



**March 2022**

**NEWSLETTER**

# **Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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## **MARCH ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS**

(Please note: All March services are in-person although some will be offered with a Zoom option. If the Zoom option is available, an announcement with the link will be made in the days leading up to the service.



### **ENGAGE Sunday, March 6, 10:00 AM**

#### **Book Presentation/Discussion with Robert "Spud" Hannaford: *On Caring* by Milton Mayeroff**

No need to read this book ahead of time, but you may be inspired to read it after Sunday's discussion. Mayeroff's *On Caring* focuses on the relationship between the caregiver and the person cared for and how that contributes to a life well-lived for each. "Should be obligatory reading. . . . A philosophy of life in a nutshell, one that has latched on to the most practical, central, and sensible of all activities, human or cosmic."--Psychology Today



### **Worship Service Sunday, March 13, 10:00 AM with**

#### **Paul Jeffries: *A Third Kind of Love: Agape***

We welcome back Paul Jeffries! Paul is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Ripon College. His teaching and scholarly activities focus on the area of ethics. In addition to his work in philosophy, Paul also has a degree in Theological Ethics from Yale Divinity School. On February 13 he led a presentation and discussion on *Two Kinds of Love: Eros and Philia*. On March 13, he'll present *A Third Kind of Love: Agape*.

## ENGAGE Sunday, March 20, 10:00 AM

### Book Presentation/Discussion with Pat Dobrinska: ***The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson**

*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, by Isabel Wilkerson (2010). This is an extensive read, but well worth the time to gain understanding of American history through the personal experiences of people moving from the Jim Crow South in hopes for a better life in the north. There are numerous interviews with Ms. Wilkerson & summary resources if you don't have time for reading. We hope you'll join us whether you have read the book or not.



## Worship Service Sunday, March 27, 10:00 AM with Connie Ghinzaai: Topic to be Announced

At the beginning of a new year, we often think about what we want to do differently in the upcoming year. Originally Connie was going to lead a Worship Service called *A More Beautiful Question* and explore the power of inquiry to ignite change. Due to the spike in COVID cases, her original January Worship Service was canceled. We look forward to having Connie back at the podium on March 27. The topic will be announced via e-mail in the upcoming weeks.



## In Case You Missed it in February

### **ENGAGE Sunday, February 6:** (It was offered in-person & via Zoom)

#### ***African American History Month Matters* with Becky Feyen**

February was African American History month; January 17<sup>th</sup> was Martin Luther King Day. Becky led a service honoring the importance of these observances by addressing why they are important & the impact they have or should have on society. The words of MLK are still relevant today for the pursuit of acceptance & equality for people identified as non-white. The leaders & history of black people have been defined & degraded by historical (& current) narratives. She began with the words of MLK and the importance of understanding the strength of black leaders with a TED Talk by David Ikard (link included), and she shared the important contributions of several African Americans.

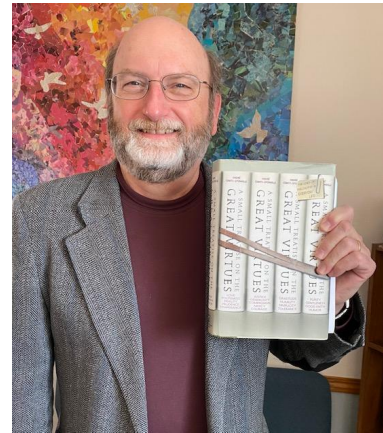


[https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_ikard\\_the\\_real\\_story\\_of\\_rosa\\_parks\\_and\\_why\\_we\\_need\\_to\\_confront\\_myths\\_about\\_black\\_history](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_ikard_the_real_story_of_rosa_parks_and_why_we_need_to_confront_myths_about_black_history)

### **Worship Service Sunday, February 13:**

#### ***Two Kinds of Love with Paul Jeffries***

Such a thought provoking, dynamic reflection led by Dr. Paul Jeffries, Professor of Philosophy at Ripon College. The topic was "Two Kinds of Love: Eros and Philia". (He's saving the third, "Agape", for his presentation at Prairie Lakes on March 13). The book Paul is pictured holding, "A Small Treatise on the Great Virtues" by Andre Comte-Sponville, inspired parts of the reflection.



### **ENGAGE Sunday, February 20 with Judy Harris: *Raising Good Citizens***

(Presented in-person and via Zoom)

Thank you to Judy Harris for leading an ENGAGE Sunday on February 20 on "Raising Good Citizens." Judy shared that the mission of the YMCA Youth in Government program "is committed to preserving strong civic culture by helping young people understand our system of government and how to effectively use their voice to take action on issues that matter to them." We must prepare kids for life as a citizen because democracy must be learned by each generation. She also shared the important work her friend Amy Anderson is doing as Executive Director of the YMCA Youth in Government program in MN. Amy is a non-profit leader committed to developing and supporting programs and activities that give young people the knowledge, skills, confidence and desire to be changemakers and community leaders. Judy Harris will be observing the Youth in Government Conference on Saturday, March 5, in Madison at the Capitol. The **conference takes place from March 4-6 and more information can be found at [wisconsinvig.org](http://wisconsinvig.org).**



### **Worship Service Sunday, February 27: *Remembering a UU Hero: The James Reeb Story* with Judy Harris**

February was Black History Month and a time when the nation reflects on the contributions of African Americans to the country. Judy Harris selected the James Reeb story as not only a way to conclude Black History Month but also to share the life story of a white Unitarian Universalist minister who became nationally known as a martyr to the Civil Rights cause. The service included beautiful music by Jill Stiemsma and concluded with the song "We Shall Overcome." We even had a special RE session for the kids in attendance.



# UU Nations: Ukraine and Our Commitment to Peace

Russia's invasion of Ukraine reminds us that peace, justice, and human rights are linked and interdependent. By BRUCE KNOTTS 2/23/2022



The Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 outlawed annexing territory by conquest. This pact provided a basis for World War II war crimes trials. Reinforcing the Kellogg-Briand Pact, Unitarian Universalists John Washburn from the United States and Elaine Harvey from Canada led the faith caucus for the establishment of the International Criminal Court with the Rome Statute, which upholds the principles ending war and violent aggression.

Since 1945 no nation had gained territory through conquest until 2014, when Russia took Crimea

from Ukraine and attacked the Donbas region of Ukraine. Over 15,000 Ukrainians have been killed.

Unitarian Universalists banded together with the Union for Reform Judaism and Rissho Kosei-kai (Japanese Buddhist organization) to form Religions for Peace (RFP), which was founded in Kyoto, Japan, in October 1970. RFP consists of the world's most prominent faith leaders from over 100 countries. It has mediated conflicts and worked for peace for more than five decades. The UUA is a crucial supporter and leader in RFP International and RFP USA, which I serve as a co-moderator.

Also, in 1970, Unitarian Universalist Rev. Homer Jack founded the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace, and Security at the United Nations and started publishing *Disarmament Times*. I am currently chair of this committee, and we continue to publish *Disarmament Times*.

Throughout our sixty-year history at the United Nations, the UU@UN has pointed out that peace, justice, and human rights are linked and interdependent.

## How did the current situation in Ukraine happen?

In the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, the United States, Russia, and Britain committed “to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine” and “to refrain from the threat or use of force” against Ukraine. With those assurances, Ukraine gave up its 1,900 strategic nuclear warheads.

The UU@UN continues to work for disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Viktor Yanukovich was the Ukrainian president from 2010 to 2014. Corrupt, he kept Ukraine close to Russia, thereby amassing stunning wealth and living opulently. He wanted Russian to be the language of Ukraine. The Euromaidan protests started in November 2013 against Yanukovich. On February 22, 2014,

Yanukovych was impeached and fled the country. Ukraine has leaned toward the west and away from Russia ever since.

Victoria Nuland joined the U.S. Foreign Service with me in 1984. Of our entire 1984 class, she has been the most successful. She was the point person during the Ukraine crisis. In a 2016 U.S. Senate Foreign Relations testimony, she said Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine "shattered any remaining illusions about this Kremlin's willingness to abide by international law or live by the rules of the institutions that Russia joined at the end of the Cold War."

Victoria left the Department of State along with many others when Trump became president in 2017. She rejoined as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs in April 2021.

Donald Trump has had close relations with Russia for thirty years. In 2016, it was clear that Russia worked to get Trump elected and block Hillary Clinton. Trump was attracted by the power and wealth that Vladimir Putin can amass for himself.

Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign manager, previously worked to get Viktor Yanukovych elected as President of Ukraine and align it with Russia.

The soaring words in the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sound like they were drafted by a Unitarian. They were. John Peters Humphrey completed the first draft at the request of Eleanor Roosevelt and shepherded the document to its conclusion in 1948. When I spoke to the UU Congregation in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, I discovered that John Peters Humphrey was a Unitarian and member of the Winnipeg congregation. The preamble reads:

"Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations."

## Bruce Knotts

Bruce Knotts is the director of the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations. He worked for Raytheon in Saudi Arabia and on a World Bank contract in Somalia before joining the Department of State as a U.S. diplomat in 1984. Bruce retired from the Foreign Service in 2007 and joined the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations as its executive director in 2008.

Learn more about Bruce Knotts on [UUA.org](http://UUA.org).

