



February 2021

# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street | Ripon, WI 54971

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

Email: [pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)

Check out PLUUF's cool Facebook Page and "Like" & "Follow" us so you get to see our posts regularly ☺

Below is a response from George Penn after Prairie Lakes submitted the signed U.S. Constitution Amendment Resolution form with ballot results. Details can be found on page 7.

From George Penn:  
*Thank you to Judy Harris and the whole (Prairie Lakes) congregation for helping us build the movement to reclaim our democracy.*

*Please share our appreciation with your congregation. I wish you all a happy and safe 2021.*

## Let's Fix This!

*George Penn  
Wisconsin United to Amend  
Building the Movement to  
Restore our Republic  
Starting with passing the We  
The People amendment*

## Calendar At-A-Glance

**ENGAGE Sunday, February 7: 10:00 AM** Interactive Zoom conversation highlighting the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism and what UUism means to you. More details coming soon.

**Worship Service Sunday, February 14:** A stay-at-home Worship Service entitled "Hope" by Jill Stiemsma will be emailed to the congregation. See page 3 for more details.

**ENGAGE Sunday, February 21: 10:00 AM** Interactive Zoom conversation led by Judy Harris highlighting Black History Month. See page 4 to find out how you can participate. Plus, Judy's going to share how close PLUUF is to being recognized as a Welcoming Congregation.

**Worship Service Sunday, February 28:** A stay-at-home Worship Service created by Jill and will include a sermon by Ali Peters called "Come What May" will be emailed to the congregation. See page 3 for more details.



## New Youth RE Program Begins February 14 via ZOOM

Zoom into a brief but meaningful time exploring and discussing UU ideas via top notch picture books with Youth Services Librarian and PLUUF Moderator, Linda DeCramer at 10 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Youth and adults are encouraged to attend and participate in what will surely be heartwarming and insightful discussions.

Here's a specific description for Feb 14:

LOVE IS LOVE! Valentine's day features 1-2 titles around gender, identity and diverse families. The Zoom link and more information coming soon ☺

## Message from the Moderator by Linda DeCramer



These challenging, uncertain times are weighing on all of us regardless of how resilient we “think” we may be. I have, throughout the pandemic, called myself and my family, lucky, privileged, fortunate, with comparatively little to complain about! Our lives have continued without the upheaval of job loss, homelessness, sickness, and death that have touched so many. Charging forward with fortitude, gratitude, and perspective seemed sufficient. Well, that all came crashing down in the past month or so – no, nothing traumatic or tragic happened personally. It turns out change is hard, regardless, and if there’s one way in which COVID-19 has affected us all is that it has required C-H-A-N-G-E!

At a recent RAMA (Ripon Area Ministerial Association) meeting the conversation revolved around technical versus adaptive change. Technical change is fairly straight

forward. You got a new keyboard with minor differences – no big deal, your brain and fingers adjust quickly and almost imperceptibly. There’s a detour, so you follow the signs and arrive at your destination – easy peasy. On the other hand, adaptive change requires a LOT from us. In the COVID world, nearly every thing we do has required us to adapt in deep and challenging ways. To “adapt” we have to deconstruct previous beliefs, habits, pathways to accomplishing tasks across all aspects of our lives - home, work, church, public spaces, relationships, etc. In my work, for example, the significant and highly organized structures I have developed over YEARS are now basically useless. Nearly everything I need to address or accomplish involves letting go of the old way, researching and learning about options for a new way; assessing and weighing those options in order to create a new path forward; often finding funds to build that new path, but all **with no data to assure that the outcome will be as intended**. Change for the better can be stressful, but change with little reward is harder yet. I have described myself as cognitively and emotionally exhausted!

What to do? Recognize adaptive change for what it is. **It is a loss**. Every loss, no matter how seemingly insignificant, is worthy of and will require some level of grieving. Reverend Kevin Mundell suggests, naming it, knowing it, acknowledging it, dissecting it, and allowing yourself to grieve without shame. Right now, success may simply be the ability to accept that change and the “new” alternatives we create will likely be inferior to the original, but that does not constitute failure.

