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# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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The annual water sharing ceremony combined with the Harvest Festival. See page 6 for a recap.



Honoring the Conovers while celebrating the making of our spiritual home at PLUUF.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Sunday, October 7: 10:00 AM ENGAGE Sunday** "The Life and Hard Times of Bonnie Wagner" presented by beloved PLUUF member Bonnie Wagner. (Details on page 4)

**Sunday, October 14: 10:00 AM Worship Service** We welcome the return of Michael Ketterhagen, Professor of Theology and the current Director of Fond du Lac's Center for Spirituality and Healing. He will lead a service titled "People Get Ready." (Details on page 3)

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

**Sunday, October 21: 10:00 AM ENGAGE Sunday** A new book discussion begins! (See page 4 for details)

**Sunday, October 28: 10:00 AM Worship Service** Keziah Love will lead a service about "Healing the Scars." (See page 3 for details)



## Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

Oh my, here we are in October! I hope you all are not as astounded as I am that we are into the 'double-digit' months. This is the time of year I freak out about what I have not yet accomplished this year & the impending holidays. (Fortunately, I do not 'buy-into' the holiday expectations as much as I used to – kind of.) Yes, there is so much unfinished work at Prairie Lakes, but we will get there – please hang in there with us. I believe I have written a similar line to the last one, almost every year, possibly multiple times a year – sorry, that is how my life rolls & it obviously carries over everywhere. Good intentions with poor follow-through or too many ideas to accomplish anything.

I am striving to ensure that we follow through with all our ideas, while fulfilling the needs of each other. Somehow all the various aspirations should create a cohesive message/meaning/mood (I wanted to maintain the M's). Fortunately we have an amazing board of directors with the same vision. Our committee co-chairs have quite a load of responsibilities as well, which must evolve to meet the needs of our Fellowship. It is crucial that we identify & accomplish what is most important to the wellbeing of our group, as a whole and on an individual basis. To further develop & support our committees, the board is requesting a monthly chat session with committee chairpersons on 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. This will be a great opportunity to join forces, define our needs & take actions that will accomplish our vision for Prairie Lakes.

One of my responsibilities as Moderator is attending Ripon Area Ministers Association (RAMA) meetings. This is one of those commitments I am struggling to justify our/my participation in. I presented that the board of directors had decided/agreed that RAMA does not add value to our limited time & resources. I have gleaned several ideas from the group; but most of the projects & programs do not align with what Prairie Lakes is about or is interested enough to participate (e.g. Prayer Breakfast & Baccalaureate Service). I am conflicted about walking away from this group (mostly because I am not a quitter). Even though I do not want to attend the meetings, I have decided (while writing this) that right now I will continue – wait, maybe not – HELP! I am confused. There is a level of community exposure (Ripon City Meeting Invocation & the community of ministers), but I am not sure it is worth it to our Fellowship. The overriding issue is that I also do not feel confident in this environment. I do not believe I am the best person to represent Prairie Lakes within a group of ministers. So, is there anyone willing to attend 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday or Thursday RAMA meetings at Ripon hospital at either 11:00 or 12:00 (changing the day/time is being addressed)? If you want me to continue, I will; I always want to do what is best for Prairie Lakes & each of you.

Thank you for hanging in there with us.

Wishing you a wonderful fall –

Becky

## CALLING ALL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS!! by Becky Feyen

The board of directors would like to have a monthly chat session 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays after service. We can adjust the time, but we will begin with 11:15 – 11:45 on October 28. This is an opportunity to have one-on-one with your liaison & other members of the board. We are hoping to improve communication & support between the various functions of our Fellowship.

The good news is this: With 2 chairpersons per committee, just one needs to be present. There is also the option of contacting your liaison prior to the meeting so she (Jessica or Pat D.) can represent your committee. In the first meeting you will finally receive the committee descriptions updated for 2018/19, which includes your budget – yeah, we are on it ☺

Liaison 1 – Jessica French [jes7o@hotmail.com](mailto:jes7o@hotmail.com) Care & Concern | Community Outreach & Membership | Facility

Liaison 2 – Pat Dobrinska [pat.painting@gmail.com](mailto:pat.painting@gmail.com) Worship Service | ENGAGE Sunday | Religious Ed

Please contact Becky [r.feyen@yahoo.com](mailto:r.feyen@yahoo.com) if you have additional questions or concerns – THANK YOU!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> October Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

September started off with a bang with our joint Water Sharing/Harvest Festival service: Thank you, all, for your generous food contributions and thank you, Roosts, for taking them to local food programs. What a wonderful tribute to David and Jean Conover as well as to other PLUUF founders who joined us for the special service on 9/16. Thank you, Tanya, for organizing this very amazing event; and, thank you, PLUUF Singers and soloists (Linda and Laird), for sharing your talents and enthusiasm. Finally, bless your heart, Ray Gurney, for quickly agreeing to lead the service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when our original plans fell through! We PLUUFers form one heck of a good team, don't we????

