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Prairie Lakes  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Fellowship

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pluufgmail@ripon.com



SPRING!!

## Calendar At-A-Glance

**ENGAGE Sunday, April 4, 10:00 AM:** Interactive Zoom conversation highlighting our 3<sup>rd</sup> UU Principle "Accept One Another and Encourage Spiritual Growth" with Linda DeCramer & Joe Hatcher. Zoom link will be shared via e-mail.

**Worship Service Sunday, April 11:** A stay-at-home Worship Service coordinated by Jill Stiemsma: "Resurrection - UU Style." More details on page 3.

**ENGAGE Sunday, April 18, 10:00 AM:** Judy Harris will be leading a discussion via Zoom on our Welcoming Congregation status.

**Worship Service Sunday, April 25:** Jill Stiemsma is creating a stay-at-home service that will be emailed to you titled "Stewardship Sunday." More details on page 3.

**ANNUAL MEETING in-person at PLUUF, JUNE 6, at 10 a.m.** (Meeting packets will be sent in May)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, June 12

**Art & Service Auction**

Details on how you can help on page 6

# Message from the Moderator by Linda DeCramer



## Light at the End of the Tunnel

My spirits are lightened as signs of moving beyond the COVID world come to us every day! Cases and deaths continue to decline. Vaccines are readily available in our area. Many friends and family members are now fully vaccinated, including myself, my children and hubby. If you are looking to be vaccinated, there are several very convenient options:

- Winnebago County:

<https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health/divisions-program-areas/communicable-disease/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/vaccine-1>

- Fond du Lac County:

<https://www.fdlco.wi.gov/departments/departments-f-m/health-department/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine>

- Green Lake County: <https://www.co.green-lake.wi.us/departments/health-human-services-health-unit/?section=covid-vaccine-registration#a-3>
- Walgreen's Pharmacies across the area offer vaccinations as well.

I'm getting the impression that the guidelines for who is eligible are just that, guidelines, not hard and fast rules. It seems the overarching goal is to get the vaccine into people's arms, not split hairs over eligible categories.

## What This Means for PLUUF

During the March 6 half-day Board retreat, we focused on how to manage the next 3 to 6 months. A very thoughtful discussion led us to the following: March, April, and May will continue as is with DIY worship services from Jill Stiemsma, ENGAGE Sundays (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) via Zoom, and Story for All Ages (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) via Zoom.

**DRUM ROLL...** Come June we will offer 2 in-person worship services per month leaving the other Sundays available for personal activities as well as projects at PLUUF.

I can't wait to see, hear, laugh, cry, and work with you all again. It will be a joyous homecoming!

Best,

Linda DeCramer – PLUUF Moderator

Mark Your Calendar for PLUUF's Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 6.  
This will mark the beginning of in-person gatherings!! 😊

## April At-Home Worship Services by Jill Stiemsma

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



Well, there are buds on some trees, birds singing copiously in our yards, little crocuses popping up here and there – we have moved into spring! Alleluia! Perhaps in the not-too-distant future, we'll again host outdoor services! In the meantime, however, here are the plans for April:

**April 11:** This service will be tied to the Christian Easter concept of resurrection: "Resurrection—UU Style." How might we think about the meaning of resurrection without it being tied literally to the rise of Jesus from his tomb? Is there a thoughtful exploration that would make sense to most UU's? Come join the conversation.

**April 25:** In March, UUA distributed a sermon to be used in conjunction with Stewardship Sunday. Unfortunately, I'd already had a March plan that wasn't very negotiable; for example, I didn't want to push the Spring Equinox service even further away from March 20<sup>th</sup>. So, here we are at the end of April – but a Stewardship service we shall have. I want to thank all of you for your continued support of PLUUF and the UUA – from afar but close to the heart.

To the budding spring, to shorts and t-shirt weather, to longer sunny days...to transformation...

## Would You Like to Join PLUUF's New Gardening Group? By Becky Feyen



Hello, fellow PLUUF gardeners & want-to-be gardeners - because we want you all! After many years of considering a sharing garden at Prairie Lakes, it is going to happen! Fortunately, several others are excited to participate. I am developing an ad-hoc gardening 'committee' to create & maintain the gardens. The group will be designed to accommodate availability & interests, while having a great time & a cool name – I will need your help with this.

In April we will begin with clearing flower beds & planning the raised garden beds. Even if you decide not to be a formal part of this group, you are encouraged to join us for any of the cleaning, designing, planting, maintaining, picking, &

sharing events. My hope is that committee members will share leadership & responsibility. I am delighted to facilitate & coordinate, while participating in events to beautify & feed our community.

If you are interested in being a part of this group – even in a small way - feel free to contact me at 920-229-3191 or [r.feyen@yahoo.com](mailto:r.feyen@yahoo.com). I will keep reaching out to everyone for help & let you know what our plans are. You are encouraged to share your knowledge, experience & insight. I am looking forward to hanging out & gettin' dirty.