All this to say, be kind, be compassionate to yourself. Fortitude is admirable, but allow time for wallowing if that’s what you need to move forward. ☺

“Right now, success may simply be the ability to accept that change and the “new” alternatives we create will likely be inferior to the original, but that does not constitute failure.”  
–Rev. Kevin Mundell

# Stay-at-Home Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

E-mailed to the congregation just before the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month



Well, we've made it to February amidst the pandemic, after almost a full year of self- and government-imposed isolation...and a full year of stay-at-home services. I truly hope you're making use of them though I can honestly say that developing them has been good for my spiritual well-being. I hope you can say the same. Here's what's on the calendar for February:

**February 14:** Happy Valentine's Day! Just to put the current political situation in the US in perspective ...This service will focus on “hope” – not unrealistic, pie-in-the-sky hope but hope over the long haul. In his book Across That Bridge, John Lewis describes the 100-year effort to bring DC's African-American Museum of History and Culture to fruition – describing the

perseverance and persistence required. Yet they succeeded. My service will focus on the hope that South Africans had for ending apartheid and the hope that Tibetan Buddhists have for a safe return to their homeland. Think what those millions have weathered. (By the way, I strongly recommend the Lewis book. It's breathtaking.)

**February 28:** We welcome Ali Peters' service on “Come What May,” originally offered virtually to Open Circle on January 24. Ali is a seminary student working remotely with FVUU as an intern for a year. In this service, Ali suggests that “being prepared” isn't synonymous with avoiding trauma or even general pitfalls.

Here's wishing all of you a healthy February. Get vaccinated as soon as you can; wear masks; avoid social gatherings. It's the best we can do.

*Editor's Note: Since the pandemic, Jill Stiemsma has been creating and coordinating Stay-at-Home-Do-It-Yourself Worship Services that follow a similar format as our in-person services. The services are e-mailed to the congregation a couple days before the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. The services include announcements, Joys & Concerns, chalice lighting, closing words and there's always a 'sermon.' Each 'sermon' within the service covers a wide range of fascinating topics.*

*A summary of worship services is always included in the newsletter. For those of you receiving a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to receive the Stay-at-Home version of the Worship Services snail-mailed to you, please contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) or text 920-960-8874 or send a request to PLUUF 315 Eureka Street | Ripon, WI 54971*

## ENGAGE Sunday by Judy Harris



On February 21, at 10:00 a.m. Judy Harris will be leading a Zoom discussion in observance of Black History Month. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

In addition to the discussion on Black History Month, Judy will give you an update on how close PLUUF is to being recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as a Welcoming Congregation. Plus, she would like to know what social justice issues you would like PLUUF to work on in 2021.

**Below are a few suggestions on how you can participate in the Black History Month discussion on February 21:**

1. Share a personal story
2. Share research or knowledge about a topic related to African American history
3. Highlight the many accomplishments and contributions that African Americans have made to the scientific, educational and social justice fabric of our country



Each of you who wish to share will have 3-5 minutes.

## PLUUF's Acoustic Piano is in Need of a New Home



PLUUF has a new digital Roland piano!! At the 2020 Annual Meeting, members of the congregation voted in favor of investing in a new piano. Thank you to the congregation for supporting this purchase. We did our research and found a new piano for a good price with a 10-year warranty!

- If a PLUUFer is interested in the acoustic Wurlitzer upright piano, we will give it away for free, but delivery not included.
- If more than one PLUUFer is interested, we'll start the bidding at \$10 ☺
- If no PLUUFers express interest, we will try to sell it on Craigslist or FB Marketplace, or...?

Contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) if interested



### DIMENSIONS:

Height: 37"  
Width: 56 1/2"  
Depth: 24"

Last tuned in 2018



## JOYS & CONCERNS



I suppose a joy for us would be my mom being able to stay with us over the holidays. We took extra precautions so she could be with us for a week over Thanksgiving and Christmas. I know so many families weren't able to be with their loved ones, so we feel very lucky we were able to see her.

-Liz Buchanan-Beegle

Joy (I guess): I'm grateful that all the people I know who've contracted Covid — and there are several — seemingly have recovered.

However, I am especially concerned for all Wisconsinites if in fact our legislature does not move to mandate masks and limit social gatherings now that they've barred the governor from exercising any authority.

