



Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

315 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971

pluufripon@gmail.com

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NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

ENGAGE Sunday, November 2, 10:00 AM Movie: “Bad River” part II with



Kathryn Severson *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. She’ll be discussing the state of our water globally and in Wisconsin and what we can do to take action as individuals.



Worship Service Sunday, November 9, 10:00 AM Plus Potluck. “Celebrating Our Welcoming Congregation” with Connie Ghinazzi Join us for a joyful and inspiring intergenerational service as we celebrate our fifth consecutive year as a Welcoming Congregation! There is a beautiful display of books in the entryway. Please take a look while you are at Prairie Lakes. More details are on page 2 under the Moderator Message.



ENGAGE Sunday, November 16, 10:00 AM “Love, Liberation and Forgiveness in the Midst of Christian Nationalism” with Elliott Luedke



Worship Service Sunday, November 23, 10:00 AM “Beyond Thanks: The Work of Love” with Becky Feyen - As we approach this holiday season, let our gratitude be revolutionary. Let it move us from comfort to courage, from prayer to action. Because love — radical, accountable, and abundant— demands more than sentiment. It asks us to see beyond ourselves, to recognize the threads that bind our well-being to the struggles and hopes of others.



5th Sunday, November 30, 10AM — Fluff ‘N Buff Indoor/Outdoor Clean Up Day

This fun, hands-on event brings our fellowship family together to freshen up our building and grounds. We’ll tackle projects big and small—dusting, organizing, sweeping, and sprucing up both inside and out. Come lend a hand, enjoy good fellowship, and help make our fellowship shine!

A Message from the Moderator by Connie Ghinazzi



Celebrating Our Welcoming Congregation

I'm looking forward to leading a joyful and inspiring **intergenerational service** on **Sunday, November 9**, as we celebrate our **fifth consecutive year** as a **Welcoming Congregation!**

You'll find a colorful display in the Prairie Lakes entryway—a **special collection of books from the Ripon Public Library**, thoughtfully curated by **Linda DeCramer**. These stories help us explore and celebrate LGBTQ+ experiences—wonderful reads to share with children, grandchildren, and one another.

During the service, we'll feature an **extended “Stories for All Ages”** segment, where we'll share insights and inspiration from these books. Feel free to bring along **your own favorite story** to add to the conversation!

Linda will also take a few moments to talk about **book bans**—an important issue affecting many of these titles nationwide—and how our own Ripon community is responding.

We're thrilled to welcome **Brad Roost and members of the Social Justice Alliance**, who will share highlights from their recent trip to Los Angeles. Thanks to our Prairie Lakes **Arts and Services Auction**, we raised money to help make this experience possible!

After the service, stay for a **community potluck** and enjoy good food, conversation, and connection. As you mingle, take a moment to browse the book display—set upon a **rainbow quilt I created** especially for this celebration.

Let's gather to honor inclusion, learning, and the vibrant spirit that makes Prairie Lakes truly welcoming to all. 🌈

Thank You To Our Outgoing Secretary



We extend our deepest gratitude to Michaela Myers for her dedicated service as Secretary of the Board over the past year and a half. During her tenure, Michaela brought exceptional organization, thoughtful contributions, and warmth to our meetings and decision-making.

While we are sad to see Michaela step down early due to an exciting move and new job opportunity, we are truly happy for this next chapter in her journey. We wish Michaela all the best in her new role and home, and we thank her sincerely for her time, energy, and commitment to serving on the Prairie Lakes Board.



Late Fall Meditation With Robyn Davis-Bartow

WHEN: Wednesday evenings at 5:30-6:45
October 29th through December 17th
NO practice Nov 12th and Dec 10th
WHERE: Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship

As days become shorter and colder, it is a perfect time to slow down and turn one's energy inward. All are welcome to join Robyn Davis Bartow for 6 weeks of Zen meditation practice in the Prairie Lakes sanctuary.

Sitting practice will be supported by 20 minutes of qigong followed by two 20 minute concentration meditation periods. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your meditation cushion if you have one. No prior experience necessary. Questions? Feel free to reach out at 920-896-2770 or robynaudrey19@gmail.com.



This is Our November Wish List

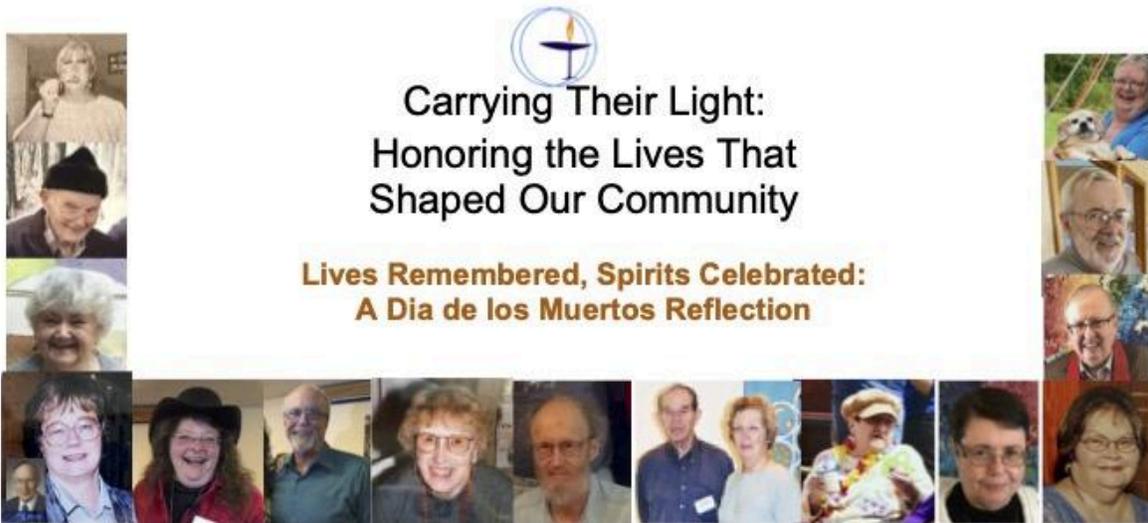
1. Copy Paper
2. Plastic or metal garden rakes (used or new)
3. Stamps (a few, several, or many)
4. Church kitten (just kidding!!)