Miss you all -

Becky Feyen

*"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul."* **Alfred Austin**

## JOYS & CONCERNS



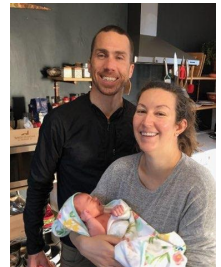
Our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the DeCramers on the passing of sweet Sophie. Linda writes, "It is a gigantic loss, but how could we expect any more from her? She was the equivalent of 95 years old! Still, we are SO SAD. She was a special lady to everyone who met her. A pet/friend like that comes along once in a lifetime." Below is Laird's poem in memory of sweet Sophie:

Softly, she stole my heart completely  
Openly, she loved me sweetly  
Playfully, she filled my days laughingly  
Happily, she owned my soul deeply  
Innately, she filled my needs discreetly  
Existentially, she led me peacefully



Joy: My daughter Kate and husband Andrew welcomed Mira Ivy Sauter into the world on March 2nd. Looking forward to visiting my first grandchild in California late April or early May.

– Jim Goyette



In memory of  
sweet, lovable,  
loyal Breezy.  
Please hold Becky  
Feyen in your  
thoughts.



Joy: In-person services will resume at PLUUF in June!! ☺

Joy: The Art & Service Auction will take place in June ☺

Joy: Becky Feyen is spearheading a gardening group that will bring PLUUFers together to grow vegetables for the local Food Pantry. ☺

Joy: On March 11, Jill Stiemsma filled the sanctuary with beautiful music as she practiced on PLUUF's new digital piano for the first time.

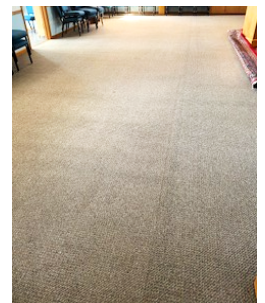
Holding Jill in our thoughts as her North Carolina sister recovers from a stroke.



Joy: Beckers Carpet Cleaning was able to remove the many coffee stains from the Sanctuary carpet ☺



Before – yikes!



After ☺



# In Case You Missed It in March

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

Joe Hatcher and Linda DeCramer led the second in a series of conversations prompted by our seven UU Principles beginning with exploring the second principle: "Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations" After a brief presentation, discussion was open to all attendees. The discussion inspired the idea to create a Community Garden at PLUUF. Thank you to everyone who participated in this Zoom event.

Stay -at-Home  
Worship Service  
March 14  
By Ali Peters &  
coordinated by Jill  
Stiemsma

"Come What May" by Ali Peters, Theology student Interning with Fox Valley UU Fellowship for a year. The link is below if you'd like to watch the reflection.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YF2Ai06wPr0&feature=youtu.be>

ENGAGE Sunday,  
March 21 via Zoom  
with Judy Harris and

Inspired by Women's History Month, Judy Harris created an interactive Zoom event. Participants were invited to share a story or memory or introduction of a woman who had an impact on their life.

Judy continues to work on renewing PLUUF's Welcoming Congregation status.

Stay-at-Home Worship  
Service March 28  
By Elizabeth  
Woodworth-Zanto &  
coordinated by Jill  
Stiemsma

Happy Spring Equinox! Elizabeth Woodworth-Zanto of Open Circle created this service. She grew up in Wausau, WI, and attended First Unitarian Universalist Church. Below are the Opening Words she shared:

Oh I can feel spring in the air,  
her loveliness glows everywhere  
oh shout for joy of all things that waken to make the world fair.  
Oh I can see spring in the sky,  
in bright birds that wave as they fly.  
Oh sing for joy of all things  
for this is the reason we shout happy season  
today is the birthday of Spring.  
(Excerpt from lyrics by Juliana Fairchild  
Nord)

Again the earth did shift  
Again did the nights grow short,  
And the days long.  
And the people of the earth were glad and celebrated  
each in their own ways.  
(Diane Lee Moomey)

# The Art & Service Auction is coming soon!

On Saturday, **June 12 at 6:00 p.m.**, we will see the return of Prairie Lakes' largest (and only!) fundraiser of the year... the Art & Service Auction. The evening will include a Live Auction, Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle. We need everyone's participation to make this event a success.

Here are a few ways you can help:

1. Donate an item for the live auction and/or basket raffle.
2. Participate in the event by bidding and buying.
3. Invite friends, family and coworkers to the event to bid and buy. Proxy bidding will be encouraged for those still distancing due to the pandemic.
4. All of the above 😊

## Live Auction Ideas:

- Make dinner for another family
- Dessert every month for a year
- Original art or craft item
- Pre-owned art or craft item
- Handyman special-build or repair something
- Childcare
- Yard work/housework
- Pies galore
- Camping get-a-away
- Restaurant certificates
- Theater Tickets
- Teach a new skill like knitting/baking/art/photography
- Dog Walker/pet sitter

## Basket Auction Theme Ideas:

- Crazy for Chocolate
- Movie or Game Night
- Caffeine Fix
- Great Outdoors
- "Fur Baby" Fun
- Home & Garden
- Gourmet Wine & Dine
- Family Day
- Creativity Unleashed

Or whatever theme you can dream up!

Please e-mail [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) if you would like to donate to the Live Auction or create a basket for the Silent Auction.

## Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 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/

#### Business Manager

Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

	March 2021	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$1,000	\$17,941	\$26,610
Expenses	\$3,237.12	\$ 23,421	\$31,610

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