

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

www.pluuf.org
pluufripon@gmail.com

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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



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We light this chalice for a fresh start.

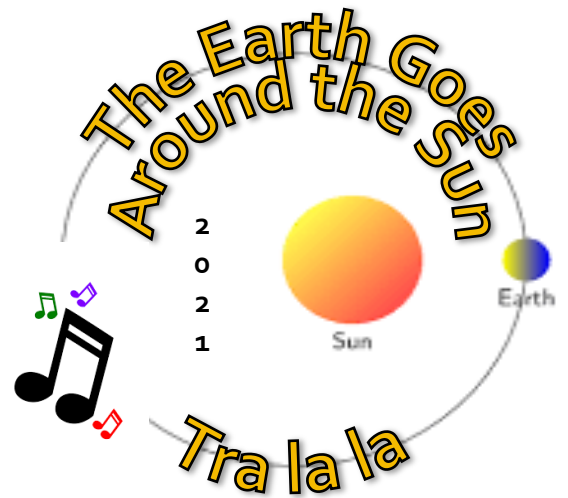


It's impossible to recognize everyone who contributed to the health and well being of the Fellowship over this past crazy year. We are grateful to each and every one of you who has stayed connected to PLUUF in one form or another.

Now that a vaccine is available to fight COVID, we'll hopefully be able to resume in-person gatherings in a few months. I still get choked up when I walk through

the empty sanctuary at PLUUF. 2021 will be the year when the sanctuary comes back to life with laughter, music, lively discussions, shared meals in the social room and so much more. Wishing everyone the very best for a happy and healthy New Year.

Tanya Schwartz Roeper
Administrative Manager & Newsletter Editor



Welcome 2021!

Goodbye 2020 and hopefully goodbye to COVID-19!



2020: The Year of Covid-19 and so much more...

Adapting to COVID-19

Although the Worship Service and ENGAGE Sunday Committees were thrown a curveball in March, they quickly and creatively transitioned to new formats. Jill developed stay-at-home worship services (some were later adapted to in-person indoor/outdoor services) while the ENGAGE Committee worked with tech savvy PLUUF member Jim Goyette to create ZOOM, Google Meet and Facebook Live events.

2 New Members



Jeff Reese



Robert "Spud" Hannaford

Changing of the Guard

After 6 years as PLUUF's Moderator (PLUUF's longest serving Moderator since term limits were established!), Becky Feyen handed over the baton to Linda DeCramer.



Becky



Linda

PLUUF Gets a Makeover With Fresh Paint



Before



After ☺

PLUUFers Stand up to Racial Violence



A vigil was held in downtown Ripon in June. The event honored the victims of racial violence and the effort to end white silence on the issue.

We Stand Together



PLUUFers attended a 2nd event in downtown Ripon: "We Stand Together." This event was an opportunity to stand against racism and stand for equality, diversity and inclusion for all in our community.

And More.....

- No Art/No Service Do-it-Yourself Auction raised \$2,500 for PLUUF.
- PLUUF's beloved Festivals of Light event was turned into a video and shared with a much wider audience.
- PLUUF provided monetary support to Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; Rainbow Alliance at UW Oshkosh, Ripon Food Pantry; and Sam Luna's BLM Mural.

Friends We Have Lost



1968-2020

Erika Jensen

She led beautiful, deeply moving services at PLUUF the past couple years.



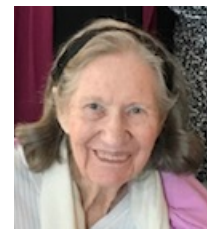
1920-2020

Al, husband of Lyn Corder, passed peacefully on August 2 at the age of 100 with Lyn by his side.



1941- 2020

Harry Heileman was a frequent visitor to PLUUF with his wife, the late Jean Johnson. (Jean was founder, moderator and longtime member of PLUUF.)



1925-2020

Lois Mockridge was a regular attendee at PLUUF in the earlier days. She's the mother of active PLUUF friend Marcia Jackson.

January Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma



Happy New Year, one and all! We made it out of 2020 – whew! Now, fingers crossed for a safer, healthier, more sociable, and saner 2021. In the meantime, life continues. So here are the plans for January of the new year.

Sunday, January 10: Remember this email? Well, to date, only Tom Zuhlke has replied. This is not good. So I repeat the email here, with a new deadline:

Okay, all. Christmas is over so we now turn to “what’s next”. Well, in keeping with the Roost tradition, let’s plan a “humor service” for January 10!

This time around, think about something silly/ridiculous/embarrassing you’ve done during your social isolation. What’s happened that made you giggle or just shake your head?

