

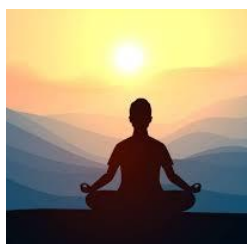


**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2024**

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971 pluufripon@gmail.com Find us on Facebook!

January ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



ENGAGE Sunday, January 7, 10AM with JoAnne Norton,

“Self Healing Through Meditation.” Joanne Norton has been on a spiritual quest her whole life which has taken her to explore the healing arts. For over 30 years Joanne has taught meditation and distant healing, is a massage therapist and energy bodyworker. During this session, she will guide you on a self healing journey using meditation and energy work.



Worship Service Sunday, January 14, 10AM with Robyn Davis-Bartow plus it's 2nd Sunday Potluck: *Embracing Change and Cultivating Inner Peace*

As the New Year unfurls, one's mind inevitably turns to change. Change in the year, change in our loved ones, change in the fellowship, change in politics, change in ourselves. The list could go on ad infinitum. But how do we face these changes? Do we resist and wish for what was? Do we stress about a future unknown? This Sunday we will explore how different groups look at change and how cultivating inner peace can change our relationship with it.



ENGAGE Sunday, January 21, 10AM with Connie Ghinazzi **“What I Believe, Why I Believe.”**

Connie will lead a conversation about where we have come from and how it has brought us to this community. Please join us for what's sure to be an interesting discussion and a way to get to know each other better.



Worship Service Sunday, January 28, 10AM with Becky Feyen:

Creating Peace as UU's Peace can only come from a place of peace. UU's have a rich history committed to creating peace through the work of peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peacekeeping. We will look at each aspect of creating peace & explore how we can take action to build, make & keep peace in all human interactions. Peace be with you.



A Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

Happy New Year!!!

Welcome to 2024, this is an important year for Unitarian Universalism & Prairie Lakes. Our religion is looking forward, updating the structure & sentiment in the foundation of how we are to 'be' as a community & in the world. We here at Prairie Lakes are considering how to elevate your experience in our community, to support & sustain you in your spiritual growth.

One definition of spiritual growth is, "the process of developing self-identity, nurturing meaningful relationships with others and/or with a higher power, communing with nature, and recognizing transcendence and unity." (*Institute of Transformation Nutrition*) Bill O'Hanlon's book *Pathways to Spirituality* suggests "the three C's: Connection to something greater than yourself, Compassion or 'feeling with' ourselves, others and the world, and Contribution as service to others and the world."

Our world certainly needs us to be connected, feel compassion & contribute our time, talents & resources. Each one of us can do so much to heal our fragmented world if we connect to others, feel compassion & contribute to what is lacking. It is easy to get caught up in our daily requirements & turn away from the struggles of our world. I know, you cannot create world peace, yet you can create peace in your world. You cannot end hunger, but you can lend support to a food pantry. You may not be able to end discrimination, still you can politely stand up for the mistreated. Strive to be that change the world needs in all your conversations & actions.

Wishing you & everyone, a wonderful New Year!

Editor's note: A BIG thank you to Becky!

Not only is she PLUUF's Board Moderator, she's a 2-fisted-drill-totin'-handy woman! The floorboards near the entryway at Prairie Lakes lay flat again. Thanks, Becky!

AND

Thank you to Laird DeCramer for installing the new keypad entry system to PLUUF's side door entrance.



PLUUF January Birthdays

This month we celebrate the birth of Tanya Schwartz Roeper on the 9th and Becky Feyen on the 25th!! Happy Birthday!

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

Also, if you do not want your birthday noted in the monthly newsletter, please let us know.

General Assembly 2024

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024. General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. (Note: Prairie Lakes has been a member of the UUA for over 30 years).

Theme: Love Unites, Stories Ignite: In a world filled with division and challenges, the theme for this year's General Assembly is a powerful reminder of the core principles that unite us as Unitarian Universalists. "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" celebrates the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and fosters connections within our faith community and beyond.

Proposed Article II will be voted on at the June 2024 General Assembly Meeting

On August 20 & October 1 of 2023, Becky Feyen led two ENGAGE Sundays focused on the proposed changes to the UUA Bylaws. She explained the proposed change and provided handouts that are available at PLUUF.

The proposed change will go from this:

1. Honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Practice justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
3. Accept one another and encourage spiritual growth.
4. Support the freedom to search for what is true and right in life.
5. Ensure all have a vote about matters that concern them.
6. Work for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
7. Care for planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.

To this: 

Proposed Image Description (left): This image is of a chalice with an overlay of the word Love over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values and form a six-petal flower shape. Each arm is a different color, and clockwise they are: Interdependence (Orange), Equity (Red), Transformation (Purple), Pluralism (Blue), Generosity (Green), and Justice (Yellow). Continued on the next page...



