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Prairie Lakes  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
*A small but mighty congregation!*

CHECK OUT OUR  
COOL WEBSITE!

[www.pluuf.org](http://www.pluuf.org)

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FACEBOOK

315 Eureka Street  
Ripon, WI 54971  
920-745-2446

[pluufgmail@ripon.com](mailto:pluufgmail@ripon.com)

This is what programming at Prairie Lakes looks like during the Corona Virus (Covid 19) pandemic...

But don't despair, there's more positive news inside this newsletter!

## Calendar At-A-Glance

**ENGAGE Sunday, April 5, 10:00 AM:** – A Passover Seder with Tanya Schwartz-Roeper & Jules Messitte. We invite you to experience Seder customs that include telling the Passover story, discussing the story, drinking four cups of "wine", eating matzo, partaking of symbolic foods placed on the Passover Seder Plate, and reclining in celebration of freedom.

**CANCELLED**

**Worship Service Sunday, April 12, 10:00 AM:** An intergenerational Easter Sunday worship service and Easter Egg hunt with Nicole Roost.

**CANCELLED**

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

**Art & Service Auction Saturday, April 18, Doors open at 5:30 and auction & entertainment begin at 6:00.** Please see page 4 for a sample of auction items available this year.

**POSTPONED**

**ENGAGE Sunday, April 19, 10:00 AM:** TBD

**Worship Service Sunday, April 26, 10:00 AM:** TBD

**ENGAGE Sunday, May 3, 10:00 AM:** May Day Celebration!

**HOPEFULLY WE CAN  
RESUME PROGRAMMING?**

**ENGAGE Sunday, May 17, 10:00 AM:** PLUUF's Annual Meeting

**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.

**ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## Message from the Moderator, Becky Feyen



Hello PLUUF family –

Goodness, I am at a loss for words to address the uncertainty that Covid19 has created. The worst part is, to get through difficult times, we need the help and support of each other. This virus has made it impossible to feel helped & supported, as we try to distance ourselves to keep ourselves & others healthy. It is critical not to let this wear away your emotional & mental health. We all have different ways of reacting to and dealing with stress & anxiety, especially when isolated. I unexpectedly found myself overwhelmed with sadness & began to cry during a news report from Paris; the Eiffel Tower was sparkling with lights in honor of the health care workers (happening again as I am typing this). I guess it was the beauty in seemingly dark times.

As much as we need to stay informed about the health, resource & financial situations impacting the world, it is important not to obsess and get caught in the fear. Yes, this is having an impact on every one – note my ‘Eiffel Tower moment’. There is so much beauty & delight in this world and it is easy to find – nature, literature & poetry, movies, music, dance, etc. Make sure you spend part of your day looking for beauty & delight. Take care of yourself by keeping busy & creating. Even if you do not have a hobby or craft supplies, dabble with writing (even a letter); coloring is an admirable way to spend time. Please, please, please be pro-active to build resilience & have confidence in your ability to sustain yourself. Most importantly, if you are feeling that downward spiral or panic or fear or whatever your response to being overwhelmed, reach out for guidance. If you need assistance locating help, Jessica French is the Crisis Care Resource Volunteer for our Prairie Lakes community. I am also here & will provide support the best I can.

One valuable thing we can do is to keep in touch with others via phone calls, emails, text messages, cards, etc. I had intended to begin making calls to say “hi”, as always – good intentions with poor follow-through. Hopefully, you have your blue Prairie Lakes folder with our contact list, otherwise respond to the newsletter email or call (numbers below) & we will get you a copy. Please call each other, send notes & let us know how you are doing. We share additional resources & general information on Facebook & via emails to help support you from afar.

If you need a copy of the PLUUF directory containing contact information for PLUUF members/friends call Becky Feyen – (920) 294-3191 or e-mail [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

I am looking forward to spending Sundays with you again.  
Take good care of yourself –

## Message from the Administrative Manager, Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



I can't begin to tell you how much I miss our Sunday gatherings. I continue to work at Prairie Lakes every couple of days. I have been picking up mail, paying bills, and watering plants. I've been making deposits as needed and want to thank members and friends who are sending checks or continuing to have their banks directly mail monthly checks. From home, I work on the PLUUF newsletter and continue to communicate via e-mail with members and friends. Thank you to everyone who shared his or her stories or poems in this month's newsletter!

