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# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Thursday,  
December 19 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

**ENGAGE Sunday, December 1 1:00 PM** PLUUF member Dave Harris will read several episodes from his long-promised novel "Paradise Tost". Yes, it's "Tost" not "Lost" ☺

**Worship Service Sunday, December 8: 10:00 AM** Michael Ketterhagen of the Center for Spirituality and Healing in Fond du Lac will lead this service. More details on page 3.

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

**ENGAGE Sunday, December 15: 10:00 AM** Professor of Philosophy Emeritus Robert (Spud) Hannaford of Ripon College will lead a presentation, *Universality of the Golden Rule as an Ethical Rule*

**Thursday, December 19: 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 and bring guests!

*Please Note: Families United usually uses PLUUF as a meeting place on Thursday nights but will meet at the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter instead on 12/19. Families United is a support group open to anyone who has been affected by addiction. These meetings are open to the public.*

**Sunday, December 22: 10 AM** Seasonal hymns and readings with Jill Stiemsma

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, December 29, 11 AM – 2 PM:** Indoor/outdoor gathering at the Schwartz/Roeper home in Green Lake. Stop by for 5 min. or stay for a few hours. Hike/snowshoe/ski the maple woods; watch football; play a game of Ping-Pong; or just hang out, relax and socialize. Soup and cider will be served. Feel free to bring a dish to pass and beverage of your choice.

## Collection for the Ripon Food Pantry



For the month of December, a box will be in the entry at PLUUF to collect items or money for the Ripon Food Pantry. Please consider making a donation. Here are a few suggestions:

- Nut butters, including peanut, almond & walnut
- Canned fish, such as tuna or salmon
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Canned or boxed soups & stews
- Pureed foods, such as sweet potato, pumpkin and applesauce
- Consider a monetary donation

## What Is Chalica?

Chalica is a week-long celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. The holiday first emerged in 2005 out of a wish to have a holiday organized around Unitarian Universalist values.

Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day, a chalice is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. Not all Unitarian Universalists celebrate Chalica, but it has a growing following. There is a Chalica Facebook page, blog, and many Chalica-themed videos on YouTube. Find out more about Chalica at Prairie Lakes Festival of Lights event. See below:



### Prairie Lakes

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*proudly presents*

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

**Thursday, December 19**

**Doors open at 6:30**

**Program begins at 7:00 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



Once again, the month has just flown by. Thank you so much to Ann and Greg Hermann for leading a November service focused on Native American Spirituality. Because members were so excited by their service, we will ask them back! Thank you to all who participated in our annual Gratitude Service on November 24 as well.

And now we head into December, if you can believe it! Here goes:

**Sunday, December 8, 10 AM:** We enthusiastically welcome back Michael Ketterhagen, former Theology Professor at Marian University. Given the season, Michael will lead a Reflection on how the Christian message might resonate with UU members. His theme should generate good discussion....followed, of course, by Second Sunday Potluck!

**Thursday, December 19, doors open at 6:30 PM and program begins at 7 PM:** Welcome, all, to our annual evening service, the Festival of Lights! This service, a favorite among favorites, honors many of the holiday traditions celebrated this time of year.

**Sunday, December 22, 10 AM:** Let's celebrate the holiday season with some seasonal hymns and readings. To Be Determined: We'll see if we have enough singers for some special PLUUF music as well.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, December 29, 11 AM – 2 PM:** Indoor/outdoor gathering at the Schwartz/Roeper home in Green Lake. Stop by for 5 min. or stay for a few hours. Hike/snowshoe/ski the maple woods; watch football; play a game of Ping-Pong; or just hang out, relax and socialize. Soup and cider will be served. Feel free to bring a dish to pass and beverage of your choice. Address: W907 Scott Hill Road, Ripon (It's Green Lake but a Ripon address). Please e-mail Tanya at [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) if you need directions.

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

# Holiday Greetings from Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



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



**Sunday, December 1, 10 AM:** Dave Harris expects to read several new episodes from his great novel-in-progress PARADISE TOST (a distorted view of the struggle between the Lord and Lucifer for control of Haven) at ENGAGE Sunday at PLUUF Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. Imaginary readers claim it is “funnier than Dante’s ‘Divine Comedy’” and shorter than Tolstoy’s ‘War And Peace’; and vice-versa.” One chapter reveals how Female Angels gain the right to vote. Dave also plans to read “One of Us,” his Thanxgiven classic about a vegetarian feast in Haven. Sounds scrumptious!

-Judy Harris

**ENGAGE Sunday, December 15, 10 AM:** The Golden Rule – During this time of year, with so many religions celebrating their beliefs with various traditions; we will take a look at how The Golden Rule is part of many religious texts. What is it, to live by The Golden Rule? We will also address the complexity of The Golden Rule – the positive vs. negative | “...as YOU would...” – I am sure our group will share more ideas, suggestions and concerns.

-Becky Feyen

## Sending Healing Thoughts this Holiday Season



PLUUF member, Audrey George, had a heart attack on November 16. She had a stent put in and is home resting. She writes, “All my daughters are here helping. Give

my love to all and please have them send healing thoughts.”

