

315 Eureka Street
Ripon, WI 54971
920-745-2446

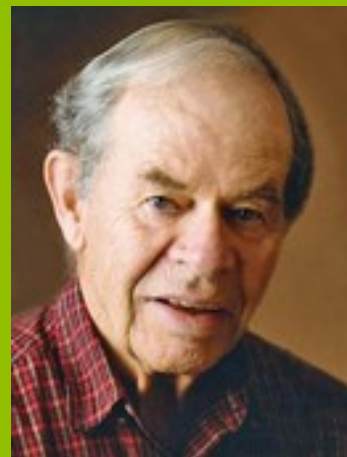
www.pluuf.org
info@PLUUF.org

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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



In Memory of
David Conover.
Tribute on page 5

Calendar At-A-Glance

ENGAGE Sunday, April 1, 10:00 AM: Ray Gurney will lead a presentation: "Mary of Magdela - Her Complete Story and Missing History."

Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration Wednesday, April 4: 3:30-6:30 PM at PLUUF
(Details on page 4)

Worship Service Sunday, April 8, 10:00 AM: Becky Feyen presents "Be the Light: facing life's challenges and changes with compassion, persistence, and justice."

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

ART & SERVICE AUCTION/TALENT SHOW Saturday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:45) Please join us for PLUUF's Biggest, BEST (& only) Fundraising event of the year!! Live Auction, Silent Auction, Direct Sales, INCREDIBLE ENTERTAINMENT. It's so much more than a fundraiser. It's the camaraderie that "buyers" and "sellers" realize after the event. (More information on page 4)

ENGAGE Sunday, April 15, 10:00 AM: Ray Gurney will lead a presentation on "How to Conceptualize Addiction in the United States in 2018."

Worship Service Sunday, April 22, 10:00 AM: Brian Smith returns. In honor of Earth Day, his theme will center around religion and the environment.

5th Sunday, April 29, 10:00 AM: Come One, Come All: It's Clean-Up Day! Coffee and snacks will be available. 😊

Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



I am kind of cheating this month, by sharing some previous information, but read to the end!

As we work towards our annual meeting, below are the critical documents we will be voting to adopt. Minor changes have been made to the Vision & Mission Statements. The Congregational Covenant has been added. Please review & discuss any questions or concerns with any of your board members. These statements define who we are - how we engage in our community & the larger world - and should empower each of us with a greater understanding of our purpose & responsibilities.

Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship Proposed Vision, Mission & Covenant – updated 3/18/18

Vision and mission statements define who we are, as a Unitarian Universalist congregation - who we are, when we gather in this community - who we are, as a religious community. Without this knowledge and guidance we run the risk of losing relevance and effectiveness. All decisions, services, and programs of the Fellowship align with the vision & mission statements.

The Congregational Covenant is an agreement of right relationship, clarifying expectations for individual behaviors in our community. This is our individual responsibility, to adhere to these agreed upon norms. This is how we will interact in the best of times & the worst of times.

Please review because we will vote on the statements at the Annual Meeting on May 6

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT: As a Fellowship, we strive to support, promote and exemplify the ideals of the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT: Individually, collectively, internally and externally we agree to be a transformative presence for our members, friends and the larger community by:

- Creating an atmosphere of love, compassion and care for all ages and stages in life's journey
- Promoting intellectual curiosity and open-minded discussion
- Acting as stewards of the Earth
- Advocating for a more just and equitable world
- Honoring the worth and dignity of all beings
- Nurturing our communal spiritual journey
- Commit time, talent and treasure to promote positive change in ourselves and in the world

PROPOSED CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT: We each embrace our personal responsibility to choose respect and kindness, to the best of our human ability as we journey together. We strive to:

- Care for each other through deep listening and genuine kindness while assuming good will
- Create a safe environment by respecting and trusting one another
- Encourage each other to express their authentic selves, supporting, inspiring, and challenging each other's quest for truth, meaning and spiritual growth
- Nurture a diverse and welcoming congregation



April Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

First of all, let me thank our Worship Team members for filling in for me during my stay in El Salvador -- especially Tanya who provided the music, developed the Orders of Service, and sent out weekly announcements. Becky, too, insured services by contacting our service leaders and helping them organize their services. Plus, of course, she led one herself. And thanks to all of you for your continued support and attendance.

So, time marches on. Here's our schedule for April:

Sunday, April 8: Be the Light: facing life's challenges and changes with compassion, persistence, and justice." Becky will lead the April 8th service, presenting the importance of reaching out & building relationships with those we see as 'the other'. The conviction to maintain considerate and thoughtful conversation with people who have differing views, while championing our beliefs. The concepts presented come from various religious leaders & social justice activists.