For example, I asked the Luna kids for a Christmas list. I don’t normally give them presents as my motto has always been, “I buy you experiences, not stuff.” But this year is anything but normal; so, yes, I would make an exception. Mason dutifully texted the list which included Emi’s request for “party cheese”. What in the world would that be, I asked. Mason: “I don’t know the right name; it’s a board game.” “Oh,” said I. “He wants Parcheesi.” I still giggle about that!

So, can you think of something that tickled your funny bone over the last 9 months? Let’s find a little humor in the dark of winter!

Due Date: **Monday, January 4**

Thanks, all! Have a good week!

Sunday, January 24: The work of MLK will be officially honored on January 18. While I could create a related service, I would prefer that a volunteer write at least the Reflection. You’re certainly welcome to develop more, up to and including the whole service, if you’re so inclined. I’ll assist with those parts you would prefer not to take on. Volunteers???? Contact me pronto: jstiemsma@icloud.com or 920-923-2387.

Stay well, all. Here’s to a truly safe re-start to in-house services sometime this year!!! (Once more, thank you to Tanya for a wonderful Festivals of Light. It was terrific!)

Jill Stiemsma

Treasurer’s Report:

PLUUFers contributed over \$8,000 to Prairie Lakes in December 2020!

THANK YOU for your generous contributions throughout the year and especially last month.

Donation statements will be sent out by the end of January showing what you contributed to PLUUF during the 2020 calendar year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, please let Tanya know tanyapapermaker@gmail.com.

A Look Back at the 2020 Worship Services



On March 8, 2020, we had no idea it was to be our last “normal” Worship Service of the year before the pandemic hit. Linda DeCramer, Youth Services Librarian at Ripon Public Library and long-time member of Prairie Lakes, created and led a memorable intergenerational service, *All I Need to Know I learned from a Children’s Book*.

Below is a glimpse of the 24 worship services that took place in 2020. Extra special thanks to Jill Stiemsma for her creativity and insight in creating stay-at-home services in response to the pandemic.

The Earth Goes Around the Sun Tra la la.... 2020 Worship Services in Review

(Services in **blue** are annual)

1/12, Thomas A. Zuhlke *A Witnessing Testimony to My Faith Journey*

1/26 **Nicole Roost, Chinese New Year intergenerational service**

2/9 Steve Herro, 5th Principle & Election Year 2020 (Weather event cancelled Steve Herro’s worship service)

2/23 Paul Jeffries, *Learning from Heroes, Saints, and Sages*

3/8 Linda DeCramer, *All I Need to Know I Learned from a Children’s Book*

3/22 Steve Herro, Reschedule from 2/9 **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**

4/12 Nicole Roost, Easter Sunday Service **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**

THE BIRTH OF STAY-HOME-SERVICES

4/12 *Easter in Community* by Jill Stiemsma

4/26 *In the Spirit of Love* by Jill Stiemsma

5/10 *Honoring Mother Earth* by Jill Stiemsma

5/24 *The Principle of Complementarity* by Jill Stiemsma

5/31 *Day of Mourning and Lament* by Jill Stiemsma

6/14 Jill Stiemsma, *Flower Communion that included photo submissions by PLUUFers turned into a video by Jim Goyette*

6/28 *Perseverance* by Jill Stiemsma and Tom Zulke

7/12 *Faith is a Five-Letter Word* by Jill Stiemsma

7/26 Brian Smith, *Three Resiliencies: Jumping Back, Jumping in Place, Jumping Forward*

IN-PERSON SERVICES RESUME (temporarily)

(Note: Special thank you to Jim Goyette for sharing his tech savvy talent in setting up outdoor sound systems, coordinating ZOOM meetings and Facebook Live sessions, etc.)

8/9 Robyn Davis-Bartow and Jill Stiemsma *Love Thyself* (Created as a stay-at-home service, adapted by Tanya as PLUUF’s 1st In-Person service since COVID hit in March and led by Robyn Davis-Bartow.)

8/23 Reverend Karon Sanberg *Hope* (Created as a stay-at-home service by Jill, adapted to in-person by Tanya and led outdoors by Linda DeCramer.)

9/13 *Harvest Fest* Jill Stiemsma created a stay-at-home version, Tanya adapted it to in-person and Linda DeCramer and Robyn Davis-Bartow led the in-person version at PLUUF.

9/27 Water Sharing Ceremony created by Jill Stiemsma and Brad Roost as a stay-at-home service and led by Brad Roost in-person at PLUUF.

