



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Upcoming May Events



ENGAGE Sunday, May 5, 10AM [Psychedelics and the Sacred](#) with **Joe Hatcher**

Psychedelics have been used by indigenous people for thousands of years to access states of mind and perceived realities that are outside of normal experience. These states of mind often give rise to an experience of "the divine" or "the sacred" and are thought by some to be the highest form of religious experience. There are some, in fact, who believe the very idea of God was first derived from psychedelic experiences. Be that as it may, this ENGAGE Sunday will examine the connections between psychedelics and religious experience in a variety of contexts.



Worship Service Sunday, May 12, 10AM: [Mother's Day Tribute Through Poetry](#) presented by **Becky Feyen** PLUS **2nd Sunday Potluck & RE/Youth Group**

Please join us on Mother's Day to experience poetry & stories of the importance of moms in families, communities, and the world. Mothering comes in many forms & from many people throughout life. You are encouraged to share your stories of mothering.



ENGAGE Sunday, May 19, 10AM [Annual Meeting](#) **It is a big, important day**

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. Hope to see you there!



Worship Service Sunday, May 26, 10AM: [Memorial Day Service](#) with **Shane Beegle** It has become a tradition at Prairie Lakes to honor our fallen, missing, or imprisoned Military Service Members on the Sunday before Memorial Day. We are indebted to those serving in our military. Please join us for a special service.

Saturday, June 1, [PRIDE '24](#)
Village Green downtown Ripon, 3:00-7PM.
Enjoy Food, Music, Games and Much More! Free entry.



A Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen

I am calling on all members & friends to support Prairie Lakes this month, even if we haven't seen you in a while. Yes, we need you at our Services & ENGAGE Sundays. Your presence, concern & support is what makes Prairie Lakes special. This month we will be honoring our mothers & military - ironically; my mom was my military. All kidding aside, these are two very important Sunday Services to attend.

Our ENGAGE Sundays are just as important to your personal & spiritual growth. We have Joe Hatcher presenting, "Psychedelic and the Sacred". Psychedelics have been all over the news the last few years for numerous reasons, come learn the sacred connection. Oh, and then we have no one's favorite, yet so critical; our Annual Meeting! Come on, you know you actually enjoy them. This is a wonderful opportunity to either learn &/or be a part of the workings of our Fellowship. THERE WILL BE SNACKS!!!

Seriously, we need you to keep doing what we are doing and hopefully improve our Fellowship! I get that life is a lot and one more thing feels like too much. My hope and objective is that once you are at Prairie Lakes it isn't like the rest of your life. We are here to make you feel better about life & help you manage what feels like too much.



Thank You!

A BIG thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or stopped by for a bite to eat at our April Brat Fry at Webster's Market Place. Brat fry proceeds totaled \$364 and a generous member donated an additional \$100 giving this fundraising event a total of \$464 to paint, re-decorate and reorganize the RE/Youth Room. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED!! We are considering another brat fry in the future, but would likely be on a Sunday.

Adopt-A-Highway

We have been grateful for the volunteer efforts of PLUUFers to remove trash, recyclables and litter for our stretch of road on Highway 23. Ideally, PLUUF is required to schedule 2-3 clean-ups each year. The next clean-up date is set for 5th Sunday, June 30, at 10AM. We'll provide the beverages, bags, and cool vests and you bring gloves. Details on where to meet are coming up in the June newsletter.



PLUUF's Sharing Garden

This summer will mark the 3rd year of PLUUF's Sharing Garden! Tomatoes, peppers, carrots and more have been planted and grown in PLUUF's raised garden beds and donated to the Ripon Community Food Pantry the past couple years. Let us know if you would like to volunteer to water, weed, and more this summer!

Meet the Board Nominees

The vote will take place at PLUUF's Annual Meeting on May 19

Connie Ghinazzi: Moderator



Connie was a longtime member of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities (UUCQC), serving on the Religious Services team and board. She moved to Markesan in 2020 after retirement from Augustana College where she was the Science Division librarian. She joined PLUUF in 2022, enjoys leading Worship services several times a year and looks forward to serving as Board Moderator.

