



November 2022 Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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NOVEMBER ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



More Animal Blessing photos on page 4



ENGAGE Sunday, November 6, 10:00 AM:
“Reconciling Women’s History With the Present and Looking to the Future” with Pat Dobrinska and Judy Morgan

An overview of the present and future of women’s rights with regard to the workplace, financial freedom, education, equal pay, sexual violence and sexual freedom.



Worship Service Sunday, November 13, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck & Children’s RE
“Veterans Day: They Will Find the Streets of Heaven are Guarded by United States Marines”

Shane Beegle (United States Marine Veteran, current Army National Guard Soldier) will speak about the history and purpose of Veterans day, the correct spelling of this National holiday, religious/spiritual freedom within the military and how Unitarian Universalists can support warriors while fighting for universal peace.



ENGAGE Sunday, November 20, 10:00 AM
Asylum Seekers: True Stories From Our Border with Kat Griffith - What is really going on with the migrants coming to our southern border? Where are they from, why are they coming, and how are they faring? Are our borders really "open"? This presentation will combine data, personal experience, individual migrant stories and lots of photos to illuminate the last few years of the situation at our southern border.



Worship Service Sunday, November 27 ,10:00 AM and Children’s RE
The Gift of Gratitude: The Virtue that Keeps on Giving with Dr. Paul Jeffries of Ripon College

Come explore the nature of gratitude and why many consider one of the virtues that can bring much joy in its cultivation. It helps us rejoice in what has taken place and in what actually is. Let us examine if we can find more ways to make gratitude a more central element of our lives and journeys during this season of Thanksgiving.

A Message from the Moderator by Robyn Davis-Bartow



Hello lovely PLUUFers. As November rolls in, my thoughts turn to ritual; a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, actions, or objects, performed according to a set order, and tradition; the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation. As the days get cold and dark, some of us struggle with our internal lives doing the same. In my experience, this is when rituals and traditions help life to shine.

As Unitarian Universalists, we do not practice orthodox rituals and traditions as they do in, for example, the Catholic Church.

Religious rites can become empty when they do not coincide with personal beliefs. Progressive New Testament scholar Marcus Borg argues against this with the notion that it is all a matter of perspective. He teaches that traditions and rituals are so integral

to spiritual well being that the act of performing them can be transformative whether you believe in the dogma or not. I know his concept to be true as I practiced it in my own life for a number of years by returning to my Christian roots. However, I have found that not requiring the disengagement of the thinking rational mind in order to nurture the deep heart-mind works more effectively for me. This probably has much to do with why you belong to PLUUF as well.

A few years ago I was lucky enough to take a UU MDiv course that encompassed the concept of ritual and tradition. It caused me to reflect on and create more daily rituals and seasonal traditions in my life. Writing down three things I am grateful for before even getting out of bed, silent early morning walks around the pond, making my grandpa's recipe for "nuts and bolts" the first week of November, and setting up a meditation altar in our guest room are just a few of the practices that help me to maintain equilibrium this time of year. I'm sure many of you have your own such practices that I would love to hear more about.

As a fellowship, Prairie Lakes has worked hard over the years to maintain and deepen rituals and traditions as well. Lighting a candle of personal joys or concerns is a shared ritual that gives voice to our members and encourages compassion and community. A centering call to one's best self is provided by the lit chalice every week. Our worship leaders and programming coordinator actively embrace providing a multitude of annual services that are meaningful to current and hopefully future generations of PLUUFers. This month's Intergenerational Gratitude Service is bound to be a wonderful welcome to the holiday season as it has been in the past. I look forward to sharing the ritual and tradition with many of you there.

Next Board Meeting: November 9, 5:30 p.m. If you'd like anything put on the agenda, please contact Robyn at robinaudrey19@gmail.com

Message from the Newsletter Editor

Suggested topics and content for the newsletter are always appreciated. If there's anything you would like to add, contact Tanya at tanyapapermaker@gmail.com by the 20th of each month.

PLUUF November Birthdays



PLUUF is lucky to have many people to celebrate this month! Happiest of Birthdays to all!

13th - Joe Hatcher
14th - Mason Luna
16th - Aya Volkmann
19th - Robyn Davis-Bartow
27th - Beth Homan-Combs
27th - Laird DeCramer

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.

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SERIES

Are you interested in committing one ENGAGE Sunday a month to this program? The class will provide exercises to stimulate introspection and discussion on your beliefs and worldview. Your participation will either strengthen what you believe or challenge you to stretch your views. Sound interesting? Becky Feyen will be providing more details regarding this proposed series. Let her know if you would like to participate r.feyen@yahoo.com

Volume 1 – Introduction (\$16)

Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic UU adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos, the fundamental religious beliefs, values, and convictions that inform and direct their lives. Gilbert Poses five developmental tasks in which participants come to terms with human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics and religious meaning. Begins with an introduction to our seven UU principles. Ten Sessions.

