



November 2023

Prairie Lakes

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971

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NOVEMBER ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS

Programming Change

ENGAGE Sunday, November 5, 10:00 AM:

Presentation of Changes at PLUUF: Led by PLUUF Moderator, Becky Feyen

Please join us to review the changes planned for Prairie Lakes beginning January 2024. Becky will explain how our Sunday schedule will transition to 2nd & 4th Sundays only. The 1st & 3rd ENGAGE Sundays will be on hiatus January through June. If you enjoy the ENGAGE format you will have the opportunity to vote for 4th Sundays to remain as a Sunday Service or change to the ENGAGE Sunday format.



Worship Service Sunday, November 12, 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 19, 10:00 AM Resilience & Growth | 4th Sunday Vote Results | presented by Becky Feyen

Joys & Concerns at our October 22nd Service revealed how overwhelmed & disheartened people are feeling. We need to take good care of ourselves during times of change. Becky will present a short program on resilience & growth to support you in this time of transition & concerns. "Resilience is something you do, more than something you have" – Al Siebert. We will review actions we can take to enhance our resilience, & maintain a growth mindset.

The 2nd part of the hour will transition to the vote result on the structure for our 4th Sundays; either a Sunday Worship Service or ENGAGE format. The change to 2nd and 4th Sundays begins in January 2024 and will continue until our Annual Meeting. We will discuss whatever is needed to help you become comfortable with this trial time & we will work through this together.



Worship Service Sunday, November 26, 10:00 AM The Annual Intergenerational Gratitude Service



A Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

Hello members & friends –

I want to begin by re-affirming the importance & vitality of Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship. This community is so important to many people, especially myself and we are continuing our evolution to meet the needs of the current environment. This Prairie Lakes community will be here for you at any time. Please know and remember that our individual & collective assistance will always be a resource to draw from. As the Moderator & the leader of this Fellowship; albeit, you did not vote for me, I was thrust upon you for a year; yet my experience as past Moderator & long-time member I can see a need for change.

Beginning January 2024, Prairie Lakes will begin a trial run of reducing our programming to two Sundays per month. The 2nd Sunday will remain a Sunday Worship Service with potluck, and the 4th Sunday structure will be voted on by our members. The 4th Sunday will either continue as a Sunday Service, or change to ENGAGE Sunday format. This will all be outlined at the ENGAGE Sunday, November 5th. The vote will be open until the ENGAGE Sunday, November 19th. We will reach out to everyone listed as a member, either in person, via email, or phone if needed. We want your opinion on what best serves you for our 4th Sunday.

Now, this does not imply that nothing will ever happen on 1st & 3rd Sundays. The Prairie Lakes facility is here for you. If you want to reserve the space for a book discussion, presentation, meditation, dinner gathering, whatever aligns with the Principles (or Values) of this Fellowship & Unitarian Universalism, this space is yours. It will be managed like a rental agreement, where you are responsible for set-up, activities & clean-up; of course, there are a few people to help, if available. You can always draw on others from the Fellowship to assist you.

There are many things we need & want to do outside of the 4 walls on Sunday morning. This will free up valuable time to accomplish programs for youth, fundraisers, outings, etc. We hope you will show up for other events. Even if you do not want to participate in a rally, fry a brat, stand at a booth, garden, kayak, etc. it would be great to see you encouraging the people who provide these opportunities.

For historical perspective, Prairie Lakes began meeting only 2 Sundays a month until a part-time minister was hired & changed to four Sundays a month. Returning to the two-Sunday format has been talked about, considered, and voted on since the four Sundays started. We ended up with ENGAGE Sundays because of the desire to go to two Sundays. I supported the 1st & 3rd Sundays when it made sense for our Fellowship, I cannot see that it works for our group at this time. You will have your say about it at the Annual Meeting!

I am willing to discuss this decision with anyone & support you in any way I can.
Peace & love to all –
Becky Feyen

Next Board Meeting: November 8, 5:30 p.m. If you'd like anything put on the agenda, please contact Board Secretary Robyn at robinaudrey19@gmail.com

PLUUF November Birthdays

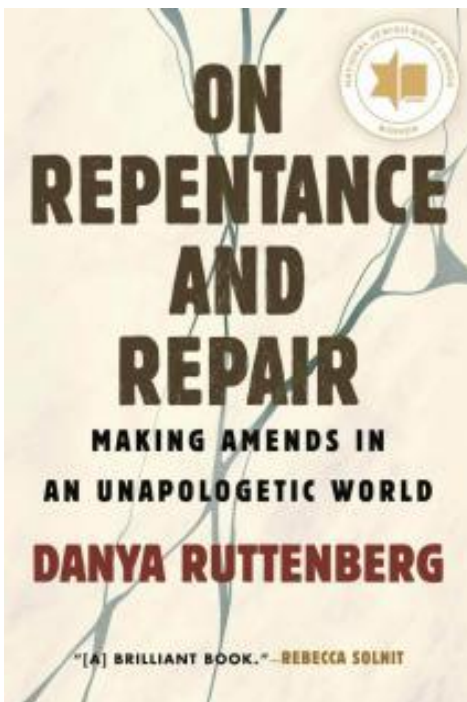


PLUUF is lucky to have many people to celebrate this month! Happiest of Birthdays to all!

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

Featured Resource: UUA Common Read

On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World is the 2023-24 UU Common Read. In this 2022 Beacon Press book, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg offers a fresh perspective on how we make ourselves accountable to others.



This UU Common Read offers a glimpse into Judaism, one of Unitarian Universalism's foundational sources, through the writings of 12th century physician and scholar, Maimonides. The book invites us to explore practices, informed by Jewish tradition, that can lead us toward meaningful atonement in our personal, community, and national lives. Discussion materials for *On Repentance and Repair* include a [two-session workshop](#) for in-person or online groups. While recommended as a two-part series, these discussion materials can also support a half-day workshop.

All resources for the UU Common Read can be found, along with Common Read updates, on the [UUA website](#). UU Common Read gatherings can be facilitated by a UU lay leader or religious professional. A co-facilitator with tech skills is recommended for online or hybrid groups.



The Blessing of the Animals

Prairie Lakes extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the Animal Blessing service on October 8. Whether you brought a pet, a photo, stuffed animal, shared a pet related story, or participated in another way, your presence meant so much. Photographer Leslie Schwartz was among the attendee's and captured some of the special moments. Tanya co-led this service with Janine Rubeck of the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter. If you couldn't make it this year, we hope you can join us next year



Thank you to Ripon College senior Jonah Roeper for filling in for Jill Stiemsma and providing beautiful piano music for the service.

Note: PLUUF matched the \$150 that was collected during the service and donated \$300 to the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter. Thank you to all!

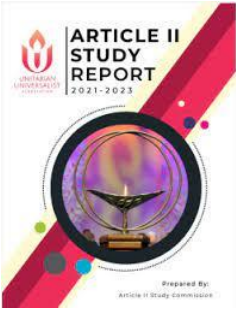


Church & Dessert at Ripon College

It was Church & Dessert at Ripon College on October 4, coordinated by Ripon Area Ministerial Association (RAMA). Prairie Lakes had a table and we're grateful to all who baked and provided delicious treats for this event. Becky Feyen, Jim Goyette and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper were on table duty. It was a wonderful evening talking to the college students and making new friends from other churches.



In Case You Missed it in October



ENGAGE Sunday, October 1:

Article II Study Commission Report to UUA Board of Trustees - Video Presentation & Discussion with Becky Feyen

When PLUUF attendees heard about the proposed changes to the UUA Bylaws back in August there was concern expressed that the UUA was changing the 7 principles to values centered around the word "Love." Becky showed a video and led a discussion that helped ease the attendees into accepting the proposed changes. There's still much to be discussed. If you'd like to find out more, contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com for more information.



Worship Service Sunday, October 8 (see photos on page 4): Blessing of the Animals (Intergenerational) with Janine Rubeck of the Green Lake Area Animal Shelter and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

Cats, dogs, a hamster and a frog were all blessed at this service. Photos and stories of pets past and present were shared. Potluck followed the service with Ray's famous meatballs, Becky's delicious quiche and the Buchanan-Beegle dog bone shaped sugar cookies.



ENGAGE Sunday, October 15, 10:00 AM Cultivating Community presented by Becky Feyen

Becky delved into the topic of what it means to be in community; the various communities each of us is involved with; why it is important to be a part of a community; how we can promote & support your community. This was an explorative journey into our individual importance in cultivating & sustaining a community.



Worship Service Sunday, October 22, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck Sacred Spaces, Part 2 with Connie Ghinazzi

In June, Connie Ghinazzi had the opportunity to return to one of her sacred spaces after an absence of more than a decade. It is a tiny island in Rainy Lake, MN less than a mile from the Canadian border. This was the home of environmentalist Ernest Oberholtzer, a native of her hometown Davenport, IA. Connie first went there to help care for his vast book collection, but continues to maintain a relationship with Mallard Island because of its magic and spiritual connection to the Ojibway people. This service looked more deeply into what makes a place spiritual, how to recognize or nurture those sacred spaces in our own lives and finally open ourselves to be rejuvenated in these

environments.



5th Sunday, October 29: Day of the Dead with Judy Morgan

Back by popular demand, Judy led this event for the 3rd year in a row. This event is celebrated throughout Latin America. Several attendees shared photos and stories of loved ones who have passed. It's a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning.