



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

www.pluuf.org
pluufripon@gmail.com

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The Gladiolas Jeff Reese planted this past spring at PLUUF are blooming! Thank you Jeff for adding to the outdoor beauty at Prairie Lakes.

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Calendar At-A-Glance

A variety of work is being done to expand and encourage opportunities for connection via in-person and online service/ENGAGE options

ENGAGE Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m.: Becky Feyen will present "Leadership from Civil Rights to Social Justice & Black Lives Matter" outdoors at PLUUF (indoors if rain) OR join the virtual Open Circle Service. Details on page 2

Worship Service Sunday, August 9: Stay-at-home service created by Jill Stiemsma and Robyn Davis Bartow. This service will be sent to the congregation via e-mail in a PDF file.

ENGAGE Sunday, August 16, 10 a.m.: "Way Back in 2013" with Judy Harris via Google Meet.

Worship Service Sunday, August 23, 10 a.m.: Stay-at-home service originally presented at Open Circle by Hospice Chaplain Karon Sandberg entitled "Hope."

5th Sunday, August 30, 10 a.m.: Indoor and outdoor cleaning and maintenance.

Please Note: SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS REQUIRED FOR ALL IN-PERSON GATHERINGS.



Message from the Moderator by Linda DeCramer

I offer you my best wishes and hopes for continued safety, health and happiness. During these challenging and topsy-turvy times, an unbidden and unrelenting sense of uncertainty permeates our lives. This unwelcome guest then has the audacity to dole out varying levels of anxiety and stress which we may experience consciously or subconsciously. Either way, it's there and taking a toll.

My coping mantras lately are necessarily constant and varied. Perhaps you'll find some tools or comfort here: PAUSE. Our culture has become detrimentally addicted to reactionary behavior; PAUSE to counteract the negative effects. PAUSE. Breathe deeply. PAUSE. Stay connected. PAUSE. Ask for help. PAUSE. Be kinder than is necessary to yourself and others. PAUSE. Unabashedly seek forgiveness when you fall short of your own or others' expectations. PAUSE. Offer forgiveness freely. PAUSE. Love yourself so your heart may love others.

DISCLAIMER: In reality, I fall short of these aspirations daily, but there is power and worth in the striving.

Community and connection are paramount to our individual and collective wellbeing. While we must distance, please take full advantage of the online options put forth by our Worship Services and E.N.G.A.G.E. Sunday committees.

Keep in touch and don't hesitate to reach out if you have needs, challenges, or would benefit from something as simple as a listening ear.

Sending BIG hugs

August Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma



Sunday, August 2nd, 10 a.m. – Open Circle virtual service: *A Theology of Connection in Zoomland* by Rev. Jim Coakley Since the invention of the letter and then the telephone, human connection has slowly crept toward the virtual world. Now that the pandemic has rapidly increased this transition, how do we nurture a theology of connection in the virtual land of Zoom?

Important: You will need to use this Zoom link to access the service on Sunday, August 2nd: <https://zoom.us/j/176319484?pwd=S3dQekZoNmNaL2srYm16Y3NyOXcxQT09> (Note that it is different than what you've been using).

Sunday, August 9: Jill Stiemsma and Robyn Davis-Bartow are teaming up to create a stay-at-home service. “Jesus commanded the world to love our neighbors as ourselves. Usually the emphasis in that statement is on loving our neighbors. But how well do we love ourselves?” This service will reflect on the power of radical self-acceptance, love, and becoming our own best friends.

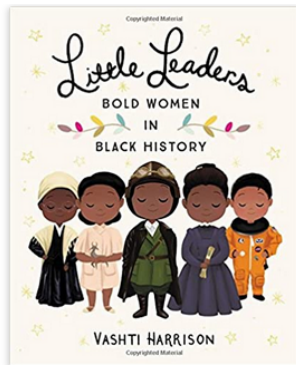
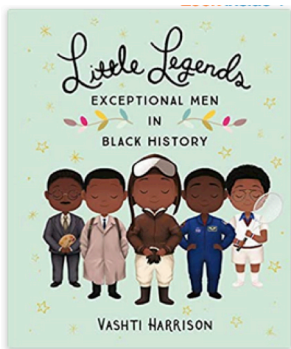
Sunday, August 23: If you recall, Brian Smith recently graced us with a stay-at-home service on Resilience which he'd originally developed for Open Circle. Because it was relatively easy for him to just give me his written Reflection, he didn't even charge us! Thanks, Brian.

