



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Find us on Facebook!

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

*Annual group photo taken after the
Water Sharing Ceremony Worship Service on 9/7*



ENGAGE Sunday, October 5, 10:00: “Water in Wisconsin” with Judy Morgan She'll will be discussing the state of our water globally and in Wisconsin and what we can do to take action as individuals.



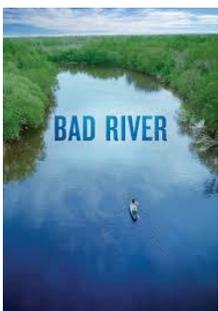
Worship Service Sunday, October 12, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck. “Deep Play: A Spiritually Ecstatic and Subversive Return to Wholeness” with Robyn Davis-Bartow



ENGAGE Sunday, October 19, 10:00 AM with Kathryn Severson Part I of the movie “Bad River” will be shown. The Bad River film won the Jury Award for Best Feature at the Freeland Film Festival, which took place in Green Lake in September. The documentary highlights the Bad River Band's fight for environmental justice and sovereignty. This is part 1 of a 2 part series.



Worship Service Sunday, October 26, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen & Tanya Schwartz-Roeper - “Remembering Don Martin and Others.” Join Becky & Tanya as we gather to remember and honor Prairie Lakes members who have passed away. As they share photos and stories to honor these special people, attendees will be invited to share their own stories and memories. This Worship Service is intentionally scheduled near the Day of the Dead national holiday celebrated in Mexico.



ENGAGE Sunday, November 2, 10:00 AM with Kathryn Severson Part 2 of the movie “Bad River” will be shown. *Bad River* is a documentary that follows the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's fight for tribal sovereignty and environmental justice against corporate and governmental interests, particularly focusing on their battle to shut down the dangerous Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline that threatens Lake Superior. The film chronicles the band's history of struggle, including the traumatic legacy of Indian Boarding Schools, and highlights their resilience and determination to protect their ancestral lands and waters.

A Message from the Moderator by Connie Ghinazzi



Hello friends,

Welcome back to PLUUF. We've gotten off to a strong start with our Water Sharing service and as you can see, we have interesting topics we will explore during October. The Board of Directors is interested in your feedback about our recent summer sabbatical, so if you have thoughts about it, please get in touch with any Board member or email pluufripon@gmail.com.

I hope to see all of you soon. Enjoy this beautiful fall weather we are having.

September Board Meeting Highlights by Michaela Myers

This was the first Board meeting of the fiscal year with everyone present and we got a lot done! In addition to finalizing some changes for the Annual Report (see page 3), the Board also continued to discuss how to improve the ramp and landing leading to the front door of PLUUF as well as the maintenance of the garden beds around the property. Over the summer while services were on hiatus, Tanya had the opportunity to do some much needed decluttering inside the building with emphasis on the printer room and utility room.

Liz Buchanan-Beegle was invited to the meeting to review how summer youth programming went. It sounds like there weren't a whole lot of kids who participated, but those who did really enjoyed it. Some thoughts to get more people involved were to participate in RAMA dinners or get teens involved by encouraging them to get their volunteer hours for the National Honor Society. The next Board meeting is scheduled on October 8 at 5:30.



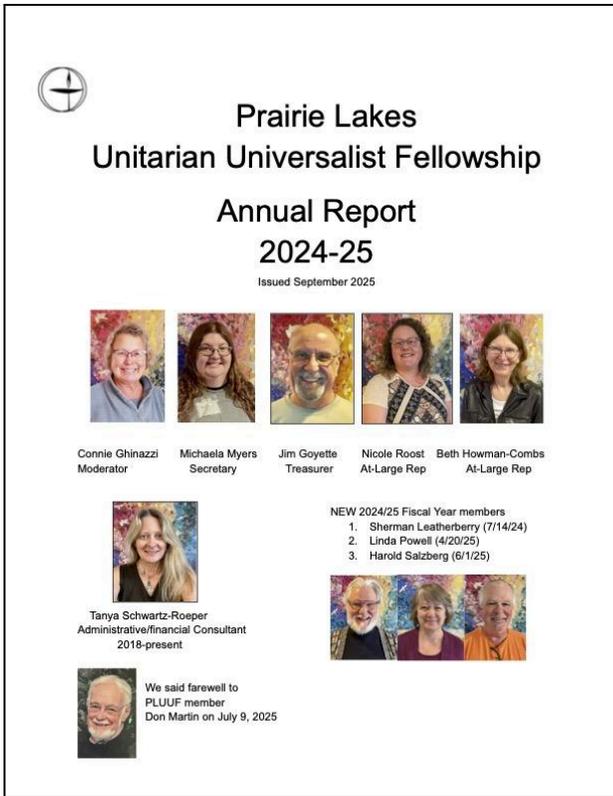
An Image to Express UU Values

Soul Matters membership director, Susan Arnold, recently created an image to express her excitement about our new UU values. It is rooted in the idea of love manifesting itself in the world through the other six values.

