



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971 pluufripon@gmail.com Find us on Facebook!

January ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS

Sunday, January 1, 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Off-site ENGAGE event in Green Lake

HAPPY HOPEFUL NEW YEAR! Prairie Lakes welcomes 2023 with an off-site gathering at the home of the Schwartz/Roeper's. This special gathering will be hosted by PLUUF members Tanya Schwartz-Roeper, Becky Feyen, Pat Dobrinska, and Cheri Salzberg with an indoor Spiral Walk led by Robyn Davis-Bartow. All are welcome so feel free to bring friends and family. Food and beverages will be provided, but you're welcome to bring a special treat if you'd like. The New Year symbolizes a re-start with hope for a better everything. Please join us to ring in 2023 PLUUF style. *Address: W907 Scott Hill Road, Ripon, 54971. Corner of Highways A & K on top of the hill just south of Green Lake. It's the driveway with the horse sculpture. Contact Tanya at tanyapapermaker@gmail.com if you need more details.*



Worship Service Sunday, January 8, 10AM with Brian Smith

Meditating on Nature: Source of Wonder!

Brian Smith, professor emeritus of Religion at Ripon College and one of Prairie Lakes most popular visiting speakers, will lead the first Worship Service of 2023! We hope you can join us!

ENGAGE Sunday, January 15, 10:00 AM with With Becky Feyen



THE (Religious Education) NEW UU - Tapestry of Faith Program adapted for Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship. The New UU program was designed as an “important tool to help congregations welcome, orient, and integrate newcomers into their faith communities. The program addresses the needs of newcomers who want to know more about who we are and what we believe. It provides opportunities for members of your congregation to share with newcomers what it means to them to be a Unitarian Universalist.” It gives everyone a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of THE Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage, providing a great opportunity for connection & outreach.

There are 6 sessions that have been modified to fit the timeframe of an ENGAGE Sunday & correspond to the needs of our group. However, this program will not be presented to push anyone into membership. The objective is to provide information about the UUA & explore your connection to Unitarian Universalism, Prairie Lakes & each other. The program will take place the 3rd Sunday of every month, January through June (unless we lose interest & decide to stop the program). An outline with discussion topics will be provided ahead of the program. Do not feel like this needs to be reviewed & you are required to participate in any way – showing up & taking it in is always welcomed.

The January session will include:

Part 1 – Theology & Worship | A more personal perspective of what each of us believes & how we are united through acceptance.

Part 2 – Where Do We Come From? UU Roots | A bit of history about your religious past, Unitarian Universalism & an overview of our Fellowship.



Worship Service Sunday, January 22, 10:00 AM *Chinese New Year with Nicole Roost*

A beloved intergenerational service! Nicole will share the traditions associated with the Chinese New Year, PLUS you will meet a dragon!!

5th Sunday, January 29, 10AM Fluff & Buff Cleanup Day



A Message from the Moderator by Robyn Davis-Bartow



Message from the Newsletter Editor

Happiest of New Year's everyone! How can it be that 2023 is upon us already? The speed at which time keeps moving along continually astounds. It's hard to believe that more than two weeks have passed since Liz, Tanya, and I attended a UUA webinar titled "Essentials for Lay-Led Congregations". Though not quite the informative experience we were hoping for, there were a few nuggets gleaned that I would like to use this month's letter to share with you.

From this workshop we learned that there are many UU fellowships, some of them quite a bit larger than PLUUF, that struggle with the same issues as us. The takeaway? WE NEED EACH OTHER. What we are each seeking as individuals is what we EACH need to bring to our group. As a fellowship we need to look for the gifts that we each bring. It is through everyone's efforts to bring forward our talents that makes a fellowship alive and viable, regardless of size.

However, it is very important that we attend to the wellbeing of our leaders rather than burn them out. Therefore, our organization should be structured around only what we really need. According to the UUA, if we struggle to accomplish something, then we do not need it. I am proud to say that the PLUUF board has already been functioning with this realization and working hard to make necessary changes in our structure for quite some time.

In 2023, I look forward to seeing how our tenacious little group continues to evolve. Let us enjoy bringing our individual gifts together for the benefit of our little lay-led congregation.



PLUUF January Birthdays

This month we celebrate the birth of Tanya Schwartz Roeper on the 9th and Becky Feyen on the 25th!! Happy Birthday!

Don't see yourself listed? Please let us know! Email Robyn at robinaudrey19@gmail.com.

Note: In an attempt to try something a little new, the Care and Concern committee is putting together a list of birthdays (month and day only) for all PLUUF members and friends. Please pass this information on to Robyn at robinaudrey19@gmail.com or 920-896-2770. Also, if you do not want your birthday noted in the monthly newsletter, please let us know.

In Case You Missed it in December



ENGAGE Sunday, December 4 with Becky Feyen
Becoming the People We Want to Be based on Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray's President report. The quotable points are, "Who will we be? How are we called? How is love calling us?" Closing with "We are the people we have been waiting for. May we be, may we be the people that we are called to be" (Rev. Susan Fredrick Gray). The journey we will take is from the outward want of actions based on external cues, basically the science & tools to form action. Then we move to an inward exploration of our 'birth-gift vocation' centered on a book by Parker Palmer. In conclusion we will seek insight from the history of Unitarian Universalism to foster a community approach to becoming the people we want (or better yet, ARE CALLED) to be.



Worship Service Sunday, December 11
'Tis the Season of Expectations with Connie Ghinazzi
December is the month that often slams us up against our expectations and our reality and can make this a most stressful season of the year. Connie Ghinazzi helped us understand what it means to be UU people of expectation. We pondered these words from Mary Oliver: "I don't want to end up simply having visited this world. To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work."

Sunday, December 18: **FESTIVALS OF LIGHT** in photos



A Few Highlights from 2022

Welcoming Congregation Renewal
Prairie Lakes Renews its Welcoming
Congregation Status for its 2nd
consecutive year



**2nd year of our Sharing
Garden at Prairie Lakes**
A variety of vegetables were
grown and donated to the
Ripon Food Pantry



**PLUUF Participates in Ripon's
first ever No Mow May**

A boon for pollinators!

PLUUF Donated to the following organizations

- Ripon Food Pantry
- Building Unity Tour
- WPR
- Ripon High School Gay-Straight Alliance Club
- Ripon College Queer-Straight Alliance
- UUA Annual Program Fund

PLUS, a special offering raised \$400 for an asylum seeker from Nicaragua living in Ripon.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE GENEROUS DONORS
& VOLUNTEERS AT PRAIRIE LAKES!**