

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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October 2021 NEWSLETTER

WE ARE BACK!

Our 1st Worship Service on September 12
kicked off our new Fellowship year:
Our Ingathering/Water Sharing Service





MODERATOR's MESSAGE

Hello PLUUF friends!

I've been a bit disconnected lately; as many of you know, we relocated my mom to an apartment for seniors (independent living) in Ripon this past June. It has become increasingly apparent that her ability to live independently has realistically passed. While I have been regularly overwhelmed by her needs, this time has come with benefits.

Historically, my mom and I have struggled due to very different spiritual and political views.

Becoming her caregiver was not something I ever anticipated or desired. Still, the new situation has given us an opportunity to put disagreements aside and simply focus on caring for and loving each other. Does it make me crazy that she is sucked in by misinformation spanning health issues, politics, and religion? Sure. But the reward for simply stepping away from conflict, choosing grace and compassion instead has been transformative personally and for our relationship.

I'm increasingly attuned toward offering and recognizing grace all around me. At PLUUF, Tanya has supported and talked me through many challenging moments. She has filled in graciously where and when I have been unavailable. Thank you, Saint Tanya. 😊 Generally, I'm aware of more and more people passionately promoting kindness and hope over gloom, doom, and self-righteousness. It takes grace and compassion to let go of one's own pride, to choose being kind over being right.

As we enter another challenging fall due to COVID19's Delta variant, I recognize that our members and friends each face unique struggles with the ongoing pandemic- some are shared, some are unspoken. I have every faith that as a community we will turn to grace and kindness with each other as we navigate how to be together safely indoors. Currently the CDC recommends masking indoors for the vaccinated AND unvaccinated. Because we have members and friends who cannot mask, and others who cannot be vaccinated, those of us who CAN do those things are called to do both with love and care for those who cannot.

Life is short - let's spend as much of it as we can standing in the light!

Love, patience, and good health to you all,

Linda DeCramer - Moderator, PLUUF

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

- Sunday, October 3, ENGAGE 10AM with Becky Feyen “The 7th UU Principle”
- Thursday, October 7, 7:30-8:30PM Zoom event at PLUUF. Join the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin via Zoom for a compelling presentation on the vital investment in infrastructure. Featuring Dorothy Skye, President of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.
- Sunday, October 10, Worship Service 10AM with Jill Stiemsma “Indigenous Peoples Day Counter Columbus Narrative”
- Wednesday, October 13, 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting. Contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com if you’d like anything added to the agenda.
- Sunday, October 17, ENGAGE 10AM “Parliament of World Religions” live streamed at PLUUF.
- Sunday, October 24, Worship Service 10AM with Becky Feyen “United Nations Day”
- 5th Sunday, October 31, 10AM with Judy Morgan “Day of the Dead”

ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS

ENGAGE is an acronym for:

Explore | **N**o Boundaries | **G**ather | **A**ctivism | **G**o! Be the Change | **E**ducate



ENGAGE Sunday, October 3: 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen. We will explore our 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Please join us for a conversation of the principle which is arguably the culmination of the previous 6 Principles. You will have an opportunity to share how the 7th Principle connects to your personal belief of your earthly existence and/or a power greater than yourself.

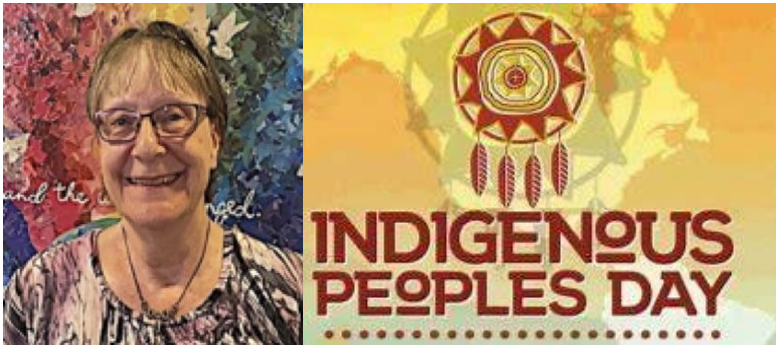
UUA Reflection on the Seventh Principle

“Our seventh Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, is a glorious statement. Yet we make a profound mistake when we limit it to merely an environmental idea. It is so much more. It is our response to the great dangers of both individualism and oppression. It is our solution to the seeming conflict between the individual and the group.”

“Our seventh Principle may be our Unitarian Universalist way of coming to fully embrace something greater than ourselves. The interdependent web—expressed as the spirit of life, the ground of all being, the oneness of all existence, the community-forming power, the process of life, the creative force, even God—can help us develop that social understanding of ourselves that we and our culture so desperately need. It is a source of meaning to which we can dedicate our lives.”

