



March 31st is International Transgender Day of Visibility



# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## MARCH 2024 ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



### ENGAGE Sunday, March 3, 10AM with Kat Griffith: *U.S. Immigration and Asylum*

1. Kat will present a myth-busting look at border statistics since the 1990s, challenging much of the current narrative about migration.
2. She'll share the stories of several asylum seekers and you will see personal photos of a migrant camp, a tent court and deportation flight at the southern border.
3. We'll explore current realities on the ground and in our political discourse on the subject.

*Kat lives with her family in Ripon. She is a Fond du Lac County Supervisor, and a former Spanish Teacher along with an impressive list of accomplishments. Kat has worked with immigrants, is knowledgeable on the topic, and has been to the southern border. A slide show will accompany Kat's presentation.*



### Worship Service Sunday, March 10, *Spring Cleaning Body, Mind & Soul* presented by Becky Feyen 10AM PLUS 2nd Sunday Potluck & RE/Youth Group *It's Daylight Savings - Don't forget to spring forward!*

As we enter the season of spring, it is easy to identify our tie to the cyclical rhythms of the natural world. In early spring, nature begins to clean-up & clear away the debris that built up in fall & winter. Many cultures adopted the tradition of spring-cleaning; a ritual of clearing the dirt & clutter out of our physical surroundings. In similar ways we can utilize that concept to review what we need to clear from our physical, mental & spiritual self. Consider what is causing you physical &/or mental angst. What thoughts, feelings &/or actions need to be transformed to move forward with a clean & clear perspective? What can we release so that there may be room for change? We will review a few practices that can facilitate in clearing our personal clutter & strengthen our resolve to take care of ourselves.



### ENGAGE Sunday, March 17, 10AM with Ray Gurney: *Mary Magdalene at the Tomb*

Please join us as Ray presents and leads a discussion on a modern interpretation of Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb.

*Worship Service & ENGAGE Sundays continued on the next page....*



**Worship Service Sunday, March 24, 10AM *Spiritual Rejuvenation with Becky Feyen*** We are continuing our focus on the importance of spring. This is a natural time of change & growth, an opportunity to be inspired by nature to rejuvenate ourselves. We are a part of the natural world & this is a wonderful time to refill what makes us feel alive. The concept of spiritual rejuvenation can take a religious or energy focus. We will explore what spirit means to us, if anything & what practices help to rejuvenate & energize our mind, body and/or spirit. Please join us to share in the discovery & discussion of what it means to be spiritually rejuvenated.



**An Intergenerational Easter Celebration UU Style Sunday, March 31, 10AM** 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!



**Volunteers Needed at PLUUF's April Brat Fry!**  
**When: Saturday, April 6 beginning at 10:30AM**  
**Where: Webster's Marketplace Ripon**

If you'd like to take a shift let us know. We will need assistance in taking orders, filling orders, collecting money, or grilling. Each shift lasts 1 ½ hours and begins at 10:30am and will end around 3pm.

A signup sheet is available at PLUUF or contact Becky at [r.feyen@yahoo.com](mailto:r.feyen@yahoo.com) for more information. *(If you've already signed up, Thank You!!)*



Submitted by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

This is not the Traded Treasures and Community Food Pantry, but a food pantry located at St. Catherine's of Siena church on Blossom Street. This pantry has been around since 1983 and was originally housed in the Senior Citizen Building on Watson Street. Back in the early to mid 2000's, this was the Food Pantry PLUUFers supported by participating in the annual CROP Walk. At the last RAMA (Ripon Area Ministerial Association) meeting we had a lovely tour of the pantry. There will be ongoing discussions about assisting with its leadership and supporting its mission. This will be discussed in greater detail at the next RAMA meeting on March 19. More information is coming soon.



## A Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

Happy spring! As with nature, there is so much happening at Prairie Lakes in the next few months, we are also at a moment of significant change. I am keeping my message short, since other areas are outlining details of what is happening. I am encouraging you to show up for Prairie Lakes as much as possible. We are here & successful because of you. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for all the ways you support us.

Hope to see you soon!

### SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING Sunday MAY 19, starting at 10:00am

This year includes several important votes so your Board of Directors is helping you to prepare by giving you the opportunity to ask questions BEFORE the Annual Meeting. Documents are available for you to review and your questions will need to be addressed by the end of March so we can finalize changes before voting at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19.

**ARTICLE II:** The Unitarian Universalist Association has proposed changes to the 7 Principles, Purpose, and Values. Documents outlining the changes are available on our website, printed copies in the social room and/or emailed by request.\*

**PLUUF BYLAWS:** The updates have changed some wording, removed specifics on committees which will be added to procedures, and will need to align our affiliation with the UUA based on the outcome of the Article II vote. Documents are available on our website, printed copies in the social room, and can be emailed by request.\*

**PLUUF BUDGET 2024/25:** We need to be conscientious of our spending & want to make sure everyone’s concerns and requests are established BEFORE the Annual Meeting. The 2024/25 budget and a few facility expenses are outlined for your review. Documents are available in the social room & emailed by request.\*

\*All inquiries for documents can be emailed to [pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)

Online documents (Article II & Bylaws) can be located on the Prairie Lakes website <https://pluuf.org/> “About” drop-down.

Any questions, concerns, requests can be directed to Becky before April 1, she will be available to review the information with anyone. We want you to be informed & feel comfortable with the decisions you make for the future of Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship. Thank you for being a part of us.

## Grant Awarded to Prairie Lakes!

A few months ago PLUUF member Cheri Salzberg completed a grant application for Prairie Lakes through the Webster Foundation. On February 15th Becky Feyen represented Prairie Lakes by attending the Webster Foundation Grant Awards Presentation at Grace Lutheran Church in Ripon. On behalf of Prairie Lakes, she accepted the \$1,200 grant and gave a brief presentation of thanks. The grant money will be used for summer programming for the kids and more! Thank you Webster Foundation!