Here is how Susan describes her vision for the image:
"Inspired by our faith's bold embrace of loved-centered values that will lead us into the future, I kept thinking about the idea of a flame of love with the values as the light spreading out into the world. This graphic grew out of that idea. It's my small attempt to support our faith's effort to bring more love to our world, which is desperately needed right now." -Susan



The 2024/25 Prairie Lakes Annual Report



The Prairie Lakes annual report offers comprehensive transparency and includes detailing PLUUF's fiscal year financial performance and non-financial achievements, like an overview of both our Worship Service and ENGAGE programming schedule, membership and attendance statistics, and more. It serves as a vital communication tool for our congregation when it comes to a comprehensive summary of our previous fiscal year. We hope you will read it. It was sent via email to all members and is available by request if you would like it re-sent. Paper copies are available at Prairie Lakes.

Ripon High School Social Justice Alliance

Green Lake Dems and Friends will host its monthly meeting at the Caestecker Library in Green Lake on October 11, 10am-noon, and the **Ripon High School Social Justice Alliance** group will give a short slide show presentation on their social justice field trip to Los Angeles. The Dems & Friends, Prairie Lakes and others contributed and helped make their field trip come true! (Caestecker Library: 518 Hill Street, Green Lake)



Thank you to Elizabeth, Cheri & Beth who donated items off the September Wish List. In October we are seeking the following items:

1. Paper Towels
2. Plastic or metal garden rakes (used or new)
3. Copy Paper
4. Granola bars



Are You Interested in Getting Involved With the Ripon Area Food Pantry?

Gary Berger, the Treasurer of The Ripon Area Food Pantry, will lead the semi-annual meeting on Monday, **October 13, at 6:00 PM.** The meeting will be held in one of the meeting rooms near the office at St. Catherine of Siena Church at 228 E. Blossom St., Ripon. **If you are interested in learning more about the food pantry and possibly getting involved, you are invited to attend.**

2025 Calendar of Services & Events At-a-Glance



The Worship Service & ENGAGE Sunday programming team has been working hard planning upcoming events and services. Detailed information regarding each service/event will be shared in more detail via e-mail leading up to each event.

Oct. 5 ENGAGE: “Water in Wisconsin” presented by Judy Morgan

Oct. 12 Worship Service: “Deep Play: A Spiritually Ecstatic and Subversive Return to Wholeness” with Robyn Davis-Bartow

Oct. 19 ENGAGE: Part I movie “Bad River” with Kathryn Severson

Oct. 26 Worship Service: Remembering Don Martin and others with Becky & Tanya

Nov. 2 ENGAGE: Part 2 movie “Bad River” with Kathryn Severson

Nov. 9 Worship Service: Connie Ghinazzi

Nov. 16 ENGAGE: With guest presenter Elliott Luedke on “Love, Liberation and Forgiveness in the Midst of Christian Nationalism.

Nov. 23 Worship Service: Gratitude Service with Becky Feyen

Nov. 30 5th Sunday: Fluff ‘N Buff to make PLUUF shine!

Dec. 7 ENGAGE: TBA

Dec. 14 FESTIVALS OF LIGHT

Dec. 21 ENGAGE: “Awe in Music” led by Sherman Leatherberry

Dec. 28 Worship Service with Robyn Davis-Bartow

Prairie Lakes Member Joe Hatcher Publishes Book on Improving Thinking Ability



The book, “Why Didn’t Anyone Teach Me This Before?: Gentle Lessons in Teaching from a Long-Time Professor of Psychology,” addresses numerous aspects of life, guiding readers to become better thinkers and to view situations from different perspectives. The book is available in paperback on Amazon for \$15.

