

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Upcoming May Events



ENGAGE Sunday, May 4, 10AM with the PLUUF Board of Directors: Town Hall Meeting

A town hall forum will allow for the Prairie Lakes Board to discuss aspects of PLUUF's future and will create space for everyone to share their ideas, questions, and concerns. Please see bottom of page 2 for more details.



Worship Service Sunday & POTLUCK, May 11, 10AM: "Love at the Center" with Rev. Phillip Lund.

Phillip Lund has twenty years experience serving congregations in the areas of faith formation and spiritual growth, first as a religious educator in Bloomington, Indiana, New York City, and Chicago, Illinois, and most recently as a congregational life consultant working for the MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and a

certificate in InterSpiritual Counseling from One Spirit Learning Alliance in New York. He currently lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota, with his wife, Julia, and their son, Henry David.

At the UUA General Assembly in June 2024, UUs voted to replace existing Seven Principles and Six Sources language in the UUA bylaws with language describing Unitarian Universalism through these shared values: [Interdependence](#) - [Pluralism](#) - [Justice](#) - [Transformation](#) - [Generosity](#) - [Equity](#). Not everyone at Prairie Lakes was comfortable with this change and Rev. Phil Lund will not only lead the May11 Worship Service, he will be available to answer questions and discuss the change from the 7 principles to the 6 shared values.

ENGAGE Sunday, May 18, 10AM TBA



Worship Service Sunday, May 25, 10AM "Imagining the Imaginable" with Connie Ghinazzi.

On this Memorial Day weekend, we will delve into Einstein's words, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." In this service, we'll explore some perspectives on imagination and hopefully inspire some of your own.



A Message from the Moderator by Connie Ghinazzi

Hello friends!

First I want to shout a big THANK YOU to all who participated in our Art & Service Auction on Sunday. It was a fun morning with beautiful items finding new homes, clever services offered and accepted, and lively conversation and laughter throughout. Karaoke began with Sonny and Cher, who then teased our tastebuds with delicious cupcakes that began the auction part of the morning. A special thanks goes out to Brad Roost, who was masterful in keeping the auction moving along and fun. And, as always, how can we ever thank Tanya Schwartz Roeper enough for pulling it all together.

Now to look forward. The month of May is when everything comes bursting back to life and it is a time of hope and anticipation. Sunday, May 4 the board will be hosting a Town Hall conversation. See the notes on the bottom of this page 5 for some topics to be discussed and we look forward to hearing other ideas you may have. I hope to see all of you Sunday for coffee and conversation.

I was heartened to see the Soul Matters theme for May is Imagination. Our second Sunday worship will be led by Phil Lund, to help us visualize transitioning from our principles to Love at the Center. His visit to our fellowship gives us the opportunity to get a better sense of UU activities on a regional and national level.

All this leads to our Annual Meeting on June 1. It is important to have a quorum to move forward the business of our congregation, so please plan to attend and have your voice heard. Thanks for all you do and I look forward to exciting plans for 2025-26.

Board to Host Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, May 4, 10AM



Connie Ghinazzi
Moderator



Michaela Meyers
Secretary



Jim Goyette
Treasurer



Nicole Roost
At-Large Rep



Beth Howman-Combs
At-Large Rep

On the Agenda:

- In the months of July & August take a hiatus from Sunday morning programming
 - Possibly schedule other activities and events outside of PLUUF such a picnic, bike ride, etc.
- Adopt-A-Garden volunteer program
 - This is a way to keep our garden beds thriving this summer and give members an opportunity to grow veggies, herbs, or flowers
- Nominations for Board Treasurer
 - As much as Jim Goyette has enjoyed his role as Treasurer, the bylaws “only” allow for 3 two-year terms. Thank you Jim for serving on the PLUUF Board for the full allotted amount of 6 years!
- Webster Grant: Tapestry of Faith Program & Children’s Summer Programming
- **An opportunity for all members and friends to share their ideas & concerns**

A Thank You Letter to PLUUF From the UUA President

Dear Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,

Every year, each congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association is asked to give a financial contribution to support the wider movement and sibling congregations across our Association. This contribution supports the Annual Program Fund, which is the single largest source of income for the work of our UUA. Our support of one another strengthens the covenant among us.