Don't forget: It's Second Sunday Potluck again!

Sunday, April 22: Yea! Our favorite Brian Smith returns. In honor of Earth Day, his theme will center around religion and the environment. Somehow, many Evangelical Christians have decided that Climate Change is a hoax. Where would that come from?

Regardless of current WI weather conditions, they have to suit me better than the horrid heat of San Salvador. See y'all at PLUUF!

1st & 3rd ENGAGE Sundays by Judy Harris



ENGAGE Sunday, April 1 – Ray Gurney will present, *Mary of Magdela – Her Complete Story and Missing History*. There will be a video, presentation and discussion.

ENGAGE Sunday April 15 – Ray Gurney will lead a presentation and discussion on *How to Conceptualize Addiction in the United States in 2018*.

5th Sunday April 29 Come One, Come All: It's Clean-Up Day! Let's spruce up the fellowship inside and out. Coffee and treats will be available.

3rd annual Summer Camp for Kids is coming to Prairie Lakes!

Mark your calendars: Monday, July 30th, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

With the generous help of the Webster Foundation, we continue educating 2nd-5th graders about the importance of caring for our environment. This year's focus will be on our use of plastic, its impact on nature, and how we can reduce our plastic use.

There are several ways you can participate:

- Plan and teach lessons (some excellent videos are available)
- Prepare lunch and two snacks
- Lead craft sessions (offer ideas for using plastic in crafts)
- Recommend a speaker or site for a field trip
- Help with general supervision of the kids.

We'll meet in early May for a planning session.





Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Live Stream from the Lorrain Motel

April 4th, 2018 | 3:30–6:30pm (arrive & leave at your convenience)

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
315 Eureka St., Ripon WI

MLK50: Where Do We Go From Here? is the theme for the year-long commemoration of Dr. King's assassination. In 2018, the desire is not simply to reflect and recount history, but to connect the history to contemporary issues. This forward-looking theme will focus on poverty/economic equity, education, justice and nonviolence.

3:30 p.m. live stream begins at Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship:

The 6:01 50th Anniversary Ceremony from the Balcony of the Lorraine Motel – The Beloved Community will gather for the official ceremony with the laying of the wreath, ecumenical liturgy, musical and spoken word tributes, and remarks from civil rights icons.

6:05 p.m. bell ringing ceremony at Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship:

6:01pm Bell Toll – Since the news rippled across the country, the bells will first ring at the National Civil Rights Museum at 6:01 p.m. CST. Bells will chime 39 times across the nation to honor the number of years Dr. King dwelled on this earth and to pay homage to his legacy.

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING THE LEGACY OF PEACE & JUSTICE ~ refreshments will be provided



You are invited to Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship Art & Service Auction & PLUUF's Got Talent on April 14!



On Saturday, **April 14th, at 6:00 p.m.**, we will see the return of Prairie Lake's largest fundraiser of the year... the Art & Service Auction & PLUUF's Got Talent! The evening will include a Live Auction, Silent Auction, Raffle and Direct Sale Items with entertainment throughout the evening.

We need everyone's participation to make this event a success. Here are a few ways you can help:

1. Donate an item for the silent or live auction and/or basket raffle.
2. Provide food and/or beverages for the evening.
3. Participate in the event by bidding and buying (Bring friends!)

Please e-mail tanyapapermaker@gmail.com if you'd like to participate in the talent show or have something you'd like to donate to the Live or Silent Auctions.

Just a few examples of art & services that were auctioned off last year:

- Judy's scrumptious pies and krinklers
- Day of decluttering by the Roosts
- Year's supply of eggs
- Cheesecake and fudge by Ellen
- Themed baskets
- Dinner party & evening of sign language
- Pre-season Packer tickets
- Aerial flight with pilot Joe
- 8 hours of DeCramer landscaping services
- Custom made mosaic
- 10-week painting class
- Dog sitting
- Day of yard work and MUCH MORE!!



David & Jean Conover

Memories of David Conover by Marjorie Kenyon-Cler

David was the “face” and “voice” of Unitarian Universalism in Oshkosh for many, many years after their UU Fellowship, chartered in 1962, dwindled to only a few dinner-with-a-speaker get-togethers each year at a local restaurant. He kept a UU presence going year upon year, with his wife Jean, continuing to welcome newcomers into that small UU community. (When Joel and I started attending after our 1990 move to Wisconsin, that group also included Barbara Lukas, Jean Johnson, Chuck Foote, and Karen and David Williams, all of whom, along with Betty Graham, would be among the “founders” of the reorganized/relocated UU Fellowship in Ripon.) Having carried that Oshkosh UU mantle for so long, if my memory serves me correctly, it was David who proposed the relocation to take advantage of a new core of “UU energy” that had arisen in Ripon, represented by the recently returned Williams’ family, our family, and long-time UU and Ripon resident, Jean Johnson. Throughout, David was a quiet, kind, supportive “anchor,” helping to sustain a steady bridge between the Oshkosh-based UU group of the past and the Ripon-based UU community of the future.

