



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Find us on Facebook!

Upcoming September Events



Off Site ENGAGE Sunday, September 1: [Jean Johnson 3rd Annual Memorial Kayak/Canoe Event & Potluck meal.](#) This event will take place at the Spring Lake Landing at Spring Valley Park in Green Lake/Markesan. Kayakers arrive at 9:45 and others can arrive for the potluck around 10:45. Details are in a separate attachment or contact pluufripon@gmail.com with questions.



Worship Service Sunday, September 8, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck [Annual Water Sharing/In-Gathering \(Intergenerational\)](#) This time of year begins another season of In-gathering, when Unitarian Universalists come together to renew our commitments to each other and to our communities. If you've not participated in this service previously, the service provides an opportunity to share your summer expeditions and water from those places you visited. We'll co-mingle the waters as a symbol of our solidarity. Don't have water? No problem. We'll provide some for you. Tanya Schwartz-Roeper looks forward to leading this service. (More details on the bottom of page 3)



ENGAGE Sunday, September 15, 10:00 AM [Last Child in the Woods](#) by Richard Louv. PLUUF member, Kathryn Severson, will be facilitating a discussion on the study of the effects of direct exposure to nature on the physical and emotional development of children. For many years, children have increasingly been removed from engagement with the natural world. Parents and other adults have succumbed to fears of the dangers to younger children of playing outside in both city and country landscapes. In addition, in recent years, indoor activities involving screen time and social media have competed with the simpler outdoor activities of childhood play for the attention of older children. Kathryn will be presenting research findings from the revised and updated book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv and opening a discussion related to the changing perceptions of children's play and the risks and benefits of interactions with the natural world. Come prepared to share your childhood experiences and thoughts on how fears of the modern world and an over dependence on digital technologies can be tempered into a more balanced childhood experience.



Worship Service Sunday, September 22, 10:00 AM: [Religion & Universal Values](#) with Brian Smith We will discuss why religions change over time and why they sometimes steer away from the universal values they all start out with. Brian Smith, professor emeritus of religion at Ripon College and co-director of the Center for Politics and the People, has been a popular presenter at Prairie Lakes through the years. We hope you can join us! Also, see top of page 3 for information on a ZOOM presentation he will be co-leading.

5th Sunday, September 29, 10AM: Although it will be too early to winterize the gardens, we will have an outdoor cleanup day and discuss the future possibilities for PLUUF's Sharing Garden.

Moderator Message by Connie Ghinazzi



Hello friends,

Summer is ending and we at PLUUF have had a busy August. On August 17th we helped the Salzburg family celebrate the life of Harold's brother, Andrew, with a Memorial Service at PLUUF. On August 25th many of us cleaned up trash along our Adopt-A-Highway stretch of Hwy 23 instead of our usual 4th Sunday Worship service. Thanks to all who participated and especially to Tanya for getting it organized on such short notice.

Michaela has given a great summary of our last board meeting on page 4 of this newsletter, but I'd like to comment on two items. First, we will be looking at attendance data for the last three years at our next meeting to plan our summer programming for both ENGAGE and Worship Services for 2025. Second, we will be reviewing the bylaws passed at our last annual meeting to get guidance on the policies we need to create for our fellowship.

As a relatively new member of PLUUF, I would like the opportunity to visit with all of you so we can get to know each other better. If you have questions, ideas or concerns, please get in touch with me pluufripon@gmail.com. Finally, we are asking everyone to please complete the Worship Service Support document. This document is available at PLUUF as well as on page 5 of this newsletter. There are many aspects of having a vital Worship Service and we need a little more from all of you to keep it vibrant and fulfilling. Take just a few minutes and share how you might be willing to help.

Thanks for your time, energy and commitment to our fellowship.

Connie



A Message from Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is the 10th UUA President, elected at General Assembly in June 2023 for a six-year term. Rev. Dr. Betancourt has served Unitarian Universalism for more than twenty years in many roles. The excerpt below was taken from the final paragraph of her message in the UUA newsletter.

At this time of ingathering and beginning again, this time of renewal, our call is not to do more things. It is instead to be together to make a commitment to our communities. The simple act of joining together in community is a significant expression of faithfulness in such divided times, and it lies at the heart of how we practice our Unitarian Universalism.

