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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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NOVEMBER

by Kathleen Pedersen

Leaves are falling,
winter's calling
We are thankful
for our friends.

NOVE-M-BER

It's November once again

In Memory of Mary Brandt Beloved Member of Prairie Lakes Since the Beginning

Mary served on many PLUUF committees and had the role of treasurer in the early days. She was an activist writing letters, demonstrating and advocating for social justice. She described herself as "an ecumenical seeker with a biblical heritage, old and new testament, but question creed and doctrine." Several years ago Mary moved into Smith Village, a retirement community in Chicago, to be closer to her daughter, Harriet. Mary continued to receive the PLUUF newsletter and stay in touch. As recently as August 2017 she sent a handwritten card to Prairie Lakes, "I enjoy looking at the PLUUF newsletter. I don't travel outside Chicago anymore. I do go to church and the Chicago symphony and dinner sometimes at Harriet's house. For 4th of July we had corn on the cob which I loved!"



Mary Brandt
October 17, 1919 –
October 23, 2017

In her 98 years of life, Mary was a positive force in many lives and certainly left her mark.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, November 5: 10:00 AM ENGAGE Sunday Book discussion led by **Pat Dobrinska**, "Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet" by Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope. (See page 4 for more details)

Thursday, November 9: 6:30 p.m. (East Hall Little Theater at Ripon College) "How to Engage in Civil Dialogue With Those With Whom We Disagree Politically." The Center for Politics and the People and the Ripon Area Clergy Association (RAMA) host a panel discussion with campus and community. Our very own Moderator, **Becky Feyen**, will be serving on the panel.

Sunday, November 12: 10:00 AM Worship Service "The Christian in Me" written by Bruce Clear and presented by **Jessica French** (See page 3 for more details).

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

Sunday, November 19: 10:00 AM ENGAGE Sunday Continued book discussion led by **Pat Dobrinska**, "Climate of Hope" by Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope.

Sunday, November 26: 10:00 AM Worship Service Annual Gratitude service. A service to honor our members/friends and all those who contribute so much to our fellowship and the community/world at large.

See page 3 for more Worship Service
information PLUS details on two upcoming
musical performances!



Message from our Moderator by Becky Feyen



Hello Everyone -

I wanted to share the winners of the 2017-2018 Breakthrough Congregations. This is the first year that the UUA has focused on "innovation or adaptation that is entirely new to the congregation and could be useful to other congregations." Prairie Lakes applied for this recognition by submitting the design, purpose, & format of our ENGAGE Sundays.

The four congregations listed below are the winners and will be profiled in the UU World magazine this coming year. Dawn Cooley of the UUA sent a letter to PLUUF encouraging us to apply again to be a Breakthrough Congregation in the future. She commented on the inspiring work we are doing at PLUUF!

The 2017 winners:

- **All Souls UU in Bellville, OH** chose to overcome their fear and embrace the call of our faith to support the anti-racism work taking place in their community.
- **UU Cong of Greater Lansing, MI** is doing exciting cross-cultural work with the local Muslim community and has found vibrant ways to live our faith in partnership with them.
- **UU Fellowship of Athens, GA** is utilizing volunteer staff across generations, honoring their gifts and skills for congregational work.
- **First Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA** has ground breaking adaptation of religious education to meet the changing needs of their families.

For more information go to: <https://www.uua.org/growth/breakthrough/selected-congregations>

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped clean PLUUF inside and out on our 5th Sunday Clean Up Day!

PLUS

Thank you to everyone who provided assistance with the Adopt-A-Highway clean up!

Ripon Area Refugee Assistance (RAMA) by Becky Feyen

The group met at First Congregational Church on 10/20/17 to identify future interests & plan a Thanksgiving meal for Furaha's family. This is the family that moved to Oshkosh from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Prairie Lakes assisted in collecting furniture & houseware items before their arrival.

The decision was made to combine the family Thanksgiving meal with the monthly Community Dinner at First Congregational on Tuesday, November 28th, from 5:00 to 6:30pm. I offered Prairie Lakes to assist with food & personally offered to transport home if needed. I will keep you posted; the food will likely be mostly provided by First Congregational.

There will possibly be a presentation by a Syrian refugee; she gave a presentation last spring putting a human face on the crisis in Syria. We may want to invite her to PLUUF if our focus is directed to refugee issues.

Currently the US allows 45,000 refugees per year which begins each October. There is very little happening with refugee settlement organizations due to the low numbers of refugees allowed in the US; many organizations are struggling financially & have cut staffing.