Well, on July 19th, Hospice Chaplain Karon Sandberg led another OC service entitled “Hope” which was excellent as well. When contacted, she readily agreed to send me her written Reflection so that I could convert it into a stay-at-home service as well. I think you'll find her service “just what we need” about now.

August ENGAGE Sundays by Becky Feyen and Judy Harris



ENGAGE Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m., with Becky Feyen will take place at PLUUF: The presentation, “Leadership from Civil Rights to Social Justice & Black Lives Matter” will honor Civil Rights leaders of the past and introduce today's leaders continuing the work for respect & equality. With the passing of John Lewis on July 17, 2020, we will honor him and explore the actions we can take to continue his non-violent & loving work.



Introducing 2 new books in the children's library:



ENGAGE Sunday, August 16, with Judy Harris via Google Meet: Most of us have never attended a UUA General Assembly, but in 2010 I was one of the lucky ones. The speakers were inspiring, the music was compelling and I carried our PLUUF flag in the tradition parade of attending Fellowships and Congregations. Of course, there are meetings that deal with the workings of any structured organization: rules, regulations, and resolutions. Not my favorite. But way back in 2013, a UUA resolution supported an amendment to the constitution stating that corporations are not persons and money is not speech. However, the resolution went a couple of steps further. Join me on August 16th as we examine what “further” refers to and how this is connected to the 2020 Census and Fair Maps. I will be presenting on Google Meet and hope this will include more discussion than lecture!

Ripon Area Ministerial Association (RAMA)

Jill Stiemsma and Linda DeCramer rotate virtual attendance at RAMA meetings and report the following topics of discussion in the past month:

1. Prayer Vigil for victims of racial violence and injustice
2. Mental health and virtual fatigue
3. Video offerings by RAMA on YouTube
4. Black Lives Matter Mural
5. Newly forming task force on racial justice.

If you would like more details regarding any of the five topics please contact:

Jill: jstiemsma@icloud.com

Linda: lindadecramer@yahoo.com

Meet Artist Mel Kolstad by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



I met Mel about five years ago while she was teaching an art class at the Town Square in Green Lake. Long story short, we have teamed up and coordinated an event called Midwest Paper Fest the past 3 years. Just recently, I discovered Mel is a member of Open Circle UU Fellowship in Fond du Lac!

Mel has created a series of Pride Flags. Mel is a brilliant artist and teacher and works in a variety of different mediums. She donates 50% of the sales to the Fond du Lac Pride Alliance (www.fdlpride.org). Their mission is to promote inclusivity, build positive visibility, perform public advocacy and education, and provide resource and service connections to local LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies.

This is a print she created of the Transgender Pride flag.

Transgender Pride flag creator Monica Helms describes the meaning of the transgender flag as follows: "The stripes at the top and bottom are light blue, the traditional color for baby boys. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional color for baby girls. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are intersex, transitioning or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender. The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our lives."



Mel says, "This print features the Intersex flag. An intersex person has a biological sex that is not exclusively male or female due to variation in hormone levels, chromosomes, genitals, or other factors. Around 1% of people are known to be intersex. For perspective, 1-2% of the global population has naturally red hair. Although condemned globally by the United Nations and other human rights groups, cosmetic genital surgeries on intersex infants remains a common practice in the United States. Some of these surgeries result in permanent infertility or lifelong hormone replacement therapy. Morgan Carpenter created this Intersex Pride flag in 2013. The yellow and purple color scheme is gender neutral, and the circle icon represents wholeness and completeness without alteration."