Your congregation gave the **full requested amount** to the Annual Program Fund during this fiscal year 2025. **This means you are an Honor Congregation, honoring the covenant between and among our congregations. THANK YOU!**

Your giving is a concrete expression of our congregations' covenant with one another, and is a recognition that we are not alone, but are part of an Association of Congregations. This support allows the UUA to serve the diverse needs of the 1,002 member congregations across five regions. **Congregational giving through the Annual Program Fund (APF) makes the work of the UUA possible.**

Please display this Honor certificate somewhere prominent and share with your congregation my personal appreciation on behalf of all the congregations that your generosity benefits.

Your support strengthens Unitarian Universalism and its vital, liberating message for our time. Together we are organizing for justice, imagining new ways forward in community, and growing spiritually. Thank you for your giving to the Annual Program Fund. You make so much possible.

With gratitude and hope,



Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Ph.D.
UUA President

Editor's Note: Thanks to our generous donors, PLUUF has been able to give the full requested amount to the UUA Annual Program Fund every year for over 25 years!

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Extends our appreciation to the

Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship

In

Ripon, WI

WITH RECOGNITION AS A

2025

Honor Congregation

For Participation in the Annual Program Fund



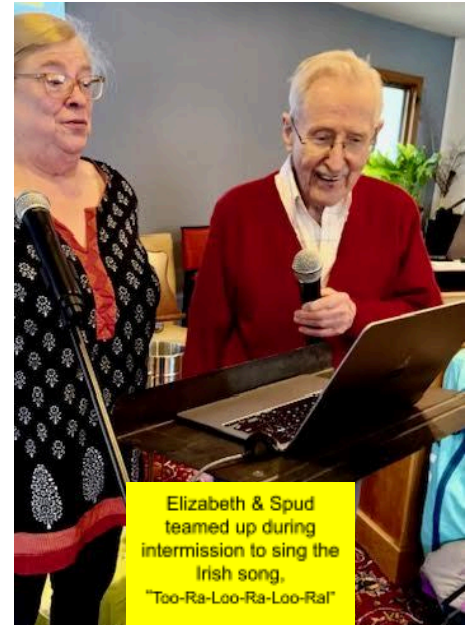
Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Ph.D.
President
Unitarian Universalist Association



Norrie Gall
Congregational Giving Administrative Director
Unitarian Universalist Association

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN APRIL

Art & Service Auction with Karaoke Entertainers held on April 27 OUR MORNING OF FUN and FUNDRAISING WAS WILDLY SUCCESSFUL!



Such a wild & wonderful morning! Thank you to the donors, bidders, entertainers, and anyone who sent good thoughts for a successful event. We exceeded our goal of \$3,000! Exact total will be available next month.

ENGAGE Sunday, April 6, with Robyn Davis-Bartow: "A Taste of Zen"



What is meditation and why bother? After a brief introduction to concentration meditation and some basic instruction, participants gave meditation a try during this unique ENGAGE Sunday at PLUUF. Instead of talking about it, attendees had the opportunity to get a taste of meditation practice for themselves. Two 15 minutes of silent sitting were divided by 5 minutes of silent walking meditation. This practice was followed by group reflection and discussion.



Worship Service Sunday & potluck, April 13: "A Dedication" with Nicole

Roost. The Unitarian Universalist Child Dedication honors the life of a young one and the love and guidance offered by those raising the child. In this season of renewal and birth, we explored the many cultural and spiritual traditions of welcome for children, parents and loving support communities.



ENGAGE Sunday, April 20, 10AM "Awe" with Pat Dobrinska. Awe is an emotion we experience when we encounter vast mysteries outside of ourselves. It transcends current understanding of the world. Wadsworth, Emerson, Thoreau, & Carson portrays the self as dissolving in experiencing natural awe. Everyone in attendance shared deeply moving stories of experiencing Awe.