I really miss the part of my job that consists of assisting with event planning and programming. This is usually the time of year when we put our efforts into preparing for our biggest and best fundraising event of the year; the Art & Service Auction. While everything is in a state of limbo during this pandemic, we'll continue to keep you updated via e-mail, Facebook and Website. If anyone needs any assistance during this time, please do not hesitate to contact us. See contact information in Becky's message above. Be safe and hope to see you very soon.

## Message from the Worship Service Chair, Jill Stiemsma



Hi, everyone. Doesn't it feel strange to avoid going outdoors, attending meetings, sitting in PLUUF services, etc.? The upside for the latter is this: You can join Open Circle's virtual services on Sunday mornings. I "attended" this past Sunday; except for the poor quality of the music, it was a beautiful service and it felt good to be among friends. Hopefully, some of you will join us this next Sunday. (\*Details on how to participate below)

As you perhaps create your own "worship space" at home, you might light a candle with the words for this month's (revised) Global Chalice Lighting:

Welcome into the circle of light; some stand behind walls of fog that do not allow them to see any further. They are in need of our intellectual, moral, physical, social, and cultural light, so that they can join us in the work of building this earth as heaven. Amen

Sunday's Open Circle focus was on "community," especially as that related to what it feels like to be a UU member. Perhaps you could take some Reflection time to think about what PLUUF means to you. I modify these thoughts from the UUA Worship Web:

Worship and inspiration remind us what matters most in life, and are central to Unitarian Universalist faith and practice. Both as individuals and as communities, they give us opportunities to go deeper with the biggest questions of meaning, purpose and possibility. The Unitarian Universalism Association website provides a doorway to connection, readings and downloads that will help you learn to live with more wisdom, more connection, and more compassion.

Take this time to go deeper. And...stay well, one and all. We will all get back together sometime!

Much love, Jill Stiemsma

### To join the virtual worship services at Open Circle UU Fellowship

\*If you have access to a computer with video and audio capability, you may use this link to join the meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/4044103110> or call 312-626-6799 and provide Meeting ID 404 410 3110



Congratulations, Tom!

Prairie Lakes member Tom Zuhlke was Commissioned as a member in the Federation of Christian Ministries on February 7, 2020. The certificate he's holding says, "We certify that Rev. Tom A. Zuhlke, M.Div., is authorized to function as a minister in the Christian church, to proclaim the Gospel, assemble community, and support human service. We recognize by this document, the education, training, character and charism of this minister."

This ministry may include witnessing marriages, providing pastoral care as a chaplain, or other forms of public ministry. Commissioning is essentially an "ordination," the authorization to minister on behalf of FCM, and an affirmation by FCM that the commissioned person meets the criteria of FCM in recognizing its members.

#### Core Values of the Federation of Christian Ministries:

Belonging  
Compassion  
Empowerment  
Equity  
Mindful Living





## 7 Ways to #UUtheVote from home: Even apart, we can work together

(Reprinted, in part, from UU the Vote voting@uua.org)

Right now feels pretty intense. The COVID-19 global pandemic has many of us stressed and scared; we might be feeling overwhelmed or helpless with uncertainty. While many of us are being asked to work from home and many more do not have that option, we can stay connected to each other as well as with our UU the Vote community.

In the words of UUA executive vice president Carey McDonald, “This is a time when we need more ministry and connection with each other, not less. It just may need to take a different form.”

How to #UUtheVote without leaving the house:

1. Visit [vote4wd.org](http://vote4wd.org) to send letters to unlikely or unregistered voters.
2. Go to [actionnetwork.org](http://actionnetwork.org) Reclaim Our Vote Campaign to make calls to voters who were purged from the rolls.
3. Consider small group meetings instead of large gathering or gather online using zoom, google hangout, or slack.
4. Set a date for your congregation to watch [Suppressed: The Fight to Vote](#) by Brave New Films or the movie [Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook](#) (available on some streaming services, including Amazon Prime) from each individual's home; then hold a group conference call to debrief together.
5. Call your legislator to advocate for paid sick leave and relief for affected workers—not a bail-out for the fossil fuel industry. Call (202) 224-3121 to be connected.
6. Spend the time to brainstorm who in your life to engage in values conversations with. Start making those calls and texts. Go to the UUA.org website to Launch Guide and scroll down to page 27.
7. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper with your opinion of how the pandemic is being handled and what you would like to see our elected leaders do.

