

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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June Newsletter



Annual Meeting Sunday, June 1

It was a big, important day. The annual meeting served multiple purposes, including the board of director elections, evaluating and assessing progress towards achieving our mission, reviewing financials, setting the budget, and setting goals for the upcoming year.

Please see page 3 for a recap and ballot results.



Saturday, June 7, PRIDE '25 Village Green downtown Ripon 3:00-7PM. Enjoy Food, Music, Games and much More! Free entry. See the flyer on page 5 of this newsletter for the details. Thank you to PLUUF members Becky Feyen & Brad Roost for participating in the Pride Rally and having a table at the event.



Worship Service Sunday, June 8, 10:00 AM: Kicking off Pride month with Travis Nygard: ***A Conversation About LGBTQ Equality in 2025: What is Changing? What is Staying the Same?***

Travis Nygard is an Associate Professor at Ripon College, where he teaches art history and museum studies. Travis Nygard will facilitate a conversation on the state of LGBTQ equality today and also provide some historical context. Participants are also invited to share thoughts on how they see LGBTQ matters evolving in any area of life, such as the media, religion, family, education, sports, government, and workplaces.



ENGAGE Sunday, June 15, 10AM “A Long Obedience in the Same Directions: Reflections on the Journey Ahead” by Dr. Paul Jeffries

In May Professor Paul Jeffries retired after a 19-year career at Ripon College and a 45 year career in academia. In this conversation, he will reflect on some of the lessons he has learned over the years and then consider how we might find some strategies for dealing with our current moment in the United States. This is a time when we need to embrace a commitment to wisdom and wise living as the means to challenge the multitude of injustices and crises we are facing both at home and abroad. We will explore a fundamental truth that "retirement" is never really "retiring." Rather, it is time to manifest the truths and insights we have gleaned over the course of our lives, however long (or short) our journeys have been.

Note: June 15 will be our last service before we take our summer break. Please join us for this special event as we say farewell to one of our most popular and beloved presenters, plus celebrate the conclusion of a dynamic fiscal year!



A Message from the Moderator by Connie Ghinazzi

Hello everyone. On June 1st we had our annual meeting and voted on a number of important steps for our congregation. First we asked all members in attendance to complete a gifts and skills worksheet as to how you are willing and able to keep PLUUF a viable community for all of us. A number of people expressed an interest in helping in various ways. If you were not able to attend, please fill out this form (available at PLUUF or by request) for 2025-26 to let us know how you want to be an active part of our community. It will take all of us working together to keep PLUUF active and thriving.

Second, we voted that it is important to take a breath in our regular programming, so we will do several social types of events from mid- June to early September. These will be shared through our newsletter and on signage at the building. We look forward to seeing all of you at these social events this summer. Let us know how you feel about this programming format. When I shared our plans with Rev. Phillip Lund, the Congregational Consultant for the UUA MidAmerica Region in early May, he expressed his complete support for this type of plan for small fellowships, saying it was critical for a few leaders not to feel burned out.

Thanks to all of you for being an active part of our PLUUF community. We could not function without you. I feel fortunate to be a part of our fellowship. Connie

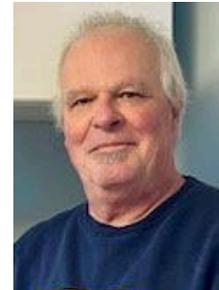
PLUUF's 2024/25 Fiscal Year Newest Members WELCOME!



Sherman Leatherberry



Linda Powell



Harold Salzberg

Editor's note: I didn't have a chance to get bios from the guys but Linda's is below:
Linda and husband Tom moved to Ripon about 40 years ago. They raised two kids who now live in Grafton & Menasha. They have 3 wonderful grandkids. Linda & Tom attended Prairie Lakes several years ago with their children.

They are both retired Social Workers. Linda spends her time dabbling in whatever comes her way: Gardening, artwork, nature. Recently, she has felt compelled to be politically active and resist the injustices coming at the marginalized

Annual Meeting Summary by PLUUF Secretary Michaela Myers



This was one of the fastest Annual Meetings yet thanks to Connie's strict adherence to the agenda. Much of what was discussed was a repeat of the subjects presented at the Town Hall on May 4th, including a brief update by Becky Feyen regarding the Sharing Garden as well as the plans for Summer Youth Programming that will be led by Liz Buchanan-Beegle. We also continued the conversation around ideas for summer off-site programming, which will be especially important as the congregation voted to approve the Summer Hiatus Schedule in which we take a break from on-site Sunday services. Prairie Lakes will take a break from on-site Sunday services from June 22 to September 7th. Please stay tuned for the off-site summer schedule.

We also got into the nitty gritty of the financial details for PLUUF. This year there were slightly less member contributions than last year/what was proposed, but the good news is, there were ways to cut costs this year and the Art and Service Auction brought in more than expected! There is one more month in the fiscal year, so there may be a few additional expenses, but it's looking like there will only be a minimal deficit between income and expenses for this year.