## RE/YOUTH GROUP by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

*Children's programming takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.*

2nd Sunday: Nicole Roost led an intergenerational Chinese New Year celebration on February 11. We learned that the Chinese New Year is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture and it's associated with several myths and customs. We listened to traditional Chinese music and with the help of the kids in attendance, the PLUUF dragon came back to life! (Photo on page 6)



4th Sunday: On February 24th the kids were presented with a lesson called "All About Maple Syrup." We learned about the tools the Native Americans used to tap trees and collect sap and how it changed with the arrival of settlers from Europe. The kids were amazed when they discovered it takes 40 gallons of maple sap to produce just one gallon of syrup! The lesson concluded with the kids identifying the giant maple tree on the PLUUF property and tapping it. The sap started to "flow" immediately!



### **PLUUF Member & Musician Jill Stiemsma Will Return From El Salvador in mid-March!**

Hi, fellow PLUUFers! It won't be long before I'm back "home" with all of you and I look forward to seeing y'all!

I've been in El Salvador since mid-November helping to organize international observers' training for the Presidential and Assembly elections on February 4th.

The elections were nothing short of a disaster. For the first time, each voting table (responsible for up to 690 voters) was to get its own computer in which to enter voting results. Well, our voting center was set in a schoolyard and basketball court where there was NO electricity. Voting closed at 5:00 — and that's when a truck carrying electricians showed up. The voting table I observed got a working lightbulb about 6pm (it gets dark here about that time) and a working outlet by about 8pm. The computers were to be delivered to each table between 4-5pm — but weren't even delivered to the center until after 8pm. When I finally left at 10:30, there were no tables with functioning computers yet. The internet couldn't handle the submission of so many vote tallies simultaneously so continually kicked out results. By 5AM the next day, the office responsible for elections sent all the voting table members home (24 hours+ since their arrival). Then, all the votes had to be re-entered at a central location, a process that went on for days—with more irregularities than I can describe herein. Democracy is at stake in El Salvador!



## News From the Prairie Lakes Board of Directors



Becky Feyen  
Interim Moderator



Robyn Davis-Bartow  
Secretary



Jim Goyette  
Treasurer



Nicole Roost  
At-Large Rep



Cheri Salzberg  
At-Large Rep

Hello PLUUFers! Here is what's been happening behind the scenes this month:

- The Board of Directors held its annual planning retreat in February. Everything from property management to bylaws to budget proposals were discussed during an extended three hour meeting.
- Prairie Lakes will be filling three Board of Directors positions for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024: Moderator, Secretary & At-Large Rep. Each of these positions serve a two year term. Currently there are nominees for the Moderator and At-Large Rep, but we are still in search of a Secretary. Come join an amazing team in guiding the future of our beloved fellowship!
- A paid consultant position is available beginning July 1, 2024. The primary duty will be coordinating Worship Services for 2nd & 4th Sundays. Please pass the word around! If you are interested in more information, please let us know!

It takes a lot to keep a volunteer organization going. A huge thank you to all who donate your time, talents, and resources to keep PLUUF a vital community!

Submitted by Robyn Davis Bartow- Board Secretary

**SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, MAY 19, starting at 10:00am**

**Members will be voting on:**

- PLUUF Board Positions (Moderator, Secretary, At Large Rep)
- UUA Article II
- PLUUF Bylaws
- PLUUF Budget for the next fiscal year

**Not a Prairie Lakes member, but would like to become one? See Tanya next time you are at PLUUF or email [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)**

**Congratulations to Nick & Marie Muschal as they celebrate their 47 year wedding anniversary!**



## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN FEBRUARY**



### **ENGAGE Sunday, February 4, with JoAnne Norton, Healing With Energy and Color Therapy**

*For over 30 years Joanne has taught meditation and distant healing, is a massage therapist and energy bodyworker. With a volunteer from the audience, Joanne demonstrated how to use colors and our hands to heal ourselves and assist others to heal. After the demonstration, attendees teamed up and practiced the healing technique on our partners.*



### **Intergenerational Worship Service Sunday, February 11: Chinese New Year Celebration with Nicole Roost.**

*2024 is the year of the Dragon!. We sang "Puff, the Magic Dragon" with Sherman Leatherberry, used noise makers and confetti poppers, listened to traditional Chinese music, watched a dragon parade through the sanctuary, and more! We've been ringing in the Chinese New Year off and on with Nicole Roost since 2007. She created a fabulous, fun and memorable event!*



### **ENGAGE Sunday, February 18, with Dr. Paul Jeffries "Ethical Reflections on the War in Gaza."**

*This presentation explored the ethical dimensions of the current war going on primarily in Gaza between the Israelis, Hamas, and the Palestinians. We examined the cause of the immediate conflict but also included the wider context between Israel and the Palestinians. In trying to apply principles of justice and conflict studies, including consideration of just war theory, the presentation engaged the Unitarian Universalist Principles concerning the dignity and worth of persons (1<sup>st</sup>), justice, equity, and compassion (2<sup>nd</sup>), and the goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all (6<sup>th</sup>).*

### **Worship Service Sunday, February 25, with Becky Feyen: Side With Love**

*Becky shared the inspiration of the UUA Side with Love campaign and the 30 Days of Love. It was about the radical love of changing our world. "The work that we do together to build a world in which all are free and thriving is interrelated. When we ground our spirits, grow our skills, and act strategically for justice in a deep relationship with each other and our movements, we choose to Side With Love." - UUA Side with Love Organizing Strategy Team*