“I was fortunate to have Joe Hatcher as my professor at Ripon College back in the ‘80’s. As soon as his recently published book was put into my hands, I read it cover to cover. The valuable lessons and concepts in his book apply to daily life. An important book to read at any age or stage in your life. - Tanya Schwartz-Roeper



Brian Smith Publishes Book that Addresses the Growing Number of Americans Who No Longer Identify With A Religious Tradition

Brian Smith’s book, “Reaching the Religiously Disaffiliated: Comparative Strategies to Engage the Nones” addresses the growing number of Americans who no longer identify with any religious tradition, or the Nones. By 2022 Nones reached 27% of the population. They constitute 31 % of the millennials between 25 and 40, and 33% of the adults in Generation Z between 18 and 25. Brian examines survey data on

the growth of the Nones and the reasons they give for leaving, or never joining churches. Their exodus has caused concern by religious leaders since the future viability of organized Christianity is at stake given the large numbers of young Americans leaving religion. Brian analyzes strategies to engage the Nones by recruiting efforts of Evangelical Christian megachurches, educational initiatives by the US Catholic Bishops, and methods of the Nuns & Nones movement which include dialogs, meals, meditations and shared living experiences between Catholic sisters and the religiously unaffiliated. This approach involves spiritually accompanying Nones rather than efforts to proselytize or educate them. The concluding chapter explores ways for churches to engage Nones based on spiritual accompaniment approaches of the Nuns & Nones movement. Available:

<https://www.amazon.com/Reaching-Religiously-Disaffiliated-Comparative-Strategies/dp/1666953571>

Note: A copy will be available at PLUUF to check out at no cost.

Fellowship Notes



THANK YOU!

A BIG thank you to Harold Salzberg for making PLUUF shine just before our first September Worship Service!



WELCOME HANS!

Hans visited PLUUF for the very first time at our September Water Sharing Service. Hans is the grandson of Laird & Linda DeCramer



FREE!

This is a pulpit that has been at PLUUF for 20+ years. You may not have noticed it because it's been used as a bookshelf. We no longer have room for it and it can be yours! Just fire off an email if you want it.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN SEPTEMBER



[Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Day, Sunday, September 7](#)

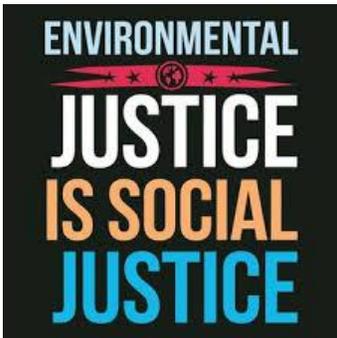
We have been grateful for the volunteer efforts of PLUUFers to remove trash, recyclables and litter for our stretch of road on Highway 23 through the years. Ten of us met at Christiano's Restaurant parking lot on highway 23 in Green Lake and spent the morning making our stretch of highway a bit less "trashy" 😊. Thank you to Jill, Jim, Becky, Beth Joe, Tanya, and the Shikoski family.



[Annual Water Sharing/In-Gathering \(Intergenerational\) September 14, Plus Potluck & Ice Cream social:](#)

We kicked off the new fiscal year by sharing water from various sources, each with personal significance. Participants shared water from their property, Spring Lake, a water garden, the Smokey Mountains, Little Green, symbolic water from a storm, and more. Other participants used symbolic water to highlight the global water crisis. All participants co-mingled the waters as a symbol of our solidarity. We saved a jar of the co-mingled waters and the kids returned the remaining water to the earth by watering our young Maple and Catalpa trees. Thank you to everyone who came to Prairie Lakes for this special annual event and thank you to Liz & the kids for serving ice cream after the service 🍦.

ENGAGE Sunday, September 21, 10:00 AM: Brian Smith was originally scheduled but unfortunately had to have emergency hip surgery. Kathryn Severson enthusiastically volunteered to lead the service on short notice. Kathryn is a dynamic English teacher at Green Lake High School and she is the type of presenter that stimulates thought and discussion and goes beyond simply providing information. Her presentation was inspired by the book, "Seventh Generation Earth Ethics: Native Voices of Wisconsin" by Patty Loew. The presentation focused on Native activism, highlighting the struggles of the Bad River Ojibwa tribe against mining and oil pipeline projects. The discussion also touched on the broader implications of environmental justice. Kathryn has an engaging style of presenting and we're grateful she could lead today's service on such short notice!



[Worship Service Sunday, September 28, 10:00 AM \[The Fine Line Between Bravery & Cowardice\]\(#\) with Jill Stiemsma](#) - Long-time PLUUF

member Jill Stiemsma led a reflection on "bravery". As you may know, she has been a volunteer English teacher in El Salvador since 2011; but this year, given the risks involved both there and in the U.S., she finally decided to stay put. She shared her journey from feeling guilty about abandoning the many Salvadorans so dear to her heart to finding some affirmation of her decision. She invited the congregation to reflect on our own acts of bravery.