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Prairie Lakes
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship

WEBSITE!
www.pluuf.org

**LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK**

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We are
**Unitarian
Universalists**
with
minds
that think
HEARTS
THAT LOVE
and
HANDS
that are ready to serve

Calendar At-A-Glance

Saturday, March 6 Board Retreat

ENGAGE Sunday, March 7, 10:00 AM: Interactive Zoom conversation highlighting our 2nd UU Principle "Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations" with Linda DeCramer & Joe Hatcher.

Worship Service Sunday, March 14: A stay-at-home Worship Service coordinated by Jill Stiemsma and a reflection by Ali Peters entitled "Come What May" will be emailed to the congregation. More details on page 3.

ENGAGE Sunday, March 21, 10:00 AM: Judy Harris is in the process of brainstorming another fascinating Zoom presentation. Details coming soon. Stay tuned ☺

Worship Service Sunday, March 28: Let's celebrate Ostara, the name for the Wiccan Spring Equinox, with rituals, altars, etc. Jill Stiemsma is creating a stay-at-home service that will be emailed to you. More details on page 3.

The Unitarian Universalist Association Thanks Prairie Lakes for Being an Honor Congregation for 25 years.

The MidAmerica Region of the UUA, of which we are a part, is dependent upon the generosity of UU congregations. The funding we give to the UUA that supports what they do; and, in turn, the UUA helps UU congregations. They appreciate every penny they receive from congregations like ours; those dollars signal our dedication to the collective work to better the world. Honor Congregations are those who provide the full amount that is asked by the UUA, our determined "fair share."

There are over 90 UU Congregations with the MidAmerica Region. It's quite an accomplishment to be named along with an exclusive group of 33 generous congregations that have fulfilled their Fair Share contributions for 25+ years! ☺

Message from the Moderator by Linda DeCramer



Abundant Universe

When the world around me gets challenging – and isn't that the world for all of us right now!? - my inherent response is to ratchet up planning and organizing efforts in hopes of ensuring/controlling for positive outcomes. It's a coping mechanism that has worked in many arenas, but NOT in today's world of layered uncertainty. As antidote, musings on embracing **what is** with gratitude have been on my mind.

My go-to-phrase these days is, "It's an abundant universe!" Not in a trite way, but as catalyst toward approaching life with an exuberant appreciation for the blessings, rather than focusing on that which is lacking. (Because I am a fixer by nature, focusing on what's lacking can too readily overtake all other vantage points.) There will always be work to be done, but it can't be done without first feeding and nurturing one's spirit. This can be an intentional pursuit or serendipitously left to the abundance of the universe. Lately, things have dropped into my world – a book, a conversation, a quote, new possibilities - unbidden and to my benefit.

The abundant universe has of late:

- Strategically placed Tanya in my orbit as a stabilizer and balm for my angst. I am both awed and beyond grateful for the abundance of grace and wisdom she weaves into the lives she touches.
- Serendipitously lead me to a book, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Her voice is biblical in its impact, in its ability to illuminate the human need to be at one with and to honor the connections in creation.
- Punted right out of my brain the notion that focusing on financial security for my family is a useful endeavor. Instead, I'm focused on the inordinate blessings and abilities with which we have all been bestowed.
- Provided walks, talks, and poetry with a friend. Being "susceptible to joy" has been a theme.

It takes practice, but I am committed to nurturing my new eyes and ears for tuning in to abundance. In that vein, here's a joy for the newsletter as well. While we are distanced, PLUUF continues to create interesting, thoughtful offerings through the abundance of good will and commitment of members and friends. It takes a village. I am so grateful for each of you and your gifts.

PLUUF Board Retreat March 6

This will be a time to regroup, reconnect and recharge while strategic planning for the year takes place. A meeting recap will appear in the April newsletter and be presented in detail at PLUUF's Annual Meeting in June.

March Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

E-Mailed to the congregation just before the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month



Hello, again. Believe it or not, we're marching into Spring already! May we experience our own renewal as the earth blossoms. Here's the March Worship Services schedule.

March 14: Be sure to "spring" your clocks ahead! Because I'd forgotten about Chinese New Year, I had to push Ali's service into March. To repeat, we will 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. Good reminders.

March 28: Yep, it's that time of year! Let's celebrate Ostara, the name for the Wiccan Spring Equinox, with rituals, altars, etc. How can you ready yourself emotionally for this welcome change in seasons? Let's explore how the Wiccans would have us to do it.

Hope you're enjoying these services. I – like most of you – look forward to gathering in person soon! But for now, let's do our best to feed our spiritual health and our sense of community. Happy Ostara!

PLUUF's Piano Went to a Really, Really Good Home



PLUUF's Piano was listed on Craigslist



Jane is pictured with her husband and son and traveled all the way from Michigan! Coincidentally, when Jane was younger, she attended a UU congregation in Minneapolis! We hope the piano brings Jane and her family many years of enjoyment.