After discussing the budget, we went over the other ballot items to be voted on, including Beth Howman-Combs being nominated as the new Treasurer and Jim Goyette nominated as the new At Large Representative. Both were unanimously elected for their new positions! All other voting measures passed as well, including the proposed budget for 2025/2026, the welcoming congregation renewal, the by-law revisions, and the break from summer programming.

Ballot Results

1. The congregation voted for taking a summer hiatus from on-site programming from June 22-September 7. This will allow the Board of Directors & programming committee to regroup in order to plan for a vibrant September-June programming schedule. It will also allow time to take care of some of our facility needs (i.e. ramp/landing repair, etc.).
18 members voted YES | 1 voted NO | 1 Abstained
2. Board of Director Elections
 - After serving 6 years as Board Treasurer, Jim Goyette was unanimously elected to begin the 1st year of his first term as At-Large Representative
 - Beth Howman-Combs was unanimously elected to begin her first year as Treasurer
3. The majority of members voted to renew our Welcoming Congregation status for the 2025/26 fiscal year: 17 voted YES | 1 voted NO | 2 Abstained
4. Bylaw change
 - The congregation overwhelmingly voted to include committee names and descriptions to Article VIII of the PLUUF bylaws: 19 Voted YES | 1 abstained
5. Budget Vote
 - The congregation voted unanimously to approve the 2025/26 income/expense budget of \$31,875. That's \$1,741 less than this year's budget.



The Kick-Off to Summer Youth Group Took Place at Mugs Coffee Shop

For the third year in a row Liz Buchanan-Beegle will be leading PLUUF's Summer Youth Group. She kicked it off with a gathering at Mugs coffee shop on 5/24 where they discussed summer book recommendations with LGBTQ themes/characters. This will be part of PLUUF's Welcoming Congregation renewal process.

Other summer activities to include:

- Ice Cream Yoga
- Minecraft Party
- Hike & Picnic at Riggs Park

Summer youth programming is made possible by a generous grant from the Webster Foundation.



Mark Your Calendar for Friday, June 20th, 11am-3:00pm: Ice Cream Social Fundraiser

Liz and the kids will be running an ice cream social fundraiser during the city wide rummage sale from the PLUUF grounds. Kids will be in charge of scooping ice cream, cleaning tables, refilling supplies, and collecting money.



The 2026 Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly will be held at Ripon College!!

The Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) is an annual intergenerational Unitarian Universalist retreat for fun, fellowship, and personal growth. It's a full week of camp life with programming, prepared meals, and a whole bunch of like-minded folks! Robyn Davis-Bartow has attended in the past and highly recommends it. More details will be shared when registration opens in 2026.

A vertical rainbow bar with six stripes: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

RIPON PRIDE

'25

EVENT SCHEDULE

3:00-7:00

- FACE PAINTING
- YARD GAMES
- FOOD
- MUSIC
- RESOURCE FAIR
- VENDOR FAIR
- KARAOKE
- MERCH GIVEAWAY
- MANY MORE
- EDUCATIONAL
- EXPERIENCES

06.07.2025

**VILLAGE GREEN
RIPON, WI**

**CORNER OF SEWARD &
WATSON ST.**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN MAY



ENGAGE Sunday, May 4, Town Hall Meeting with the PLUUF Board of Directors. It was a great turnout! The town hall forum allowed for the Prairie Lakes Board to discuss aspects of PLUUF's future and created space for everyone to share their ideas, questions, and concerns. Many attendees seemed to embrace the idea of taking a hiatus from on-site Sunday services. A multitude of ideas were brainstormed for off-site events.

More details will be announced.



Worship Service Sunday & POTLUCK, May 11: "Love at the Center" with Rev. Phillip Lund, congregational consultant for the UUA MidAmerica Region. Thank you to everyone who attended on beautiful Mother's Day Sunday. Rev. Phillip Lund spoke about "The Spirituality of Shared Values." Rev. Lund emphasized the importance of spiritual practices like contemplation, reading, journaling, and conversations. He examined the Unitarian Universalist principles and shared values noting their role in personal and communal spiritual growth. Participants shared their reflections on words like accountability, generosity, and transformation. Jill Stiemsma provided beautiful piano music and the service was followed by a delicious potluck.



ENGAGE Sunday, May 18, with Kat Griffith "Asylum and the Changing Face of Migration" Kat has given versions of this presentation to a wide variety of audiences, including churches, retired educators, college classes, various civic and political organizations, Ripon College's Center for Politics and the People, WisconsinEye, and the national office and Immigration Working Group of the League of Women Voters. Her background includes a number of years living and working in Latin America, many years as a Spanish-English interpreter for immigrants and asylum seekers, and a background in public policy, economics, and communications. She has been active on immigration policy since the 1980s, is currently a Fond du Lac County Board Supervisor, and is committed to bipartisanship and respectful dialogue across political differences.



Worship Service Sunday, May 25, 10AM "Imagining the Imaginable" with Connie Ghinazzi. On Memorial Day weekend, Connie delved into Einstein's words, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." The service focused on imagination and empathy, encouraging participants to envision a better world. Participants shared their visions, including a world free of hate, a return to nature, and communities supporting each other.