

AUGUST 2021



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Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Message from the Editor: Thank you to everyone for your patience as we navigate our way out of this pandemic. As you know, we've been taking our in-person summer programming on a month-to-month basis and sometimes even week-to-week! Starting in September, though, we'll return to our regular schedule of programming that will include consistent ENGAGE Sundays on the 1st & 3rd of the month and Worship Services on 2nd & 4th Sundays.

-Tanya

August Calendar At-A-Glance

ENGAGE Sunday, August 1, 10 AM Option #1: Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup. Meet in the Christiano's Restaurant parking lot: W1917 Hwy 23. You bring gloves and a water bottle and we'll provide the vests and bags

ENGAGE Sunday, August 1, 10 AM Option #2: Although there will be no programming at PLUUF on 8/1, PLUUF member Pat Dobrinska will open up the building at 10 a.m. and make coffee and conversation with anyone who shows up. ☺

Worship Service, August 8, 10 AM: From the comfort of PLUUF's sanctuary we will join Open Circle UU Fellowship for a virtual service with Brian Smith. It will be live streamed onto our big screen. See page 2 for more details.

ENGAGE Sunday, August 15, 10 AM: No scheduled programming, but you are welcome to spend time at PLUUF in our outdoor seating area or meditate in the sanctuary, or check out the Sharing Garden, or ? . Coffee will be served.

Worship Service Sunday, August 22, 10 AM: Proposed topic: "Why I am UU" interactive Worship Service

5th Sunday, August 29, 10 AM: PLUUF Fluff and Buff clean-up day ☺

In-Person Worship Service Sunday, August 8, by Jill Stiemsma



As with the July 25th service, this one will also be streamed — this time, live. PLUUF has the opportunity to join Open Circle's virtual service and "see" our beloved Brian Smith as he delivers the Reflection.

Writes Brian: The service will focus on the fourth UUA principle: "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." The title of my talk is: "The Erosion of Truth in American Society." I address the spread of lies about COVID vaccine and also the lies about the last election and the Jan. 6th attack on the Capitol and offer some suggestions as to what we as individuals can do to counter disinformation among family and neighbors.

Please do join Brian on August 8th!!

Sharing Garden Report

In May, a volunteer crew filled the raised beds on PLUUF's green space with a soil mixture and began the process of planting seeds and seedlings with a plan to donate the fresh produce to the Ripon food pantry (Traded Treasures).

Judy Morgan delivered the first harvest to the Ripon Food Pantry on June 14. It was a big, beautiful bag of radishes. July's harvest was a bounty of delicious and beautiful summer scallop squash and tomatoes!



Welcoming Congregation Renewal Update by Judy Harris



PLUUF's goal in renewing our "Welcoming Congregation Status" is to complete two more steps in the renewal process:

- 1) Read and discuss a relevant book. Two book choices will be available for you to select at PLUUF on August 8th. See below.
- 2) Donate financially to local community groups

Option #1: Book discussion on September 19:

The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism, and Aging.

(When you have finished the book, please return it to PLUUF in case others may wish to read it or you may donate and keep the book).

Below is a summary from the UUA Uplift website:

"...sexuality researcher Jane Fleishman shares the stories of fearless elders in the LGBTQ community who came of age around the time of the Stonewall Riots of 1969. In candid interviews, they lay bare their struggles, strengths, activism, and sexual liberation in the context of the political movements of the 1960s and 1970 and today. Each of these inspiring figures has spent a lifetime fighting for the right to live, love, and be free, facing challenges arising from their sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, politics, disabilities, kinkiness, non-monogamy and other identities These are the stories of those whose lives were changed forever by Stonewall and who in turn became agents of change themselves."

Option #2: Book Discussion to be set up at a time that is convenient for discussion led by Judy Harris and Liz Buchanan-Beegle

Especially suggested for parents with pre-teenagers, in [Raising LGBTQ Allies, A Parent's Guide to Changing the Messages from the Playground](#), author Chris Tompkins "Walks parents through the many ways they can prevent new generations from adopting homophobic and transphobic beliefs by showing readers the importance of having open and authentic conversations with children at a young age."

Donations from PLUUF

Before the August 9th Board meeting, Judy Harris will be filling out a form to request money to be donated (amount to be determined by Board) to the Ripon High School LGBTQ+ club and to the Ripon College LGBTQ+ club as part of our Welcoming Congregation Renewal. If anyone objects or would like to suggest a different club/organization to contribute to, please let Judy know at jdlake@centurytel.net. FYI We have already donated \$80 to the LGBTQ Resource Center at UW Oshkosh at the request of our speaker Christopher Szymczak.

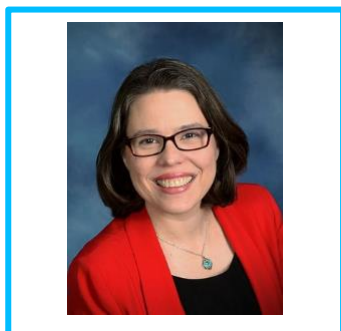
In Case You Missed It in July



July 4: Becky Feyen presented a review of the 4 Unitarian Universalist Principles and led a discussion on the 5th Principle: The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process Within Our Congregations and in Society at Large. It was a very timely topic as we celebrated the birthday of America!



On July 11th, Jill Stiemsma led a service entitled “What Primal Religions Can Teach UU’s.” Practitioners honor ancestors not as “gods” but as the teachers of the technology for hunting or gathering, for basket weaving, for identifying plants and determining their uses, etc. Thus, practitioners hope to embody their archetypes’ wisdom and honor their sacrifices. In these prehistoric cultures, then, storytelling becomes critical to passing on generations of knowledge and skill; every child learns a “whole library”. Non-essential information is not passed on; there isn’t time for memorizing the unnecessary; imagine how much better off we’d be if we didn’t have written words projecting misinformation and pure falsehoods! Essentially, everyone in a prehistoric society becomes a living reservoir of knowledge. And finally, practitioners store information about “place”: where the water resources are, which plants grow where, where one can find shelter or shade, etc. They are intimately “at one” with their surroundings. Again, imagine how differently we’d approach life if we were “one” with the trees, the birds, the water sources...if we truly valued the interdependence of all living things.



July 25: Loved Into Being, a service created and led by UUA Staff was projected onto the big screen at PLUUF. Many UU leaders presented music and messages that encouraged us to examine our faith: a faith committed to justice and, hence, action. Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't just an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. This full-length worship experience featured a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray that inspired us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity.