



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Moderator by Connie Ghinazzi

We need to stay current with each other. Angeles Arrien
from Mark Nepo's *The Book of Awakening*

Hello friends! I hope your summer is going well. Even though I'm retired from a career in education, it does seem like the pace still changes in the summer. This year we at PLUUF have modified our summer schedule to give us a welcome respite from our regular routine.

I'm very excited about the summer activities our fellowship members are organizing this summer. Newly added will be meditation sessions led by Robyn Davis Bartow beginning Wednesday, July 2. If you have an idea for a social gathering that you'd like to organize, please contact Tanya or me to work out the details. Can't wait to see all of you at these fun events.



A Minecraft Party for the kids led by Liz Buchanan-Beegle

When: Tuesday, July 8th, 2:00 pm

Where: Prairie Lakes

What to Bring: Minecraft themed dish to share and party supplies to donate
Drop the kids off at PLUUF for an afternoon of Minecraft fun. We will have a computer with our own Minecraft realm for everyone to take turns building on, the Minecraft movie playing in the sanctuary, and of course plenty of snacks. We will also spend time building "Birthday in a Bag" bags to give to our local shelters. Pick up at 4:00 pm



Summer Meditation Sessions

Starting Wednesday, July 2nd from 5:30pm-6:30pm join Robyn Davis Bartow for an 8 week* period of practicing meditation and the ancient Chinese art of 8 brocades qigong. Approachable for any fitness level, qigong is a mind/body practice that unites body postures, breathing techniques, and focused attention to balance one's energy. Combined with sitting meditation, this practice promotes health, increased awareness, and deep relaxation. Please wear comfortable clothing so you can move without restriction.. Meditation cushions are welcome, but not required. Feel free to attend any or all sessions.

*Note: Practice will run from July 2nd - August 27th. Due to prior commitment, NO practice July 23rd

Off-Site July Events

Shamba Safari Adventure

Sunday, July 6 | Meet at Shamba at 11:00

W535 Eagle Road, Neshkoro | 920-295-4025 shambasafari.com



We'll meet at 11:00 at Shamba and drive through to see the animals. Tickets are \$10 per person age 2 and up. \$10 for a feed bucket. After driving through, we will meet up for a bring-your-own picnic lunch. (Event coordinated by Brad & Nicole Roost)



Bicycling Event

Saturday, July 26

Meet at PLUUF at 11:00

We'll travel in our vehicles to the Mascoutin Valley State Trail then hop on our bikes and ride 3 miles to Vines & Rushes for a bite to eat. If you don't want to bike, just meet us at Vines & Rushes around noon.

Located just off the Mascoutin Trail, Vines and Rushes Winery offers a lunch menu featuring pizzas, appetizers, salads, and desserts. They specialize in Neapolitan-style wood-fired brick oven pizza with local ingredients.

(Event coordinated by Pat Dobrinska)



Summer Youth Group: *The kids had a busy month of June!*

For the 3rd summer in a row, Liz Buchanan-Beegle has coordinated and led Youth Group Summer programming. She kicked off June with not one but three activities! (*Summer activities are made possible by Liz and a grant from the Webster Foundation*)

1. Ice Cream & Yoga



2. The kids packed summer snacks for Ripon school staff plus they included a note in each box.

3. Ice Cream Social Fundraising event along with chalk art & hula hoopin' & FUN!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN June

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.



Saturday, June 7, **PRIDE '25**

The event took place on the village Green in downtown Ripon. Everyone enjoyed food, music, games and more. 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, Associate Professor at Ripon College led a conversation about LGBTQ equality. The PLUUF singers sang "O Liberating Rose" with Jill accompanying on piano, the kids had an RE/Youth Group lesson on LGBTQ+ people and how everyone deserves to be treated with respect and love, and we all enjoyed the scent and beauty of the flowers Beth picked from her garden and brought to PLUUF.



ENGAGE Sunday, June 15, 10AM

"A Long Obedience in the Same Directions: Reflections on the Journey Ahead" by Dr. Paul Jeffries Dr. Jeffries just retired from Ripon College and this was his last presentation at PLUUF before he moves out of state. It was called "A Long Obedience in the Same Directions: Reflections on the Journey Ahead."

Dr. Jeffries touched on many things, but a couple of points he emphasized was rethinking prosperity, and building bridges across divides. After the presentation and discussion, Jill Stiemsma

provided piano accompaniment and the PLUUF singers (Linda, Laird & Sherman) sang, "I Wish You Well, My Friend" by Don Besig. After the song we ate a cake commemorating Dr. Jeffries last service and the last ENGAGE Sunday of the summer.