PLUUF wouldn’t exist without his steadfast commitment to keeping the Oshkosh Fellowship alive for many, many years, his encouragement to relocate the congregation to Ripon in 1990, and his continuing support of the “new” Fellowship throughout the ensuing years, until health issues intervened.

Marjorie Kenyon-Cler is one of the 14 founders of Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship and PLUUF’s first moderator

*One of the 14 founders of Prairie Lakes
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*

David Fox Conover

January 29, 1928 –March 2, 2018

David Fox Conover, 90, passed away peacefully with family at his side on March 2, 2018, at Evergreen Retirement Community in Oshkosh, Wis. He was born in Trenton, N.J., on Jan. 8, 1928, to Emily F. and Norman S. Conover. He served in [WWII](#) in the US Army. He earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry from [Penn State University](#). David met his loving wife, Jean M. Conover, at Penn State, and they wed in 1950. He also earned a master’s degree at the [University of Minnesota](#), and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at Iowa State University. – reprinted from the Fox Cities Funeral Home webpage

Press release from August 27, 2001

Two members of the Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, David and Jean Conover, received regional recognition for their volunteer efforts when honored as recipients of the Central Midwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association 2001 Unsung UU Award. This Award is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions as volunteers to their congregations. Nominated by their home church, Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship, Ripon, Conovers were chosen from nominations submitted throughout the five-state District, including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Conovers were recognized at the District’s annual assembly in Springfield IL, for their nearly 50 years of service to UU churches and fellowships. They were instrumental in the founding of the Oshkosh congregation in 1962, and in its 1991 reorganization as the Prairie Lakes Fellowship now located in Ripon. Residents of Oshkosh, they are currently active in both the Prairie Lakes and the Fox Valley (Appleton) UU Fellowships.

Mary Brandt's Celebration of Life Event

On March 24 a beautiful tribute to Mary was held in Demmer Recital Hall at Ripon College. Mary Brandt and husband Bill moved to Ripon in the early 1950's. Bill was the librarian at Ripon College from 1952–1986.

Mary Brandt became a very active and beloved member of PLUUF in 1989. She volunteered as PLUUF's first treasurer and in many other capacities through the years. Several years ago she moved to Chicago due to health reasons. She lived in beautiful Smith Village near her daughter Harriet.



While Mary lived in Ripon she was passionate about nature and wild flowers. Daughter Maggie invited PLUUF to provide the table arrangements for the Celebration of Life event. It was a great privilege to have this responsibility.

Special thank you to Marjorie Kenyon-Cler, Beth Howman-Combs, Barbara Lukas, Becky Feyen, and Judy Harris for creating the dried plant and fresh flower arrangements and/or providing the plants.



Marjorie Kenyon-Cler harvested a bounty of beautiful dried plants from her yard and delivered to PLUUF.



Judy Harris, Becky Feyen and Barbara Lukas assembled the dried plants and fresh flower arrangements.



Voila! Plants are arranged in vases and ready for delivery to the college.



Mary's daughters: Maggie, Sally, and Harriet

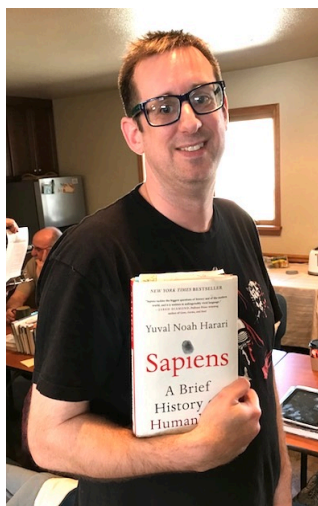


PLUUFer's bottom row: Randy Jawor, Rebecca Underwood, Barbara Lukas, Marjorie Kenyon-Cler, Judy and Dave Harris, Laird DeCramer. Top row: Brody, Brad and Nicole Roost, Brian Smith, Linda DeCramer, Becky Feyen, and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

In Case You Missed It In March

ENGAGE Sunday March 4

Conclusion of book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*



Jeromy French led the second part to our discussion of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. We began the discussion talking about the definition of religion, and how religion tied into the Agricultural Revolution to become a unifying principle of humanity. We then switched to talking about the role technology in society, the Scientific Revolution, and how humans navigate in the modern world. We ended the session by discussing the future of Homo Sapiens.

