

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Upcoming December Events



ENGAGE Sunday, December 1, 10:00AM [After the Election: Exploring Paths Forward](#) with Dr. Paul Jeffries. Paul Jeffries, Chair of the Philosophy and Religion Department at Ripon College, will share some reflections on some potential paths forward after this election that are grounded in the wisdom of past traditions, both philosophical and religious. It is more crucial than ever for people who seek to embody the values of the Unitarian Universalist community to find a path forward.



Worship Service Sunday, December 8, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck & Children's RE [Embracing Possibility in Times of Change](#) with Connie Ghinazzi. This service is based on one published with videos on the Worship Web UU website. Although created as a remote service in November 2022, the topic is very appropriate for our current world situation.



ENGAGE Sunday, December 15, [FESTIVALS OF LIGHT](#) and special Holiday Potluck to follow. Program begins at 10:15 AM (doors open at 9:30) This has become a beloved annual PLUUF event through the years. It's a time to celebrate winter festivals through stories, music, and food. Please spread the word and bring friends and family! (See page 2 for more details)



Worship Service Sunday, December 22, 10:00 AM [Spiral Walk & Music](#)
A morning of music with Jill Stiemsma and a Spiral Walk with Robyn Davis-Bartow. During the Spiral Walk, we celebrate the turning point in the year when the days become their shortest and the night its longest, and we look for the light which comes from within. In the center of the spiral, a single candle is lit. Each participant walks the spiral alone to the center of the spiral, where they light their own candle to place along the spiral.



5th Sunday, December 29, 10:00 AM: [Spirituality Through Literature & History](#) with Kathryn Severson

Moderator Message by Connie Ghinazzi



Hello everyone,

It has been a tumultuous month for our nation, with our way forward more distressing and causing anxiety, in my opinion, than since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. At times like this it is important to share time together, to support and figure out how we each need to care for ourselves and those around us, especially those less privileged than ourselves. Our PLUUF fellowship, our people and our building and our grounds all provide us with the opportunity for community needed more now than ever.

I'm really thrilled with a couple developments that have taken place in 2024. First, is the ENGAGE* group organizing and planning wonderful ENGAGE Sunday topics and discussions. My thanks goes out to Pat Dobrinska, Judy Morgan, Kathryn Severson and Christopher Stoye for keeping our ENGAGE Sundays interesting and relevant.

Second, this fall Robyn Davis Bartow initiated the Meditation Group on Wednesday evenings. It has been very successful and will continue after a December break. I want to thank Robyn for bringing this idea forward.

In closing, let me share some thoughts from Jane Goodall. "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

**ENGAGE Sundays take place on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month and is an acronym for : Explore | No Boundaries | Gather| Activism| Go! Be the change | Educate*



If You Would Like to Make A Special Holiday Donation to PLUUF, We Have Made It Easy

Use can use your credit card or donate via PayPal on the Prairie Lakes website <https://pluuf.org> (see page 5 for more details)

We Hope You
Can Join Us
For One of
PLUUF's
Biggest Events
of the Year...

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship FESTIVALS OF LIGHT

Sunday, December 15, 2024



The presentation of 8 winter celebrations observed around the world.

Live music, food & refreshments

10:00 AM

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI
pluufripon@gmail.com

Potluck to follow

Las Posadas
Diwali
Hanukkah
St. Lucia Day
Bodhi Day
Kwanzaa
Winter Solstice
Christmas

INDOOR & OUTDOOR FACILITY UPDATE



Prairie Lakes Has A New Garden Shed!

We finally have a shed that will hold rakes, shovels, chairs, hoses, watering cans and other gardening tools. A BIG thank you to **Brody Roost** for assembling it. Brody will even add shelving or a pegboard system inside the shed to hold more supplies if needed in the future. It can even be painted to match the building.



New Shelving & Painted Walls in the RE/Youth Group Room!