—Rev. Forrest Gilmore, Executive Director of Shalom Community Center, Bloomington, IN

Worship Service Sunday, October 10, 10:00 AM with Jill Stiemsma
"Indigenous Peoples Day Counters Columbus Narrative"



The Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to fully understand the legacy of Christopher Columbus, just as it calls us to respect and learn from indigenous peoples and support their struggles for social justice and religious freedom. Join Unitarian Universalists across the United States in honoring Indigenous Peoples Day.

ENGAGE Sunday, October 17, 10:00 AM
Parliament of World Religions will be live streamed on PLUUF's big screen.



Worship Service Sunday, October 24, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen



Prairie Lakes will honor United Nations Day. The UN Sunday theme for 2021: All in for Climate Justice - Food Equity and Sustainability.

From involvement in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level.

Changing food systems can be a solution to climate change *and* can bring us closer to social justice and prosperity for all people. This Sunday we will consider what food equity & sustainability might require from us and how our actions can support this initiative.

**5th Sunday,
October 31, 10:00 AM**



**“Day of the Dead” with
Judy Morgan**



**Welcome Sandra Ortiz,
PLUUF’s newest member**

In Case You Missed it in September

ENGAGE Sunday, September 5, with Becky Feyen



Study of the 6th Principle -
The Goal of World
Community with Peace,
Liberty, and Justice for All

Becky Feyen led a discussion on what it means to bring peace, liberty & justice for all. Participants discussed what they can do in their daily lives to live the 6th Principle. Participants also discussed ideas that lead us toward peace, liberty & justice for all?

Sunday, September 12: Worship Service Ingathering/Water Sharing



On the first Sunday after Labor Day, Prairie Lakes, like many Unitarian Universalist congregations, kick off the new congregational year with an Ingathering service that included a water sharing ritual in the service. Our theme was re-gathering and re-covenanting as a community of faith and hospitality. It was a celebration of returning home to the church community that holds us while looking forward with excitement to the church year.

Participants shared water from special places and poured the water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, each person who brought water explained why the water is special. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources.



Sunday, September 19: ENGAGE Sunday Book Discussion with Judy Harris

Judy coordinated a dynamic book discussion on the "The Stonewall Generation" by Jane Fleishman and "Raising LGBTQ Allies" by Chris Tompkins. Two checks were given by Prairie Lakes to support LGBTQ causes. PLUUF member Brad Roost accepted the check on behalf of the Gay-Straight Alliance Club at Ripon High School. Ren Zwaschka accepted on behalf of the Queer-Straight Alliance of Ripon College. The event concluded with a brief dedication ceremony led by Becky Feyen for PLUUF's new LGBTQ Rainbow Freedom Flag.



Sunday, September 26: 10:00 AM

Harvest Sharing This was a time to give thanks for the abundance in our lives. We empty our symbolic storerooms to make space for what we might then gather in this time of transformation, of rebirth and new beginnings.

Special thanks to Sylvia Reed for leading our Harvest Sharing service at Prairie Lakes today, "Hunger and Food Resources in Fond du Lac County - A UU Perspective." Sylvia is a longtime member of Open Circle Fellowship in Fond du Lac. She's been serving on the Fondy Food Pantry Board since 2017 and is currently in her 2nd year as Vice President.

Thank you to everyone who brought fresh produce to donate to the Ripon Food Pantry ❤️.

2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2020/21 Annual Report has been sent via email to all members of PLUUF. It includes a complete recap of our fiscal year. If you have any questions or prefer a paper copy please contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

Below are a few words from PLUUF's Moderator regarding the report:



As you enter into these pages recapping the 2020-21 church year, you may want to sit down and even grab a beverage of choice while enjoying the tour. Despite the unprecedented (in our lives, anyway) changes and struggles COVID-19 brought to the world, we did a LOT! Many thanks to Tanya for this detailed and inspirational recap of our year.

We can all be proud of the ways in which our small but mighty community adapted, innovated, collaborated, and, as always, created! From learning and embracing virtual platforms to production of a Festival of Lights video; from installation of a sharing garden to continued social justice efforts and monetary contributions; we collectively stepped up, created continuity of programming, and fostered connectedness in unique ways. Every task completed, every idea offered, every thought or experience shared was a valued contribution. Kudos to everyone.

A phrase, "The whole is more than the sum of its parts," entered my mind repeatedly while reading this report. Indeed, our individual commitments, gifts, talents, knowledge, and life experiences all mixed up together create an astounding kaleidoscope of offerings and actions. The richness of our community shines through these pages and gives us ALL license to be unabashedly PROUD of being part of something larger than ourselves.

With peace and love to all, Linda DeCramer - Moderator