-Jill Stiemsma



Joy: I'm Healthy-ish, and working as a Registered Nurse. I'm so pleased that Tanya reached out to me last year to extend the electronic hand of friendship after these years apart. My Kids are happy and productive, my granddaughters are coping with distance learning.

Concern: Although I play a small role in the Covid Testing Program here on the UW Campus, I'm concerned that students are failing to integrate the concepts of masking and social distancing into their lives.

Stay well everyone!

Drew Schultz, RN

*Editor's Note: Drew was one of the founders of PLUUF and longtime member until his move to Madison many years ago.*



My dog, Breezy, has a vet appointment in February to determine if the growths in her mouth can be removed. Hopefully not an obvious invasive cancer, so the growths can be removed & then analyzed. I would appreciate some loving energy to be sent her way. Love to everyone - Becky Feyen



Joy -- I was able to get my first COVID vaccine on Wed 1/27. So very happy!

Big concern -- I was recently diagnosed with stage 1 uterine cancer. The good news is the survival rate is 95 - 97% and if caught early (we think it is) the cure is a hysterectomy. Most stage 1 cancers don't need chemo or radiation so fingers crossed for that outcome. I meet with the surgeon on 2/1 at UW Health, Madison, for my initial consultation. The date of the surgery is tbd but will likely be within the next few weeks. Recovery is typically 2 - 6 weeks. I am grateful that I have Scott to take care of me and know that our community is also very supportive.

Feel free to email or drop me a note, but at this point I'd rather not talk on the phone.

[Marciaejack480@msn.com](mailto:Marciaejack480@msn.com)

Marcia Jackson

W1002 State Rd 23 49 Trlr 9 | Green Lake, WI 54941

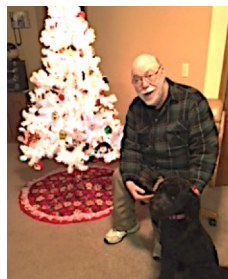
Many thanks.

From Tom Zuhlke:

Prayers of Healing for Don and Sharon Wilcox who have COVID-19. Don has heart condition and is on dialysis. Don is a Veteran. Sharon has diabetes. Thank you!

I have been trying to reach Ray Gurney by telephone and e-mail, but have not had a response back. Has anyone been in contact with him? Please respond back to Tom Zuhlke (920) 361-9774 or [skyjockey2002@yahoo.com](mailto:skyjockey2002@yahoo.com).

*Editors Note: Thanks for inquiring about Ray! Ray is fine. The hospital where he works in Milwaukee has required a lot of energy lately, so he's just a bit behind on communications.*



Our dog Bella has been a constant joy for both Dave and me during this pandemic.

Having vaccines to protect against the virus is a great joy, however, my greatest concern is for those who have no companion, whether human or animal. - Judy Harris

## In Case You Missed It In January

### Stay-at-Home Worship Service, January 10 Finding Humor in an Absurd Time By Jill Stiemsma

For those of you unfamiliar with PLUUF protocol, an annual "humor service" kicks off the new year, usually led by Brad Roost, with readings from The Onion.

PLUUFers were invited to submit humorous/embarrassing/ridiculous stories. Although there were only a handful of submissions, Jill added UU humor; the reading, "Ding-a-Ling-a-Ling" by Karen Solveig Anderson; a 2020 Epitaph in Rhyme by Fond du lac's own Jack Talbot; Joys & Concerns; links to music, and more. Check it out if you didn't have a chance when it was e-mailed to you on January 9. If you'd like it emailed again or a copy snail mailed to you, please contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

### Stay-at-Home Worship Service January 24 by Joe Hatcher Race in America: Past and Present On the Occasion of the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.



PLUUF member Joe Hatcher developed a worship service to be observed at home called "Race in America: Past and Present On the Occasion of the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Joe writes: "The 'sermon' concerns issues related to race in America, on the occasion of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There are so many ways to approach this issue. I thought I would provide some music, some thoughts, and some personal reflections, using YouTube liberally in the presentation."

