



**August 2023**

**Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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## **AUGUST ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS**



**ENGAGE Sunday, August 6, 1:00 pm at PLUUF or 1:30 pm at Oshkosh Museum- NO ON-SITE MEETING AT Prairie Lakes at 10:00 am | Field Trip to Oshkosh Public Museum**

It is time to change things up a bit and head out for some enrichment. We were inspired by the presentation of Emily Rock from the Oshkosh Public Museum (see page 6) so we will take a 'field trip' to the Oshkosh Museum. Those interested in meeting for ride share, plan to arrive at Prairie Lakes before 1:00, we will be leaving at 1:00pm. If it is more convenient to go directly to the museum, we will see you there. Admission fee is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, & children cost will be covered by Prairie Lakes.

*NOTE: if you are not 'museum-ed out', the Paine Art Center & Gardens is kitty-corner from the museum and a lovely experience. The cost is \$12 adults & \$7 youth.*



**Youth Group Summer Programming: Movie in the Prairie Lakes sanctuary with snacks on Tuesday, August 8, 2:30-4:30.**

*Attention kids & parents: Don't forget the Summer Reading Program that includes reading four books and turning in projects to Liz Buchanan-Beegle in early September.*



**Worship Service Sunday, August 13, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck with Connie Ghinazzi "Sacred spaces."** In this service, Connie Ghinazzi will share her lifelong fascination with the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and how his unitarian upbringing informed his work. Join Connie in viewing some of his most iconic work and also explore what makes a space sacred for each of us. *Note: There will be outside supervised play for the kids.*

**August events continued on the next page...**

## AUGUST ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS continued...



### **ENGAGE Sunday, August 20, 10 AM: What's New at the UUA led by Becky Feyen**

The Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly was held at the end of June and there are several exciting developments to share with you: The UUA has a new President! I will share a bit of background on Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt.

In addition, we will review the new article II structure of the UUA bylaws for 2024, which outlines 6 UU values based around *Love*:

#### ***Interdependence | Pluralism | Justice | Transformation | Generosity | Equity***

Our current version of the 7 Principles was introduced in 1985, replacing the Purposes & Objectives of 1961 (6 Principles – looking at these might make you realize, someday someone will read on our current Principles & understand why they were updated). This latest proposed transition incorporates the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle statement within the structure of these values. The Living Traditions is being replaced with an expansive definition of Inspirations.

There were several Actions of Immediate Witness for social justice support. Love it or hate it, social justice is the backbone of Unitarian Universalist values & actions. We will discuss what role, if any, we want to play in supporting the resolutions or anything else that supports the growth of our Fellowship.



### **Worship Service Sunday, August 27 , 10:00 AM With Dr. Brian Smith Religion vs Spirituality.**

Brian H. Smith is a Lecturer in the Online and Continuing Education (OCE) program at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO) where he teaches courses in world religions to nontraditional adult students. He is Professor Emeritus of Religion at Ripon College where he taught from 1987-2020. He was an Associate Professor of Political Science at MIT.

*Attention parents: Please bring the kids! There will be outside supervised play.*



**Saturday, September 2: Jean Johnson 2nd Annual Memorial Kayak/Canoe Event. We'll launch from Spring Lake in Green Lake and have a potluck brunch on the Tichora Conservancy property. Details on page 5.**

## A Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



Hello everyone!

I am delighted to be your interim Moderator, and many thanks to Robyn for her leadership the past year. My previous experience as Moderator provides knowledge of the challenges and I appreciate those willing to take a leadership role in maintaining the sustainability of Prairie Lakes. It certainly takes a team to fulfill the needs of people and property. Our small Fellowship relies on the support of every individual and we are here to support you.

The transition back to Moderator has proven to be a little tougher than I thought. It really hasn't set in yet and I'm struggling to get in the groove. This will all work out after a couple meetings and a project or two. Please feel free to reach out to me with ideas or concerns as I am here to provide guidance and assistance.

I envision a wonderful year of growth for all of us. My hope is to re-imagine how Prairie Lakes can best serve our members & friends, and the greater community. Our world is evolving, the UUA is transforming, and Prairie Lakes will continue adapting to the needs of our community. You are the reason we are here and we are here to support your personal growth.

"Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better." -Sydney J. Harris

With much love –  
Becky Feyen

**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 Board Secretary Robyn Davis-Bartow: [robinaudrey19@gmail.com](mailto:robinaudrey19@gmail.com)



## PLUUF August Birthdays

This month we celebrate the birth of Jill Stiemsma on 8/4! Happy Birthday Jill!

Don't see yourself listed? Please let us know! Email Robyn at [robinaudrey19@gmail.com](mailto:robinaudrey19@gmail.com).

