



May

ANNUAL MEETING
plus
ART & SERVICE SILENT AUCTION
Sunday, June 12, 10-Noon
(More details coming soon)

2022

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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May ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



Worship Service Sunday, May 1, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen: "Optimism for our Future"

Becky will present 2 TED Talks from Monterey 2021. The first 15-minute talk is entitled *How to Escape the Cynicism Trap* by Jamil Zaki. The second video, only 8 minutes long, will become the focus of a continued presentation on *The Case for Optimism* by Kevin Kelly.

Kelly writes, "*To build a better civilization, optimism is the most rational, realistic and helpful stance to take right now. The(se) reasons for optimism are so strong that I believe we have a moral duty to be as optimistic as we can. As individuals we'd be more resilient and satisfied being aligned with something bigger than ourselves. As a society, we'd be better ancestors and stewards of what we have inherited from previous generations. And we'd be better prepared for the best possible future we can imagine.*" Please join us for this presentation & discussion to validate the importance of optimism.



Worship Service Sunday, May 8, 10:00 AM "Mother's Day!"

Mom. Stepmom. Birth Mom. Foster Mom. Adoptive Mom. Bonus Mom. Dog Mom. Non-Mom. Grandma. Aunt. Sister. She/Hers. They/Them. Champion.

Whatever your family structure looks like, we hope you'll join us for a Mother's Day service led by Becky Feyen!



ENGAGE Sunday, May 15, 10:00 AM with Judy Harris

“It’s Your Turn”

Most of us are readers, some are writers, and some are thinkers. May 15th is your opportunity to share a book or poem or idea. Could be something from a podcast; could be a quotation; could be a question you would like to hear answered. It's Your Turn! Join fellow PLUUFers as we delve into what inspires or annoys or makes us smile.



Worship Service Sunday, May 22 , 10:00 AM

“Letting Go” with Connie Ghinazzi

This service will help us explore the process of letting go of whatever doesn't bring us joy. Central to this idea is my favorite quote, "If you have a golden rule that will fit everything, this is it: Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful."



Sunday, May 29, 10-Noon “Fluff & Buff.”

Let’s make PLUUF shine indoors and out. We’ll provide the cleaning supplies and tools; you just need to bring gloves. Plus, you do not have to stay for the full 2 hours. Whatever you can do to help will be greatly appreciated!

Board Meeting

PLUUF’s Board typically meets the 2nd week of each month. The next Board meeting is Monday, May 9, at 4:45. If you’d like anything put on the agenda, please contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ANNUAL MEETING **SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 10AM-Noon** **PLUS, the finale to the Silent Art & Service Auction**

The Annual Meeting will include:

1. Meeting PLUUF's newest members
2. Voting for Board Members whose terms are expiring: Moderator, Secretary, At-Large Rep
3. Discuss and vote on adding a 25-hour/month contract Program Coordinator to the budget and other budget items
4. Set goals for the new fiscal year (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023)
5. And more!

All members will receive the Annual Meeting packet via email or snail mail 2 weeks before the meeting that will include the meeting agenda.

PLUS we'll wrap up our Silent Art & Service Auction.



THANK YOU TO LINDA DECRAMER

Linda DeCramer's 2-year term as Moderator is coming to a close on June 30. She is courageously navigating Prairie Lakes through unprecedented times. She was at the helm from the height of the pandemic to its waning days, to its spikes of different variants and now, finally, out of the pandemic phase. No easy task leading an organization during such uncertain times!



AND THE NOMINEE FOR PLUUF's NEXT MODERATOR IS.... **Robyn Davis-Bartow**

Robyn officially joined Prairie Lakes in May 2019 after attending for a year or two. She lives outside of Fairwater on the family farm with her husband Byran, her kids, Aya and Cy, college attending step-sons Reilly and Payton, and too many pets. When not juggling life's responsibilities, Robyn enjoys yoga, reading, meditation, and being in nature. Growing up in the Christian church, possessing a life-long fascination with the world's religions, and practicing Zen Buddhism for the past 13 years makes Unitarian Universalism a natural fit. On a perpetual quest to cultivate wisdom, compassion, serenity and gratitude, Robyn certainly has her work cut out for her!

