading a social justice cause or an ENGAGE Sunday. Know that you will have support and volunteers.

Children’s 2nd & 4th Sunday Religious Education (RE)

For **2nd Sunday RE**, Jonah used a Thanksgiving lesson plan from PLUUF. Jonah and the kids discussed Native Americans and the first wave of Europeans to arrive in America. The children wrote down words of gratitude to be used at the 4th Sunday Gratitude service.

4th Sunday The children attended a very special intergenerational Gratitude Service. They shared their words of gratitude and listened to others. Mason Luna (photo on right) played music for the postlude. See next page for a recap.



Jonah Roeper
RE Volunteer

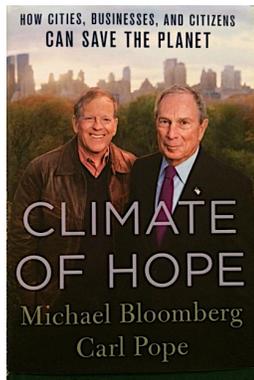
On Worship Service Sunday, December 10, Jonah will talk about Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other winter festivals to prepare the children for our annual Festival of Lights service. The Festival of Lights service will take place the evening of December 21. We encourage you to bring friends and family to this very special event.



Mason Luna playing the postlude at the Gratitude service. Photo credit goes to Jim Goyette ☺

In Case You Missed It In November

ENGAGE Sunday November 5 & 19
Book Discussion Led by Pat Dobrinska
Climate of Hope



Two influential men, leaders in very different fields, wrote a book focusing on their shared vision: They have no interest in the tired old debate that is still playing out on Capitol Hill; nor are they interested in winning an argument or an election. What they are interested in is saving lives, promoting prosperity, and

stopping global warming. They believe that each part of the problem of climate change has a solution that can make our society healthier and stronger. Authors Michael Bloomberg, former Mayor of NYC/wealthy financier, and Carl Pope, former chairman and executive director of the Sierra Club, believe that cities, businesses, and citizens taking action will make the difference.

November attendance was strong. Final discussion takes place on Sunday, December 17. Hope to see you!

Worship Service November 12
"The Christian In Me"
Led by Jessica French

Back in July Jean Bruce presented Bruce Clear's *The Humanist in Me*. In September Pat Dobrinska presented *The Theist in Me*. We concluded this three part series with



The Christian in Me led by PLUUF board member Jessica French. Here's an excerpt from the presentation: "Even though we may not call ourselves, individually, Christian, our denomination has grown from the Christian tradition. Further, such celebrations as

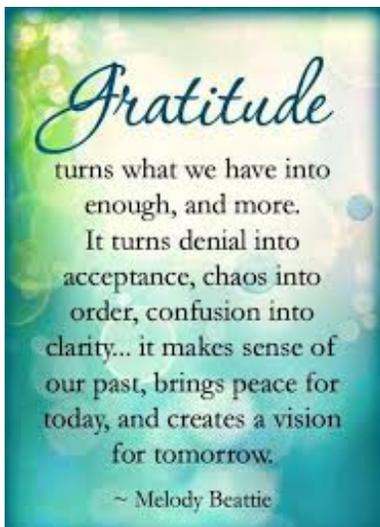
Christmas Day are an important part of our culture. And no matter how secularized and commercialized it has become or may become, there is no denying that this holiday season focuses on the man for whom Christianity was established—Jesus. Christianity is the religion of Jesus, and it is appropriate to take a deeper look at the influence of that person, and that religion, in our lives. This is as true for Unitarian Universalists as it is for anyone."

You can read the entire reflection by going on-line to the UUA website or Google: Bruce Clear "The Christian in Me".

The Annual Gratitude Service on November 24

On the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Members, Friends, and Newcomers gathered at PLUUF for the annual gratitude service. This service was special in so many ways. During the service everyone was given the opportunity not once, but twice to express what they were grateful for. Jill Stiemsma coordinated the service and invited Becky Feyen, Jim Goyette, Jeromy French, Alex Thompson, Jerry Davidson, and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper to present

special readings. Jill provided piano accompaniment while Linda DeCramer sang *Thankful*. Mason Luna led a special Chalice Lighting. Miguel Luna and Molly French assisted Jill with the Story for all Ages. Mason, Miguel and Molly presented their RE gratitude project. The service included a slide show created by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper using photos from past to present. The slide show highlighted members and friends of Prairie Lakes as well as PLUUF celebrations, honored those who have passed, and depicted many meaningful objects that provide the visual focus at our fellowship. The service concluded with extinguishing the chalice to the reading *Hands Touching Hands* by Matt Alspaugh, with all present holding hands. The postlude was performed by Mason Luna.



Thank you to Jill Stiemsma for coordinating such a beautiful service.
Special thank you to all the readers, musicians, and those who shared words of gratitude.
Extra special thank you to EVERYONE who attended or were there in spirit.



Treasurer's Report by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

PLUUF Accounts as of November 29, 2017:

BMO Checking	\$23,790.75	Operating Fund
BMO Savings	\$10,906.95	Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF* (As of 11/29)	\$46,092.66	Long term Vision Fund
	\$80,790.36	

*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment

Although the Art & Service Auction is still months away, please keep the silent auction & direct sale portion of the event in mind as you shop this holiday season or receive gifts you may not use. The Art & Service Auction is PLUUF's largest (& only!) fundraiser planned for the 2017-18 fiscal year!

November was a rather non-eventful month as far as expenses go.... That's a good thing!

Just the usual bills:

Advertising
Telephone
Electric
UUA dues

Financial Report as of November 29, 2017

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,233	\$6,733.04	\$27,340
Expenses	\$676.53	\$7,869.04	\$27,340

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, Bonnie Wagner, & Ray Gurney

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 linedecramer@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