



February 2019

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Like
Us
On
Face
book



*In the bleak and cold winter,
We gather ourselves in
To light the fire to warm our spirits,
To kindle the flame of love and hope*
By Rev. Cynthia Landrum

Photo of PLUUF taken on 1/30/19.
Daytime temperature of minus 15 degrees!

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www.pluuf.org

Calendar At-A-Glance

ENGAGE Sunday, February 3: 10:00 AM Pico Iyer podcast, *The Urgency of Slowing Down*, with Becky Feyen. Transcripts will be provided. Pico Iyer is an essayist and novelist and is one of our most eloquent explorers of what he calls the 'inner world' – in himself and in the 21st century world at large.

Worship Service Sunday, February 10: 10:00 AM The Roost family will lead the Chinese New Year celebration. This will be an intergenerational service. You will learn about the several myths and customs associated with the Chinese New Year AND meet a dragon!

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

ENGAGE Sunday, February 17: 10:00 AM Jeromy French will give us an overview of Chinese religions. We will touch upon mythology, Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. There will history along with readings of religious texts.

Worship Service Sunday, February 24: 10:00 AM We welcome back the reverend Penny Andrews. Rev. Penny Andrews, retired hospital chaplain and ordained Interfaith Minister, attended the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto last November. She will share her experience.

Every Thursday from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM The Families United group meets at PLUUF. Families United is a support group open to anyone who has been affected by addiction.



Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

I want to begin with a huge THANK YOU to Tanya Schwartz-Roeper for resurrecting the Annual Report. This is a wonderful format to view what Prairie Lakes featured within the fiscal year. The consolidation of this information allows us to evaluate the impact we have made, topics we want to re-visit, & determine needed changes. Copies will be e-mailed to members and paper copies are available at PLUUF.

Mentioning Tanya leads me to a very important change at Prairie Lakes, of which the impact will be noticed in 2018/19. The congregation voted at the Annual Meeting (May 2018) to delve back into funding a paid position – Administrative Manager. This is a big commitment and a leap of faith for a small congregation with limited funds. As much as I wish we could create a consistent message with a paid minister, we need to have the background logistics functioning and the daily needs cared for to create a strong organization. I believe Tanya's availability and ability to focus on organizing the operations & message of our Fellowship will energize us - no pressure, Tanya ☺

In case you are not aware, the 2017/18 fiscal year should have been my final year as Moderator; after 2 terms totaling 4 years. The Prairie Lakes congregation voted at the 2018 Annual Meeting to allow me to serve an extra term beyond the by-law limit. Well, to quote Sally Fields when she won an Oscar, "You like me, you really like me"; or you don't want to take on this role so keeping me is better. Either way, I am happy to continue in my position as Moderator; it is personally very rewarding.

I want to share with you how wonderful the Moderator position is, and this report is a glimpse of how fulfilling it is to guide this group. I continue to be amazed by the kindness & commitment of each person who walks through our doors. We are a fortunate group, to have so many people willing to share their time & talents in leading & participating in presentations. You are the reason for our success!

Of course, all is not perfect at Prairie Lakes. The situations I struggle with are a result of being a small congregation. I want to respect everyone's ability to contribute & not add to the stresses of your world. Please do not take this personally because the limits include mine. I cannot contribute as much as I would like to or even believe is necessary for my position. We really grapple with completing projects, following through on intentions, and creating consistency. The board needs to create planned objectives with achievable goals, to engage our committees in fulfilling the needs of our Fellowship. Please hang in there with us; we will need time, & possibly your help to close some of the loopholes for completing our vision of what Prairie Lakes can be.

I am so thankful for all the support you provide by attending services and events, taking an active role, and providing the resources to keep Prairie Lakes productive. Here we go into another church year – actually, half way through at this point, sorry – but we did it!! Better late than never, & the Administrative Manager has already established a timeline for next year's Annual Report & Board of Director's Retreat. We are continuing to improve our functions!

Looking forward to another amazing year with an amazing group of people.
I feel so blessed!



February Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

Hi, all. First off, greetings from El Salvador! Secondly, I gather from announcements that Tanya, Pat and Becky are managing our Sunday Worship Services just fine. Thank you, all! I also assume that Brother Steve Herro's service on "silence" – and Paul Jeffries' follow-up on silencing technology in our lives – provided thoughtful discussion and hopefully even encouraged some personal change.

Next month we'll share a somewhat different set of experiences.

