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# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Thursday,  
December 20 at 7 p.m.  
Please invite family and  
friends to attend this  
very special celebration  
of nine winter festivals.



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

## PRAIRIE LAKES CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE (More details on pages 3 and 4)

**ENGAGE Sunday, December 2 1:00 PM** Prairie Lakes has partnered with Ripon College's Center for Diversity and Inclusion to bring award winning international touring artist Wade Fernandez to Ripon! The event is free and takes place on Sunday, December 2, at 1 p.m. in Demmer Recital Hall at CJ Rodman Center for the Arts. Join us at 11:00 at Prairie Lakes for a potluck lunch and a chance to talk to Wade before the performance.

**Worship Service Sunday, December 9: 10:00 AM** Thanks to Don Martin's recommendation, we will welcome, for the first time, Professor John Burr to lead a Reflection. Topic TBA

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

**ENGAGE Sunday, December 16: 10:00 AM** "Taking It Further" with Becky Feyen . Concluding reflections will take place regarding the book, "Justice on Earth." *When it comes to justice-making, the biggest and most important step may be moving from one's head to embodied action - Jennifer Nordstrom.*

**Thursday, December 20: 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!

**Sunday, December 23: 10 AM** The talented Jill Stiemsma will play beautiful piano music. Please join us to listen to the music of the season, meditate, and enjoy the company of others.

## A recap of an Immigration Justice Event by Ellen Mueller



follow employment laws.)

On Saturday, November 17, Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship held an Immigration Justice event. Immigration attorney Laureen Anderson presented on visas and defenses for victims. If you are acquainted with undocumented immigrants who are seeking a way to eventually apply for a green card, it might be wise to advise them to seek the services of an immigration lawyer to find out what could be available for them. Many immigrants are unaware that they might qualify. Ms. Anderson discussed four different visas and a provision of the law that could be helpful. Some examples include victims of domestic violence; juveniles who have been neglected, abused or abandoned by a parent; individuals who help to prosecute a perpetrator of a crime; and anyone who has been trafficked (this could be an individual working for less than minimum wage or who has an employer who does not

Next, Norys Pina of Unidos por Un Futuro Mejor presented on "What We Need from an Ally: An Immigrant Perspective". She stressed that the work of an ally is for the immigrant, not about the ally. She encouraged allies to do their homework and educate themselves. Be vocal and brave. As an example, if you hear someone using the offensive label of "illegal aliens," point out that people are not illegal, only actions can be illegal. Norys urged the audience to use their privilege and power to change the system and elevate immigrants.

A representative of the Fox Cities SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) Rapid Response Team gave very practical advice if you ever find yourself present when ICE appears. Demand to see a warrant, tell the person being detained that they don't need to talk until an attorney is present, and ask where they are taking the detainee.

*(Editor's note: Written and internet resources are available if you are interested).*



### Prairie Lakes

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*proudly presents*

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

**Thursday, December 20**

**Doors open at 6:30**

**Program 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**Followed by treats from various traditions**

Chalica  
Kwanzaa  
Winter Solstice  
St. Lucia Day  
Las Posadas  
Diwali  
Bodhi Day  
Hanukkah  
Christmas

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!



## December Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Gosh, time flies. Here we are, wishing each other Happy Holidays once again!

So, looking back: In November we welcomed Jim Jaeger's return to lead us in a Reflection on - ta da! - his old Reflections. His was sobering commentary on how slowly things change. Unfortunately for Mary Pharmer, she was too ill to lead her planned November 25<sup>th</sup> Reflection on the Annunciation House in El Paso; but she promises to do so in 2019. In its place, we had a lovely Gratitude Service. I especially want to thank the PLUUF Singers (Linda and Laird, Brad and Amelia, Bonnie and Pat) for their beautiful rendition of "Thankful" as special music that Sunday. It was extraordinary.

December offers a somewhat different - albeit full -- schedule:

**Sunday, December 2:** Don't forget our 11:00 potluck at PLUUF followed by the amazing musicianship of Wade Fernandez at Ripon College at 1:00. Bring friends! (Details on next page)

**Sunday, December 9:** Thanks to Don Martin's recommendation, we will welcome, for the first time, Professor John Burr to lead a Reflection. However, at the moment I'm not sure of his focus. TBD. Please join us for second Sunday Potluck.