The consensus of most attendees was to focus on local refugee issues & how we can help people move to the Ripon area after establishing residency. Refugees struggle with language barriers, especially when trying to find employment. Food selection in stores is also a hindrance to people from different cultures moving to the Ripon area.



2nd & 4th November Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

First of all, if you missed either October service, you really missed something special. Open Circle's Tracy McDermott gave such a tranquil, peace-loving Reflection on the "community" spirit of prairies and, likewise, of UU fellowships. And then Jim Jaeger returned and literally wowed us with his Reflection on immigration, present and past. Hopefully, by now you've received his Reflection via email; if not, it's coming!

Reminder: We will continue to seek "greeters" indefinitely. There's a sign-up sheet (for **your** convenience) in the Narthax. All this "assignment" requires is showing up about 9:40 on service Sundays to greet whomsoever enters the building and insure that they have their name tag. If entrants might be new to PLUUF or to UU generally, then you would offer them information. What volunteer assignment could require less effort! (And, thanks.)

Here's the November docket:

November 12: Well, not to be outdone, Jessica French concludes the Bruce Clear sermon series by reading his *The Christian in Me*. I suspect another rousing discussion shall follow! Thanks, Jessica.

November 26: Way back when, Barbara Lukas had proposed that we always do a Gratitude service at Thanksgiving — a service to honor our members/friends and all those who contribute so much to our fellowship and the community/world at large. So, yes, we'll create that service again, with special readings, special music, and special recognitions. Hopefully, many of you will be there to honor all that we mean to each other. Regardless, Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

A Must-See Performance! by Brad & Nicole Roost

The Berlin High School will be performing *Fiddler on the Roof* **Thursday, November 9th, Friday the 10th and Saturday the 11th at 7:00 pm** each night. PLUUF's very own **Amelia Roost** will again be performing and **Brody Roost** will be on lights. This will be Amelia's last musical of her high school career. If you haven't seen one yet, here's your last chance. PLUUF has been strongly represented in the audience in the past and it has meant the world to us!

"That was just wonderful!" - Judy Harris, 2016's *Mary Poppins*

"Just a spectacular production" - Jill Stiemsma, 2015's *My Fair Lady*

"I had to pee, what'd I miss" - Becky Feyen, wandering the halls...

As in the past, if you are interested in attending one of the performances, please let us know and we will pick up tickets. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Let us know what night you want to attend; we will buy the tickets and you can pay us back. **lewis_clark@hotmail.com**

Award-Winning Singer-Songwriter and Activist Performing in Green Lake

Yael Deckelbaum & Prayer of the Mothers Ensemble at Thrasher Opera House in Green Lake on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 (Tickets: \$28 at Thrasher or call (920) 294-4279 or www.thrasheropeahouse.com)

Yael Deckelbaum is an award-winning Israeli/Canadian singer-songwriter and activist. She's currently touring with the Prayer Of The Mothers Ensemble in their Women Of The World Unite Tour. "In similar fashion to Joan Baez, Yael is now on the forefront of a peace movement with an organization called "Women Wage Peace."

ENGAGE Sundays by Judy Harris



Explore

No Boundaries

Gather

Activism

Go! Be the change

Educate

What can you expect on ENGAGE Sundays?

- Book discussions
- Video Documentaries
- Special guest speakers
- Off-site events
- Community activities
- Social Action and much more!

If you have an idea for an ENGAGE Sunday you would like to lead contact Judy at jdlake@centurytel.net

1st & 3rd ENGAGE Sundays

New Book Discussion Begins! 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.

Join Pat Dobrinska in discussing *Climate of Hope*

Sunday, November 5: 10:00 AM & Sunday, November 19: 10:00 AM

Books are available: A \$15 contribution supports our adult religious education fund but is not essential.

If we need more books, we'll order more. Bring friends and skeptics!

Green Sanctuary Update

Years ago PLUUF decided to become a UUA designated "Green Sanctuary." There are specific requirements and documentation. A variety of events occurred to delay completion. To get on track once again, we need 3 or 4 volunteers to renew our efforts: This committee will have the opportunity to join with those planning our "Green Space" in our empty lot. Please let one of the Board members know if you are interested in being a part of this project.

2018 Summer Environmental Camp for Kids

November is the month to apply for a Webster Foundation Grant to support our summer camp. In October, the Board approved a one-day camp, tentatively set for Monday, July 23, for the same age group. This year the focus will on the environmental impact of plastic and possible solutions.

