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# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



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

## Calendar At-A-Glance

(See page 3 for more details)

**Sunday, January 5:** 10:00 AM ENGAGE Sunday "Happy New Year – New Decade Renewal" with Becky Feyen. The focus is on the attitudes and actions that provide a healthy, balanced, and positive perspective for 2020.

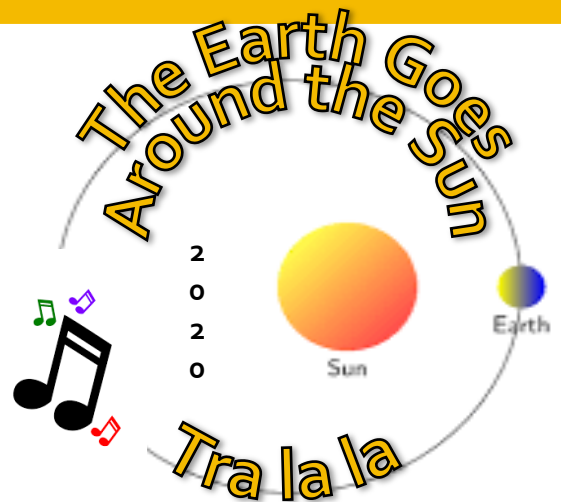
**Sunday, January 12:** 10:00 AM Worship Service PLUUF member Tom Zuhlke will lead the service called "A Witnessing Testimony to My Faith Journey." Tom notes that the reflection is not *about* his faith journey; it is a witnessing testimony to the ongoing journey.

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

**Sunday, January 19:** 10:00 AM ENGAGE Sunday Becky Feyen will lead, "The Power of One." She will discuss what it means to be powerful - the actions by which we are powerful - how our power affects the greater community and ourselves.

**Sunday, January 26:** 10:00 AM Worship Service PLUUF member Nicole Roost will lead the intergenerational Chinese New Year celebration.

**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.



# Moments from 2019

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

Art & Service Auction raises \$3,482!



## 5 New Members

Judy Morgan  
Liz Buchanan-Beegle  
Shane Beegle  
Tom Zuhlke  
Audrey George

4<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Camp –  
Power of Pollinators



## Facility Improvements Outside & Inside



New walkway created by Kinas Excavating & Rocks Concrete



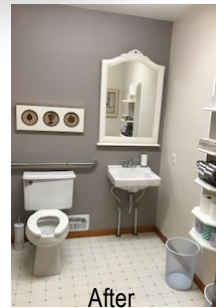
Asphalt Specialists from Fond du Lac sealed and restriped our parking lot



Green Space created near the east side of the building



Before



After

Bathroom repainted and decorated

Revived 2 former  
Annual PLUUF events

Chinese New Year  
May Pole Event

Festival of Lights



Remembering  
Bonnie Wagner

June 22, 1943-September 4, 2019  
(Joined PLUUF with her mother  
Dorothy on November 2, 2008)



*You will always be in our hearts & memories*

## January 2020 Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma



Welcome to the New Year! What a fantastic December, with a great Festival of Lights; a somewhat controversial “how UU's might embrace the message of Christmas” led by Michael Ketterhagen; and a combination Christmas-pagan celebration service to wind up 2019. Thank you to all the musicians, readers, and participants – kids included -- for their dedication to making our services special.

And now we march into the new year, ready or not! Here's what “on tap”:

**Sunday, January 12, 10 AM:** We welcome Tom Zuhlke back. In case you didn't know, Tom has been absent for a couple months due to a knee replacement. This Sunday, he will lead a Reflection on what has shaped his spiritual search. A fairly new UU, he's excited by the diversity he finds at PLUUF: from Buddhists, to atheists, to Christians, to pagans, to???? Welcome back, Tom!

**Sunday, January 26, 10 AM:** And we welcome back the Roosts to help us celebrate the Chinese New Year (officially beginning January 25). For the **year 2020**, the main zodiac element is metal while the animal sign is Rat; hence, **2020** will be the **Year** of the Metal Rat. The Chinese **year** will last from January 25, **2020**, to February 11, 2021. Come join us in the merriment!

As many of you know, this is the time of year that I bow out as I teach in El Salvador. This year, I fly out January 1, returning March 14. So, thank you, Schwartz-Roepers, for our PLUUF New Year's Celebration at their house. And thank you to Tanya and Becky for organizing the services in my absence; and thank you, Tanya, for taking over the piano. It does indeed take a village.

To all my wonderful friends at PLUUF, have a great – and safe – winter! See you around St. Patrick's Day—Jill Stiemsma

## 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 ENGAGE Sundays

**Sunday, January 5, 10 AM:** The first Sunday of the new decade we will celebrate what is good for us with a program called, *Happy New Year- New Decade Renewal*. This program is designed to be a ritual for leaving behind the negativity, hurt, frustration, etc. of 2019. We will begin 2020 by focusing on the attitudes and actions that provide a healthy, balanced, and positive perspective for 2020. Hope you can join us.