Thank you Jeromy for leading this important discussion!

Worship Service March 11 with Rev. Jim Jaeger *When Thoughts & Prayers Aren't Enough*



When there is an unspeakable tragedy such as the Parkland mass shooting, how can we as people of the UU Faith respond? Are expressions of sympathy for the victims enough or are we called to take concrete actions to address the causes of this unnecessary violence. Rev. Jim Jaeger was formerly the part-time minister for this fellowship and led a thought provoking, heartfelt service to stimulate a discussion on what we can do to promote change.

ENGAGE Sunday March 18: Don VanScotter on *Biodiversity and the 7th Principle*



PLUUF's newest member, Don VanScotter, gave a presentation on biodiversity and the seventh UU principle – respect for the interdependent web of life. He began by stating that we are in a new geologic epoch shaped by human activity-the Anthropocene. He then provided a slide show introducing the 7th principle with reading of poems and prayers from the UUA website. He presented the biography of the great scientist Edward O. Wilson. Wilson proposed maintaining half the planet in a natural state for the rest of life. Although Wilson identifies as a scientific humanist, he called for scientists and religious leaders to work together to save the "Creation."

Don VanScotter began his academic career at Saint Olaf College. His interest in earth science began when he took a course in physical oceanography while studying applied math and physics at UW-Madison. He entered UW-Milwaukee in 1979. He majored in physical geography in 1980. That was when Mount St. Helen's exploded creating the largest debris avalanche in recorded history. He received a Bachelor of Arts- General Curriculum degree in December 1982 and a Bachelor of Science with a Committee Interdisciplinary Major in Biogeography in May 1990.

He earned a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems with an Environmental Emphasis at UW-Whitewater in 2005. His regional interests include the Western Great Lakes Forest ecoregion, the circumpolar boreal forest, Scandinavia and the Canadian Subarctic. He has done research in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, northeastern Minnesota, northern Ontario, Saskatchewan, Iceland, southwest Greenland, the Black Hills (SD) and the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas. He first learned of E. O. Wilson when he read a chapter in his ecology textbook devoted to the theory of island biogeography which Wilson co-authored. He immediately recognized the importance of the theory to the design of parks and reserves and the wildlife corridors that connect them. He has been addicted to wilderness since his first canoe trip at age 15 and his hobbies include landscape photography, backpacking, canoeing, cross-country skiing and snow climbing. He supplements his income with statistical consulting, GIS applications programming and the production of thematic maps from satellite imagery and client datasets for publication in textbooks and

Worship Service March 25: Judy Goldsmith on *Emerging Woman*



Once again, our members could have stayed for discussion long past our normal end time. Judy provided the history of patriarchy going all the way back to the beginning (with the Adam and Eve story). Her selected readings were thought-provoking and added fresh perspective.

Judy Goldsmith, former national president of the National Organization for Women and Campus Dean/CEO of UW Fond du Lac, currently lives in Fond du Lac and serves on the FDL County Board of Supervisors.

Are you a member of Prairie Lakes?
If yes, would you like to serve on the board of directors?
Open Positions:
Moderator
At-Large Rep

If you are interested in finding out more about serving as a PLUUF board member please contact one of the current board members in person or via e-mail:

Becky Feyen r.feyen@yahoo.com
Linda DeCramer lindadecramer@yahoo.com
Tanya Schwartz-Roeper tanyapapermaker@gmail.com
Jessica French jes7o@hotmail.com
Judy Harris: jdlake@centurytel.net

**Many exciting things are happening and will be presented at the
Annual Meeting on May 6.**

Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2018 by Tanya Schwartz Roeper



Board of Directors*

Moderator

Becky Feyen

Secretary

Linda DeCramer

Treasurer

Tanya Schwartz Roeper

At Large Representative

Judy Harris

At Large Representative

Jessica French

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, May 6

ANNUAL MEETING

10 a.m. – Noon-ish

Many exciting things are happening! Please join us.

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,333.45	\$17,060.49	\$27,340
Expenses	\$2,060.91	\$12,999.65	\$27,340

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request:

tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

BMO Checking	\$27,910.90	Operating Fund
Golden Rule Savings*	\$10,908.32	Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF**	\$47,487.23	Long term Vision Fund
	\$86,306.45	

*BMO Savings was transferred into a new account at Golden Rule Credit Union

**Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

*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. 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.