



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Find us on Facebook!

Upcoming June Events

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



ENGAGE Sunday, June 2, 10AM Decoding the Aging Process and Ageism with Judy Morgan. Prairie Lakes member Judy Morgan will share the latest research on ageism, explain what ageism is and what to do about it. This ENGAGE Sunday embraces our 1st UU Principle: The worth & dignity of every person.



Worship Service Sunday, June 9, 10AM: Thinking About LGBT+ Identity & Language: Yesterday and Today presented by Travis Nygard of Ripon College PLUS 2nd Sunday Potluck

For this ENGAGE service, Travis Nygard will share information about the language and identities of LGBT+ people in America. It will explore how the words that people used to think about themselves have evolved over the past century and continue to change today. He will also lead a discussion with the fellowship about the power of words for this community and what we have noticed about them in our lifetimes.



ENGAGE Sunday, June 16, 10AM The 7 Principles of Maryam's Spirituality presented by Ray Gurney with assistance from Pat Dobrinska

Worship Service Sunday, June 23, 10AM: Allyship is Faith in Action presented by Becky Feyen

As UU's our First Principle proclaims, the inherent worth & dignity of every person. How do we put that belief into action? Becky proposes that being an ally for the marginalized &/or maligned is one of our highest callings. Allyship does not require huge actions; rather the daily listening & acknowledgement of those who are ignored, belittled, or harmed because of their beliefs, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, race, disability, age, etc. The list is long & there is much we can do to learn & support each other.



5th Sunday Fluff 'N Buff Indoor/Outdoor Cleanup & Gardening Day at Prairie Lakes, June 30, 10AM. Please bring gloves and PLUUF will provide the rest of the supplies.

A Message from the Moderator by Becky Feyen



Hello - This is my last message to you as interim Moderator; it has always been a great honor to lead this Fellowship. I want to thank everyone for your support of Prairie Lakes, without you we are not successful. I leave you in the extremely capable hands of Connie Ghinazzi as Moderator, and the new Board members, Michaela Myers your Secretary, & Beth Howman-Combs one of the Representative Liaisons. Thank you to Jim Goyette & Nicole Roost for continuing your service on the Board of Directors.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting or provided a voting proxy, the next best thing to being there. I really appreciate your input & was impressed with the thoughtful conversation of the voting topics. It is important to share concerns of changes, & verbalize the potential impact it will have on our Fellowship. These concerns emphasize the attention required to ensure any negative impact is diminished and addressed.

Your support and understanding during times of transition and changes is fundamental to our success. I hope you will be open to assisting with the changes and face the coming transitions with optimism. Change and transitions are often a bit bumpy, fortunately we have so many resourceful people to help us to change course if something isn't working. The beauty of our small group is that we can be flexible. Some of our best ideas were developed by going with the flow and figuring it out as we go along.

We are part of a religion, with a living tradition that learns and adapts to meet the needs of each generation. This challenges us to learn & adapt as well. This is our spiritual growth.

Thank you for being a part of Prairie Lakes!

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

- June 1st is the 3rd Annual Ripon Pride Rally at the Village Green from 3-7pm. Prairie Lakes will have a table with a game. There will be a free-will donation for the Ripon High School Social Justice Alliance (SJA).
- The UUA General Assembly is from June 20-23. PLUUF's newly elected Moderator Connie Ghinazzi offered to attend the general session business meetings. Becky suggested that we use PLUUF's Conference & Training funds for the requested donation by the UUA.
- A new maple tree sapling was planted in the Prairie Lakes Green Space.
- Summer book club is coming for all ages! There will be a different book for adults & youth on a LGBTQ+ topic. This book club will count towards our renewal process for our Welcoming Congregation status.

We Welcome 3 New Members to the Board of Directors

Connie Ghinazzi: Moderator (2-year term)



Morris

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. 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*

Michaela Myers: Secretary (2-year term)



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.

Congratulations to Michaela for not only being elected as the new Prairie Lakes Secretary but also for her nomination for the Presidential Staff Award for General Excellence at Ripon College. Michaela is a 2017 graduate of Ripon College and works as a Residence Hall Director.

Beth Howman-Combs: At-Large Representative (1-yr: Completing the 2nd year of Cheri Salzberg's term)



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). Beth's primary interests are horses, gardening, reading, and traveling. Beth has always loved horses, and has ridden for over 50 years. 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. She says, "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."

Two Returning Members to The Board of Directors

Jim Goyette: Treasurer (Entering the 2nd year of his 3rd term)



Jim Goyette began his stint as the PLUUF Treasurer on July 1, 2020 and will be entering the 2nd year of his 3rd and final term. He works closely with Tanya, the Prairie Lakes contracted Financial Consultant by presenting treasurer reports to the Board, assists in planning the annual budget, holiday stewardship drive and more. He's also our tech savvy go-to guy.

Nicole Roost: At-Large Representative



During PLUUF's 2023/24 fiscal year Nicole served as At-Large Representative to fulfill Joe Hatcher's vacancy in the 2nd year of his 2nd term. At the May 2024 Annual Meeting, Nicole was elected to the first year of her first full 2-year term. Nicole has a long history with Prairie Lakes and served as Children's RE Director for many years.