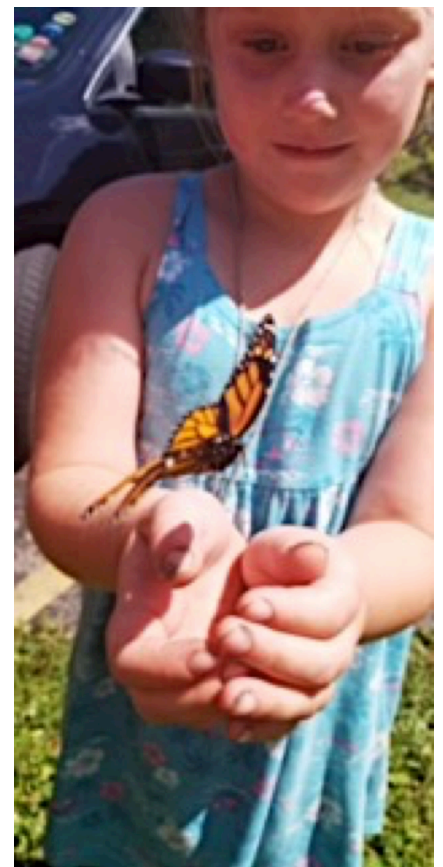
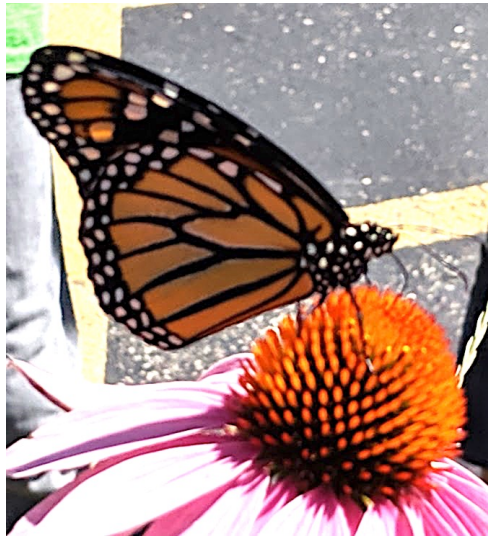
(Reprinted from Mel Kolstad's Facebook post)

A Look Back at 2019

When life was a bit
(okay, a lot) more carefree

Last year in July, twenty children in grades 2-5 attended Prairie Lakes' 4th annual one-day summer camp called Power of Pollinators. Long-time PLUUF members **Judy Harris & Linda DeCramer** coordinated this event. With the help of MANY Prairie Lakes UU members, friends and a grant from the **Webster Foundation**, the 4th annual kids camp was another huge success!

Although 2020 Kids Camp was cancelled due to COVID, we look forward to holding a 5th annual Kids Camp in 2021!



A Letter from Linda DeCramer on Behalf of PLUUF (7/22/20)

Dear Historic Preservation Commission and Ripon City Council members,

As Moderator, I am writing on behalf of the Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship regarding current deliberations related to the Black Lives Matter mural on Sam Luna's downtown building. Because we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and our religious beliefs and traditions strive toward a goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, this situation is of particular interest. With a basic understanding of the complexities, and a respect for honoring current codes/regulations/requirements, while also recognizing the inevitability and importance of debate/varying interpretations, I offer these thoughts.

Ripon has a long and rich history of forward-thinking, justice seeking trendsetters! I think of the Ceresco community and their egalitarian goals; David Mapes' successful quest to bring knowledge and diversity of thought to Ripon through the founding of Ripon College; local suffragettes, including renowned Carrie Chapman Catt, demanding equal representation for women; the founding of the antislavery Republican Party; evidence of Riponites' abolitionist support of the underground railroad. **Through these lenses to the past, the content of the mural might be considered a contemporary artistic representation and continuation of such history. What happens today becomes Ripon's history tomorrow**

While there is certainly room for debate of the mural in relation to the City of Ripon's sign ordinance, my feeling is that it does not quite fit the definition of a sign. Does that automatically qualify it as art? That's a good question. Perhaps a collaborative review of current city ordinances and the Historic Preservation Committee's Certificate of Appropriateness would be a helpful step toward creating clarity in the future. I can hear the collective groan at the prospect of embarking on such an endeavor. I have a variety of experience on governing boards so understand the complex and time-consuming nature of rewrites.

As for the slippery slope of policing content, retaining personal freedoms while simultaneously preventing hateful icons such as the Nazi swastika to appear in our midst is definitely tricky. Perhaps a starting point would be to indicate that political slogans (or content closely resembling a politician's slogan) and hate speech are not acceptable.

Your task is challenging, unenviable, and will most certainly ignite high emotions from many regardless of outcome. I have faith that your knowledge, calm in the face of rancor, and thoughtfulness will prevail in creating a fair and clearer path forward.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this community.



A Response to Linda's Letter from Jolene Schatzinger, Alderperson (7/26/20)

Thank you, Linda, for sharing this message on behalf of PLUUF, and I appreciate the thoughts and insights provided on this matter. You and your community at PLUUF are such a needed voice in this community, and I will always be honored to hear your and their thoughts, opinions, concerns, and ideas moving forward.

I did voice my support of the mural at the recent special meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission and your message helped to give me courage to do so.