Moments like these are actually why it's so crucial we have elected leadership who hold our values of beloved community, welcome and sanctuary, accountability and transparency. We want a country that responds with empathy rather than fear; we hope we can all find a way to do so.

#VoteLove and #DefeatHate in this time of stress and anxiety.

In faith and solidarity,

Audra Friend  
UU the Vote National Team

### 2020 Wisconsin Election Dates

- Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary - April 7, 2020.
- Partisan Primary - August 11, 2020.
- General and Presidential Election - November 3, 2020.



## In Case You Missed It In March

### ENGAGE Sunday March 1 with Jeromy French *Morality and the Environment*



Jeromy presented the basic tenants of Taoism and led a discussion on the Tao Te Ching. The group of approximately a dozen participants focused on various passages and discussed how they relate to life as we know it.

### Worship Service March 8 with Linda DeCramer *All I Need to Know I Learned from a Children's Book*



Thank you to Linda DeCramer, Youth Services Librarian at Ripon Public Library and long-time member of Prairie Lakes, for creating a memorable intergenerational service. Linda presented children's

books on the big screen like "Carrot & Pea" by Morag Hood, "That is Not a Good Idea" by Mo Willems and "Alan's Big Scary Teeth." Linda said, "The wisdom of kids and their ability to engage wholly with the world of that wisdom/ability is exuberantly prevalent in children's literature. The books exemplified some of our most sacred UU principles and ideals, for example, expressing and embracing our differences and acceptance of one another."



Thank you to Jeromy and Linda for leading our last ENGAGE and Worship service Sundays prior to the pandemic.

### ENGAGE Sunday March 15 *A Life Worth Much Less Than Zero with Jack Christ* Cancelled due to Corona Virus pandemic To be rescheduled

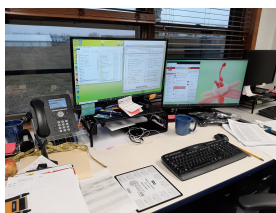
### Worship Service March 22 *The 5<sup>th</sup> Principle and Election Year 2020 with* Norbertine Brother Steve Herro Cancelled due to Corona Virus pandemic To be rescheduled

Lynn Ungar is a poet and a Unitarian Universalist Minister, she wrote this meditation on the opportunity of self-quarantines.

#### Pandemic

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.  
And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.  
Promise this world your love--  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.  
--Lynn Ungar

## A Day in the Life of our Prairie Lakes Members & Friends during the Pandemic



**Becky Feyen** is still working her day job but at 6 feet apart from coworkers (photo 1). Her nights are spent working on her childhood home in Oshkosh (photo 2). She writes, "It's no fun doing this without friends."

**Jeff Reese** writes: "I live upstairs from an LPN who is working double and triple shifts. I gave her a container of bean soup I just made and I offered to catch her up on her laundry. If you or anyone knows a health care worker, a hero, please don't forget her or him. They are the ones who are going to get us through this."

**Lyn Corder**, former Prairie Lakes Moderator, wrote us from her home in Oceanside, California: "We have had a few home health care visits for AI (husband), so we are not totally isolated. A couple of people we barely know in our relatively new town of Oceanside have offered to shop for us. On St. Patrick's Day, Maureen (youngest child) and her husband, Scott, organized a "Google Hangout" for her siblings, their spouses and kids and her Dad and his wife and us. Across three time zones, from Virginia to California and a couple places in between, we gathered on computer screens. Among other things, they led us in an enthusiastic rendition of #346 in the UU hymnal, with a slight change in words . . .

♪ "Come wash your hands with me, come wash your hands with me, come wash your hands with me, that I might know your mind. And, I'll bring you HOPE . . ."

It was great and went along fine with green beer and red wine!