ANNUAL MEETING VOTING RESULTS

Category	YES	NO	Abstain		Category	YES	NO	Abstain
Accept Budget as proposed	20	0	2		UUA Article II	15	5	2
Renew Welcoming Congregation	20	0	2		Changes to Bylaws	16	4	2
Volunteer Worship Service Committee in lieu of a paid programmer	20	0	2		Board Nominees	21	0	1

Ripon Area Ministerial Association (RAMA) Report by Tanya



Prairie Lakes' re-engagement with RAMA has put PLUUF back on the City Hall invocation schedule, plus Prairie Lakes is contacted on an as-needed basis for volunteers for the Tuesday Community dinners, plus it facilitates involvement with other activities coordinated by area churches. Although I can no longer attend the monthly meetings in the next fiscal year, it was a great experience this past year. Thank you to Becky Feyen for volunteering to attend two City Hall meetings to read the invocation, and volunteering for two Community Dinners. Below is a recap from a recent Community dinner

Becky Feyen's experience as a volunteer at a Community Dinner:

I thought I would update you on the wonderful experience I had at the Immanuel United Methodist Church Community Dinner. The kitchen is perfect for these events, large commercial stove, refrigerator & DISHWASHER! There were 2 men that managed rinsing & washing the dishes.

The meal consisted of a barbecue sandwich, tater tots, cheesy veggies, coleslaw, pickles, fruit, & a variety of desserts. A selection of drinks, water, lemonade, sweet tea, milk, & coffee. The people walked through 2 lines & the food was served on nice/real plates & flatware. The tables had place mats & floral arrangements.

The leaders & volunteers were super nice, they had the people who are not familiar with their process serve the food. There were 2 lines for people to walk through. I also helped get drinks for people in the beginning. After I finished serving the meal, I walked around clearing tables & replenishing drinks.

The attendees were predominantly older people, but there were some young families. I am estimating approximately 80 people were served, could be higher or lower. After the meals were complete people could come through the line to take meals home in provided to-go containers.

I left around 6:15 & others were still finishing up in the kitchen.

I would help this group again!

Becky

Summer Childcare on 2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services



We hope kids will join us on 2nd & 4th Worship Service Sundays throughout the summer for games, crafts and time outdoors. Miguel Luna will be providing childcare. Miguel, who turns 14 in June, is looking forward to finally finding paid employment as well as providing summer activities to PLUUF kids. He's been active in PLUUF'S RE program "forever". Beginning his freshman year at Fondy High this fall, Miguel plans to continue playing sax with the jazz band and singing with the high school's excellent choral program.



Back by Popular Demand: Summer Youth Group Activities With Liz Buchanan-Beegle!

Each month there will be one very special event for our Youth Group led by Liz.

- Friday, June 14, The movie, "Inside Out 2" at the Ripon Marcus theater. Meet at Prairie Lakes at 3:15pm and walk to the theater for the 4pm movie.
- Tuesday, July 9, 3:00pm, Ice Cream Yoga at Prairie Lakes and a walk to Sweet and Saulty
- Tuesday, August 6, 10am Picnic, hike and scavenger hunt at Riggs Park in Ripon.

Liz will be in direct contact with parents/guardians. If you're not on her contact list please let us know pluufripon@gmail.com. Plus, info coming soon for our summer book club!

Friends & Founders of Prairie Lakes Returned to Ripon

Dave & Karen Williams journeyed to Ripon to attend the memorial service for a former colleague of Ripon College and friend. Although they didn't have time to attend a PLUUF service that weekend, they were photographed at the memorial service held at the Congregational Church with two Prairie Lakes members, Laird & Linda Decramer.

Dave & Karen Williams are two of the 13 founders of Prairie Lakes.



Congratulations to Aya Volkmann Ripon High School CLASS of 2024

Congratulations to PLUUF member and Ripon High School Science teacher Brad Roost for winning the New Science Teacher of the Year award by the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers in recognition of excellence in the field.



In Memory of Rev. Jim Jaeger



James (Jim) Jaeger passed away on May 16, 2024, after a six-year battle with Lewy Body dementia. Jim started his career working as a lawyer for the IRS. In the early 1980s Jim left the IRS and the whole family moved to Madison, WI, where he helped pioneer the field of Elder Law and was an early adopter of the use of technology in law practices.

Jim always had a calling to the ministry and realized that calling when he was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist Minister in 2016. Several members of Prairie Lakes attended his ordination ceremony in Madison. He loved serving several small UU churches in Southern Wisconsin and working as a Hospice Chaplain after he retired from his law practice. Prairie Lakes was fortunate to have Jim as our quarter-time Consulting Contract Minister from September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016. Not only did Jim lead 2nd Sunday Worship Services at Prairie Lakes, he led Adult Religious Education sessions and provided care and comfort to a couple of PLUUF members battling serious health issues at the time.

His wife Karen preceded him in death. Karen often accompanied Jim on his trips from Madison to Prairie Lakes. A memorial service celebrating Jim's life will be held June 22, 2024, at 4:00PM at First Unitarian Universalist Society in Madison, WI. To read the full obituary go to:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/madison/name/james-jaeger-obituary?id=55194750>

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN MAY

ENGAGE Sunday, May 5: Psychedelics and the Sacred with Joe Hatcher



Joe explained that 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. This ENGAGE Sunday examined the connections between psychedelics and religious experience in a variety of contexts.



Worship Service Sunday, May 12: Mother's Day Tribute Through Poetry presented by Becky Feyen

It was a small, intimate group that attended this special service created by Becky. Becky shared Mother's Day poetry & stories and emphasized the importance of moms in families, communities, and the world. Mothering comes in many forms & from many people throughout life.



ENGAGE Sunday, May 19: Annual Meeting **It was a big, important day** (See page 3 and top of page 4) The annual meeting served multiple purposes, including the board of director elections, reviewing financials, setting the budget, and more.



Worship Service Sunday, May 26: 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. Thank you to Shane for leading the service from beginning to end and including an opportunity for the kids to share a Memorial Day reading.