**Thursday, December 20:** Our Annual Festival of Lights returns. This service, a favorite among favorites, honors many of the holiday traditions celebrated this time of year. Thank you to Tanya S-R who has taken the leadership for this service several years running.

**Sunday, December 23:** Given that we have the Festival of Lights just before this Sunday - and given that this Sunday is right before Christmas -- it's doubtful that attendance would be very high. So, if you're so inclined, feel free to come and just listen to the music of the season. You're free to come for 15 minutes or the whole hour...whatever might help you de-stress. I will play the holiday classics uninterrupted from 10-11.

It will be a GREAT December with all these special events. We hope to see many of you during this holiday season. Wherever you are, with whomever you are, may this be a wonderful ending to 2018.

## Children's 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Religious Education (RE)



Jonah Roeper  
RE Volunteer

For 2<sup>nd</sup> **Sunday RE**, Jonah used a Diwali lesson plan from PLUUF. Jonah explained it's one of the major religious festivals in Hinduism. In addition to the lesson, Jonah led the children on a guided meditation.

On Worship Service Sunday, December 9, 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 at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 20. We encourage you to bring friends and family to this very special event.



## 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> ENGAGE Sundays by Judy Harris

# Wade Fernandez

Multi-award winning international touring artist  
from the Menominee Nation Reservation

**Sunday, December 2 at 1 P.M.**

Ripon College's  
CJ Rodman Center for the Arts  
Demmer Recital Hall



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Video Age Productions, Portraits in Oils by Pat Dobrinska,  
Don Martin & Pat Reimann, DeCramer Landscaping, Knuth's Brewery,  
Saving Grace Salvage & The Gathering Space Event Venue

**Sunday, December 16** Becky Feyen will lead a follow-up discussion on the book Justice on Earth.

**Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** Don VanScotter will be leading a book discussion of Siddhartha. Local libraries will most likely have a copy or it can be read online. See the "Gutenberg" sites below. It's a short book that has some fascinating ideas.

Hesse, Hermann. Siddhartha. [Public domain- multiple ebook formats and MP3 audiobook available]

Siddhartha is a novel by Hermann Hesse that deals with the spiritual journey of self-discovery of a man named Siddhartha during the time of the Gautama Buddha. The book, Hesse's ninth novel, was written in German, in a simple, lyrical style. It was published in the U.S. in 1951 and became influential during the 1960s. Original German edition and English translation are in public domain. New translations are available. I recommend the one by Rika Lesser (ISBN 978-1-59308-379-3).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siddhartha\\_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siddhartha_(novel))  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2500>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann\\_Hesse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Hesse)  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2500>

## Fellowship Notes

Congratulations to **Marjorie & Joel Cler** on the birth of their 2<sup>nd</sup> grandchild. Leo arrived a bit early but we are happy to report that both mother and son are doing well.

**Amelia Roost** is engaged to Jesse Viars! Congratulations!!



On November 6, 2018, PLUUF founder **Jean Conover**, 91, passed away peacefully with family at her side. *After Jean's retirement she focused her energy, drive and commitment to many social causes, notably immigrant naturalization and citizenship. She was a beloved adviser and mentor to the Hmong community, and a leader in local Unitarian Universalist church fellowships.* Both Jean and husband, David, who preceded Jean in death, were instrumental in bringing Prairie Lakes to fruition. David, Jean and other PLUUF founders were honored at a special service at Prairie Lakes back in September.

## Facility Updates

In November PLUUF switched from CenturyLink to Spectrum for our phone & internet needs. We now have faster internet and a savings of \$40 a month!

The "dynamic trio" painted the sanctuary ceiling!  
When you see **Linda DeCramer, Becky Feyen**  
and **Jessica French**, please thank them for a job well done.