JOYS & CONCERNS



Joy: My surgery took place on February 17th and I have been home resting comfortably after only spending one night in the hospital. So far, so good! I am feeling pretty good and all indications are we caught the cancer early and there doesn't appear to be any spread. Final results will be forthcoming, but I expect to be getting good news. Thanks to everyone for their support.

Marcia Jackson - Marciaejack480@msn.com



I have 2 Joys, both happened on 2/12/21:

At 12:22 am my great nephew Joseph (the 4th) was born!!! It is hard not to be able to snuggle him, & spend time playing with my great niece Blair.

Later that day, my dog Breezy, had a successful surgery to remove BENIGN growths!!!

All is well here & I hope the same for you - Becky Feyen



My joy for this month is that after a year of virtual learning (with varying degrees of success) students at Ripon High and Middle Schools are returning to full in-person schooling. It will be great for kids to be among their peers and with their teachers everyday! However, this is also a concern. Obviously, that many bodies in a limited amount of space greatly increases the risk of spread of COVID-19. Healthy thoughts to our whole community at this attempt at "normalizing".

-Robyn Davis-Bartow



From Jill Stiemsma: Jerry Davidson was quite, quite ill for some time following his bout with Covid. When I asked for permission to include that announcement in the newsletter, he said really it should go in as a "Joy" since he's recuperating — not entirely, not smoothly — but recuperating, nonetheless. **Keep on trucking, Jerry!**



Our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to Jim Goyette and the passing of his beloved mule Azel. In the last chapter of Azel's 40+ years of life, he was fortunate to find a permanent home with Jim and Linda. He was loved by many and will be missed.

Joy: The photo to the right shows the Prairie Lakes piano in its new home in Michigan. Jane, the new owner, sent this image the day after she purchased it from PLUUF after spotting it on Craigslist.



In Case You Missed It in February

ENGAGE Sunday,
February 7, via Zoom
with Joe Hatcher &
Linda DeCramer

Joe Hatcher and Linda DeCramer led the first in a series of conversations prompted by our seven UU Principles beginning with exploring the first principle: We, the member congregations of the UUA, covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.” After a brief presentation, discussion was open to all attendees. Thank you to everyone who participated in this Zoom event.

Stay -at-Home
Worship Service
February 14
“Hope” by Jill
Stiemsma

Jill Stiemsma created a stay-at-home service called “Finding Hope in an Absurd Time.” She cites the book “Across the Bridge” in which John Lewis describes the 100-year effort to bring DC’s African-American Museum of History and Culture to fruition and the perseverance and persistence required. The Worship Service reflection came from “The Book of Joy” which highlights conversations with the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

ENGAGE Sunday,
February 21 via
Zoom with Judy
Harris and Karen
Ingvolstadt

Inspired by Black History Month, Judy Harris created an interactive Zoom event led by Karen Ingvolstad of Milwaukee. Karen and the other Zoom participants shared many experiences. Karen shared the story about moving into the same building in Milwaukee as Vel Phillips. Phillips was an attorney, politician, jurist, and Civil Rights activist who served as an alderperson and judge in Milwaukee and as Secretary of State of WI, often as the first woman and/or African-American in her position. For more information on Phillips go to [pbs.org Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams](https://pbs.org/VelPhillips: Dream Big Dreams). (Thank you to Becky Feyen for recommending this inspiring documentary.)

Stay-at-Home
Worship Service
February 28
Chinese New Year
By Jill Stiemsma

The Chinese New Year is a celebration of family and human connections and a desire to bring prosperity and good fortune into the new year. As celebrated in China and in many other places, the Chinese New Year (also known as the Lunar New Year) is largely a secular holiday; yet it includes rituals and traditions that derive from Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism, as well as from ancient myths and folk religions.

There are 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac and 2021 is the year of the Ox. A copy of this service was emailed to you on 2/25/21.



Pre Covid photos:

Photo on left: The Luna kids at the China Lights event at the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Milwaukee

Photo on right: Our dragon at our beloved annual Chinese New Year event at PLUUF led by the Roost family



Black History Month Observed at Ripon College

The excerpt below was taken, in part, from the Ripon Commonwealth Press

A little more than 55 years ago, [students from Ripon College participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery](#) as part of a civil rights movement that included the late John Lewis.

On Thursday, February 25, approximately 100 Ripon College students, faculty and community members gathered to support a moment of solidarity and unity for Black Lives Matter and racial justice in honor of Lewis in downtown Ripon.

The event was coordinated by the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and a co-collaboration with the Black Student Union and the Diversity Coalition groups on campus as part of Black History Month.

It featured students sharing excerpts from Lewis' work, speeches from members of Ripon College's faculty and administration, the singing of the historic Black national anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and a march from the Pickard Commons to the Black Lives Matter mural painted on the side of The Heist.



Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2021

Board of Directors*

Moderator

Linda DeCramer

Secretary

Robyn Davis-Bartow

Treasurer

Jim Goyette

At Large Representative

Joe Hatcher

At Large Representative

Jessica French

Independent Contractor/ Administrator Manager

Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

	February 2021	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$675	\$ 16,991	\$26,610
Expenses	\$ 2,209	\$ 20,183	\$31,610

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