**Sunday, October 14:** Many of you may remember Michael Ketterhagen who led previous PLUUF services usually focused on Eastern religious philosophies (Taoism in particular). On this Sunday, however, he will focus instead on "People Get Ready" as we near a most critical election. Michael is a former Marion University Professor of Theology and the current Director of FdL's Center for Spirituality and Healing.

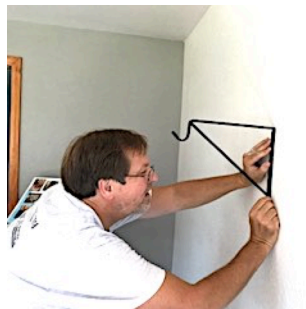
And then come for Second Sunday Potluck!

**Sunday, October 28:** Keziah Love started the Milwaukee group Healing Scars which focuses on healing the scars of sexual abuse. Now, while also earning her Masters of Social Work, she's employed by the FdL Police Dept. Part of her work naturally centers around serving victims of sexual abuse as well as of human trafficking. She has a most interesting story to share, so we hope you'll be able to join us.

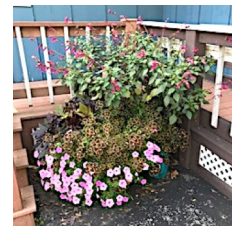
## FACILITY UPDATES



**Thank you** to Handy Randy Roeper for installing the coat rack, 7 Principles sign and name tag holder in the entryway.



**Thank you** to Beth Howman Combs for planting such a beautiful array of flowers in the pot near the entry steps back in June. They are still stunning!



**Thank you** to Sully DeCramer for mowing the grounds and keeping our outdoor space beautiful spring, summer and fall.

**Thank you** to Becky & Kip for installing the sensor lights to the building. Safety, safety, safety ☺





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



**ENGAGE Sunday, October 7** - "The Life & Hard Times of Bonnie Wagner" Our very own Bonnie will lead us through a story of life. Bonnie is a wonderful storyteller, with amazing insights and, dare we say, a comic presentation. Please join us as we share snippets from the eclectic life of Bonnie Wagner.



**ENGAGE Sunday, October 21** - Book discussion begins! Each year at its General Assembly in June, UUA members pick a book that is suggested as a "common read" in its churches and fellowships. This year's UUA Common Read Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment appears to be relevant and readable. Edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti & Jennifer Nordstrom, its length and study guide are other pluses. Thanks to Don VanScotter's research in putting together a list of possible reads; we have many excellent choices for future book discussions. Please contact Becky or Judy if you are interested in purchasing Justice on Earth.... (approx. \$18.00 + shipping). Books will be available if you prefer to borrow rather than purchase.

"At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, *Justice on Earth* explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. Those on the margins are invariably those most affected by climate disaster and environmental toxins. The book asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth and for all life. It invites us to look at our current challenges through a variety of different perspectives, offers tools to equip us for sustained engagement, and proposes multiple pathways for follow-up action."

**ENGAGE Sunday, November 7** - Book discussion continues (if needed we have the flexibility to continue through November 18<sup>th</sup>).

**ENGAGE Sundays, November 18 through December** - The New UU PLUUF Version. The UUA developed a program which "provides important tools to help congregations welcome, orient, and integrate newcomers into their faith communities. The program addresses the needs of newcomers who want to know more about who we are and what we believe. It provides opportunities for current friends and members to share what it means to them to be a Unitarian Universalist. It gives newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage...." PLEASE NOTE: Essential to this class are both "new" and "current" PLUUF friends and members. The curriculum will be modified to meet PLUUF's time frame and needs.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER Robyn Davis Bartow





On September 16 we welcomed back PLUUF's founders while honoring the memory of Dave & Jean Conover. Keynote speakers were PLUUF's founders: Marjorie Kenyon-Cler, David & Karen Williams and Barbara Lukas. Thank you to Jill and the PLUUF Singers for performing our closing song, "We are Unitarians, We are Universalists". Thank you to Ellen Mueller for reading opening words and to Dave Harris for reading the Conover's favorite reading, "Out of the Stars". Thank you to everyone who shared memories and thoughts. Thank you to all who contributed to the potluck lunch. We are GRATEFUL to everyone who attended this very special event or joined us in spirit.





