

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

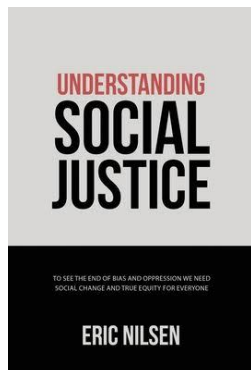
315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971

pluufripon@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook!



Upcoming May Events



Book Discussion with Ripon Area Racial Justice Alliance (RARJA): Thursday, May 4, 6pm-7:30 pm | Ripon Library in the Jorgenson Room *Understanding Social Justice: To See the End of Bias and Oppression We Need Social Change and True Equity for Everyone* (Government and Politics Book Series) Author: Eric Nilsen | 2022

Even if you're not an activist, a politician, or a public figure, you can still do your part. Take the first step now to understand social justice, current issues around equity & social justice, how to fight racism, and make human rights a way of life. By knowing that systematic racism and biased systems exist and recognizing your part in them, you can do your part in slowly dismantling them through your words and actions.



Brat Fry to support Prairie Lakes! Saturday, May 6, 10:30am-3:00pm. Webster's Marketplace 1188 W. Fond du Lac Street, Ripon. Please stop by if you can and spread the word 😊.



ENGAGE Sunday, May 7, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen: New UU – Session 5 – Prairie Lakes Community

The closing session for this series will focus on what it means to be a part of Prairie Lakes & Unitarian Universalism. The workshop session is titled 'Membership', which is not the focus we will take. Our conversation will be about connection, what we want from our Fellowship & how we are a part of its success. We may even delve into the UUA a bit more and the direction it is moving – the good, the bad and the ugly.

We will also review a few of the 'big questions' I received the previous months. Ray Gurney will share with us the meaning of "listith" and a commentary for discussion on the final paragraph from Session 4 responsive reading. That was a hoot! I am proof you do not have to be perfect to present at Prairie Lakes. Please join us, there will be plenty to discuss & review.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE for your participation & contribution to this program – it has been fun for me, because of you!



Worship Service Sunday, May 14, 10:00 AM with Connie Ghinazzi:
Topic TBA 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.

Sunday, May 21, 10:00-11:45 AM:
PRAIRIE LAKES ANNUAL MEETING

It's a big, important day.
We hope you can attend!

(If you can't make it, proxy forms are available)

The annual meeting serves multiple purposes, including the board of director elections, evaluating and assessing progress towards achieving our mission, reviewing financials, setting the budget, and setting goals for the upcoming year.

Food & Refreshments will be served

Annual Meeting Packets will be emailed to Members 2-weeks prior to the event



PLUS You Are Invited to:

**Oliver Roeper's Eagle Scout
 Court of Honor Ceremony**

Sunday, May 21, 1:30 PM

Great Hall at Ripon College

**Invocation & Benediction will be given by PLUUF
 Member Becky Feyen**

(Oliver is the son of PLUUF members Tanya Schwartz Roeper & Randy Roeper. Oliver has been attending Prairie Lakes off and on since infancy in 2004)



Worship Service Sunday, May 28, 10:00 AM: Kicking off Pride month with Travis Nygard of Ripon College: "The History of Same-Sex Unions Before Same-Sex Marriage."

Travis Nygard is an Associate Professor at Ripon College, where he teaches art history and museum studies. He has also taught multidisciplinary courses on topics such as the history of love, sexuality in art, and stereotypes in American culture. He is a local history enthusiast, volunteering at the Ripon Historical Society, where he serves as a board member. In the past he also helped to organize educational programming for Pridefest, the annual LGBTQ festival held in Milwaukee. He lives in Ripon with his partner, Matt Koski, and their dog Kiffen.

A Message from the Moderator by Robyn Davis-Bartow



Hello lovely PLUUF people. It seems like ages since I have seen most of you. As many of you know, my daughter's health issues are much more serious than hoped a year ago when I agreed to take on the role of Moderator of the Board at Prairie Lakes. Therefore, I am choosing to step away from the two year term of this position a year early and merely fill the vacancy for an at large representative. The time, energy, and emotional capacity I envisioned to give to Prairie Lakes is needed at home.