A BIG thank you to **Harold Salzberg** for donating his time and talent in assembling and installing the wall cabinet for the RE/Youth Group room. The room has been decluttered and painted. Lesson plans and supplies are now easily accessible and ready to go!

Our Compost Bin Overfloweth'

PLUUF's compost bin is filled to the rim, therefore we must put a temporary hold on items being added to the bin. We will keep you updated as to when it will reopen for additional waste. Thank you to everyone who has been collecting and adding to the bin. We apologize for any inconvenience.



THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATED FROM THE NOVEMBER WISH LIST. GREATLY APPRECIATED♥



December Wish List Below:

1. Granola Bars
2. Dishwasher detergent
3. Stamps (a few, several, or many)
4. Ink Cartridges for the printer (HP 950 & 951)

\$300 in Santa Club Donations!

A BIG thank you to all the generous donors who contributed to the Santa Club during the Worship Service Collection of the Offering on 11/24. This is the first year Prairie Lakes has participated in the program and we have been matched with a family with 3 young children. Thanks to your generosity, \$300 was collected to provide a healthier and happier holiday for this family who found themselves in need of assistance this holiday season. Special thanks to PLUUF member Beth Howman-Combs for bringing this opportunity to Prairie Lakes. She's been involved with the Santa Club of Ripon for many years.



November Board Meeting Minute Highlights by Board Secretary Michaela Meyers



This month the board continued to discuss updates to the Policies and Procedures Manual, with an emphasis on the guidelines for the RE/Youth group programming. The Board plans to review the manual for approval at the next month's meeting. Thank you to Tanya for working so hard to update this!

Additionally, the board reviewed recent and upcoming improvements to PLUUF, including the new garden shed Brody Roost installed on the exterior east side of the building earlier this month, as well as the wall cabinet that's going up in the RE/Youth Group room to free up some floor space. The shed holds hoses, shovels, a hoe, watering cans, a tarp and chairs with room for hooks to hang miscellaneous items, while the wall cabinet in the RE room will serve as storage and allow space for hanging lesson plans in easy to access folders. The Board also gave the go ahead to pursue the Webster Foundation Grant and shared ideas on how it could cover summer programming again or even be used to get PLUUF's youth involved in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. The Board also discussed the possibilities of creating grab and go lesson plans that could be used by families who know they won't be able to make it to a future service.

The Board also went over the numerous events coming up over the next few weeks. This year PLUUF is involved in the Santa Club and coordinated a special collection (see top of this page). PLUUF was assigned a family with a young boy and two girls. The Festival of Lights is also coming up on Sunday, 12/15, where we will be sharing and celebrating holiday traditions from 8 different groups. Please reach out to Tanya if you would like to get involved.

And finally, the board brought up bringing back a Child Dedication Ceremony, as we haven't done one in years and are curious how many children would be interested in participating. So keep your eyes peeled for more information about that in the near future.

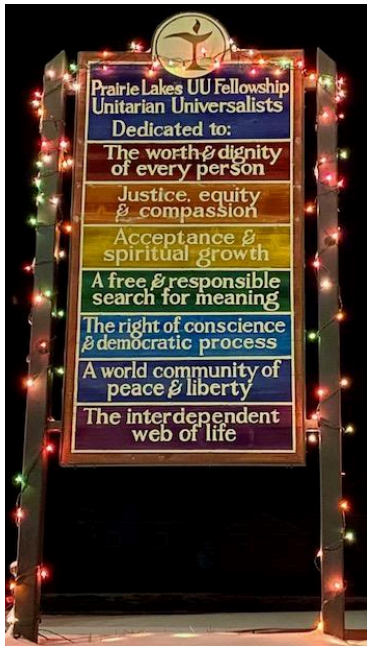
Next PLUUF Board Meeting Wednesday, December 11, at 5:30PM

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

Meditation Group Update



Due to the busyness of the holiday season, the Wednesday evening meditation group will take a hiatus for the month of December. However, we will welcome in the new year by reconvening on January 1st from 5:30-6:30pm. Meeting in winter is weather and parking lot dependent. If you are interested in attending, please let Robyn know at 920-896-2770 as she will send out a group text if there is any issue. As usual, all are welcome and no meditation experience is required.