Many more details regarding the Annual Meeting and Board nominees will be in the June edition of the Prairie Lakes newsletter.

IN SEARCH OF A VOLUNTEER(s) TO LEAD THIS:



The late Congressman John Lewis said, “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something.” We know that being a Unitarian Universalist isn’t just about believing in justice, equity and compassion, but what we do to make those values come alive. Our congregations can be the embodiment of our sacred values that propel our faith and communities toward a world where all of our communities thrive. This means we work collectively to get in the way of injustice and get into Good Trouble to build a truly multiracial democracy.

Let’s honor Rep. John Lewis’s legacy of fighting for civil rights by showing up to get into Good Trouble in 2022. This year, we are challenging our congregations to show up in 2022 to vote love and defeat hate as a UU the Vote Good Trouble Congregation!

What is a Good Trouble Congregation?

Good Trouble Congregations are congregations that answer that call to organize their communities and engage in the multiple and necessary tactics that will help us win big for our communities in 2022. Whether you’re protecting voter access in Georgia, fighting for reproductive justice in Kentucky, or election protection in Pennsylvania, your work is essential to building a strong movement for democracy. Let’s all do our part to build a multiracial democracy by becoming a Good Trouble Congregation.

What criteria must we meet?

Meet 4 of these criteria by November 7 to become a Good Trouble Congregation! All congregations and fellowships are eligible. Criteria is relative to the size of your congregation.

1. Average 20 postcards or letters per member
2. Average 200 text messages per member
3. Average 20 calls per member
4. Average 20 doors knocked per member
5. Reach 20 percent volunteer engagement
6. Average 2 newly registered voters per member
7. At least 2 congregants are line warmers, poll workers, or poll watchers

How do we get started?

Get started now with our [Congregational Planning Tool](#). Set your goals and then report your work as you go using the [Story & Report Form](#). Each month we will provide updates and spotlight teams that are on their way to becoming Good Trouble Congregations.

Recognition

Congregations that hit 4 of the 7 criteria will receive a large UU the Vote gift box filled with UU the Vote swag, gifts, and party favors. This will help you to show up in style for the Good Trouble Congregations post-election celebration with President Susan Frederick-Gray, the Side With Love Team, and special guests.

The challenge starts now! Have you already taken action during the 2022 midterms? Get the work counted today by sharing your work with us using the [Story & Report Form](#).

If you’d like to take charge of this endeavor you will receive support from Judy Harris judyagerharris@gmail.com and Tanya tanyapapermaker@gmail.com. Please contact us if you have questions.

In Case You Missed it in April

Worship Service Sunday, April 3, with Becky Feyen:

"Springing to Balance"



The beginning of spring is the time of renewal, with the Vernal Equinox symbolizing balance. Becky Feyen presented a spring balancing program and explored the idea of living a balanced life that includes multiple aspects of life: relationships, work, fitness and health, finances, emotional well-being and activism. During congregational sharing, we considered ways to bring a little balance to our daily routine.

Worship Service Sunday, April 10, with Tom Zuhlke:



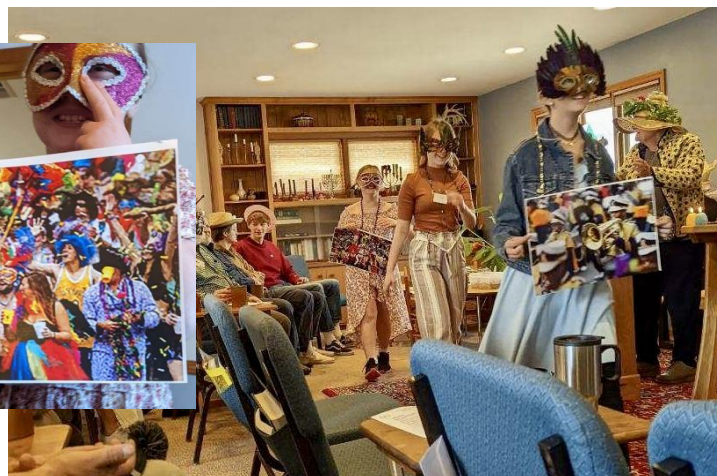
"The Gospel Truth of Johnny Appleseed" is about "becoming!" As we grow, we mature. In "One Moment in Time," we become who we are meant to be continually. Our sense of Self fulfills our continuum of community: self, family, extended family, and others.