Why change Article II now?

Our seven Principles and six Sources – which we know and love – were adopted in 1985. They offered a substantial (even radical) change from what preceded them. The changes came through years of effort by UU women, particularly the UU Women’s Federation, to push for gender equality in UUism, support for women in the ministry and to eliminate sexist language from our bylaws, hymns, and yes, from the version of Article II passed in 1961 (at the time of merger).

But the changes didn’t just address gender, they made significant language changes that reflected the times. It removed language of God, man, and brotherhood, but also added the language of interdependence and added sources reflecting the growing theological diversity shaping our tradition.

Today, the digital age has shifted our interactions with community and truth. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted our interdependence, and where individualism falls short. There is a rise in global autocracies and attacks on democratic institutions, and climate catastrophe and mass extinctions threaten the delicate balance of the web of life. These are just a few of the major struggles our living tradition must face today and in our future. With the articulation of our shared UU values, we can be better equipped to make values based decisions in facing these new and evolving realities.

Why did the proposal do away with the word “principles?” If this passes, what happens to the principles?

The Commission spent a long time studying and analyzing the current version of Article II. What became clear was that we don’t explicitly name the values that we share, and that our covenant does not have enough verbs.

Shared values are what hold any organization together, and we often speak of our shared values without naming them. We (the UUA Study Commission) asked Unitarian Universalists what were the values we shared. We took the many answers we received and synthesized them into the values in our draft. After our first draft was released we changed one of the named values from Evolution to Transformation.

We created a covenant related to each of our named values, as well as a very brief description of the values. The covenant has many verbs and is stated in broad enough language so as to allow congregations to find their way to live into our shared values.

If the revision of Article II is adopted as currently written, the UUA Principles will no longer be incorporated in the UUA bylaws. We anticipate congregations and individuals will continue to utilize the UUA Principles alongside the newly articulated shared UUA Values, as previous covenants and statements of commonly held beliefs are used within their historical context today.

This information was printed in part from the UUA website: <https://www.uua.org>

A Few Highlights from 2023



Welcoming Congregation Renewal

Prairie Lakes Renewed its Welcoming Congregation Status for its 3rd consecutive year

3rd year of our Sharing Garden at Prairie Lakes

A variety of vegetables were grown and donated to the Ripon Food Pantry



PLUUF Participated in Ripon's second No Mow May

PLUUF Donated to the following organizations

- Ripon Food Pantry
- Green Lake Area Animal Shelter
- Ripon High School Gay-Straight Alliance Club
- Ripon Middle School Gay-Straight Alliance
- UUA Annual Program Fund
- Oshkosh Public Museum

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE GENEROUS DONORS
& VOLUNTEERS AT PRAIRIE LAKES! We could not exist without you!**

In Case You Missed it in December

ENGAGE Sunday, December 3 with Becky Feyen



Joy to The World – The Unitarian Approach This proclaimed season of joy can be difficult to embrace for countless heartbreaking & infuriating reasons. It is especially complicated if you do not embrace the glorious religious celebrations of this time of year. It is so easy to be down about life in general without the pressure to feel & act joyous. Yet, joy is what is needed to progress beyond the challenges of our world & this dark cold season. Becky discussed what joy is, why it is vital to our existence and how as UU's we can embrace this holiday season to create joy & share it with the world.



Worship Service Sunday, December 10, 2nd Sunday Potluck

Finding Our Balance with Connie Ghinazzi

At this very busy time of year, it can feel like we are being pulled in multiple directions. This service allowed participants to examine what balance is for each of us and what we need to do to achieve it. Connie quoted psychologist Erik Erikson. "The richest and fullest lives attempt to achieve an inner balance between three realms: work, love and play."



Sunday, December 17: FESTIVALS OF LIGHT

It was a morning of music and good cheer as we observed 8 winter holidays celebrated around the world. We are grateful to everyone who celebrated with us that morning. If you missed it, we hope you can join us next year.

A Special Festivals of Light Newsletter Edition filled with photos and a recap of the event is available if you didn't receive it via email. Contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com if you'd like a copy either emailed or snail mailed.



Worship Service Sunday, December 24, There was a spiral Walk with Robyn Davis-Bartow, plus attendees made fresh made Cinnamon Rolls with Liz Buchanan-Beegle... yum!

About the spiral walk: During the Spiral Walk, we celebrate the turning point in the year when the days become their shortest and the night its longest, and we look for the light which comes from within. In the center of the spiral, a single candle is lit. Each participant walks the spiral alone to the center of the spiral, where they light their own candle to place along the spiral.