



## Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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# NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



### CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE (Details on page 2-3)

**Sunday, November 7, ENGAGE 10AM** with Becky Feyen

**Wednesday, November 10, 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting.** Contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

if you'd like anything added to the agenda.

**Sunday, November 14, Worship Service 10AM** with potluck to follow.

**Sunday, November 21, ENGAGE 10AM** with Don VanScotter and Ray Gurney

**Sunday, November 28, Annual Gratitude Service at 10AM** with Jill Stiemsma

## ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS

ENGAGE is an acronym for:

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



### ENGAGE Sunday, November 7:

**10:00 AM with Becky Feyen**

#### *Principle Pursuits & the 8th Principle Project*

The last 7(+) months we have spent 1st Sundays reviewing & discussing our 7 Principles. To wrap-up our discussions we will spend time brainstorming ideas on how Prairie Lakes can live our Principles. As a brainstorming session, we will not limit ourselves or focus on developing the plans, rather we will focus on specific actions you envision, or how we need to live differently. (Non-specific examples from previous discussions: Support current & formerly incarcerated people, support local LGBTQ organizations, reduce mowed lawn area on Green Space, etc.)

The second half of the hour will be devoted to introducing the proposed 8th Principle: *"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse and multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountability dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."*

### Worship Service Sunday, November 14, 10:00 AM and potluck

#### *Finding Hope and Joy in an Absurd Time*

Sunday, November 14: For many of us, the last few years have been fraught with worry about the stability of our democracy and the nation-wide resistance to CDC recommendations designed to fight a pandemic that's killed more than 740,000 Americans. Worse, many of us have tried to mitigate family tensions with members who see the world so differently. So, let's take a breather. Join us on November 14 for a service entitled *Finding Hope and Joy in an Absurd Time*. And stay for lunch!

### ENGAGE Sunday, November 21, 10:00 AM

#### *The Existential Philosophy of Martin Buber* With Don Van Scotter and Ray Gurney



**I and Thou** is a philosophy of human relations with the world, including nature, other humans, and the spiritual realm. A short but incisive and generative book, it is composed of three chapters, originally published in 1923, and an afterword, added with the second edition in 1957. In the first Chapter, Buber explains his fundamental distinction between I-It and I-You. Both the 1923 and 1957 editions will be emailed to the congregation.





## **Worship Service Sunday, November 28, 10:00 AM**

### ***Annual Gratitude Service***

(Message from Jill Stiemsma)

Sunday, November 28: Wow — how did it get to be time for another Gratitude Service already??? Sheesh. But here we are. Happy Thanksgiving, one and all. And, like you, I am SO grateful that PLUUF continues to offer opportunities for emotional support and spiritual growth. Come join the conversation!

## **Words of Farewell from PLUUF Friend Marcia Jackson**



Many of you know that Scott and I have moved to Peoria, IL. I had hoped to be able to say goodbye in person but time got the best of me, so I asked Tanya if I could write something for the November newsletter.

Some of you may have known that our primary reason for moving here was to help my sister Diane with my mom's care. Once she passed in January of 2020, Scott and I discussed what our next steps would be. Thinking about where we might want to go, we realized that Peoria was a very logical place for us. It's where we met 26 years ago and Scott's hometown. His Mom and 4 siblings live there, and his 2 sons are nearby. We both know the area and there's lots to do -- both shopping, great restaurants and a wonderful UU church. The church is actually less than

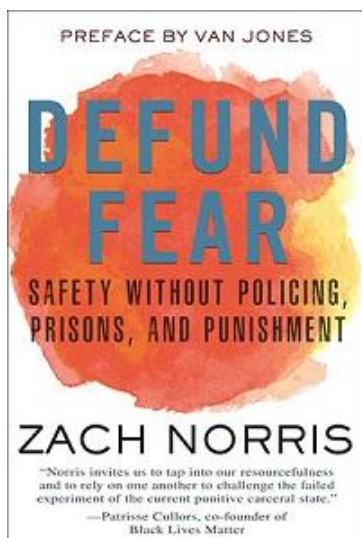
a half mile from our new house! This congregation is the one that we were married in although the building is new. We are looking forward to seeing who might still be there.

I'm grateful for the time we've had here, and it was wonderful to be a part of PLUUF. Please feel free to keep in touch. I do have a Facebook page under Marcia Jackson, or you can email me at [marciaejack480@msn.com](mailto:marciaejack480@msn.com). Scott and I wish all of you the very best!