After the service Tom said:

I loved the discussion part and really enjoyed the closing "Celebrate" by Kool and the Gang. I was swept away with the dancing of the congregation. It is so great to be with people who can shake it loose and enjoy the One Moment In Time with each other. It is one of the joys of PLUUF. No church I have served in 35 years could shake it loose and leave their comfort zone to dance!

Easter Sunday Intergenerational Service April 17, with Judy Harris, et al.

This was a great service for young, old and everyone in between! We learned about Easter's Pagan roots, the Christian holy events leading up to Easter Sunday and a Unitarian Universalist perspective on Easter.



In Case You Missed it Continued...



WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday, April 24, with SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIORS Judy Goldsmith & Jill Stiemsma

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 explored just that -- how racism began and functioned in our country's history (and continues to). Judy's story was 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.

UUA Launches UU the Vote for 2022 Elections

(printed from the UUA Website)

April 14, 2022

Nonpartisan Civic Engagement Initiative Will Focus on Strengthening Democracy, Organizing for Justice and Accountability

Boston, Mass. (April 14, 2022) – The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is announcing that it has launched its [UU the Vote](#) initiative for the 2022 elections. UU the Vote is a nonpartisan civic engagement initiative focused on strengthening democracy and organizing for justice, accountability, and healing. The effort was launched at a [virtual event \(Vimeo\)](#) on Sunday, April 10th that featured UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations from across the country, and partner organizations.

“A commitment to democracy is central to our faith tradition and it is also central to our society. It is a principle that recognizes that every voice matters and is needed,” said UUA President Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray. “We recognize we have an obligation to raise our voices and act on our values to strengthen democracy by fighting for fair elections, advancing voting rights, protecting abortion access, and resisting the targeting and criminalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities as well as LGBTQIA+ individuals, especially trans and nonbinary people.”

The UUA successfully conducted its first UU the Vote initiative in 2020. More than 450 UU congregations and more than 5,000 volunteers participated in voter mobilization, get out the vote, and election defense efforts in all 50 states during the presidential election year. Volunteers sent more than a million postcards and held more than 350 UU the Vote events in 35 states. UU the Vote also co-hosted phone banks with partners in key states, including Arizona, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In total, UU the Vote volunteers contacted more than 3 million voters, including outreach to more than 148,000 voters in Michigan, 45,000 voters in Pennsylvania, and 36,000 voters in Nevada.

“There is so much at stake in the 2022 elections – and not just at the federal level. There are a number of ballot initiatives across the country that will have long-term implications for reproductive justice, voting rights, direct democracy, labor rights, education, health care, and more. Our faith calls us to take action for our values, knowing these are issues that impact all of us - but especially those who are already most marginalized in our society,” said Rev. Ashley Horan, Organizing Strategy Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association. “For this year, UU the Vote will focus on those ballot initiatives as well make sure all communities can and do access their right to vote at the local, state, and federal levels.”

At the event, JaZahn Hicks was introduced as the new campaign manager for the UU the Vote initiative. Hicks was an organizer in Pennsylvania for the 2020 Biden presidential campaign and helped to elect Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff in the Georgia Senate runoff campaign. He subsequently was part of the team that ran two statewide judicial campaigns in Pennsylvania and was the Field Director for five local races in that state. Most recently, he managed phone banking efforts for the City of Philadelphia’s Philly Counts community engagement initiative, which contacted more than 750,000 to ensure they had access to the COVID-19 vaccine, rental assistance, and other important resources that the city has to offer. A New Jersey native and currently a resident of Philadelphia, JaZahn Hicks is a Minister at Agape Fellowship Christian Church in Clayton, New Jersey.

[Learn more about UU the Vote.](#) (See page 4 of this newsletter)

About the UUA

The UUA is the central organization for the Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious movement in the United States. Our faith is diverse and inclusive and the UUA’s 1000+ member congregations are committed to Seven Principles that hold closely the worth and dignity of each person as sacred, the need for justice and compassion, and the right to choose one’s own beliefs.

For more information contact pr@uua.org.