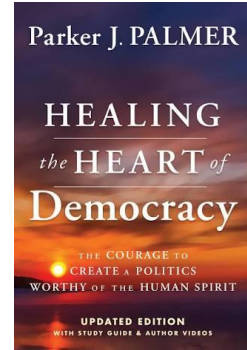
Welcome, Beloveds, to the promise of a new congregational year.

Yours,

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President



**ZOOM book study on
"Healing the Heart of Democracy"
with Brian Smith
Thursday evenings from
September 5 - October 17 6:30-7:30pm**



Brian Smith, retired professor of Religion at Ripon College, invites members of PLUUF to join him in a ZOOM discussion of a book focusing on the virtues we citizens need to cultivate to preserve democracy. Brian and Rev. Karen Gygax Rodriguez, Pastor of the Federated Church in Green Lake, will moderate an online discussion for 7 Thursday evenings in the Fall (6:30 to 7:30 PM CDT) from Sept. 5th to Oct. 17th on Parker Palmer's book, Healing the Heart of Democracy. Anyone interested can contact Brian at bhsmith801@gmail.com or at home (920)748-9229.

There is a Study Guide in the back of the book with suggested short videos by Parker Palmer to view each week along with questions for discussion on the videos and chapters.

Discussion Guide and URLs for all videos can also be downloaded at:

<https://couragerenewal.org/healing-heart-democracy-hub/>

Each week in the notes and questions for discussions Brian will prepare, he will also include the URL links to videos for that week.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 8, 10:00 AM
Water Communion Worship Service
also known as
In-Gathering/Water Sharing

"Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources." - UUA.ORG

Remember to bring water!
If you don't, no worries, we'll have symbolic water available.



Highlights from the August Board Meeting Minutes Board Secretary Michaela Meyers

If you would like a complete copy of the minutes or treasurer reports, contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com or pluufripon@gmail.com

- Leadership & Membership list has been updated with the UUA. If you're a member and do not receive your UU World Magazine in September & March, contact tanyapapermaker@gmail.com
- A draft of the Prairie Lakes Annual Report will be presented on the big screen at the next Board meeting. After Board approval a final draft will be sent to the congregation.
- Connie Ghinazzi is exploring the possibility of attending the Ripon Area Ministerial meetings this Fall. (Note: Last year Tanya Schwartz-Roeper attended)
- Welcoming Congregation Renewal: Book discussion by Becky Feyen will take place on Oct. 6. The Board approved a \$100 donation to the Ripon High School Social Justice Alliance and \$100 to the Ripon College Queer/Straight Alliance to help fulfill our 5 Practices of Welcome Renewal.
- Board reviewed upcoming Worship Service & ENGAGE Sunday topics.
- Attendance for summer services the past 3 years has been tracked and will be presented in graph form at the next Board meeting to help determine a programming schedule for summer of 2025.
- Next Board meeting Wednesday, September 11, 5:30pm.



Treasurer Report At-A-Glance Board Treasurer Jim Goyette

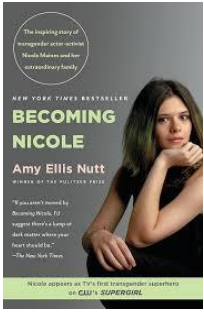
Treasurer Report Balances as of JULY 2024 (1st month of the Fiscal Year)

10100 AST-BMO checking	\$7,068
10111 Golden Rule Savings Vision	\$30,618 (July interest \$2.08)
10112 Golden Rule Checking for Debit Card	\$354
10202 AST-UUA CEF Vision	\$46,147 (JulyNYA)

Total Assets \$84,187

	July 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	2024/25 Budget
Member/Friend Contributions	\$1,280	\$978	\$1,280	\$30,586
Total Income	\$1,282	\$2,039	\$1,282	\$30,586
Expenses	\$2,426	\$3,687	\$2,426	\$33,616

Note: The August treasurer report will appear in the October issue of the PLUUF newsletter.