Connie has two adult children and four grandchildren; Anne and her partner Roy and their sons Sam and Anthony and Tom and his wife Deanna and their children Shiloh and Mario. She is a voracious reader and has been a member of a mystery book discussion group for over 25 years, creates modern quilts, loves to cook, garden and is always ready to take a road trip.

Her favorite quote: Have nothing in your home which you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful. *William Morris*

Michaela Myers: Secretary



Michaela identifies as non-binary and uses they/them pronouns. They have been coming to Prairie Lakes for about a year and enjoy meeting with other people who are curious about the world. Michaela lives with their two cats, who love to go on walks. But when the weather is too gross to be outside, Michaela likes to spend their time reading and knitting.

Beth Howman-Combs: At-Large Representative



Beth has been a member of PLUUF since moving to Ripon. What was going to be a brief relocation, has turned into a 32 year stay. Both of her now adult children were Dedicated during a Child Dedication Ceremony at PLUUF (then located on the Ripon College campus). Her son Steven is a news producer at a TV station in Madison. He and his longtime girlfriend live in Verona. Daughter Emily is an environmental engineer with the DNR. She and her husband live in Sheboygan with their hamsters! Beth's husband is employed at Ripon Community Hospital.

Beth's primary interests are horses, gardening, reading, and traveling.

Beth has always loved horses, and has ridden for over 50 years. She currently has one horse. And one grand-horse that belongs to Emily.

Beth also enjoys gardening, and is very involved in the Extension Master Gardener organization. She serves on both the local and state boards of that organization.

PLUUF has been a special part of my life in Ripon. I appreciate that it is open to diverse outlooks, and encourages the spiritual journey.

Back by Popular Demand: Summer Youth Group Activities

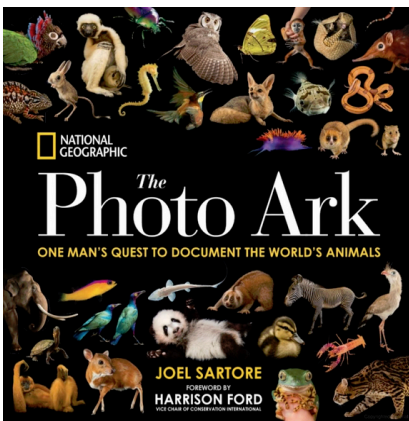


Last summer Liz Buchanan-Beegle created a new and innovative summer program itinerary for the kids of Prairie Lakes that took place in June, July & August. This summer the proposed activities are:

- Book Club
- Ice Cream Yoga (Ripon)
- Movie (Ripon or Oshkosh)
- Riggs Park Picnic & Hike (Ripon)
- Family Day at Pollock Community Water Park (Oshkosh)

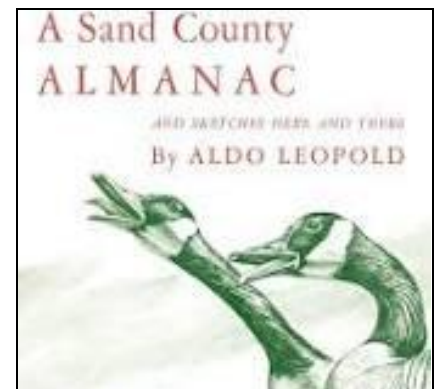
More information coming soon with the dates & times.
We hope your child-ren can join us!

The Kids Observed 2024 Earth Day in RE/Youth Group



Sunday, April 14, was a lovely day so Becky Feyen took the kids outside to walk around and look at the plants & trees. They learned about Earth Day being started by a Wisconsin Senator, Gaylord Nelson. In addition, they discussed what we can do to help the earth & looked at images from *The Photo Ark*, by Joel Sartore.

