



**August 2022**

**Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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**AUGUST ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS**



**ENGAGE Sunday Sunday, August 7, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen:** She will present the UUA President's Report from the 2022 General Assembly. This is an uplifting presentation by Susan Frederick-Gray that provides the inspiration we need.

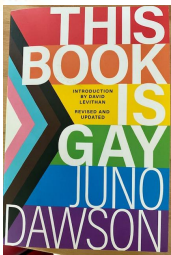


**Worship Service Sunday, August 14, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck**  
Topic and leader to be announced.

**Attention kids:** On July 24 Liz Buchanan-Beegle read "Did You Fill a Bucket Today?" Liz told you that if you filled someone's bucket and told her about it at the next Worship Service you'd get a surprise! This will be the day to share it with Liz and collect your prize :-)



**Saturday, August 20: Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak/Canoe Event** launching at Spring Lake in Green Lake with brunch on the Tichora Conservancy property. Details on page 3.



**ENGAGE Sunday, August 21, 10:00 AM Book Discussion: *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson.** Please join us as we split into 3 groups for discussion: Adults, Teens, Littles. *"This book is for everyone, regardless of gender or sexual preference. This book is for anyone who's ever dared to wonder. This book is for YOU."* Even if you don't have a chance to read the book, come listen and share your perspective.



**Worship Service Sunday, August 28 ,10:00 AM** Jill Stiemsma will be fortunate enough to attend the Parliament of World Religions, August 14-18, in Chicago this year. So she has graciously agreed to share the event's salient wisdom with us in our 8/28 service. Many PLUUF members attended the Parliament when it was held in Salt Lake City — and LOVED it — but this year Jill is our sole representative. Come and share its inspiration.

**Board Meeting** PLUUF's Board typically meets the 2nd week of each month. The next Board meeting is Monday, August 8, at 5:30. If you'd like anything put on the agenda, please contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

## A Message from the Moderator by Robyn Davis-Bartow



Greetings fellow PLUUFers! Hopefully, this month's newsletter finds you having an enjoyable summer so far. One of the best things about being a UU this time of year is MUUSA! Every year during the first week of July, the Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly takes place in the Missouri Ozarks. 2022 marks my third time being able to attend this camp for all ages over the past ten years. As some of you may know, the summer assembly used to be held in Lake Geneva, WI, before it transitioned to Trout Lodge YMCA camp two hours southwest of Saint Louis. Because of these Wisconsin roots, a number of WI natives make the trek for a week's worth of UU services, inspired workshops, tear inducing vespers, hands-on crafts, singing, dancing, raucous laughter, and family friendly fun. I encourage all to consider attending in 2023. (PLUUF road-trip anyone?) Though I could talk at

length about the amazing community MUUSA creates for any and all who attend, I am narrowing my message to the greatest take-away gleaned from the daily morning service.

This year MUUSA was blessed with having Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, the Director of Worship Ministries from First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, as the Theme Speaker for the week. A dynamic and talented presenter, performer, and singer, Glen had us singing, laughing, and crying with every service. But it was a seemingly small ritual that we also perform at PLUUF on traditional Sundays that inspired me the most each morning. He lit the chalice. But he did not simply light the chalice and read chalice lighting words. He challenged us with *chalice lighting words* and lit a light that transformed a rustic camp hall into a treasured sacred space. Glen held us accountable. Responsible. Each morning he demanded that within the space created by the lighting of the chalice we would be our best selves. He called on each one of us to be accountable, responsible for bringing our best self forward and accepting nothing less. In the silent transition between enthusiastic musical celebration and simple, deliberate, and reverent ritual, a community of hundreds honored this command and each other by rising to the challenge. The love and respect held for all in that space was palpable. It flowed out into the rest of the day and trickled home with us all.

I challenge all of us to create this type of sacred respect whenever the chalice is lit in our own small but vital fellowship. I challenge us to practice rising to and maintaining our own best self one service at a time. To honor boundaries and set judgment aside. I want us all to experience the warm, safe, and honored container created by trusting each other to do their own part. What I love most about Glen's charge is that he did not lecture. He did not explain what he meant about being one's best self. He did not engage in a lengthy debate about etymology, psychology, or epistemology. He simply respected himself and others enough to simply say let it be so. And it was.



# Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak/Canoe Adventure

## Saturday, August 20, 10AM



The 1st Annual Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak/Canoe Adventure will take place Saturday, August 20, at 10AM at the Spring Lake landing in Green Lake. Participants will paddle across Spring Lake and through a cattail marsh to get to the Tichora Conservancy property. Kayaks/canoes will be pulled onto shore and participants will hike to the Green Lake side of the Tichora Conservancy for a potluck picnic brunch.

### **What if I don't want to paddle to the Tichora Conservancy?**

No worries! You can drive to the Tichora Conservancy and join the paddlers for the potluck picnic brunch.

### **What if I want to participate but don't have a kayak or canoe?**

We may be able to loan you one. Contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

If you are interested in participating and you haven't signed up for the event at PLUUF yet, contact [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)

### About Jean:

Jean Johnson not only co-founded Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship, she served as PLUUF's program planner, Moderator twice, board member, worship service committee, the minister search committee, representative of the Ripon Area Ministerial Association (RAMA), and many other roles. We are grateful for her dedication, knowledge and inspiration to help make Prairie Lakes what it is today.

Jean received her medical degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine at a time when only 6% of the students were women.

Jean had a passion for skiing, canoeing and nature. She died on April 29, 2017. When her husband Harry passed away earlier this year, a gift of \$10,000 was given to Prairie Lakes. The canoe/kayak adventure on Spring Lake is our way to honor Jean's memory.



## In Case You Missed it in July

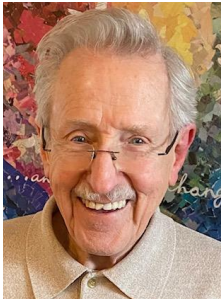
**ENGAGE Sunday, July 3, with Becky Feyen:** Prairie Lakes commemorated Independence Day with a presentation **Democracy Needs Us**. Becky Feyen shared TED Talks, *A Different Understanding of American Patriotism* by Deval Patrick. The links are provided: ([https://www.ted.com/talks/deval\\_patrick\\_a\\_different\\_understanding\\_of\\_american\\_patriotism](https://www.ted.com/talks/deval_patrick_a_different_understanding_of_american_patriotism)) and ([George Monbiot: The new political story that could change everything](#)). The discussion focused on the impact we have by creating a positive narrative and being patriots that work toward citizen involvement.

### **Worship Service Sunday, July 10, Timothy Cordon Building Unity Democracy Tour**



Prairie Lakes hosted Timothy Cordon while he made a tour stop in Ripon. In 2020, social distancing and wearing masks, Building Unity drove a 34' Motorhome, dubbed the "Votemobile", over 3,000 miles around Wisconsin to engage and register voters.

Sadly, we are witnessing the steady erosion of our democracy as gerrymandering, voter suppression, partisanship and misinformation threaten to undermine our institutions and the very foundation of our democracy. The Vote. Building Unity took the Votemobile back on the road this summer with the message that Your Democracy Needs YOU. We are grateful Prairie Lakes had an opportunity to host Timothy Cordon and support his message.



**ENGAGE Sunday, July 17 Exploring Some UU Roots, with Robert "Spud" Hannaford, professor of philosophy emeritus.** Spud led a discussion concerning the nature of our values, based on the concepts of religious writings & philosophers. Consider: "God is a verb, not a noun" by Buckminster Fuller & "God is Love," Saint John, 4:8. A list of questions & supporting documentation were provided prior to the discussion; copies are available at PLUUF.



### **Worship Service Sunday, July 24, with Liz Buchanan-Beegle**

**"Coffee & Conversation with the new Program Coordinator at Prairie Lakes."** Liz Buchanan-Beegle introduced herself to members and friends of Prairie Lakes. It was an opportunity for the congregation to share thoughts on Prairie Lakes in order to continue to nurture our welcoming and vibrant fellowship community and make it the best it can be. A BIG thank you to Shane Buchanan-Beegle for leading Children's RE. The kids created beautiful chalk art creations!



This newsletter is being sent prior to the Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up and PLUUF Fluff 'N Buff on July 31st at 10 AM. Thank you in advance to everyone who helped clean up our stretch of highway or made PLUUF shine!