10/11 UU Sources of Wisdom from the UUA Worship Website and adapted to a stay-at home service by Jill Stiemsma.

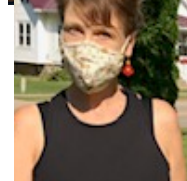
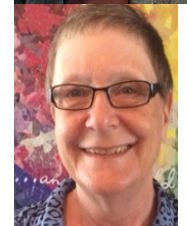
10/25 *Who Would Kill Jesus Today* by Jill Stiemsma as a stay-at-home service .

11/8 *Buddhism and UU Principles* by Jill Stiemsma as a stay-at-home service.

11/24 *Gratitude Service* created as a stay-at-home service by Jill Stiemsma with members and friends of PLUUF as contributing writers.

12/13 *Resilience in the Time of Coronavirus* by Jill Stiemsma and members and friends of PLUUF as contributing writers.

4 12/27 Festivals of Light video link to YouTube and Facebook shared with congregation.



January 2021

A Look Back at the 2020 ENGAGE Sundays

ENGAGE is an acronym:

Explore

No Boundaries

Gather

Activism

Go! Be the Change

Educate

Below is a glimpse of the 21 ENGAGE Sundays that took place in 2020. Thank you to Becky Feyen and Judy Harris of the ENGAGE programming committee and everyone who stepped up to create and/or lead a service. Special thank you to everyone who took the time to tune into these events offered on many different platforms such as Facebook Live, Google Meet & ZOOM.

The Earth Goes Around the Sun Tra la la.... 2020 ENGAGE Sundays in Review

1/5 *Happy New Year – New Decade Renewal* with Becky Feyen

1/19 *The Power of One* with Becky Feyen

2/2 *Vote, Love, Defeat Hate UU the Vote* by Becky Feyen

2/16 *Can We Explain How to Attain A Life Well Lived* by Robert “Spud” Hannaford

3/1 *Morality and the Environment* by Jeromy French

3/15 *A Life Worth Less Than Nothing* by Jack Christ **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**

4/5 *Passover Seder* with Tanya Schwartz Roeper and Jules Messitte **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**

THE BIRTH OF STAY-HOME ENGAGE SUNDAYS

4/5 *Social Isolation: An Opportunity to Renew* by Judy Harris (E-mail attachment and discussion)

4/19 Essay by Judy Harris shared via e-mail on WI Election During a Pandemic and our 5th UU Principle

5/3 *Observing 3 May Celebrations: May Day, Star Wars Day, Cinco De Mayo* by Judy Harris presented via ZOOM

5/17 *A Way to Talk About Everyday Privilege* by Joe Hatcher presented via ZOOM

6/7 PLUUF Annual Meeting led by Board Members & Tanya in-person plus presented via ZOOM

6/21 *Happy Father's Day & Gay/Lesbian Issues and Immigration* by Judy Harris via Google Meet.

7/19 Dave Harris read a new episode from his unfinished comedy *Paradise Tost* via Google Meet.

8/2 *Civil Rights to Social Justice & Black lives Matter* with Becky Feyen. Presented in-person outdoors. This was the 1st in-person ENGAGE Sunday since COVID hit in March.

8/16 Judy Harris shared connections pertaining to the 2020 Census, Fair Maps and 2013 UUA General Assembly resolution. Presented in-person outdoors.

9/6 *Caring for Yourself, Each Other, and the World* by Becky Feyen in-person.

9/20 Guest presenter Christopher Szymczak of UW Oshkosh led a discussion about GSRD (Gender, sexual and romantically divergent) students and their allies while Judy Harris shared handouts.

10/4 COVID cases spiked and in-person gatherings put on hold. Shared a link to Parker Palmer's *Healing the Heart of Democracy* PBS special.

10/18 *International Pronoun Day* presented via ZOOM with Judy Harris and guest Ivy Bolthouse

11/1 PLUUF shared the link to *Part II of Faith and Politics: Trying to Mix Oil and Water* with Rev. Ben Konecny and Brian Smith on YouTube.

11/15 Jerry Davidson & Judy Harris shared information about the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe via ZOOM.

11/29 (5th Sunday) Strung lights and decorations on the outside of PLUUF led by the Buchanan-Beegle family

12/20 ZOOM event led by Judy Harris featuring the Festivals of Light video premier and sharing Move to Amend ballot results and sharing quotes on the meaning of Christmas from the children of PLUUF.



In Case You Did Not Have a Chance to Drive By Prairie Lakes at Night in December
...you're Welcome ☺



Best Wishes for a Happy &
Healthy New Year!