Sunday, February 10: First off, the Roosts return with their Chinese New Year service, which we haven't celebrated for a couple of years. (Wish the Luna boys could be there to become part of the dragon – drat!) So, thank you, Roosts, for continuing the tradition. And remember: It's Second Sunday Potluck to boot. Maybe you could bring egg rolls or something!

Sunday, February 24: And then we'll welcome Penny Andrews' return. She recently attended the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto. Many PLUUF'ers attended the Parliament in Utah maybe three years ago, but none of us managed to get to Toronto. So come listen as Penny shares her reactions. You can live vicariously through her experiences. I so wish I could be there.

All is well in my neck of the woods. Hopefully, you can say the same. Thanks to all of you who keep the ship afloat, week in, week out.

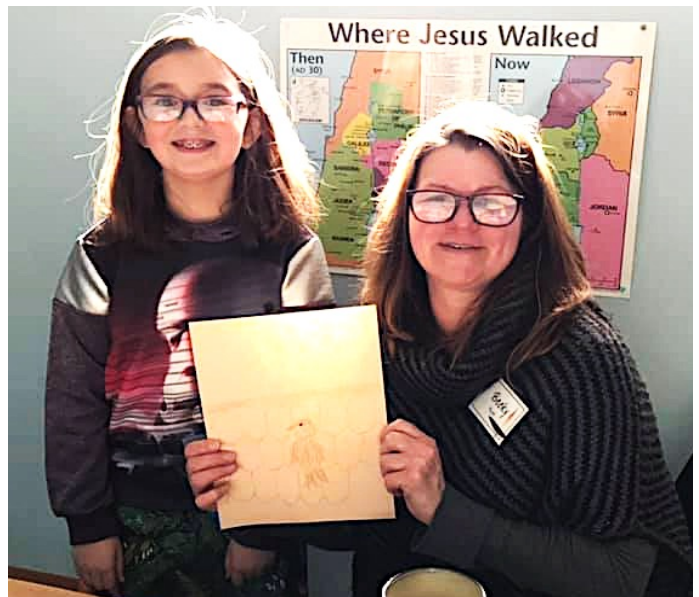
Much love, Jill Stiemsma

Children's 2nd & 4th Sunday Religious Education (RE)



Jonah led a 2nd Sunday January RE class focused on the upcoming Chinese New Year service that will be presented by Brad & Nicole Roost on February 10. Jonah shared a brief history and the myths and customs associated with this event. The lesson was followed by an activity creating a painting or drawing of a dragon.

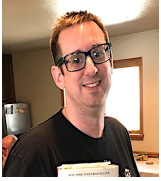
Special thank you to Becky Feyen for leading 4th Sunday RE on short notice. (Jonah had a funeral to attend to in Milwaukee). Becky led a lesson on Jesus. She shared the book, "Meet Jesus: The Life and Lessons of a Beloved Teacher." It's a picture book that introduces young children to Jesus and his lessons of love, kindness, forgiveness and peace. "Meet Jesus" emphasizes the humanity rather than the divinity of Jesus.



1st & 3rd ENGAGE Sundays



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FREE to Good Home: Books and more!



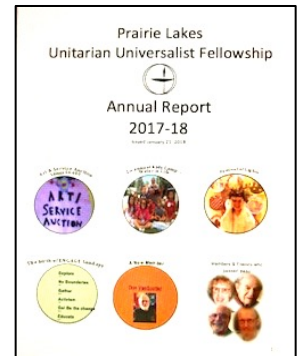
For a limited time there are FREE children's books and more in the entryway at PLUUF. The items are from the RE room and business office at PLUUF after we decided to downsize a bit. Please check it out.



Recap of the Board Retreat by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

I had the privilege of joining the Board of Directors on their Board retreat at the beautiful home of Pat Dobrinska in Green Lake. This retreat had a noticeably different feel than the monthly board meetings. On Saturday, January 5, from 9-4 the Board regrouped, reconnected and recharged with a day of strategic planning and reviewing. PLUS, we had the opportunity to take a break outside and visit Lucy & Penny, the goats, and Smoke & Umber, the horses!

We spent time reviewing PLUUF's 2017-18 fiscal year services, activities, finances, congregational life and so much more. You will find all the information in our 2017-18 Annual Report. This report will be e-mailed to all members and paper copies are available at PLUUF.