# In Case You Missed It In September

## ENGAGE Sunday, September 2 Ware Lecture video with Krista Tippett

The video of the Ware Lecture given by Krista Tippett, General Assembly 2016, titled “Mystery and the Art of Living,” was shown and followed by discussion. Krista is an author, radio show host and journalist.

The “art of living” is another way to talk about “practices of faith”—virtues—the being and doing of spiritual life that our world so desperately needs in the 21st Century, now as much as ever before. She described how she’s come to think of beauty as a core moral value—a kind of litmus test for whether something is of God; and a quality we should seek as essential to vitality of life. She explained how she’s learned from scientists and artists as much as spiritual thinkers about the inevitability of failure in life, of the necessity of improvisation—and the mystery that our flaws and failings are at the heart of our capacity to be present to the world with all its flaws and failings.

## Worship Service September 9 Water Sharing/Harvest Fest



Once again we combined two very significant services into one. We shared our summer journeys and thoughts during the water sharing ceremony and contributed a bounty of fresh vegetables to celebrate the Harvest Festival. Thank you to Jill for coordinating this memorable service with special readings, music and tradition.



Thank you to the Roost family for taking the harvest bounty to the Berlin Food Pantry.

## Worship Service September 23 With Ray Gurney *The Secret Teachings of Jesus: The Gospel of Thomas*



Ray is an ordained minister in the Federation of Christian Ministries. The Gospel of Thomas is an early Christian non-canonical sayings gospel. Many scholars, including Ray, believe it provides insight into the oral gospel traditions. The Gospel of Thomas was discovered in Egypt in 1945. Ray’s opening words were taken from John Dominic Crossan. Who is Jesus? Answers to Your Questions About the Historical Jesus, “My point, once again, is not that those ancient people told literal stories and we are now smart enough to take them symbolically, but that they told them symbolically and we are now dumb enough to take them literally.” The Gospel of Thomas is not a narrative account of the life of Jesus; instead, it consists of sayings attributed to Jesus.

Thank you to Rev. Ray Gurney for filling in on short notice to lead this service after our original plan fell through.



As I complete the first quarter of our fiscal year as PLUUF's Administrative Manager, I want to say THANK YOU to the friends and members of Prairie Lakes for this wonderful opportunity. I find this job to be spiritually nurturing while satisfying my need to create and organize.

Always budget conscious we explored ways to offset the expense of the Wade Fernandez event PLUUF is bringing to Ripon College on Sunday, December 2, at 1 p.m. If you or your business would like to sponsor this event there, is still time. \$50-\$100 will get your name in the advertising leading up to the event and also in the follow-up editorial in the local newspaper. So far, Pat Dobrinska, DeCramer Landscaping, Saving Grace Salvage, Video Age Productions and Knuth's Brewery are sponsoring this event. Thank you!

Please contact Pat Dobrinska [pat.painting@gmail.com](mailto:pat.painting@gmail.com) or [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) if you'd like to become a sponsor.

## Treasurer's Report as of September 29, 2018 by Judy Harris



Under Becky's leadership, our Fellowship's Board has set a fiscal goal that offers Financial stability: At the end of each fiscal year, we plan the next year's budget based on the amount of money in our checking account. In other words, our goal is to have enough money in our checking account at the end of a fiscal year to meet the budgetary needs for the upcoming year. Note also that we have a "Vision" savings in the Golden Rule Savings Account of a little over \$15,000 and Assets of \$48,458 in a UUA investment account. Unless there is an emergency of significant cost, we Plan to keep these accounts growing rather than use them in an annual budget.

Below is a snapshot of our finances for the first quarter of our new 2018/19 fiscal year:

	August 2018	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,534	\$3,877	\$34,321
Expenses	\$2,548	\$6,772	\$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.