**Sunday, January 19, 10 AM:** Becky Feyen will lead *The Power of One*. The power of one will be a recurring theme in 2020. Individual power is diverse and complicated and it can be forceful and restrained; internal and external; helpful and hurtful ; illusionary and impactful. We will discuss what it means to be powerful - the actions by which we are powerful - how our power affects the greater community and ourselves. Please join us as we embark on a discussion of our individual power.

# A Look Back at the 2019 Worship Services



After a several year hiatus, we brought back the Chinese New Year celebration with the help of Nicole Roost.

Below is a glimpse of the 24 worship services that took place in 2019. Jill Stiemsma and the worship service team coordinated the enriching and diverse lineup of services.

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

### 2019 Worship Services in Review (Services in blue are annual)

- 1/13 Brother Steve Herro, *The Importance of Silence*
- 1/27 Paul Jeffries, *Fast Technology or a Technology Fast*
- 2/10 Nicole Roost, *Chinese New Year intergenerational service*
- 2/24 Becky Feyen, *Sacred Space* (Weather event cancelled Penny Andrews)
- 3/10, Jim Jaeger, *The Conundrum of Immigration*
- 3/24 Steven Miller, *Meaningful Lives*
- 4/14 Erika Jensen, *My Favorite Fears*
- 4/28 Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen, *O Ye of Little Faith*
- 5/12 Becky Feyen, *Mother's Day Celebration*
- 5/26 Jill Stiemsma & Friends, *Flower Ceremony & Welcoming New Members*
- 6/9 Penny Andrews, *Shared experience: 2018 Parliament of World Religions*
- 6/23 Jill Stiemsma, *Summer Solstice Celebration*
- 7/14 Mary Pharmer, *Annunciation House for Immigrants*
- 7/28 Audrey George, *Happiness, Appreciation and Laughter*
- 8/11 Olive Albanese, *Medical Training in Cuba*
- 8/25 Erika Jensen, *What's Your Origin Myth?*
- 9/8 *Water Sharing AND Harvest Fest*
- 9/22 Paula Hirschbach, *Evolving from Catholic Sister to Zen Priest*
- 10/13 Michael Baltutis, *What UU's Could Take from Hindu Philosophy*
- 10/27 Jill Stiemsma & Ray Gurney, *Hindu's Nationalist Movement/ U.S. Nationalist Movement*
- 11/10 Greg & Ann Herman, *Native American Practices*
- 11/24 Jill Stiemsma, *Expressions of Gratitude*
- 12/8 Michael Ketterhagen, *The Universal Christ*
- 12/22 Jill Stiemsma, *A Yuletide Service*



# A Look Back at the 2019 ENGAGE Sundays

**ENGAGE** is an acronym:

**E**xplore

**N**o Boundaries

**G**ather

**A**ctivism

**G**o! Be the Change

**E**ducate

Below is a glimpse of the 24 ENGAGE Sundays that took place in 2019. Thank you to Becky Feyen and Judy Harris of the ENGAGE programming committee. Special thank you to everyone who volunteered to lead an ENGAGE Sunday that consisted of book discussions, podcasts, special celebrations, and a variety of fascinating presentations.

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

### 2019 ENGAGE Sundays in Review



- 1/6 **Don VanScotter**, Book Discussion: *Siddhartha*
- 1/20 **Becky Feyen**, *Martin Luther King Commemoration from the 1966 Ware Lecture*
- 2/3 **Becky Feyen**, Pico Iyer podcast, *The Urgency of Slowing Down*
- 2/17 **Jeromy French**, *Overview of Chinese religions*
- 3/3 **Becky Feyen**, *Faith, Morality and the Environment*



- 3/17 **Diana Beck**, *The Climate Crisis and What We Can Do About It*
- 4/7 **Jeromy French**, *Fun with Evolution*
- 4/21 **Jeromy French** led book discussion: *Your Inner Fish: A journey into the 3.5 – Billion-Year history of the Human Body*
- 5/5 Rebirth of the May Day celebration and May Pole dance with **Judy Harris**
- 5/19 **Becky Feyen**, **Judy Harris** and **Tanya Schwartz-Roeper** led the Annual



- Meeting
- 6/2 **Becky Feyen**, *The Five Practices* as presented by the UUA to recognize Pride Month
- 6/16 **Becky Feyen**, *Father's Day celebration: The Importance of Fathers*
- 7/7 **Becky Feyen** coordinated an outdoor workday
- 7/21 **Becky Feyen** coordinated part II of outdoor workday
- 8/4 Interfaith Gathering in Neenah sponsored by Fox Valley Islamic Society

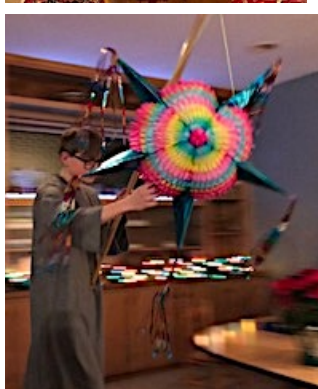


- 8/18 **Pat Dobrinska**, *Not For Ourselves Alone-Equal Rights Amendment*
- 9/1 **Becky Feyen** aired the interview with Thich Nhat Hanh, Cheri Maples and Larry Ward *Being Peace in a World of Trauma*
- 9/15 **Becky Feyen** led book discussion: *The Art of Communicating* by Thich Nhat Hanh
- 10/6, **Jill Stiemsma**, Part I of a preview of Hindu basics
- 10/20 **Jill Stiemsma**, Part II of Hindu basics
- 11/3 & 11/17 **Judy Harris** and **Allan Mussehl**, Part I & II of *Digging Deeper into Myth: Forbidden Archaeology*