*Editors Note: If you didn't have a chance to read Joe's 'sermon' or view the YouTube videos, be sure to check it out. It's powerful & educational. It was sent to everyone on the PLUUF email list on January 24. If you'd like it resent, contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)*

### ENGAGE Sunday, January 17 via ZOOM *Pets and the Pandemic* with Judy Harris



The usual routine of our lives is gone: get-togethers with friends; attending concerts or plays; staying over at Grandma's house or Aunt Carol's. Trips to get groceries have become "the outing of the week" for many. Some of us are blessed with pets whether a goldfish or cat, a horse or dog, or

some other creature. To many of us, our pets have become more entertainment and companionship than before the pandemic. Their unconditional love is just what many of us need. At this time many animal shelters have a shortage of pets because people have figured out that pets are a huge help during our COVID-19 confinement.

This ENGAGE ZOOM event was an opportunity to honor our pets by sharing something about how they have brightened our life during this difficult year. Over a dozen people participated in this ZOOM event and countless pets made appearances... some more willing than others ☺.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, January 31, ZOOM Presentation with Joe Hatcher & Linda DeCramer "Change, Adaptation & Resilience"

Linda DeCramer and Joe Hatcher led a Zoom presentation and discussion around change, adaptation, and resilience - things the COVID world has required of us ALL!

Linda started off with a few minutes about the need for positivity that recognizes the losses we have all had. Joe commented that things about "the world is actually getting better over time" and "posttraumatic growth is 2-3 times more common than posttraumatic stress." Approximately a dozen people participated in the meeting and each person offered something about their experiences. Joe noted that it was fun and provided some much-needed contact and communication.

*Editors Note: Until we can meet in-person, we hope to continue with interactive Zoom meetings at least twice a month.*

## Important Information on Vaccine Roll-out

Some good news is that starting January 27, COVID-19 vaccines are being provided to distribution group 1b beginning with residents of Fond du Lac County who are over the age of 65 or meet the criteria for the distribution group 1a: [Read more about Fond du Lac County's current vaccine distribution.](#)

If you are 65 or older, you can call the Fond du Lac County Health Department at 920-929-3085 and press 1 to schedule an appointment at the Fond du Lac County Expo Center. A reminder that you must call to register. No walk-ins accepted.

If your doctor is with [SSM/Agnesian](#) or [ThedaCare](#), you can go online to your MyChart account and schedule a vaccine appointment with your doctor:

### [SSM/Agnesian MyChart](#)

(Can vaccinate at Ripon Medical Center, currently for patients 75 years and older)

### [ThedaCare MyChart](#)

If you do not have a MyChart account with your doctor, you can still call your provider to schedule a vaccine.

We encourage our community to get vaccinated when you are eligible. [Here is a chart from the Fond du Lac County Department of Health with their projected rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.](#)

Be patient with one another and yourself as the process of getting our community vaccinated will take some time. We are not out of the woods yet; indeed, we may not have seen the worst of this pandemic. So far, January 2021 has been the deadliest month of this pandemic. In Wisconsin, we have reached 584,041 cases, and 6,264 deaths since March 2020. In Fond du Lac County [we are still in Phase 1](#) of the Badger Bounceback Plan (we have remained in Phase 1 since May 2020) and our case rates continue to be high with well over a 25% positivity rate over the last week. Contact tracing is currently at 53%, which means only half of the new cases are being traced. Ripon has had [28 new cases](#) (town and city) in the past week.

We continue to encourage all of us to practice the call to "love your neighbor." This year, loving our neighbor means wearing a mask, having good hygiene, and practicing good social distancing. By each of us doing our part, we can work together to overcome this global health crisis.

Jeffrey Dodson

B.A. Theatre, Ripon College '06

M.Div. Chicago Theological Seminary '14

(719) 330-8549 mobile phone

[dodson.jeffrey@gmail.com](mailto:dodson.jeffrey@gmail.com)

## PLUUF Ballot Results | U.S. Constitution Amendment Resolution

75% of PLUUF's membership sent their ballots back. 100% voted "aye" to stand with United to Amend and communities across the country to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the US Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights – not corporations, unions, nonprofits or other artificial entities, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.

### Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2021

	January 2021	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$ 800	\$ 16,316	\$26,610
Expenses	\$ 6,035	\$ 17,974	\$31,610
(Note: piano + delivery = \$4,300 of the \$6,035 total expense for January)			

Detailed monthly financial reports are always available at PLUUF or by request:  
[tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

All the donation statements have been sent 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](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)