

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

[www.pluuf.org](http://www.pluuf.org)  
[info@PLUUF.org](mailto:info@PLUUF.org)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



J  
A  
N  
U  
A  
R  
Y

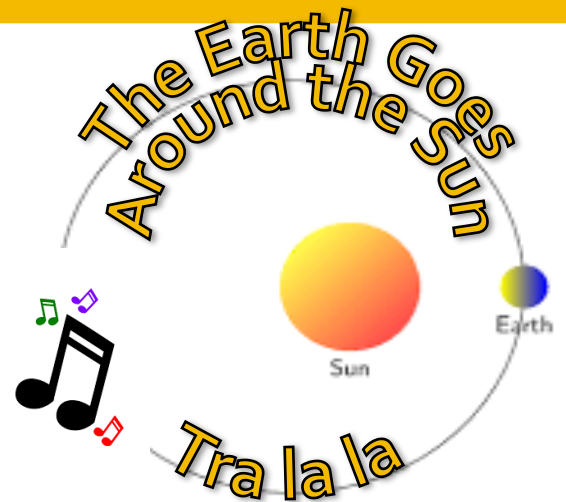
# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



2  
0  
1  
8

*We light this chalice for a fresh start.  
May this New Year spark new ideas  
and create lasting connections.*

## Calendar At-A-Glance



### **ENGAGE Sunday, January 7: 10:00 AM**

New Year Release & Renewal Ritual: Begin 2018 at Prairie Lakes with a tradition practiced by many religions & individuals. Led by Becky Feyen. (More information on page 5)

**Worship Service Sunday, January 14: 10:00 AM** PLUUF member Ellen Mueller will share a reflection on immigration. (More information on page 4)

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

**ENGAGE Sunday, January 21: 10:00 AM** Compassionate Conversations: This gathering will be a 'mini-workshop' combining the information from "The Seven Habits of Highly Depolarizing People" and various articles from UU Peacemakers & the UUA led by Becky Feyen. (More details on page 5)

**Worship Service Sunday, January 28: 10:00 AM** A reflection based on Martin Luther King Day by Becky Feyen. (More details on page 4)

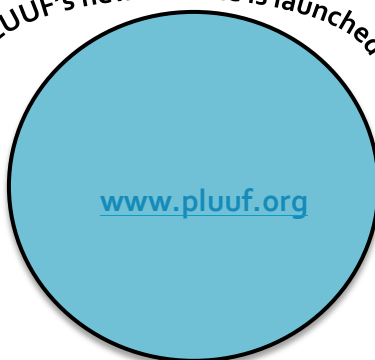
# Moments from 2017

Recap of ENGAGE and Worship Service Sundays on pages 4 & 5

Art & Service Auction raises \$3,000



PLUUF's new website is launched



2nd annual Kids Camp – Water is Life



6 New Members

Lee Barczak,  
Pat Dobrinska,  
Jessica French,  
Dave Harris,  
Kate Klumb  
Grace Matson

New laptop & projector



The birth of ENGAGE Sundays

Explore  
No Boundaries  
Gather  
Activism  
Go! Be the change  
Educate

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Annual meeting  
reveals PLUUF  
exceeded budgeted  
income and kept  
expenses below  
budget for 2016-17  
fiscal year ☺

Families United begin using  
PLUUF for weekly meetings



Festival of Lights



Remembering those we have lost in 2017...

Jean Johnson  
Linda Holloway  
Gil Knight  
Mary Brandt  
Daniel Weirwein



*You will always be in our hearts & memories*

## Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



Welcome 2018! WELCOME – WELCOME – WELCOME!!!

I am aware that the New Year is an arbitrary milestone; and it is likely that 2018 may not be that different from 2017, since so many things are beyond our control. This year I want & need to take a positive perspective of the New Year. We can use this transition from one calendar year to the next as an opportunity to move our attention from the heartbreak, frustration & negativity of 2017, & develop skills to manage in the changed environment of our lives. We need to raise our spirits, our energy, our resiliency, our compassion, our hope, our love....