On Sunday, April 28, Tanya Schwartz-Roeper led an RE/Youth Group activity that included learning fun facts about Aldo Leopold. The lesson concluded with a seed planting activity. The kids planted both Sunflowers and Zinnias to take home.





**Needed:
RE/Youth Group Teachers
beginning in September**



**RE/Youth Group Teachers can be a role
for paid individuals and/or a team of volunteers**

Responsibilities of the Youth Group Teacher(s):

- Create 2nd and 4th Sunday 30-40 minute lesson plans and craft activities
- Teach the RE/Youth Group classes from approximately 10:30-11:00AM on 2nd & 4th Sundays

A complete list of responsibilities and lesson plan ideas is available in the RE/Youth Group Procedure Manual available at PLUUF or by request by contacting Tanya at tanyapapermaker@gmail.com and she will be happy to discuss the details.



**Are You Interested in Exploring the Possibility of
Serving on the Worship Service Team?**

Responsibilities of the Worship Service Team:

1. Scheduling services on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. This includes planning, overseeing the calendar of Sunday services and coordinating Worship Service leaders.
2. Responsible for leading the non-sermon parts of Worship and maybe the sermon, too.

**...or Would You Like to Be Part of the Worship Service
Support Team Available on an As-Needed Basis?**

Worship Service Associates AKA The Support Team can include 1 or several of the duties below:

- Arrive at 9am on 2nd and/or 4th Sundays to open the doors and make coffee
- Greet visitors as they arrive and hand out the order-of-service
- Provide music: Piano, vocals, guitar, etc.
- Select and/or read the Story For All Ages
- Suggest Worship Service topics to the Worship Service team and reach out to potential guest speakers
- Lead a Worship Service Sermon/Reflection
- Lead non sermon parts of the service like Welcome & Announcements

If you're interested in receiving more information regarding the Worship Service roles please contact Becky at r.feyen@yahoo.com or Tanya at tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN APRIL



ENGAGE Sunday, April 7, [Banning, Challenging, and Censoring Books](#) with Mika Chetto

Mika is the Educational Technology and Library Media Specialist in the Green Lake School District. Book bans & challenges in schools and public libraries reached a record high in 2023. Are there ever good reasons to ban a book? Mika helped us understand what it means to ban or challenge a book, the main 'reasons' a book gets banned, who the people are that most frequently ban books, and what we can do if a book is banned or challenged in our libraries. Handouts from the presentation are available at Prairie Lakes.



Worship Service Sunday, April 14, [Why Endangered Species Matter - The Last Ones](#) presented by Brad Roost

In honor of Earth Day (April 22, 2024) Brad presented the impact of the Endangered Species Act on preserving both species and their habitats. Despite facing criticism and political challenges, the Act remains a crucial tool in safeguarding biodiversity, highlighting the delicate balance between human development and the conservation of natural habitats essential for all life forms to thrive. Our 7th Principle of the "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part" made this a critical topic to address.



ENGAGE Sunday, April 21, [The Spiritual Solution to Addiction](#) with Christopher Stoye

By sharing his experience, strength and hope using a 12-step program, Christopher demonstrated that there is a daily reprieve from addiction based on a renewed spiritual condition. Chris said, "I can open others to enrichment through miraculous spiritual growth in fellowship with Unitarian Universalism."

Stoye is a new member of PLUUF and new to the Ripon area having lived in Detroit, New York, Chicago, and Milwaukee prior to relocating. He has spent most of his professional life as a chef working in high stress and fast paced environments. He has also struggled with addictions since his teens. He has been clean and sober for the past 10 years and he works daily on his motivation to stay sober through spiritual connection with his higher power.



Worship Service Sunday, April 28, with Connie Ghinazzi

[Digging in the Dirt](#), celebrated Earth Day and the 75th anniversary of the publication of Sand County Almanac. Attendees brought a small baggie of soil and participated in a dirt communion and contemplated together on how we interact with the natural world. It was also a wonderful opportunity to review the Sand County Almanac.