PLUUF Board of Directors

Back row: Pat, Linda, Becky
Front row: Jessica, Judy, Tanya (Staff)



Strategic planning and brainstorming session



Taking a break to visit Pat's goats and horses

In Case You Missed It In January

ENGAGE Sunday January 6 with Don VanScotter Book Discussion: *Siddhartha*



PLUUF member Don Van Scotter kicked off the New Year by leading a book discussion on *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse. Don began his presentation with a brief video on Buddhism.

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.

ENGAGE Sunday January 20 Becky Feyen Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Commemoration: Becky read an excerpt from the 1966 Ware Lecture: "Don't Sleep Through the Revolution" presented by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.



"One of the great misfortunes of history is that all too many individuals and institutions find themselves in a great period of change and yet fail to achieve the new attitudes and outlooks that the new situation demands."

-MLK



Thank you to our Worship Service and ENGAGE Sunday leaders in January!
Forms are available at PLUUF if you have a topic suggestion for a Worship Service or ENGAGE Sunday or contact Becky r.feyen@yahoo.com or Jill jstiemsma@icloud.com

Worship Service January 13 with Brother Steve Herro *What is so Great About Silence, Anyway?*



Brother Herro chose the title "What is so Great About Silence, Anyway?" because people of all religious persuasions can find some value in the seeking or attainment of silence. He explained that it's become hip to separate ourselves, or find refuge from, our world of 24 hour news, 24 hour convenience stores, 24 hour online streaming, and 24 hour casinos. He pointed out that some of us even invest in noise cancelling headphones and white noise machines to attempt to make silence more possible.

Silence is not contrary to social interaction and love for others. As author Cardinal Robert Sarah writes, "...Without the capacity for silence, man is incapable of hearing, loving, and understanding the people around him. Charity is born of silence. It proceeds from a silent heart that is able to hear, to listen, and to welcome. Silence is a condition for otherness and a necessity if one is to understand oneself...." Cardinal Robert Sarah wrote the book, "The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise." Brother Herro also shared the book, "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Cannot Stop Talking" by Susan Cain.

Worship Service January 27 Professor Paul Jeffries from Ripon College *Fast Technology or a Technology Fast*



Paul discussed the pros and cons of fast technology and how it is changing how we interact and relate to each other. We live in a world where we are encountering technology at an ever increasing rate and in an amazing array of contexts. We are constantly being told that faster and newer is always better. But is it?

During the congregational feedback segment of the service, individuals took time to discuss if fast, new, more technology is always the best way to live our lives. They shared how increasing technology has affected their lives over the years and pondered how to "unplug". They discussed the possibility of taking control of the technological elements in their lives, possibly through a technological fast, as a means to live a richer and more fulfilling life.



A Message From Judy Harris while Wintering in Alabama

After 12 winters in AL, attending Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship has the comfort of familiarity: the beautiful interior of the sanctuary, fascinating art exhibits that line the walls; the gracious greeter who meets and later introduces visitors; the faces we recognize and the people who recognize us. We've become comfortable there. Dave searches for his friend Michael Patrick, a retired literature professor, while I search out Elin and Trudi with whom we will be going out to lunch with after the service. The "moderator" begins with announcements; the chalice is lighted and the UU Principle that is the focus of today's service is read: "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Joys and Concerns follow but no one comes up front--the moderator presents: the pianist plays "Happy Birthday" while the congregation sings to a long-time member, and a memorial chalice is lighted in memory of another long-time member who recently died. Next, this Sunday's service organizer introduces five current members who will share why they became UUs. Each tells their life story in 10 minutes--fascinating stories, filled with early struggles resulting from fear of not being saved and creeds that could not be rectified with the realities of life. One man, an ordained Baptist minister, discovered that he was really an agnostic which he said made his job applications as a Baptist minister challenging! He gave up and joined a UU. Afterwards, social hour was much like ours: noisy, coffee and goody laden and a committee meeting or two. So what is my purpose in sharing this: to show how other Fellowships operate; to present a couple of ideas that I think we should consider--focusing each Sunday on one of the principles that we name and include in the bulletin; and sharing stories from more of our members about their personal paths to UU: for those who are willing to do so. Comments anyone?

Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2019

All the donation statements have been sent or handed out showing what you contributed to PLUUF during the 2018 calendar year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document please let Tanya know tanyapapermaker@gmail.com.

Below is a snapshot of our income and expenses so far for the 2018/19 fiscal year beginning 7/1/18 to 1/31/19. Detailed treasurer reports are always available at PLUUF or by request.

	January 2019	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$876	\$14,564	\$34,321
Expenses	\$2,822	\$16,044	\$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.