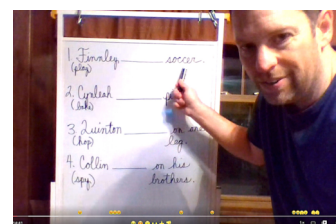
**Jill Stiemsma** writes: "Tuesday, 3/24: Have decided that there's no need to do today what I can put off until tomorrow. Normally an early riser (like 5AM), I slithered out of bed at 10 today. I kind of like being this lazy!!! How about you???"



**Judy & Dave Harris** write: "Since Dave & I returned from Alabama, we've enjoyed our WI grandsons staying with us, and we've added a new family member, a 5-month old Australian cattle dog/standard poodle mix. Bella's a sweetie who's keeping me busy teaching her to walk on a leash and all the other things puppy owners expect. Dave's official name is ArabellaConstantDelightEveFancyGirlHarris. I call her Bella."

**Marcia & Scott Jackson** write: "What a strange time we're living in. I'm sure this is unsettling to all of us, some more than others. Personally I went from taking 4 classes weekly at Ripon College to now facing the prospect of doing this all on-line. Will be a very different experience. Scott and I made the decision to have him leave his job at O'Reillys; it wasn't worth the risk of exposure that he had to the general public. Most of his customers didn't believe the pandemic was real; they thought it was a hoax to discredit Trump. With those thoughts he felt they certainly weren't practicing any of the techniques to lessen their own risk of contracting the virus and therefore could expose him to it as well. I am glad to have him home; and once it's safe to be out and about, I'm sure both of us will be back to attend our fellowship!"

**Eric Bartelme** has been teaching virtually since March 19. "I am teaching a lesson on past tense verbs in this lesson (see photo). Learning to teach and assess student learning virtually has been very interesting. I am slowly figuring it out. I miss seeing my students."



*Editors note: This page is dedicated to the words of Ko Shin Bob Hanson. Bob & wife Karen Ingvaldstad were active friends of Prairie Lakes for many years. They now live in Milwaukee.*



Sitting by the window now, I'm looking over part of our lovely city on lock-down. It's still a beautiful place with all the beautiful people. And my muses started shouting at me, so I wrote down what they said. I love you all. Stay safe; we will make it. We mourn for those who have died; we remember and name those who are ill and hope for their recovery. My meditation time seems to have been deepened during this time, I wonder: Does fear, suffering, uncertainty and pain in our community and world bring a new sense of spiritual understanding? Hmm, I think so. What do you think? Have a great day! Stop for a while and be quiet; you will be surprised what you hear.

It's wonderful in here!  
Yes, I have been in here for sometime now  
And they tell me it will be a lot longer.  
But I am free, and I am me!  
Yes, I have seen the word boring  
I hear there is anxiety too,  
Some folks are scared and rightly so,  
But I am free and I am me!  
Yes, Milwaukee is locked down,  
How will I get my milk?  
There are so many things that seem to come to mind in this situation,  
Just remember that is your mind playing games with you.  
Talk to someone, ZOOM, or text, it works. Don't forget others!  
But I am free and I am me!  
Love to everyone,  
I am sitting looking over part of the city from my seat here  
I pray everyone is well and safe  
It's up to us, no one else, to walk through this pain and suffering,  
We are community even though we cannot be together  
What gift this terrible time can be,  
It might move our mind from me to we  
From them to us  
Could it be, we will become the unity we already are?  
Remember, WE are free, and WE ARE WHO WE ARE, BE IT! LOVE!  
Have you tried painting by numbers, its fun!!

Peace and Compassion: **ko shin, Bob Hanson**

**Editors note:** Ko shin Bob Hanson is a retired clergy from the Lutheran Church. He is a poet and has been a practitioner of Zen Buddhism since 1991. He has published a book of poetry entitled [Chasing Windmills. Why Not](#) (2012). He is now working on a large book of photos and poetry.