## **A Message from Jill Stiemsma (Please Read)**



On a personal note, I have served as your Worship Services Coordinator for 15+ years; and, quite frankly, I'm getting burned out. Thankfully, Linda DeCramer and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper are stepping up to the plate so that hopefully, by January, my role will have ended without unduly burdening others. But, as you know, those two have plenty to do on behalf of PLUUF already. So, who among you would be willing to take a more active role in planning services? Our worship services are such an integral part of PLUUF offerings; let's keep that tradition going strong! Talk with Tanya at [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) about your interest. Thanks!



## The Latest UUA Common Read

The UU Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. Further, a Common Read can take us on a powerful faith journey as we explore—each of us, and together—what it means to be human and accountable in a pain-filled world.

### Common Read 2021-22: *Defund Fear* by Zach Norris

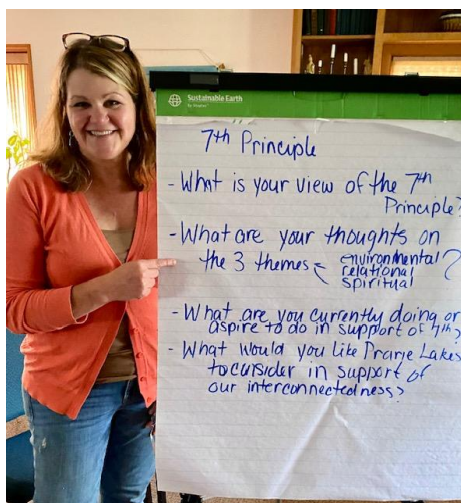
The UUA has chosen [\*Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment\*](#) by Zach Norris (Beacon Press, 2021)

as the next Common Read.

Zach Norris shifts the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities. In *Defund Fear*, Norris explores what has gone wrong, and why, and who has been most impacted by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers a new blueprint for public safety that holds people accountable while still holding them in community.



## In Case You Missed it in October



### ENGAGE Sunday, October 4, with Becky Feyen presenting the 7th UU Principle

It was another wonderful ENGAGE Sunday with Becky Feyen as she presented the UU 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." After her presentation, she handed over the mic to the congregation for a thoughtful and thought-provoking discussion. Questions for discussion included the following:

1. What is your view of the 7th Principle?
2. What are your thoughts on the 3 themes: Environmental; relational; spiritual.
3. What are you currently doing or aspiring to do in support of the 7th principle?
4. What would you like Prairie Lakes to consider in support of our interconnectedness?

*In Case You Missed it in October continued...*



### **Sunday, October 10: Worship Service “Indigenous Peoples Day as a Counterpoint to Columbus Day” with Jill Stiemsma**

Sunday's service, led by JILL Stiemsma, focused on the rationale for renaming Columbus Day the Indigenous People's Day. Even though 143 countries voted to support the UN's Declaration on the Rights

of Indigenous Peoples in 2007, the US wasn't among them. Neither was Canada though it later changed its vote and in fact now honors the day as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. During Congregational Feedback, members shared their first-hand experiences observing blatant acts of discrimination against first-nations peoples.



### **ENGAGE Sunday, October 17: Jim Goyette brought the Parliament of the World's Religions to Prairie Lakes big Screen.**

Tech savvy Jim presented a breakout session from the Parliament of the World Religions: The project "A Narrative of Love" is a series of conversations with thinkers, spiritual teachers, and practitioners on how they see the significance of love in our personal and public lives. The project seeks to explore the power of love in practice that might invite humanity out of the current impasse.



### **Worship Service Sunday, October 24:**

Becky Feyen led this service focused on how Prairie Lakes has honored 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.



### **5th Sunday, October 31: Day of the Dead**

Presentation created and led by Judy Morgan and sugar skull craft activity by Robyn Davis-Bartow. See page 6 for photos and a recap.



# Thank you to Judy Morgan for creating and presenting a memorable Day of the Dead event at Prairie Lakes!



Celebrated mostly in Mexico or by people with Mexican heritage elsewhere, it's a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning. Judy arrived in costume and created a table symbolizing the loved ones in her life who have passed. Why Marigolds for Day of the Dead? It's believed the spirits of the dead visit the living during the celebration. Marigolds guide the spirits to their altars using their vibrant colors and pungent scent. Marigolds also represent the fragility of life.



Dave Harris read a poem on Monarchs from his book "The Snow Mosquito Stings!"



Robyn Davis-Bartow led a sugar skull decorating craft activity with the kids.