Would You Like to Make a Special Holiday Donation to Prairie Lakes?

Here are a few ways you can help:

1. Make an end-of-year donation by cash or check.
2. Use your credit card or donate via PayPal on the Prairie Lakes website <https://pluuf.org>
3. Make regular monthly or quarterly contributions at whatever level you are able. Automatic deductions from your bank account can be arranged.
4. Also, as a non-profit, money from your IRAs or other accounts can be transferred to PLUUF tax-free. Prairie Lakes is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so monetary contributions are a tax-deductible expense.

Questions? Contact Treasurer Jim Goyette jim@wellspringfarm.us or Administrative/Financial contractor Tanya Schwartz Roeper tanyapapermaker@gmail.com

THANK YOU to ALL!
Wishing you a Happy & Healthy Holiday Season!



Treasurer Report At-A-Glance

Treasurer Report Balances as of October 2024 (Oct. is the 4th month of PLUUF's Fiscal Year)

Reports will always appear to be a month behind due to the newsletter submission deadline.

The November treasurer report will appear in the January issue of the PLUUF newsletter.

10100 AST-BMO checking	\$4,788
10111 Golden Rule Savings Vision	\$30,625
10112 Golden Rule Checking for Debit Card	\$129
10202 AST-UUA CEF Vision	\$48,710 (CEF oct info NYA)

Total Assets \$84,252

	Oct. 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	2024/25 Budget
Member/Friend Contributions	\$1,097	\$6,790	\$4,624	\$30,586
Total Income (includes UUA CEF)	CEF nya	\$4,040	\$7,195	\$33,616
Expenses	\$1,965	\$11,876	\$8,275	\$33,616

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

In Case You Missed it in November



ENGAGE Sunday, November 3, [Justice Equity and Compassion in Human Relations](#) by Jack Christ. Jack led an ENGAGE Sunday emphasizing the importance of justice, equity, and compassion. He used psychosocial development stages proposed by Erick Erickson. The discussion also touched on Lawrence Kohlberg's moral development stages. In addition, Douglas McGregor's Theory X and Theory Y management styles were contrasted underscoring the importance of empathetic leadership. Jack is Emeritus Professor & Director of Leadership Studies, Ripon College and Emeritus Executive Director, Wisconsin Leadership Institute.



Worship Service Sunday, November 10, Plus Potluck & Children's RE ["Veterans Day: They Will Find the Streets of Heaven are Guarded by United States Marines"](#) Shane Beegle, United States Marine Veteran, current Army National Guard Soldier, spoke about the history and purpose of Veterans day, the symbolism of the Missing Man Table, religious/spiritual freedom within the military and how Unitarian Universalists can support warriors while fighting for universal peace.



ENGAGE Sunday, November 17: Originally a different ENGAGE Sunday speaker & topic was planned, but a short notice change had to be made. We are grateful to Jack Christ for returning to Prairie Lakes just two weeks after his first presentation to present: [The Free & Responsible Search For Truth & Meaning](#). The conversation explored leadership behaviors across various species, drawing parallels to human leadership. Jack examined the versions of habitual behavior among several pre human species (insects, birds, mammals, and hominids) and then traced the development of language, spiritual aspirations, science, technology, and more, covering the most recent half-millennium.



Worship Service Sunday, November 24: [Irish Immigration Through Music & Stories](#) with Jill Stiemsma and the Prairie Lakes Singers. Years back, PLUUF Singers and others offered a service of music and stories about Ireland's long history of emigration. Since Jill Stiemsma recently visited Ireland, she thought, "Gee, we should do this again." And so we did! We learned - through music, personal stories, and (of course) Irish jokes - what forced the Irish to leave their beloved homeland for years on end.