The trying circumstances of the past couple of months have reinforced the need to focus on what is most essential. In my case this means temporarily setting down involvement at PLUUF, postponing Zen priest training, and missing a lot of work. However, dedication to daily meditation, physical embodiment practice, and availability to my children's needs have increased. These are the things that sustain me and my family.

As Moderator, one of my goals was to help PLUUF focus on sustainability and health as an organization. Though not very successful in achieving this goal, my hope remains that the seed has been planted to fearlessly determine what is most essential and focus our energy on nurturing it. Growing what makes us a strong, healthy, and vibrant community allows the rest of what keeps us stuck in busy-ness to fall away.

Recently, I was reminded of a beautiful teaching derived from Psalm 46:10 that I love being able to share with you. It speaks to my above ramblings with a clarity many words could never achieve. Let it be so.

Be Still and Know that I am God

Be Still and Know

Be Still

Be

The **Art & Service Auction** on April 30 raised more than \$3,000!! A BIG thank you to all the donors, bidders, musicians, the auctioneer and behind the scenes volunteers who made this a truly memorable and successful event!



Above: A great crowd plus music provided by the band Joliana (Jon, Oli & Ari) + a surprise performance by Auctioneer Brad Roost. He joined the band and sang "Let It Be" by the Beatles.

Photo Left: Brad Roost Auctioneer extraordinaire auctioned off more than 40 items! Photo right: New this year, we dedicated certain items to be bid on by kids only. They even had their own special bid paddles.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN APRIL



ENGAGE Sunday, April 2, with Tanya Schwartz Roeper: [A Passover Seder](#) adapted to Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship.

Approximately 17 adults attended this very unique event. Tanya led the group through a simulated Jewish Passover Seder. Everyone read from the Haggadah and learned about the narrative of the Israelite exodus from Egypt. They recited special blessings and our surprise guest, Gloria, sang the blessings in Hebrew! The morning concluded with a bowl of Tanya's homemade matzo ball soup.



Worship Service Sunday, April 9, with Judy Harris, et al (See photo): [An Easter Celebration UU Style](#)

This was a great service for young, old and everyone in between! We saw the return of the Easter Bonnet Parade and we learned about Easter's Pagan roots, the Christian holy events leading up to Easter Sunday and a Unitarian Universalist perspective on Easter. Plus, there was an Easter Egg hunt for the kids!



ENGAGE Sunday, April 16, with Becky Feyen [NEW UU - Tapestry of Faith Program Part 4 of a 6 part series: Prairie Lakes & UU Governance](#)

This session provided an overview of congregational polity and covenant, the foundational principles upon which Unitarian Universalist congregations are gathered and continue to exist as institutions. It focused not only on the mechanics of congregational structure and governance, but also the spiritual underpinnings of those structures, highlighting the role and importance of participation in a congregation.



Worship Service Sunday, April 23: [Kids Take Over!](#) Bravo to the kids of Prairie Lakes!!

The kids of Prairie Lakes, with the assistance of Program Coordinator Liz Buchanan-Beegle, collaborated to create a Worship Service called *Global Goals*. The topic, the readings, story, music and reflection was all created and/or selected by the kids of Prairie Lakes. They led every aspect of the service. Way to go kids! It was enjoyed by all 🙌👏.

**Please support PLUUF by coming to the Brat Fry on
Saturday, May 6, 10:30AM- 3:00PM
Where: Webster's Marketplace 1188 W. Fond du Lac Street, Ripon
Please spread the word 😊**



Treasurer Report as of March 2023

(Note: Reports will always be 1-month behind due to the newsletter deadline date and an incomplete picture of the current month. Treasurer reports and Board minutes are always available for viewing at PLUUF or emailed by request)

Balances:

10100 AST-BMO checking	\$13,282.48
10111 Golden Rule Savings Vision	\$30,586.64
10202 AST-UUA CEF Vision	\$40,243.87 (Feb. decrease \$1,195)

Total Assets \$84,111.99

	March 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2023	2022/23 Budget
Member/Friend Contributions	\$1,626	\$20,333	\$22,242	\$33,100
Total Income	\$1,628	\$17,797	\$23,870	\$36,200
Expenses	\$4,454	\$19,277	\$26,346	\$36,200