A heartfelt thank you to you and to PLUUF for writing this letter and for all you do in this community. Know that I hope I can help lift up your voices of support for the inherent worth and dignity of all people as an elected official.

Yours in service,

Jolene Schatzinger
Aldersperson
Ripon City Council, District 4
Jolene4Ripon@gmail.com

The Results! From the Facebook post of Kat Griffith 7/27/2020:

Woo hoo! We did it! Tonight the Ripon City Council voted unanimously to approve the Black Lives Matter mural downtown! I spent a lot of the last few weeks working on that, and I'm happy to say that all kinds of people came together to support it, new relationships were formed, good conversations were had, all kinds of folks were activated -- and we got 'er done! The Council and the Historic Preservation Commission received about 80 pages worth of letters in support, a student petition got over 900 signatures, and I'm honestly amazed at some of the people who ultimately came around. A proud Riponite moment!

Would You Like to Provide a Contribution to Sam Luna?

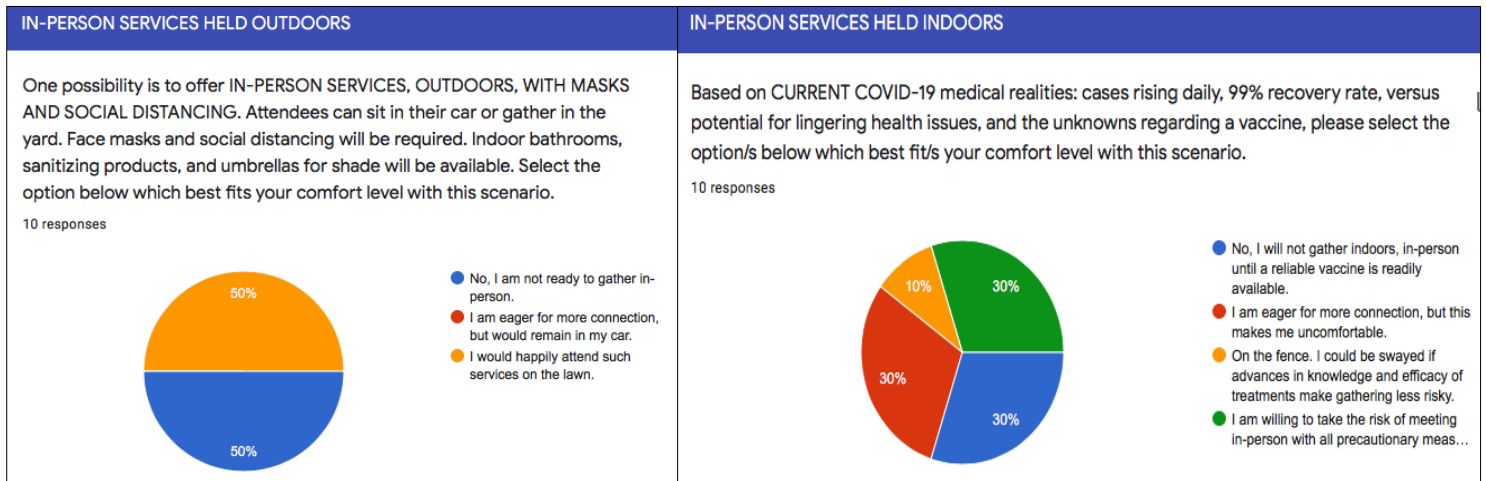
Here's the abbreviated scoop: Sam Luna, the business owner who had the Black Lives Matter mural painted on his building in downtown Ripon, has been fined \$800. Personal donations to Sam are being accepted to help him pay the fine. Prairie Lakes is accepting donations on behalf of Sam.

If you'd like to make a contribution please send a check to:

Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship
315 Eureka Street
Ripon, WI 54971

You can make the check out to PLUUF, but please put "Sam Luna" in the memo line.
Contributions of any amount are welcomed. Thank you ☺

Below is a snap shot of the results from the PLUUF Survey sent to the congregation in mid July:



Board of Directors*

Moderator

Linda DeCramer

Secretary

Robyn Davis-Bartow

Treasurer

Jim Goyette

At Large Representative

Joe Hatcher

At Large Representative

Jessica French

Staff Position

Administrator Manager

Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

This is the 1st of month of the new 2020/21 fiscal year

Treasurer's Report as of July 30, 2020

	July 2019	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$625	\$625	\$26,610
Expenses	\$1,497	\$1,497	\$31,610

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request:
tanyapapermaker@gmail.com