Fulfilling our 5 Practices of Welcoming Congregation Renewal with an Upcoming Book Discussion with Becky Feyen on 10/6: *Becoming Nicole* by Amy Ellis Nutt

Please join us for a book discussion on Sunday, October 6, at 10AM led by Becky Feyen that will bring us a step closer to renewing our Welcoming Congregation Status for our 3rd consecutive year. Copies available to borrow or buy at PLUUF or you can order a copy for \$11.95 off Amazon or you can check out a copy from the local library.

About *Becoming Nicole* | A New York Times Bestseller

The inspiring true story of transgender actor and activist Nicole Maines, whose identical twin brother, Jonas, and ordinary American family join her on an extraordinary journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

Would you like to help out with Worship Service Support for the 2024/25 fiscal year?



Worship Service Support Team can include 1 or several of the duties below. You'll select the 2nd and/or 4th Sundays that work with your schedule. You can volunteer anywhere from one, to a few, to many Sundays a year. Please check all duties below that interest you. Orientation and training provided:

- Arrive at 9am on 2nd and/or 4th Sundays to open the doors and make coffee and perform other pre-service duties
- Stay after service to cleanup/lockup
- Greet visitors as they arrive and hand out the Order of Service
- Provide music: Piano or vocal or guitar, etc.
- Select and/or read the Story For All Ages (You'll receive the WS topic in advance)
- Suggest Worship Service topics to the Worship Service Co Chairs and reach out to potential guest speakers
- Create & lead a Worship Service Reflection and Discussion (30 min)
- Lead non-sermon parts of the service like Welcome & Announcements, Joys & Concerns, etc.
- Serve as RE/Youth Group Teacher (training & lesson plans available)

Paper signup sheets are available at Prairie Lakes or email Tanya at: tanyapapermaker@gmail.com to let her know what volunteer duties you are interested in. Thank you to everyone who has completed the signup sheets so far. Greatly appreciated.

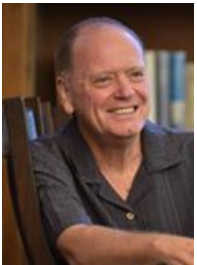
THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATED FROM THE AUGUST WISH LIST. GREATLY APPRECIATED!



September Wish List Below:

1. Stamps (a few, several, or many)
2. AA & AAA batteries
3. HP Ink Cartridges 950 (black) 951 (color)

In Case You Missed it in August



ENGAGE Sunday, August 4, 10AM [Justice Equity and Compassion in Human Relations](#) by Jack Christ, Jack is emeritus professor and director of Leadership Studies at Ripon College. Justice, equity, and compassion are all wide-ranging abstract concepts that offer something profoundly useful to contemplate about human behavior, human history, and human aspirations. *Jack was ill the day of his presentation. Instead, Pat Dobrinska served coffee and led a discussion. Jack's presentation has been rescheduled to November 3.*

**RESCHEDULED
to November 3**



Worship Service Sunday, August 11: [Dr Suess, Politics and Humor with Connie Ghinazzi](#) Connie Ghinazzi shared a service she wrote in 2017 when hate talk was ramping up and humor was hard to find.. In this 2024 election year, that situation has certainly not changed. She referenced one of her favorite Suess stories, *The Sneetches* and acquainted the congregation with some of his early political cartoons.



Saturday, August 17, [Memorial Service for the brother of Harold Salzberg.](#) It was a beautiful and meaningful service to honor the memory of Harold's brother. Harold developed the service and PLUUF's Moderator Connie Ghinazzi led the opening and closing.



ENGAGE Sunday, August 18, ["On Loss"](#) with Pat Dobrinska. This ENGAGE event allowed attendees time to share their stories and feelings about the loss of loved ones. Pat described the discussion that took place with this small gathering as a powerful, transformative and healing experience.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Day, August 25: Although this event was scheduled on somewhat short notice, 14 PLUUFers came out on a warm Sunday morning to clean up the Prairie Lakes 2-mile stretch of highway. 9 bags of garbage were collected. Thank you to Jill, Connie, Beth, Becky, Laird, Linda, Tanya and the Shikoski & Kreinbring families for makin' it happen!