## PRAIRIE LAKES UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CARE & CONCERN SIGN-UP SHEET

You can print this form, fill it out, and send it to: PLUUF 315 Eureka Street Ripon, WI 54971 or send an email to [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) with a list of any way you would like to help

This document will be kept on file at Prairie Lakes and referred to as needs arise. Please remember, this is non-binding so don't be afraid to check several boxes ☺. Also, this document is not specific to care and concern during the pandemic, but a general form that will be used now and in the future. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or Cell Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_

What time of day are you more generally available? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Daytime
- ☐ Evenings
- ☐ Overnight

I can provide the following supports: (Remember, this is non-binding. Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Meal preparation (daytime)
- ☐ Meal preparation (nighttime)
- ☐ Meal preparation (large batches)
- ☐ Making doctors appointments, calling about medication refills, similar scheduling tasks
- ☐ Running errands (picking up groceries, medications, etc.)
- ☐ Childcare (daytime)
- ☐ Childcare (nighttime)
- ☐ Childcare (overnight/extended)
- ☐ Childcare (experienced care for a child with high or specialized needs)
- ☐ Check in on elderly and/or disabled nearby
- ☐ Pet-sitting/dog-walking, etc.
- ☐ Emotional support (e.g. talking over the phone or in person with someone who's worried)
- ☐ Household cleaning
- ☐ Laundry
- ☐ Dishwashing
- ☐ Medical response
- ☐ Spare bed or comfortable couch
- ☐ Tech support
- ☐ Translation (Please list language under the "Other" option below)
- ☐ Translation (ASL)
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Religious/Spiritual ministry
- ☐ I can help donate to a common resource fund
- ☐ Other:

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page...

If you marked any meal prep options on previous page, please list any particular cuisines that you are used to cooking (e.g. Italian, Vegan)?

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any types of specialized meals for which your kitchen is particularly well suited (e.g. if your household doesn't use nuts, it would be a good pairing for someone who has a nut allergy)?

- ☐ Nut-free
- ☐ Dairy-free
- ☐ Gluten-free
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other supports that you think we should offer that aren't on the list above?

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any supports that you've offered above for which you normally charge as part of your livelihood? Please list each one and your typical rate (while we want to offer these supports to each other for free, we also recognize the potential burden if this is a part of your livelihood, and we would like to make a plan to compensate you).

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

What are some potential needs that you may have that would make it difficult for you to isolate at home? (e.g. lack of childcare, need for chronic disease medication, your work doesn't offer paid sick leave, you need regular deliveries due to a mobility disability, you have a personal care attendant for a disability who might also have specific needs as well, financial issues from loss of income, etc.)? What are some non-coronavirus related needs that you might have that currently make life difficult?

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

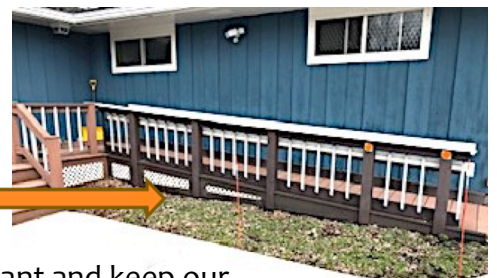
Thank you for reviewing this form!

## News From the Outside

Our building is in need of a paint job and some foundation work. Thank you to Laird DeCramer for offering to lead the prep and painting crew. If you are interested in volunteering to prep and paint the building please contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com). We hope to begin the project sometime in early May. More information will be available soon.

### Would you like to Adopt this Green Space?

If you would like to volunteer this spring/summer to plant and keep our new garden near the building weed free and watered, contact: [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)



## LOCKDOWN

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.  
But,---  
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes  
But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
People are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighborhood  
So that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples  
are preparing to welcome  
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters.  
To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear.  
But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing

Brother Richard Hendrick, OFM March 13th 2020

## Treasurer's Report as of March 26, 2020

There was a larger than usual difference between our income & expenses in March. Expenses were high because it included our insurance premium and new wireless mic system. Income is down because most of you give during our Sunday gatherings that are now on hold due to the pandemic. If you would like to continue supporting PLUUF, please send your check to: 315 Eureka Street Ripon, WI 54971.

Thank you for your support ☺

March 2020	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income \$520	\$17,755	\$26,004*
Expenses \$4,376	\$36,052	\$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.

From PLUUF Friend Jeff Reese: *I would like to make a special appeal for Prairie Lakes. The relief act that is circulating through Congress right now, for obvious reasons, will not cover churches. I am pledging to give a slightly bigger donation this month than I normally would. If the situation hasn't improved by this time next month, I intend to give another donation.*

*Please, don't forget your spiritual home!*