## Summer Happenings: Ripon Fest Pride Parade Float

Ripon High School Science teacher and Prairie Lakes member Brad Roost worked with the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) of Ripon High School to create a Pride Float for the Ripon Fest parade on July 8. Ripon High School students, parents and a few Prairie Lake members participated in the event.



## Youth Group Summer Programming a Big Success!

Program Coordinator Liz Buchanan-Beegle is spearheading summer programming for the children of Prairie Lakes. It began in June with a yoga session at Prairie Lakes followed by treats at Sweet 'N Sauly's in downtown Ripon. Adventure #3 is scheduled on August 8! (See page 1 for details)



**Summer Youth Group Adventure #2** started with a short walk from Prairie Lakes to the Silver Creek behind the [Ripon Public Library](#). Brad Roost served as a guide to search for water life and more. Afterwards, the children enjoyed a picnic lunch with cream puffs made by Robyn Davis-Bartow 😊 Liz said, "It was a great day!"

### Would You Like to Support the Youth Summer Program?

For a \$10 donation, you will receive a Prairie Lakes Water Bottle. Available in the entryway at Prairie Lakes.

These are durable 24 oz bottles with a flip lid. Get yours next time you're at Prairie Lakes while supplies last!



# Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak/Canoe Adventure

Saturday, September 2, 10AM



## Photo left: 1st annual adventure celebrating Jean!

The 2nd Annual Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak/Canoe Adventure will take place Saturday, September 2, 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.

There are two ways to participate in this event:

1. Kayak or canoe from the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park in Green Lake and paddle to the Tichora Conservancy property. When you arrive at the Tichora Conservancy property we'll pull your boat onto shore and hike approximately a 1/4 mile to the picnic area.

OR

2. Drive to the Tichora Conservancy property and take a short walk to the picnic area

- Kayak/Canoers will meet at the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park: W2290 Spring Lake Road, Markesan by 9:45. (You can Google Map it by typing in Spring Valley Park, Markesan, WI). Be sure to bring a life jacket and water bottle.
- If you choose to drive to the Tichora Conservancy property the address is: W2580 Oakwood Beach Road, Ripon. Plan on arriving by 10:30. (If you Google Map it, type in Camp Grow Ministries, Ripon, WI) We'll be setting up a picnic area near the shore of Green Lake and it's an easy walk from the parking area.
- If you want to follow Tanya: She lives just 8 minutes from the landing and about 12 minutes from the Tichora Conservancy property. If you prefer to follow her please arrive at her house by 9:30. Address: W907 Scott Hill Road Ripon. It's the driveway just west of the highway's A & K intersection and it's the driveway with the horse sculpture. You will follow her to the Spring Lake landing. From there you'll either launch your boat or continue to follow her in your vehicle to the Tichora Conservancy property.

*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 had a passion for skiing, canoeing and nature. She died on April 29, 2017. When her husband Harry passed away in 2022, 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

### July ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



#### **ENGAGE Sunday, July 2, with Becky Feyen: *Outdoors at Prairie Lakes!***

In honor of the 4th of July holiday, Prairie Lakes held a small ceremony to install the American flag & send blessings to our country. We congregated outside for conversation. After, information was provided regarding "Plastic Free July", in hopes of inspiring us towards eliminating single-use plastics. Discussion took place in the Social Room.

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/> |

<https://www.earthday.org/plastic-free-july-toolkit/>



#### **Worship Service Sunday, July 9: *Bolivian Aymara Ritual* with Jill Stiemsma & 2nd Sunday Potluck.**

We observed and actively participated in a traditional Bolivian Aymara ritual that honors the Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) and our connection to her. It was a great celebration for all ages! Accompanying photo: Pachamama statue acquired by Jill while in Peru. *(Editor's note: I've attended this ceremony at least 3 times and it just keeps getting better and better!)*



#### **ENGAGE Sunday, July 16: *Monthly Meditation* with Becky Feyen**

Meditation Sunday included multiple opportunities to take a little time to rejuvenate & appreciate our lives. Building on the Summer Solstice presentation, there were opportunities to set intentions, reflect on what we are grateful for, & slow down a bit to enjoy just being. Becky led the group by presenting opportunities to explore a breathing practice & a bit of movement. Poetry was also in the mix.



#### **Worship Service Sunday, July 23, with Emily Rock: *Living Cultures of the People of the Waters***

We welcomed guest speaker Emily Rock, Curator of Exhibitions at the Oshkosh Public Museum. She presented an overview of *The Voices of Native American Art – Telling Our Story* exhibition is currently on display at the Museum through October 8. The perfect complement to mark the grand opening of *People of the Waters*, this exhibition features a broad variety of original, fine and contemporary Native American Art from living Native artists who are members and descendants of different Native American Nations.



#### **Sunday, July 30, *Fluff & Buff Indoor Cleanup Day***