I challenge you to create a 2018 that nurtures your soul, allows you to withstand the negativity and live with compassion – for yourself, and others. The only way our society will be changed is if we are diligent that our own thoughts, words, and actions align with the world we want. My hope is that Prairie Lakes will be a source of inspiration to develop a calm, energized, resilient, compassionate, hopeful, loving interior, to present to the world. I am in awe of the wonderful & caring people in our Fellowship. Together we can help each other be the light this world and we desperately need.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
Wishing you peace –

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



Jonah will continue to lead RE on worship service Sundays. With Jill Stiemsma's departure to El Salvador, the Luna boys will not be attending till spring. Jonah will be working with Molly and hopefully a new family or two will join us in the New Year.

January RE classes will focus on the 7 UU principles with a reading for the opening chalice lighting, followed by a lesson and a craft activity.

December's RE class included lessons highlighting 9 winter festivals including Chalice, Saint Lucia's Day, Kwanzaa, Los Posadas, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Diwali, Bodhi Day and Christmas. The children made swag wreaths as a craft activity.







## January Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

December provided yet another great month of services. Following the three services focused on Bruce Clear's Reflections, on December 10<sup>th</sup> I read portions of Richard Rohr's *The Naked Now* that intrigued members as much as it had me. And our Festival of Lights was beautiful. Thank you, again, to Tanya for putting this wonderful service together. And thank you, universe, for NOT drumming up a semi-snowstorm as initially predicted for that evening!

Our January services should be just as thought-provoking and interesting. Here goes:

**January 14:** We can hardly escape Trump's negative comments about immigrants (i.e., "they send the worst to us"). Many Americans believe that it's simple for immigrants to just wander aimlessly into the US without repercussions. Let Ellen Mueller explain the horrific process her family endured while trying to adopt two children from Laos. And THAT was before the Trump anti-immigration era. We need some specific stories to share when discussing immigration. This can be one of them. Thank you Ellen (and maybe Bruce).

**January 28:** It's that time of year again. So our Becky Feyen will lead a Reflection based on Martin Luther King Day. As all must certainly know, this administration's loyalty to neo-Nazis spurs greater threats to non-whites (and women, for that matter). Let's celebrate the potential for unity.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL!

## The Earth Goes Around the Sun Tra la la....

### 2017 Worship Services in Review (Services in blue are annual)

- 1/8 Brad Roost, *Humor Service*
- 1/22 Brian Smith, *Empathy*
- 2/12 Sara Goodman, *UU Identity in a Time of Crisis*
- 2/26 Ray Gurney, *Who is Your Neighbor?*
- 3/12 Ray Gurney, *Why Other Christians Don't Like Me*
- 3/26 Judy Harris, *Lighting the Flame Within*
- 4/9 Paul Jeffries, *Can Morality be Legislated?*
- 4/23 Jill Stiemsma, *How Can I Live My Spiritual Practice?*
- 5/14 Stephanie Prellwitz, *Lessons from My Mother (Earth)*
- 5/28 Bradley Siebel, *Growth, Mindset and Being in Tune with Signs of the Times*
- 6/11 *Flower Communion*
- 6/25 Myron Eschowsky, *Using Shamanic Powers for Good*
- 7/9 Michael Ketterhagen, *The Vedic Tradition and Peace in the World*
- 7/23 Jean Bruce, *The Humanist in Me*
- 8/13 Brother Steve Herro, *Caring for our Common Home*
- 8/27 Brian Smith, *Misusing the Bible to Bash LGBTQ*
- 9/10 *Water Sharing AND Harvest Fest*
- 9/24 Pat Dobrinska *The Theist in Me*
- 10/8 Tracy McDermott, *Nature Sustains and Creates Community*
- 10/22 Jim Jaeger, *The Conundrum of Immigration*
- 11/12 Jessica French *The Christian in Me*
- 11/26 *Expressions of Gratitude*
- 12/10 Jill Stiemsma, Excerpts from Richard Rohr's *The Naked Now*





## 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> ENGAGE Sundays by Becky Feyen



**January 7, 2018** - New Year Release & Renewal Ritual: Begin 2018 at Prairie Lakes with a tradition practiced by many religions & individuals; the UUA even has information for a New Year Releasing Ritual. As we enter this new year, we will take a final glimpse of the past year, and reckon with all that it held for us. Then we will look forward with intention and hope. The morning will include meditations, a ritual to let go of the concerns from 2017 & intentions for 2018. The purpose of the gathering is to 'reboot' ourselves and go out into the world with a hope & compassion.



