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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Sunday, September 9

Water Sharing/In-Gathering AND
Harvest Fest!

We will "rejoin" each other and re-commit to our fellowship via the Water Sharing while celebrating the bounty of the season. All food will be donated to the Ripon Food Pantry.

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Sunday, September 16

Celebrating the birth of Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in a special service honoring PLUUF founders Dave & Jean Conover. More information on page 4.

Calendar At-A-Glance

ENGAGE Sunday, September 2, 10:00 AM: The video of the Ware Lecture given by Krista Tippett, General Assembly 2016, titled "Mystery and the Art of Living" will be shown with discussion to follow. Krista is an author, radio show host and journalist.

Worship Service Sunday, September 9, 10:00 AM: Our annual Water Service and Harvest Festival! Please bring produce to share. More information on page 3.

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

ENGAGE Sunday, September 16, 10:00 AM: Special event celebrating the birth of Prairie Lakes by sharing memories of PLUUF founders Dave & Jean Conover. Special guests include PLUUF founders Marjorie Kenyon-Cler, Barbara Lukas, and David & Karen Williams.

Please stay after the event for a potluck gathering. More details on page 4.

Worship Service Sunday, September 23, 10:00 AM: Professor Steve Miller from Ripon College.

5th Sunday, September 30: 5th Sunday Work FUNday :) As is our routine for 5th Sunday we hope you will help us do a little cleaning & maintenance inside &/or outside. Supervisors are welcome to hang out & provide moral support. (Details page 4)

Every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. Families United meets at PLUUF. Families United is a support group open to anyone who has been affected by addiction. These meetings are open to the public.



Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

You may not realize that July began a new church year for Prairie Lakes – fiscal year & the change of board members based on elections from our Annual Meeting in May. The reason I am addressing this now is that we are 2 months into the ‘New Year’, & I am struggling to achieve my administrative goals & establishing a focus for our Fellowship. You see, I want to create a community of support, information & activities that will keep our group vibrant. I want you to be excited about & challenged by what is happening at Prairie Lakes.

The thing is, as a small group we need your input & help – yeah, sorry I had to sneak in the help part. The good thing is, the help we need from you will likely be something you are interested in or will inspire new activities/achievements. Mostly, we request that you to communicate with & support our committee chairpersons. We want to know we are doing what is needed. I want our committees to be connected to what is happening. Communication & involvement are essential to creating a dynamic Prairie Lakes community. If you see something or know someone needs assistance, please help us to make that happen. We also need your input & participation to create programming that appeals & challenges you. If you have time (or not) to take on or participate a project, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Liaison Representatives-At-Large are another source to notify & share ideas. They are the go-between for committees & the board of directors. The liaisons assist committee chairpersons with expectations & board or directors’ support.

Liaison for committees below – Jessica French	Liaison for committees below – Pat Dobrinska
Care & Concern – Bonnie Wagner & Beth Howman-Combs	<u>Worship Service</u> – Jill Stiemsma
<u>Community Outreach/Membership</u> – Eric Bartelme & Ellen Mueller (Communications – Jim Goyette)	<u>Religious Education Adult</u> – Judy Harris <u>Religious Education Children</u> – Becky Feyen
<u>Facility</u> – Laird DeCramer & Brad Roost	<u>ENGAGE Sunday</u> – Judy Harris & Becky Feyen

If any of the above areas interest you, please contact a committee chair or liaison.

I am giving you all a huge - THANK YOU - for voting to add the paid Administrative Manager position. Tanya has really stepped up to coordinate information & tasks - all those critical aspects of creating & promoting our services & events. Unfortunately (or fortunately) for Tanya, I have pretty much abandoned her because she is ‘making it happen’.

Please share & participate in your vision for Prairie Lakes. It is a busy & complicated world; the best we can do is to be present for & help each other – that is my vision for Prairie Lakes.

Take good care & share –
Becky

Fall Book Discussion October 21, November 4 and 18 by Judy Harris

Suggestions are welcome for a book to read this fall. Don VanScotter is sending a list of suggestions via email; if you do not receive it by Sept. 3rd, please contact him at devs2@uwalumni.com.

Here is one suggestion: Each year at the General Assembly the UUA recommends a “common read.” This year the book is **Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class and Environment** by Manish Mishra-Marzetti & Jennifer Nordstrom. The UUA World magazine says, “**Justice on Earth** 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.” This might be a valuable book to choose.

Please voice your opinion and let Judy Harris know if you like this book choice, one of Don’s or if you have one of your own to propose.

September Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma



As summer winds down, we look back in gratitude to all those who led such inspirational services: A communal Flower Communion, an amazing art service featuring the work of Green Lake students, and a look back at the impact of the 60's (including its music), all of which provoked engrossing discussion. Most recently, we were blessed with local poetry (thanks, Tom Montag) and readings by our own author Dave Harris – what can we say about his talent, dry humor, and perspectives! And, thank you to all of you for your continued support of our Sunday services. As you know, summer services can see fairly limited attendance. But with good advertising (thanks, Tanya, Becky, and Eric) and interest (thanks all of you), we've held our own this summer.

So, here we go, marching into fall 2018 with these services:

Sunday, September 9: As per our UU tradition, we celebrate two customs this Sunday: Our In-Gathering (also called the “Water Service”) and our Harvest Festival. The former celebrates the transition from summer vacations, family gatherings, etc., that pull us away from PLUUF and recommits us to our members and friends here at PLUUF. The latter reminds us of our gratefulness for the bounty provided by the Pacha Mama – how fortunate, for example, that Becky could bring her excess produce to pass on to us. Now we ask that all of you bring your bounty to PLUUF to share with those who have less: If you don't have a garden but have access to a Farmer's Market, bring produce from there. If you can't do either, we'll gladly accept canned goods which are always needed as well. All contributions will be passed on to local food pantries.

And then bring more food for Second Sunday Potluck! See ya!

Sunday, September 16: As discussed on page 4 of this newsletter, we are hosting a special service to honor the work of our UU forebears, and the Conovers in particular. Also, we will welcome the return of many PLUUF founders. Come learn about our local history.

Sunday, September 23: If you recall, at the end of Dan Wehrwein's life, he felt his two closest friends were Professor Steve Miller of Ripon College and me. Unfortunately, Steve was unable to attend Dan's Memorial Service though he shared an eloquent eulogy. Now he takes this opportunity to address our congregation by leading this service. More details to follow.

Enjoy the change of seasons, all. See ya at PLUUF!

In Case You Missed August Worship Services



A referral by PLUUF member Elisabeth Beuthin led us to Tom Montag. Tom led the August 12 service titled “Poets Praying”. Tom is a poet and essayist who has taught workshops. Some have said there is a mystical element in his poetry; he says he's just trying to see the world. Tom notes that he lives in the big red house in Fairwater with Mary, his wife of nearly 49 years, and too many cats!



Beloved PLUUF members Dave and Judy Harris led our August 26 worship service. Dave read portions from his long-promised novel, *Paradise Tost*, a comedy about the struggle between The Lord and Lucifer for control of Haven.

- Reading #1: *Before Creation*
#2: *Creation Has Its Mosquitoes*
#3: *Yonson and Yonson*
#4: *Centre of the Universe*



September ENGAGE Sundays

ENGAGE SUNDAY September 2: The video of the Ware Lecture given by Krista Tippett, General Assembly 2016, titled “Mystery and the Art of Living” will be shown with discussion to follow. Krista is an author, radio show host and journalist.



Program Description:

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. I’ve become intrigued by unexpected themes that have arisen in my life of conversation—religious wisdom that reveals itself in fresh and compelling language, from fresh and compelling angles. So, for example, I’ve 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. I’ve also 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.

ENGAGE SUNDAY September 16, 10:00 AM: We’ll be celebrating the birth of Prairie Lakes by celebrating the life of Dave & Jean Conover. Back in 2001 the 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 and move to Ripon as the Prairie Lakes Fellowship. PLUUF founder Marjorie Kenyon-Cler writes, “PLUUF wouldn’t exist without their steadfast commitment to keeping the Oshkosh Fellowship alive for many, many years, their encouragement to relocate the congregation to Ripon in 1990, and their continuing support of the “new” Fellowship throughout the ensuing years, until health issues intervened.” This event will highlight Dave and Jean’s exemplary life, a couple living out UU principles over the span of a lifetime. Special guests will include PLUUF founders Marjorie Kenyon-Cler, Barbara Lukas and Dave & Karen Williams. Potluck lunch to follow. Please don’t miss this very special event!



(Editors note: David passed away on March 2, 2018. Jean, who currently lives in Oshkosh, is under skilled nursing care and unable to attend the event).

5th Sunday, September 30, 10:00 AM: 5th Sunday Work FUNday :)

As is our routine for 5th Sunday, we hope you will help us do a little cleaning & maintenance inside &/or outside. Supervisors are welcome to hang out & provide moral support.