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



Jonah is a sophomore at Ripon High School

For **2nd Sunday RE**, Jonah shared books on nature. Discussion took place about kindness to animals and the planet while making the connection with the UU 7th Principle (in kids lingo): *We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.*

4th Sunday RE took on the theme of Halloween. The session started with "lighting" the battery operated candles for the chalice while Molly read opening words. Jonah, with the assistance of Mom, led a discussion around the Celtic origins of Halloween and a craft project. Mason, Miguel and Molly selected costumes to wear during RE (see photo). After the service the kids circulated the sanctuary and handed out kisses (Hershey's ☺) and hugs to all attendees.



Mason, Miguel and Molly

In Case You Missed It In September

ENGAGE Sunday October 1 & 15
Video & Discussion Led by Judy Harris
Oceans of Garbage

5 Realities About Plastic Pollution That Won't Go Away Until We Do Something

1. Every piece of plastic ever made still exists today in some shape or form
2. There will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050
3. Only 5% of plastics are recycled effectively
4. If you consume fish, you're consuming plastic too
5. There are plastic Islands – 7-9 million square miles large each – that have been created from the ocean currents. (The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program has [estimated](#) that it would take 67 ships one year to clean up less than one percent of the North Pacific Ocean- *National Geographic Society*).

Scientists and explorers agree that limiting or eliminating our use of disposable plastics and increasing our use of biodegradable resources will be the best way to clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Organizations such as the Plastic Pollution Coalition and the Plastic Oceans Foundation are using social media and direct action campaigns to support individuals, [manufacturers](#), and [businesses](#) in their [transition](#) from [toxic](#), disposable plastics to biodegradable or reusable materials.

What Can You Do?

Refuse single-use packaging, sandwich bags, juice cartons, [straws](#), excess packaging and other disposable plastics.

Bring your own mug or cup with you when you go to a coffee shop, bar, or restaurant.

Bring a reusable canvas bag with you every time you go shopping. Whether you're shopping for food, clothes, or just "stuff".

Support a plastic bag ban in your area.

Did you know if you use the catering services at Webster's Market Place in Ripon you can bring your own serving trays? Just let them know a couple days in advance of your event and they will be more than happy to accommodate you.

Set an example and you may inspire others to do the same.

Worship Service October 8
Tracy McDermott



Tracy McDermott is a local environmental advocate who has had the opportunity to work with many local environmental groups and education organizations. She is the current Executive Director of the Gottfried Prairie & Arboretum as well as Membership Coordinator/Office Administrator for Open Circle UU Fellowship in Fond du Lac. When not spending time working with non-profits, she and her family enjoy educating

folks about the importance of sustainable living and growing food at their hobby farm "Wander Way" in Eldorado, WI.

Fond du lac County was once covered with 60% prairie and oak savannah. These native plant communities sustained amazing amounts of life before they were settled by our ancestors. Tracy talked about how nature sustained and created community long before we called this land home, and how our UU Principals are connected.

Worship Service October 22
With Jim Jaeger
The Conundrum of Immigration



We welcomed the return of Jim Jaeger, formerly our part-time contracted minister from 2013-16. It's been a long time since he's graced our sanctuary, so it was wonderful to have him back! During joys and concerns he acknowledged the passing of longtime

PLUUF members Jean Johnson and Linda Holloway. His heartfelt words were deeply moving.

Here's his summary of his Reflection:

As many have suspected, the issue of immigration has become a central topic of our national conversation. What should be the terms for persons from other countries to be admitted to our country? How should we deal with the millions of "undocumented" immigrants already here and part of our national life? How do we address the plight of the "dreamers" whose status is now uncertain?



Treasurer's Report by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

PLUUF Accounts as of October 30, 2017:

BMO Checking	\$23,123.92	Operating Fund
BMO Savings	\$10,906.48	Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF* (As of 10/30)	\$45,462.39	Long term Vision Fund
	\$79,492.79	

*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

Have you noticed how clean the carpets are?

For \$150

Becker Carpet Cleaning cleaned the carpet in the sanctuary, resource room and children's RE room.

Thank you
Charles Becker!



Our beautiful PLUUF sign is going to get a makeover!

The board approved the \$769 refurbishing quote. Ann Pahlas of Metal works, the creator of the sign, will stain, fill cracks, recoat lettering and background, wash & polish the steel post & frame and more!

Thank you Ann!

Financial Report as of October 30, 2017

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$984.50	\$5,500.04	\$27,340
Expenses	\$1,788.06	\$7,192.51	\$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 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