**January 21** - Compassionate Conversations: This gathering will be a 'mini-workshop' combining the information from "The Seven Habits of Highly Depolarizing People" and various articles from UU Peacemakers & the UUA. Becky Feyen joined a few members of the Ripon Area Ministers Association for a presentation of "The Seven Habits of Highly Depolarizing People", which was followed up with a panel discussion at Ripon College. The intent of this presentation & discussion, is to reinforce and enhance our ability to maintain conversations with people of opposing views or gracefully exit the conversation. Ultimately, I hope we can be part of the solution, to the binary views and polarization of our society. When we listen & speak with grace, we 'raise the bar' of our relationships & community.

## The Earth Goes Around the Sun Tra la la.... 2017 ENGAGE Sundays in Review

1/1, 1/15 & 1/29 Book Discussion: *A Peoples History of the United States* by Howard Zinn led by **Pat Dobrinska**

2/5 **Joanne Norton** led meditation instruction

2/19 **Gil & Mary Knight** presented the 1<sup>st</sup> of a 4-part documentary titled, *Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds*

3/5 **Gil Knight** presented *Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds. Part II: The Spiral*

3/19 Guest speakers from the Islamic Center of Wisconsin

4/2 *Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds Part III: The Serpent and the Lotus* presented by **Becky Feyen** with **Jim Goyette's** audio/visual assistance.

4/16 Conclusion of *Inner Worlds, Outer Worlds Part IV: Beyond Thinking*

4/30 **Kat Griffith** facilitates *Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change*

5/21 **Becky Feyen** led a presentation & discussion concerning issues in the forefront of the UUA.

6/4 & 6/18 & 7/2 Book discussion: *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

7/23 PLUUF Kids Camp planning day

7/30 Off-site gathering: Potluck picnic at **Dave & Judy Harris's** lake house in Neshkoro. A celebration of summer, the completion of camp, and the pleasure that water offers all of us."

8/6 TED talk by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks: *How We Can Face the Future Without Fear – Together.*

8/20 **Jerry Davidson** shared his experiences from conferences he attended all over the country. *The conferences were about the problems affecting the world: climate change, environmental destruction, GMO's, fracking, racism, and much more.*

9/3 **Daniel Weirwein** shared his ideas on *The Three Stages of Christianity.*

9/17 You Tube video of Rev. Dr. William Barber declaring at the UUA General Assembly that *Hate, Discrimination, and Violence cannot have the 1<sup>st</sup>, Last, and Loudest Word.*

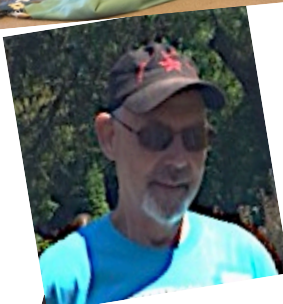
10/1 & 10/15 **Judy Harris** showed a video and led a discussion on *Oceans of Garbage*

11/5 & 11/19 Book Discussion led by **Pat Dobrinska**: *Climate of Hope* by Michael Bloomberg & Carl Pope

12/3 Special service honoring the memory of **Daniel Weirwein**

12/17 Conclusion of book discussion: *Climate of Hope*

12/31 Off-site gathering: Indoor/outdoor winter gathering at the **Schwartz /Roeper** home in Green Lake.



# NEW BOOK DISCUSSION WILL BEGIN IN FEBRUARY!

ENGAGE Sundays in February (Feb. 4 and 18) feature a book discussion of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind* led by Jeromy French. The book is divided into 4 parts: 1) Cognitive Revolution; 2) Agricultural Revolution; 3) The Unification Of Humankind; and 4) Scientific Revolution followed by an "Afterword: The end of Homo Sapiens—the animal that became a god."

## Treasurer's Report as of December 29, 2017 by Tanya Schwartz Roeper

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

	Current Month	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$6,578	\$13,311.04	\$27,340
Expenses	\$614.77	\$8,483.81	\$27,340

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request: [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

BMO Checking	\$29,740.04	Operating Fund
BMO Savings	\$10,907.40	Short term Vision Fund
UUCEF*	\$46,439.77	Long term Vision Fund
	\$87,087.21	

\*Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:lindadecramer@yahoo.com) or Becky Feyen [r.feyen@yahoo.com](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)