



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971

pluufripon@gmail.com

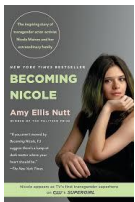
Find us on Facebook!

Happy New Fellowship Year!

Photo snapped after the Water Sharing/Ingathering Service that kicked off the start of our new Fellowship Year in September!



Upcoming October Events



ENGAGE Sunday, October 6, 10AM: Book Discussion: "Becoming Nicole" by Amy Ellis Nutt led by Becky Feyen Fulfilling our 5 Practices of Welcoming Congregation Renewal. 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.* Please join us whether you've read the book or not.

Coffee and treats will be available.

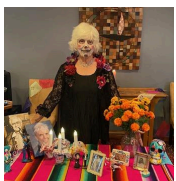


Worship Service Sunday, October 13, 10:00 AM Celebrate the Harvest with Connie Ghinazzi, plus it's the 2nd Sunday Potluck! This will be an intergenerational service and everyone is encouraged to either bring fresh produce or other items to be donated to the Traded Treasures & Community Food Pantry. We hope you can join us for this special event!



ENGAGE Sunday, October 20, 10:00 AM A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and

Meaning George Gonis of First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee is a Civil Rights activist, historian and journalist. He will discuss the Civil Rights icon and Hollywood star Frederick March. March is at the center of a controversy involving actions taken by the University of Wisconsin based on a social media rumor that March was a Klan member and a white supremacist. In response to the unfounded rumor, the UW stripped March's name from the theater in the Memorial Union. Mr. Gonis followed the story and with new information and support from some 60 Civil Rights leaders attempting to reinstate March's name to the theater, the UW remains unmoved and steadfast in the decision even in the face of the truth. Mr. Gonis will focus on UU's 4th Principal, while sharing the background of this remarkable story. *(Thank you to PLUUF member Kathryn Severson for coordinating this event)*



Worship Service Sunday, October 27, 10:00 AM: Day of the Dead with Judy Morgan Back by popular demand, Judy will be leading this event for the 4th year in a row. This event is celebrated throughout Latin America. It's a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning. The sharing of photos and stories of loved ones who have passed away highlight this special event. We hope you can join us!



Moderator Message by Connie Ghinazzi

Hello friends! We started this month with a wonderful water service that has provided energy moving forward with our year. And taking advantage of our excellent fall weather allowed us to focus our time on 9/29 on cleaning up sections of the sharing garden where harvest is complete and relocating native plants to the raised bed by the patio. In a few weeks some grass seed will be added to the clear area so it can be easily mowed. Plans are in the works to develop a sustainable plan for maintaining our grounds and planning for the future.

Moving forward, we have a full schedule of wonderful worship and ENGAGE Sundays planned for October. Please also consider the wonderful opportunity Robyn Davis-Bartow is willing to share with us to explore contemplative practices. This is a trial program to gauge the interest here at PLUUF and also others outside our community. Please share this opportunity with friends and family who might be interested. We are so appreciative of Robyn's willingness to share this with us.

As these days of our extended summer weather near their end, enjoy the beauty around us as it begins to change quickly to a new season. May you find serenity and peace in these final warm, autumnal days.

Unitarian Universalist Congregations Are Breaking with Traditional Leadership Models and Thriving

(Printed in part from UU World Magazine)

The concept of shared ministry is ascendant within Unitarian Universalism today. It means sharing leadership by transcending hierarchies, and rethinking traditional divisions among the roles of ministers, religious educators, music ministers, lay leaders, and others. Shared ministry is an approach—collaborative, interconnected, less strictly hierarchical—that lives into the faith's highest values.

"Shared ministry means sharing in the responsibilities of the community," says Dr. Janice Marie Johnson, director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Ministries and Faith Development staff group.

It is about recognizing that everyone has gifts and skills to share, valuing everyone's contributions, and realizing that while there may be different levels of authority, supervision, accountability, and reporting, at the same time, no one is more important than anyone else.

At Prairie Lakes we've always taken on some form of shared ministry, but this fiscal year we hope to take it a step further. We hope more individuals will come forward to share their talents and interests with Prairie Lakes. There are multiple ways to get involved with Worship Service & ENGAGE Sundays, the PLUUF's outdoor gardens, & much more.

An interest form is available at PLUUF or by contacting: pluufripon@gmail.com

"In shared ministry, we work together to bring out the best in one another."

“It Was Art That Led Me To Unitarian Universalism”



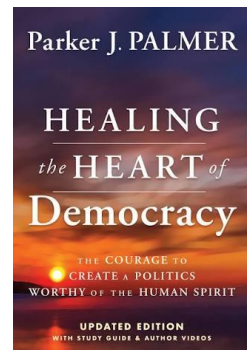
Professor of Art Emeritus at Ripon College, Eugene Kain recently donated a welded, steel chalice sculpture he created to Prairie Lakes. The stunning sculpture has a walnut inlay, 3 inscriptions and holds 18 tealights for joys and concerns.

Along with his wife Evelyn, Kain taught at Ripon College from 1985 to 2010. After retirement he began spending winters in California. It was during this time he was commissioned by a friend to create a chalice sculpture for a Unitarian Universalist church. To understand Unitarian Universalism and seek inspiration for the creation of the sculpture he visited several UU churches in CA. Kain liked what he experienced and when he returned home to Madison he became a member of Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society and also attends James Reeb UU Congregation in Madison. He has created a total of four chalice sculptures and stated he is pleased that art led him to Unitarian Universalism. Prairie Lakes is very grateful for his generous gift.