Volume 2 – Exploring (\$16)

Beginning with an introduction to the six Sources of our UU faith, this volume continues the credo-development process by focusing on various theological questions to help participants grow in their ability to understand and clearly articulate their own belief systems. Examine key issues in religious inquiry, including truth and authority, theological diversity, spirituality, sin and salvation, justice, suffering, death, immortality and the concept of the beloved community. Ten Sessions.

Volume 3 – Ethics (\$16)

Invites participants to apply their beliefs, values and convictions to particular ethical situations. Using a "Moral Compass," participants address various ethical dilemmas. Each session focuses on one dimension of moral decision making: authority, motivation, responsibility, the situation, intentions, relationships, values and character. Gilbert suggests a number of situations culled from history, literature, current events and the participants' own lives. Ten Sessions.

The Blessing of the Animals by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

It was so much fun co-leading the Animal Blessing service with Janine Rubeck of the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter on October 23. Thank you to everyone who joined us and to everyone who brought a pet, photos of pets past and present, a stuffed animal and even ashes of beloved pets ❤️. Janine blessed them all!

Thank you to Jill Stiemsma and Linda DeCramer for adding special music to the event by singing "Talk to the Animals" from Dr. Doolittle. I enjoyed providing piano accompaniment. Also, thanks to Oliver Roeper for playing guitar and singing "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir." After the service, I spoke to Liz, our Program Consultant, and we decided to make the Animal Blessing service an annual event! Note: \$161 from the Loose Offering was given to the shelter 😊



Climate Voter Pledge



—CREATE—
CLIMATE JUSTICE



Climate change is a complex problem. The ways we address it are varied and have different impacts, but all are crucial in addressing climate change. Voting on climate is a critical approach.

Our communities are impacted by the climate crisis, but that doesn't mean we're powerless. By organizing our churches, neighborhoods, and communities, we build the power necessary to nurture healthy and resilient communities where all can thrive. Together, we can elect officials – from the local to federal levels – who recognize the urgency and respond with policies grounded in protecting those most impacted by climate.

To get there, we need everyone who cares deeply about climate and environmental justice to come out to the polls and vote.

UU the Vote and Create Climate Justice have partnered with [Environmental Voter Project](#), a campaign focused on the millions of climate justice activists who are currently unlikely to vote in the 2022 midterm elections.

These millions of non-voting environmentalists could change everything if they go to the polls on Election Day.

If we can transform these non-voters into supervoters, we can change the electorate.

When we flood the electorate with all of these environmental voters, candidates will have no choice but to appeal to environmental voters and our priorities.

It's working so far! Over 1 million of the low propensity environmental voters that EVP has targeted since 2015 are now voting so consistently that they don't even skip local elections.

[Will you take the Climate Justice Voter pledge?](#)

Our pledge is simple. As a climate justice voter, you commit to:

- Vote as an act of conscience and care on behalf of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- Prioritize voting for candidates and laws that explicitly work to create a sustainable and thriving future for our sacred earth and all life.
- Vote to protect those who experience disproportionate impacts of climate change.
- Engage our communities to vote on climate. Connect with the climate justice activists in your life and invite them to join you at the polls.

There are dozens of ways we can enact climate justice but voter engagement is one important tactic that has a very achievable goal. Please join me in taking the pledge to get one million voters for the climate out to the polls this year!

In solidarity, Rachel Myslivy,
Climate Justice Organizer

In Case You Missed it in October



ENGAGE Sunday, October 2:

Walk the Walk When Supporting People of Color with Jill Stiemsma

Jill truly lives her activism. From participating in local marches to volunteering in El Salvador, she looks out for others. Our theology calls us to “move into action right now” (2017 General Assembly) in support of people of color. Thank you to everyone who joined us.



Worship Service Sunday, October 9:

The Last Leaf with Connie Ghinazzi

Connie took the opportunity to explore nature's transitions and our own. The reflection was inspired by the book “The Fall of Freddie the Leaf” by Leo Buscaglia. In addition to Connie's service, a special Religious Education session for the kids was led by Liz Buchanan-Beegle and we enjoyed our 2nd Sunday potluck.



ENGAGE Sunday, October 16:

A Prophetic Religion with Becky Feyen

What is it & what does it mean for us?” Becky Feyen continued to build on the topics presented by Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray in the UUA President's Report. In September, we explored the need for joy and what brings us joy, “...with the deepest expression of our values.” The October presentation & discussion continued along that path.



Worship Service Sunday, October 23 (see photos on page 4:

Blessing of the Animals (Intergenerational) with Janine Rubeck of the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

All varieties of critters were welcomed. Thank you to everyone who brought a pet, photos of pets past and present, stuffed animals and ashes from beloved pets. Janine blessed them all! There was also a question and answer session and special music provided by PLUUFers. In the past, this intergenerational service was only held once every two years; but after this last one, the decision was made to make it annual!! Yay!



5th Sunday, October 30:

Day of the Dead with Judy Morgan

This event is celebrated throughout Latin America. It's a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning. This is Judy Morgan's second year of creating and leading this service. Face painting and the sharing of photos and stories of loved ones who have passed highlight this special event.