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.



Nov. 2 ENGAGE: Part 2 of the movie "Bad River" with Kathryn Severson
Nov. 9 Worship Service: "Celebrating Our Welcoming Congregation" with Connie Ghinazzi
Nov. 16 ENGAGE: "Love, Liberation and Forgiveness in the Midst of Christian Nationalism" with guest presenter Elliott Luedke
Nov. 23 Worship Service: Worship Service with Becky Feyen
Nov. 30 5th Sunday: Fluff 'N Buff to make PLUUF shine!
Dec. 7 ENGAGE: "The Universal Christ" with Sherman Leatherberry
Dec. 14 FESTIVALS OF LIGHT
Dec. 21 ENGAGE: "Awe in Music" led by Sherman Leatherberry
Dec. 28 Worship Service with Robyn Davis-Bartow



On Sunday, October 26, we explored **the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)**—a vibrant celebration of life, love, and memory.

Together, we paused to honor the lives and legacies of our beloved Prairie Lakes members who are no longer with us. Seven individuals served as presenters to reflect upon 19 remarkable members who have passed who helped shape our Prairie Lakes community while Jill Stiemsma played special music.



During Congregational Sharing we passed the microphone around the room and every attendee shared a memory and/or name(s) of loved ones who have passed as we celebrated the enduring spirit of our community.

THANK YOU to the presenters. Pictured left to right: Becky Feyen, Tanya Schwartz-Roeper, Brad Roost, Marjorie Kenyon-Cler, Judy Harris, Jim Goyette, & Joe Hatcher. Each presentation was such a gift — honoring our PLUUF members, celebrating life, and uniting our community in spirit. Thank you to the kids – Lilly, Mckinley, Emmy & Ylenia for participating in the reflection by bringing items to the altar. Thank you to Jill Stiemsma for the beautiful music. Thank you to EVERYONE who attended the event and shared a name or memories of loved ones. We gathered after the service for soup and cider. Such a special event with members present from our earliest days to our most recent members. We're already looking forward to celebrating this event again next year!





"Beyond Thanks: The Work of Love"

These words are inspired by Becky Feyen's upcoming Worship Service on Sunday, November 23.

As we approach this holiday season, let our gratitude be revolutionary. Let it move us from comfort to courage, from prayer to action. Because love — radical, accountable, and abundant — demands more than sentiment. It asks us to see beyond ourselves, to recognize the threads that bind our well-being to the struggles and hopes of others.

Let our tables be not only places of feasting, but of reckoning — with the privilege that allows some to rest while others labor unseen. Let our giving be more than charity; let it be solidarity, rooted in justice.

Gratitude, when alive and awake, refuses to settle for a world where kindness is selective and peace is unevenly distributed. It calls us to build, to repair, to speak truth even when it trembles in our throats.

So this season, may our gratitude ignite action. May our joy make room for mourning. May our abundance overflow into the lives of others — not out of guilt, but out of the deep knowing that love is most powerful when it transforms the world that gave us reason to be grateful in the first place.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN OCTOBER

ENGAGE Sunday, October 5: “Water in Wisconsin” with Judy



Morgan Judy’s presentation focused on plastic pollution highlighting that 5.2 trillion bits of plastic enter the ocean daily, with 94% sinking to the ocean floor. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, larger than Texas, is primarily caused by wind and the Coriolis effect. The discussion also covered the significant plastic pollution in the Great Lakes, with 22 million pounds of plastic polluting annually, mostly in Lake Michigan. Participants shared personal efforts to reduce plastic use, such as using reusable bags and bottles, and discussed the need for systemic changes to address plastic waste effectively.

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



ENGAGE Sunday, October 19: with Kathryn Severson



Kathryn presented the first half of the documentary, "Bad River" that chronicles the Wisconsin based Bad River Band and the Band's ongoing fight for sovereignty. This documentary emphasized the themes of resilience, defiance, and the responsibility of protecting the environment for future generations.

Worship Service Sunday, October 26, 10:00 AM with Becky Feyen & Tanya Schwartz-Roeper - “Carrying Their Light: Honoring the Lives That Shaped Our Community”



What a beautiful and heartfelt service we shared at Prairie Lakes, celebrating Día de los Muertos and honoring 19 cherished members who have passed away over the past 21 years. Together, we reflected on the meaning and symbolism of the ofrenda—the altar that holds offerings of love and remembrance.



After each touching presentation, the children added meaningful items to the altar, helping bring our shared memories to life. This gathering reminded us of the deep connections within our Prairie Lakes family and the importance of remembering those who continue to live on in our hearts. We’re grateful to everyone who made this celebration so special.

This will now be an annual tradition, and we hope you’ll join us next year as we come together again to celebrate life, love, and remembrance.

Photo: The Day of the Dead altar at Prairie Lakes known as the Ofrenda in Spanish