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 (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. It's not too late to join in!



Highlights from the September Board Meeting Minutes by Board Secretary Michaela Meyers

At the September meeting, the board met to review the by-laws and develop the Policy and Procedure Manual with a focus on Article VIII Committees. This Article is being revised to briefly define the roles of each committee within the Fellowship. The board also discussed participating in the Santa Club this year, an organization that provides toys and supplies to families in need. We will be having a special collection at the Gratitude Worship Service in November and PLUUF will match and donate to the Santa Club.

Robyn Davis-Bartow submitted a proposal to try out hosting two meditation groups at PLUUF to see if this is something people would be interested in attending. They would take place before the start of Sunday services and on the 3rd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays (see page 5 for more details).

And finally, there was much discussion about various improvements to the facilities at PLUUF, including hanging shelves for the RE room, removing the pine tree, adding a free standing shelf behind the building, and celebrating the new Chalice/Joys and Concerns sculpture donated by Eugene Kain, a retired Ripon College professor (see top of page 3).

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

Treasurer Report At-A-Glance Board Treasurer Jim Goyette



Treasurer Report Balances as of August 2024 *(Aug. is the 2nd month of PLUUF's Fiscal Year)*
Reports will always appear to be a month behind due to the newsletter submission deadline.
The September treasurer report will appear in the November issue of the PLUUF newsletter.

10100 AST-BMO checking	\$6,354
10111 Golden Rule Savings Vision	\$30,620 (Aug. interest \$2.08)
10112 Golden Rule Checking for Debit Card	\$218
10202 AST-UUA CEF Vision	\$47,648 (Aug increase \$816)

Total Assets \$84,840

	August 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	2024/25 Budget
Member/Friend Contributions	\$717	\$2,950	\$1,645	\$30,586
Total Income	\$1,535	\$3,168	\$3,502	\$33,616
Expenses	\$1,566	\$6,878	\$3,992	\$33,616

Next PLUUF Board Meeting Wednesday, October 9 at 5:30PM

If you would like anything added to the Board Agenda please contact Connie the Board Moderator at: connieghinazzi@gmail.com



Are You Interested in Joining a Casual Meditation Group?

For those who may be interested in exploring the world's contemplative religious practices with Robyn Davis-Bartow, she will be hosting a casual meditation group Wednesdays, October 16, 23 & 30 and November 20 & 27 from 5:30-6:30pm at Prairie Lakes. Contact Robyn at robynaudrey19@gmail.com for more information.

This practice will consist of a 10 minute introduction to the month's topic, 15 minutes of practice, 5 minute break, 15 minutes of practice, and conclude with 15 minutes of discussion/feedback. No prior experience is necessary. Dress comfortably and bring a friend and any questions you may have. If you have a meditation cushion, please bring it. Otherwise, chairs or even lying on your yoga mat is fine.

5th Sunday Outdoor Project Day: Many Hands Made Light Work



THANK YOU to everyone who came out to dig, transplant, weed eat, water, sort plants & more!! *If you have ideas for our outdoor space please contact Connie Ghinazzi so it can be added to the Board Agenda to be discussed.*

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



October Wish List Below:

1. Stamps (a few, several, or many)
2. AA & AAA batteries
3. PUR Water Filters

In Case You Missed it in September



Off Site ENGAGE Sunday, September 1: [Jean Johnson 3rd Annual Memorial Kayak/Canoe Event & Potluck meal.](#) This event took place at the Spring Lake Landing at Spring Valley Park in Green Lake/Markesan. 7 PLUUFers Kayaked while one PLUUFer brought a rowboat. Others arrived in time for the potluck. Such a beautiful morning! We concluded the morning by singing one of Jean's favorite songs, "Blue Boat Home"



Worship Service Sunday, September 8: 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. The service provided an opportunity to share summer expeditions and water from those places that were visited. We co-mingled the waters as a symbol of our solidarity. Tanya Schwartz-Roeper led this event and all individuals/families shared the meaning of their water sample. The event concluded with the children carrying cups of the shared water outside to return to the earth by pouring it at the base of our young maple and catalpa trees (see photo).



ENGAGE Sunday, September 15: [The Outdoor Classroom & the Gifts of Nature.](#) PLUUF member, Kathryn Severson, facilitated 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 presented research findings from the revised and updated book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv and opened up a discussion related to the changing perceptions of children's play and the risks and benefits of interactions with the natural world. Attendees shared their reflections on nature.



Worship Service Sunday, September 22: [Universal Values in All Religions - Reverence and Compassion: Why Do They Veer Away From These Over Time?](#) All religions began with a sense that the sacred or transcendent is present in all of reality, both nature and humans. Reverence and compassion for life in all its forms resulted from this sense and all religions prioritized these universal values in their origins. Why do religions move beyond this commonly shared insight and create other dimensions in their traditions that diminish the priority of this fundamental and universal teaching?

5th Sunday, September 29: Eight adults and two children participated in our [Outdoor Project Day](#) by digging, transplanting, watering, weed eating, and more! The morning concluded with a brief meeting to discuss the future of the Sharing Garden and other gardens at PLUUF.