- 12/1 **Dave Harris** Reading from his Novel *Paradise Tost* (Cancelled due to bad weather)

- 12/15 **Robert (Spud) Hannaford** professor of Philosophy Emeritus Ripon College, *Universality of the Golden Rule*



## Annual Festival of Lights

12/19/19

### The celebrated holiday and presenter:

Chalica- Miguel, Cy, Aya & Oliver  
 Winter Solstice - Robyn Davis Bartow  
 Los Posadas - Ellen Mueller  
 Bodhi Day - Byran Bartow  
 Kwanzaa - Judy Harris  
 Hannukah - Tanya Schwartz-Roeper  
 Diwali - Jill Stiemsma  
 St. Lucia's Day - Lee Barczak  
 Christmas - Becky Feyen

### PLUUF Singers

Laird & Linda DeCramer  
 Ellen Mueller  
 Jeff Reese  
 Brad Roost

Music coordinator & piano  
 accompanist – Jill Stiemsma

Behind the scenes coordinators:  
 Becky Feyen, Judy Harris,  
 Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

## In Case You Missed It In December

### Worship Service December 8 with Michael Ketterhagen *"The Universal Christ"*



We welcomed the return of (now retired) Marian University Theology Professor Michael Ketterhagen who focuses on Eastern Religions. He is also the current (and only ever) Manager of the Fond du Lac Center for Spirituality and Healing.

"My understanding of the Universal Christ is symbolized in

Christmas' focus on Light. Christmas is the celebration of the development of humans, recognizing the presence of God within the human consciousness. "O Come! O Come! Emmanuel! And ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear."

After the service, attendees continued to discuss Michael's topic throughout the potluck lunch.

### ENGAGE Sunday December 15 with Robert Hannaford *"The Universality of the Golden Rule as an Ethical Rule"*



We welcomed for the first time, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus Robert (Spud) Hannaford of Ripon College. He led a presentation titled, "Universality of the Golden Rule as an

Ethical Rule." During this time of year, with many people celebrating their beliefs from various religious traditions, we took a look at how The Golden Rule is part of many religious texts. What is it to live by The Golden Rule? After Professor Hannaford's presentation thoughtful congregational feedback addressed the complexity of The Golden Rule –the positive verses negative.

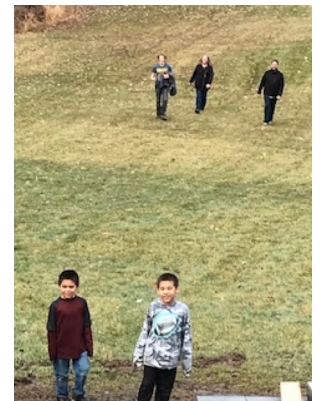
### Worship Service December 22 "A Yuletide Service led by Jill Stiemsma



Jill Stiemsma created a beautiful intergenerational holiday service that honored the meaning of Christmas as well as the meaning of the solstice. It was a service filled with music, readings and connecting.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, December 29 Gathering at the Schwartz/Roeper home

Instead of a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday cleanup day at PLUUF, the Schwartz/Roeper family hosted an open house for PLUUFers. Approximately 25 people showed up for the indoor/outdoor event. Soup and cider were served and the attendees brought a bounty of food. The Packers beat the Lions and the temperature reached the 50-degree mark with the sun appearing in the afternoon. A few attendees explored the sculpture garden and several took a hike along the creek in the maple woods.





## Administrative Manager Report by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Happy New Year! One of my favorite events to end the "old" year is our Festival of Lights celebration at PLUUF. Thank you to everyone who participated in and/or attended the event.

We had a fabulous 2019 at PLUUF. Just take a look at pages 2, 4 and 5 of this newsletter to see what our small but mighty congregation can do in a year!

Looking forward to 2020! Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year.



Thank you to everyone who donated food to the Ripon Food Pantry. We were accepting food contributions for the month of December with a donation box in the entry at PLUUF. We filled the box this year! Maybe next year we can make it overflow. Pictured to the right is Shannon Rogers of Traded Treasures/Ripon Food Pantry. She works very hard to help feed the hungry and was grateful to receive the monetary and food donations from PLUUF



## Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2019

Donation statements will be sent out by the end of January showing what you contributed to PLUUF during the 2019 calendar year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document please let Tanya know [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com).

Below is a snapshot of our income and expenses so far for the 2019/20 fiscal year beginning 7/1/19-6/30/20. Detailed treasurer reports are always available at PLUUF or by request.

**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

	December 2019	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$2,941	\$9,230	\$26,004*
Expenses	\$3,068	\$27,914	\$41,375**

\*Annual Budget Income does not reflect Restricted Funds or Common Endowment Fund

\*\*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)

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.