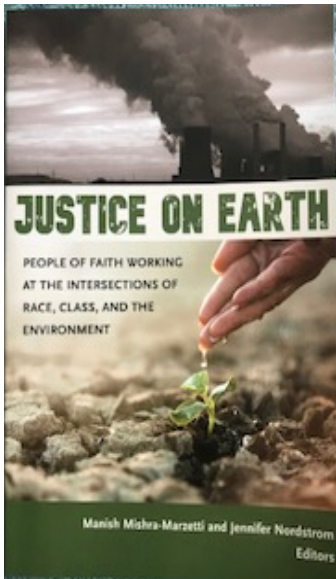




# In Case You Missed It In November

## ENGAGE Sunday November 4

### Book Discussion Led by



Conclusion of the book:  
*Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*

...We have shared examples of communities that have analyzed their local contexts and identified first moves on the path to living differently. These stories are examples within the frame of environmental justice. We must hold the big vision, the one just

beyond the horizon, of Beloved Community of humanity and nonhuman beings living in harmony with each other and the Earth, and begin to move toward it today, in our specific place, time, and community.

- Jennifer Nordstrom  
Editor of "Justice on the Earth"

## Worship Service November 11

### "Ground Hog Day: Have We Seen This Movie Before?"

Led by Rev. Jim Jaeger



Jim looked back over his sermons from prior years and was struck by the topics that never seem to quite get resolved: Refugee crises and how we respond to them; mass shootings in schools, churches, and public places; increasing incivility in our public and interpersonal conversations. Is there anything we can do to break this seemingly endless cycle? What role does our Unitarian Universalist faith serve in this quest?

## ENGAGE Sunday November 18

### "Paradise Tost" with Dave Harris



Prairie Lakes welcomed back our own Dave Harris for a reading from his soon-to-be-published novel *Paradise Tost*. Dave shared an excerpt titled "One of Us". This episode is a Thanksgiving hosted by Mrs. God, a recent convert to vegetarianism. The

result is she questioned what is a vegetarian when even plants are "alive". She served water and manna. It was very timely for our Thanksgiving holiday and, as promised, created a lively discussion regarding our human condition. (Editor's note: Dave has been working on his novel for a few years and continues to develop new episodes).

## Gratitude Service November 25

Led by Jill Stiemsma

Mary Pharmer, unfortunately, was unable to lead the November 25<sup>th</sup> service as scheduled. So Jill Stiemsma led a more traditional Gratitude Service, which included readings from our hymnal; special music by the PLUUF Singers; a Chalice Lighting honoring the earth for all it provides; and a Story for All Ages that highlighted the differences among members even of the same family and concluded with the children's version of UU's Seven Principles.





## Administrative Manager Report by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Judy Harris and I completed the Webster Grant application process to help fund our 2019 4<sup>th</sup> annual environmental kids camp. The topic this year, “Bees as Pollinators.”

A sleek, new brochure has been created to promote Prairie Lakes. We hope you will use it to spread the word about our small but vibrant church community. If you don’t receive one in the mail, please pick one up at PLUUF.

Hope to see you at our annual Festival of Lights event at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 20!

## Treasurer’s Report as of November 30, 2018 by Judy Harris



I write this on “Giving Tuesday” where a stack of envelopes from charities that I want to support await a decision. Much as I would like to, I cannot contribute to all of them; I must prioritize. Soon you will find that PLUUF, too, has sent an envelope to you along with a letter highlighting some of our accomplishments this past year. We have much to be proud of. And if you feel as I do—that there is much more we can do, please consider making PLUUF one of your giving priorities. While financial resources are what most groups request, there are other opportunities. Whether you are able to give a monthly amount of money, contribute to paying for a minister on Worship Sundays, support a summer camper, volunteer to present a service or help with yard and building clean-up, your gift will reinforce what we are doing and allow us to stretch our goals. Whether you send a check, make a monthly pledge, or write a note indicating how you would like to volunteer, you will be making PLUUF a priority in your life. Thank you.

	<b>November 2018</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
Income	\$1,849	\$8,178	\$34,321
Expenses	\$2,569	\$11,129	\$34,321

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

[tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

## Board of Directors\*

**Moderator:** Becky Feyen      **Secretary:** Linda DeCramer      **Treasurer:** Judy Harris  
**At Large Representative:** Pat Dobrinska      **At Large Representative:** Jessica French

## Staff Position

**Administrative Manager and Newsletter Editor:** Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Board meetings usually take place on the Monday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. If there is anything you’d like to put on the agenda, please contact Linda DeCramer [lindadecramer@yahoo.com](mailto:lindadecramer@yahoo.com) or Becky Feyen [r.feyen@yahoo.com](mailto:r.feyen@yahoo.com) at least one week in advance.