

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971

pluufripon@gmail.com

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March 31st is International Transgender Day of Visibility

MARCH 2023 ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



ENGAGE Sunday, March 5, 10AM: Discussing together: [“Hunker: Brief Essays on Human Connection” by Michael Perry](#)

Join PLUUF’s Moderator Robyn Davis-Bartow for a relaxed conversation about the experience of reading “Hunker: Brief Essays on Human Connection ” by Wisconsin native and New York Times bestselling author, humorist, singer/songwriter and professional noticer Michael Perry. Mark your favorites for some out loud reading and inspirational sharing of this literary gem. From the author: *The pieces in this book were written over a period of two years beginning right around the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is a*

presence in the pieces but less than you might expect or fear or hope. Each week I wobbled between feeling I was failing to meet the moment and feeling I was a grandiose fool to think anyone was asking.

Worship Service Sunday, March 12, 10AM PLUS 2nd Sunday

Potluck. It’s Daylight Savings - Don’t forget to spring forward!

Dr. Paul Jeffries: *Rethinking Prosperity for a Sustainable Future*

Any serious commitment to an environmentally sustainable future must seriously engage a central tenet of capitalism—material economies must always grow. We live in a world that encourages us—both individually and collectively--to seek increasing prosperity typically defined as more income, more material goods, and an ever-increasing GDP. But is such a definition of prosperity environmentally responsible, let alone even possible going forward? And if not, what is the alternative? In this presentation, Paul Jeffries, using the work of environmentalist and economist, Tim Jackson, explores ways in which we will need to rethink our understanding of prosperity to address some of our most pressing environmental, economic, and social problems that are before us in the 21st century.





ENGAGE Sunday, March 19, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen: The New UU - Tapestry of Faith Program Part 3 of a 6 part series The focus of Unitarian Universalists is on this life, and because we embrace such principles as justice and compassion, we feel compelled to live out our values by working for social justice. In this session, we will talk about social change & justice. How we have grown as individuals because (or despite) of Prairie Lakes. You may or may not think of yourself as an activist, but we have all done something to make a difference in the world. Making the world a better place is fundamental for Unitarian Universalists because our focus is on this world, rather than the next.

Consider “a time you made a difference in the world. This may be an act you did independently or with a group; it could be any way—large or small—that helped to bring into being your vision of a better world.”

We will also delve into how we want to be guided by our personal beliefs and values. What it takes to commit to developing ourselves as human beings. How to act within our beliefs and values; then evaluating the outcome of our actions & possibly change our perception or future actions. Hope you can join us, because your input helps us cultivate another perspective.



Worship Service Sunday, March 26, 10:00 AM with Connie Ghinazzi Connie was a longtime member of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad City (UUCQC), serving on the Religious Services team and board. When she moved to Markesan a few years ago she was pleased to find a UU community close to home. She has become a popular presenter at Prairie Lakes. Her topic will be announced leading up to the worship service.

A Sneak Peak at April



ENGAGE Sunday, April 2, 10:00 AM with Tanya Schwartz Roeper: A Passover Seder adapted to Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship. Everyone is welcome to participate in this very unique event. Tanya will lead you through a simulated Jewish Passover Seder. We will read from the Haggadah to learn about the narrative of the Israelite exodus from Egypt, observe special blessings, rituals and more. The morning will conclude with a bowl of homemade matzo ball soup.



Worship Service Sunday, April 9, 10:00 AM with Judy Harris, et al: An Easter Celebration UU Style This is going to be a great service for young, old and everyone in between! We'll see the return of the Easter Bonnet Parade and we'll learn about Easter's Pagan roots, the Christian holy events leading up to Easter Sunday and a Unitarian Universalist perspective on Easter. Plus, there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the kids! Please join us for this very family friendly event!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ART & SERVICE AUCTION: Sunday, April 30, 10AM
The theme is “All the World’s a Stage.” Stay tuned for more details!



A Message from the Moderator by Robyn Davis-Bartow

Every morning I walk our dogs down by the pond across the road from our place. It is one of the highlights of my life and very useful as a time to commune with nature and ease into my day. Usually this walk serves as a silent time of cherishing the outdoor world. Today however, I was met with great resistance to what I saw. Instead of winter boots I donned insulated rubber. Everything appeared squishy and dead and ugly. Mud season. My least favorite time of the year. On this particular walk, my internal griping was cut short by the clamorous sound of an amorous pair of raccoons. Luckily, the noise caused me to remember that March is a time of transition. In order to grow, there must be mud! The resistance I experienced today was to change itself. Change is inevitable. And often not pretty when looked at from a limited perspective.

The Prairie Lakes Board recently took on our annual extended planning meeting. One of the topics discussed was how PLUUF has changed. In the past, this fellowship was run by intrepid moderators and committee members who handled the day to day operations as well as content and future planning. Over the years members serving on committees have gone by the wayside. We continue to be blessed by some amazing volunteers and contract workers to carry the load. But as a very small organization, we need to focus on remaining sustainable and not burning out the few who do so much. We need to continue to change.

Your leadership team is hatching plans to invite all of us to participate in keeping Prairie Lakes the stunning and viable place it already is. We understand that trying to field committees is not practical. Instead of stagnating by relying too much on a few, we think small time-limited commitments from our busy members are the way to move forward. Like March, this transition may not appear desirable. But spring is on the way. Time to get ready to grow.



PLUUF March Birthdays

This month we celebrate the birth of Shane Beegle! Happy Birthday Shane!

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



ENGAGE Sunday, February 5: *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene - Salvation Through Self-Knowledge*

Pat Dobrinska was the master of ceremony and discussion leader. **Ray Gurney**, who has studied Mary Magdala since the 1980s was the local resident expert. He argued that Mary is the conveyor of the true teachings of Jesus. It was only after Peter (first Pope of the Roman Catholic Church) and the Apostle Paul established their male-dominated leadership roles did the natural leadership of Mary decline and eventually disappear; that is until the most recent decades. Ray presented the most recent scholarly proof on the status and role

of women in the early Jesus movement before it became the Christian Church. A YouTube video was shown by Dr. Justin Sledge, founder of the YouTube Channel Esoterica that depicted an overview of the Gospel of Mary.



Worship Service Sunday, February 12, with Taiso Hannya, Byran Bartow, Roshi, Abbot of Hollow Bones Zen "Zen Meditation: the Spiritual Practice at the Heart of Buddhism"

Everyone has the capacity to awaken - to realize buddha nature. Following a brief history of Zen, we explored several exercises to experience Zen - clear deep heart-mind and perhaps taste the possibility of non-dual awareness.



ENGAGE Sunday, February 19, with Becky Feyen The (Religious Education) NEW UU - Tapestry of Faith Program This was part 2 of a 6 part series 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."



Worship Service Sunday, February 26, "Love Is Love"

We celebrated "Love is Love" as part of our Welcoming Congregation renewal. Pat Dobrinska led the reflection that was inspired by a paper written by Professor Emeritus of Religion at Ripon College Brian Smith, "What Does the Bible Say About LGBTQ?" In addition, we had a special guest lead Opening Words with, "Why I Wear Something Rainbow at School Everyday." There was music, poetry, a story and more.

Special thanks to Shane Beegle for leading Children's RE and showing the kids a great time outside hula hooping and climbing the mountain of snow!

