

April 2022



NEWSLETTER

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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April ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



Worship Service Sunday, April 3, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen: “Springing to Balance”

The beginning of spring is the time of renewal, with the Vernal Equinox symbolizing balance. Becky Feyen will present a spring balancing program, where we will explore the idea of living a balanced life. This balance includes multiple aspects of life: relationships, work, fitness and health, finances, emotional well-being and activism. We will consider ways to bring a little balance to our daily routine. Hopefully, our discussion will assist & inspire you to nurture a little balance in your life.



Worship Service Sunday, April 10 , 10:00 AM with Tom Zuhlke:

“The Gospel Truth of Johnny Appleseed” is about “becoming!” God’s name is pronounced “I AM!” or “I BE,” meaning “I am becoming.” As we grow, we mature. In “One Moment in Time,” we become who we are meant to be continually. Our sense of Self fulfills our continuum of community: self, family, extended family, and others. **Come! Discover Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship!**



Easter Sunday Intergenerational Service April 17, 10:00 AM with Judy Harris et al.

This is going to be a great service for young, old and everyone in between! Wear your Easter Bonnet, bring some ready-to-eat Easter Eggs and other Easter treats. We'll learn about Easter's Pagan roots, the Christian holy events leading up to Easter Sunday and a Unitarian Universalist perspective on Easter. Please join us for this very family friendly event!



ENGAGE Sunday, April 24 , 10:00 AM with Judy Goldsmith

Racism: A Small Town White Girl's Journey Into Reality

In a time when "CRT" (Critical Race Theory) is stoking fears about learning the history of racism in our country, this topic explores just that -- how racism began and functioned in our country's history (and continues to). Judy's story is told from a personal perspective, recounting her growth in awareness to finally understanding the need for people -- and in particular white people -- to learn about and fight racism in all its forms.

The MidAmerica UUA Regional Assembly is online again this year. We hope to stream it at PLUUF on Saturday, April 30th & invite people to attend. We'll provide more information as the date approaches.

[2022 MidAmerica Regional Assembly](#)



(Printed from UU World Magazine)

As the situation in Ukraine has unfolded, there has been an outpouring of prayers and concern from Unitarian Universalists expressing heartfelt unity around this growing human rights tragedy. We want to share the most up to date information on how UUs in this country and around the world are responding and amplify the ways that we can all help.

As Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), said, “we continue to join in solidarity with so many around the world and pray for the people of Ukraine. Our hearts go out to those who are enduring devastating loss of life, violence, instability, and upheaval due to Russia’s unprovoked invasion. Our UU faith calls us to remain committed to justice and we believe we have a moral responsibility to support the creation of peace and the equal rights of all people.”

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is a stark reminder that [human rights are fundamentally linked to our interdependence](#). Over the last several weeks, while we have seen tremendous acts of courage and generosity by and towards the people of Ukraine, we have also seen the worst of human behavior. We continue to be mindful that an authoritarian, imperialistic ideology that seeks to deny Ukrainians their rights to live free and independently, under the false, anti-Semitic guise of “denazification,” is directly tied to colonialist ideologies globally and here in the U.S. that endanger the health, well-being, and lives of BIPOC individuals, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and other marginalized populations.

And as millions of people living in Ukraine flee to safety, we know that, on top of an already dangerous situation, there are life-threatening experiences of anti-Blackness, racism, and xenophobia that are blocking escape from the deadly conflict.

[Support Ukraine Response](#)

The scope of this humanitarian crisis is staggering. To help address the scale of the crisis, the UUA has been working closely with our partners at the [UU Service Committee](#), which is dedicated to advancing human rights and social justice, together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. They have created an Emergency Relief Fund to support Ukraine and we are committed to amplifying their voice and humanitarian work. (NOTE: So far, Prairie Lakes has contributed \$250 to the UUSC fund to support the Ukrainians. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the offering on March 6.)

The international implications of Russia’s war in Ukraine are profound. The UUA’s [International office has additional resources](#) for supporting Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes and communities, including information on supporting the Hungarian Unitarian Church and the International Women’s Convocation’s Faithify Campaign.

As more information becomes available, we will make sure to provide updates on our efforts, including [on our Facebook page](#). We ask that you continue to hold in your hearts the people of Ukraine and all of those around the world who are suffering because of war and injustice. And we ask that you pray for peace as we all hold each other in mutual care.

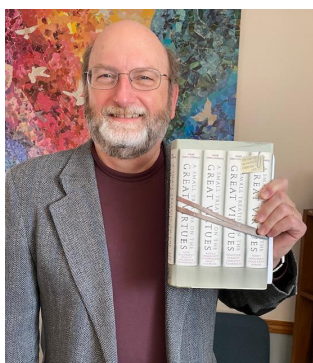
In Case You Missed it in March



ENGAGE Sunday, March 6:

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

Mayeroff's *On Caring* focused 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: *Third Kind of Love* with Paul Jeffries

Back in February, Dr. Paul Jeffries, Professor of Philosophy at Ripon College led the first of a two-part series on "Three Kinds of Love" and presented "Eros and Philia". "Agape", was presented at the March 13 service. The book Paul is pictured holding, "A Small Treatise on the Great Virtues" by Andre Comte-Sponville, inspired parts of the reflection.



ENGAGE Sunday Book Discussion, March 20, 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). Pat did it again! This is an extensive book of 500+ pages that only a few participants had a chance to read. Pat knew that going into it and gave the attendees a clear and concise synopsis of the book. Attendees gained an understanding of American history through the personal experiences Wilkerson highlights in her book of people moving from the Jim Crow South in hopes for a better life in the north.



Worship Service Sunday, March 27: *Be Not Alone* with Connie Ghinazzi

Connie developed a beautiful Worship Service, "Be Not Alone." She was inspired to create this worship service after reading the essay in our March newsletter by Bruce Knotts, "**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. Connie led us in exploring what our 6th UU principle, To be a World Community of Peace, Liberty and Justice for All, means to us in light of this world crisis. Thoughtful discussion followed on how we can make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you to Tom Zuhlke for donating two books to the Prairie Lakes Library:

1. The Art of Community: Seven Principles for Belonging

Book by Charles Vogl

2. Christ for Unitarian Universalists: A New Dialogue with Traditional Christianity

Book by Scotty McLennan



Breaking the Silence - An Intergenerational Call for Unity and Action **Follow the link for Webinar Registration**

April 4 is the date Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968 while he was in Memphis, Tennessee to support sanitation workers. Exactly one year before, on April 4, 1967, Dr. King gave one of his most consequential speeches titled, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence". This speech was the first time he publicly called for an end to the U.S. war in Vietnam and for unity and action to end the triple threats of militarism, racism, and extreme materialism.

Next Monday, April 4, 2022, people of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds will join together in national and local readings of Dr. King's "Breaking Silence" speech in communities across the country. Learn more and register to watch a reading at <https://bit.ly/3DIZWTA>.