Sending healing thoughts and lots of love your way, Audrey! Wishing you a quick recovery!



After a recent bout with illness that delayed knee surgery, PLUUF member, Tom Zuhlke, now has a new knee! Tom writes, “I had a successful surgery on Nov 14. The first two days had over

and under medication problems, but I just stayed with accurate reporting to the nursing staff. So now I have 2-3 months of rehabilitation at home and the hospital. The exercises are very arduous. I am to limit my exposure to the public and families. Any cold virus or bacterial infections would go straight to the knee surgery! Peace to all! Shalom!”



# In Case You Missed It In November

**ENGAGE Sunday November 3 & 17**

***Digging Deeper into Myth: Forbidden Archeology***  
**With Allen Mussehl & Judy Harris**



A BIG thank you to Allan Mussehl and Judy Harris for leading two ENGAGE Sundays titled, "Digging Deeper into Myth: Forbidden Archeology." The two ENGAGE Sundays emphasized our 4<sup>th</sup> Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Allan led us through a romp of unanswered questions about our origin and development while Judy encouraged discussion of folklore that is a part of our personal heritage. Allan shared his interpretation of clay tablets collected from ancient Sumerian archaeological sites. One of the tablets notes that the earth is the 7<sup>th</sup> planet counting Pluto. Allan raised the question of, "How could a civilization from 6,000 years ago even know of Pluto's existence?" Many say that they gained this knowledge from the gods, and some believe that these gods were actually extraterrestrials. Allan shared his belief of the extraterrestrial theory. The Sumerians were not the first civilization to speak of being from the heavens coming down to earth. Many cultures around the world have similar stories, and oftentimes, these beings granted these cultures invaluable knowledge.

**Worship Service November 10**

***Native American Practices***  
**With Greg and Ann Herman**



We welcomed Greg and Ann Herman to reflect on their growing commitment to Native American practices.

Ann and Greg are baby boomers, born just 6 weeks apart in 1950; their childhoods were spent across the Straits of Mackinac from each other. Ann was raised listening to the waves of Lake Huron in Cheboygan, Michigan. Greg's ears were tuned to Lake Michigan from St. Ignace,

Michigan. While they listened to the same fog horns as children, they didn't meet until their freshman year in college at Northern Michigan University on the southern shores of Lake Superior. Today, they find it no coincidence that their lives have been spent near the lakes and rivers of Michigan and Wisconsin. Ann retired from a 20-year career in Public Health in 2014. Greg's college education was in Speech Therapy. He also retired in 2014 after 40 years working in a variety of long-term care and nursing home settings.

Throughout their lives, they have been involved in volunteer services related to their children and Christian education. During a turn of events in 2000, they began the study and practice of Native American spirituality from their Ojibwe and Canadian Blackfoot roots. Today, they are part of a circle of Native and non-native people committed to protecting and nurturing our water resources. This brings them to a planning committee for an annual gathering on the Lac Corte Oreilles Indian Reservation near Hayward, Wisconsin called "Women and Water Coming Together".

**Gratitude Service November 24<sup>th</sup> coordinated and led by Jill Stiemsma**

Jill Stiemsma has led our annual Gratitude Service for many years and each year she adds new elements. On a sheet of paper, attendees wrote down words of gratitude and shared with the congregation before placing into the thank you box created by the children (photo 1). The PLUUF Singers (Brad, Jeff, & Alex) sang *Thankful* by D. Foster, C.B. Sager, and R. Page (photo 2). Later in the service attendees wrote on a paper maple leaf what they are thankful for at PLUUF (photo 3). We hung the leaves on a spruce tree placed on a table in the sanctuary. Thank you to Jeff, Dave and Aya for reading parts of the service (photo 4). Looking forward to discovering what Jill comes up with next year to make our Annual Gratitude service extra special.





## Administrative Manager Report by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Thank you to Linda DeCramer for completing and submitting the Webster Grant application to help fund our 2020 5<sup>th</sup> annual environmental kids camp. The topic will be, "Caring for our Mother Earth." More details will be provided coming this spring.

I realize this is the time of year we accumulate stacks of envelopes from non-profits requesting monetary gifts. Soon you will find that PLUUF, too, has sent a card to you with an enclosed envelope. We have so much to be proud of at Prairie Lakes, please consider making PLUUF one of your giving priorities. 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 and we are grateful.



Hope to see you at our annual Festival of Lights event at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 19!

Doors open at 6:30

## Treasurer's Report as of November 27, 2019

### Board of Directors\*

#### Moderator

Becky Feyen

#### Secretary

Linda DeCramer

#### Treasurer

Jim Goyette

### At Large Representative

Pat Dobrinska

### At Large Representative

Jessica French

### Staff Position

### Administrator Manager

Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

	November 2019	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,062	\$6,289	\$26,004*
Expenses	\$1,368	\$24,847	\$41,375**

\*Annual Budget Income does not reflect Restricted Funds

\*\*Annual Budget Expenses will use Restricted Funds and Funds from the Common Endowment Fund to cover outdoor renovation project.

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

\*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 Wednesday 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.