- As always there is cleaning inside - dusting, washing, sweeping, vacuuming, etc.
- Our indoor plants would enjoy larger pots & fresh soil - both will be provided (please let Becky know if you have either to donate).
- Outside there is always sweeping, weeding, windows, etc.
- The hostas on the north side of the building could be split & spread out to reduce the mowing - mulch, mulch, mulch - Becky can provide straw to be topped with fancy mulch.
- Linda & Becky will organize a team to finish painting inside on another day. If all goes well & we have a long beautiful fall, we need to tackle some outside painting as well.



Photos from the last 5th Sunday →

In Case you missed the Fox Valley Islamic Society Interfaith Gathering



At least a dozen PLUUFer's attended the 19th Annual Interfaith Gathering in Neenah on August 5.

out the presentations by reminding us that there is no debate about the essence of God even as we converse about God and Truth. The remaining speakers were Imam Alhagie Jallow of Madison, WI, and Brother Steve Herro, a member of the St. Norbert Abbey.

The afternoon concluded with a delicious time of food and fellowship in a refreshed mood of appreciation among the nearly 200 guests. When the Fox Valley Islamic Society invites people of good will to next year's event, I hope you will consider an all-in afternoon

—Chris Quello, retired Lutheran pastor

Where else in recent memory could one be in on four scintillating presentations all on the same afternoon. Such was the good fortune of all who acted upon the invitation to participate in the 19th INTERFAITH GATHERING of the Fox Valley Islamic Society. The focus was on TRUTH. The invitation was one of calling us "to look up, listen up, speak up and stand up."

Diversity in look and in understanding was on display. What was also there for all to see was an effort to be both honest and accepting. Two of the speakers focused on the importance of seeking guidance in our behaviors, mindful of the teachings of the 8th commandment. Pastor Dione Miller of Trinity Lutheran in Waupaca, WI led off the conversation with this reminder of the critical importance of being open and

fair as we seek truth where the starting points come from different understandings. Dr. Robert Kramer, a professor of Middle Eastern history at St. Norbert College, closed

In Case You Missed Jackie Dobrinska on August 19



Creation Spirituality

In this beautiful, unique service we were seated in a circle around a beautiful altar created by Jackie (see photo on left). We called in the directions, released the directions, we sang, chanted, meditated and learned about the Four Fold Path of Creation Spirituality:

1. Via Positiva 2. Via Negativa 3. Via Creativa 4. Via Transformativa

Jacquelyn Dobrinska is an ordained minister through the Jubilee!, an inclusive creative spiritual community that celebrates the divine mystery in all of creation. Jackie spent the past two decades immersed in the mystical traditions of the prophets - Vedanta and Tantric Yoga, esoteric Kabbalah and Christianity, and Peruvian, Native American and Western European Female-Based Shamanism. Her Jubilee! ministry is to support the health of the individual and the community, allowing each person to cultivate their great gladness and creatively connect to others, so that together, we can be agents of positive

change that benefit the Earth and all of its creations. Jackie is also a beloved holistic health educator, wise woman practitioner and internationally recognized teacher, sharing mind-body health wisdom at universities, hospitals and retreat centers around the country. She lives in Asheville, NC.



Interested in learning more about Creation Spirituality? The Rev. Dr. Penny Andrews may start a quarterly group focused on Creation Spirituality. We collected the emails of those interested in exploring this potential opportunity. If you want to be included in Penny's updates, please let Jill Stiemsma know at jstiemsma@icloud.com.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Judy Harris has developed and coordinated our one-day summer environmental kids camp for the past 3 years. Thank you, Judy! She has resigned from her post and we're looking for a new coordinator for 2019. Duties include:

- Develop lessons plans and a schedule for the 1-day event
- Recruit and communicate with volunteer teachers and craft leaders
- Recruit and communicate with food prep volunteers
- Promote the event with flyers and brochures to recruit approximately 20 children.
- Oversee the 1-day event from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and assist with clean-up if needed.

Many experienced environmental camp volunteers will assist the camp coordinator in his/her new role!

Contact Tanya for more information: tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report as of August 25, 2018 by Judy Harris



As we continue to hone our Community Outreach, a side benefit has occurred: On July 9 and August 19th not only was attendance record breaking, but the offering from each of those services also broke records.

Summer Camp financial report: Summer Camp expenses totaled \$528.49 for food, project materials, local park rental, misc., and the performer. Our Webster Foundation Grant paid almost half of our expenses.

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

Please note the difference between income and expenses this past month.

	August 2018	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$916	\$2,343.70	\$34,321
Expenses	\$2596.42	\$4,224.12	\$34,321

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:** 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 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.