



March 31st is International Transgender Day of Visibility

Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Find us on Facebook!

MARCH 2026 ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS



ENGAGE Sunday, March 1, 10AM Tom Zuhlke had planned to share his presentation, "Time of Your Life," with us, but after a recent fall and knee injury, he will need surgery. Please keep Tom in your thoughts as he begins his recovery.



While there will be no formal speaker on March 1, the sanctuary will be open at 10:00 AM for anyone who wishes to gather in quiet meditation or personal reflection. May this time of stillness offer comfort, connection, and gentle support for Tom and for one another.



Worship Service Sunday, March 8, 10AM: "Herstory: What It Takes/What it's Taken" with Jill Stiemsma

In honor of Women's History Month, Jill Stiemsma will delve into the valuable contributions of women — and their mighty struggles to be recognized — in the political arena and in the marketplace. Come join the conversation following the Reflection entitled "Herstory: What It Takes / What It's Taken".



ENGAGE Sunday, March 15, 10AM "Immigration Today: A Conversation with Kat Griffith"

Kat will lead a timely and insightful presentation on the current state of immigration. A member of the Fond du Lac County Board, representing District 1, Kat is a respected community leader based in Ripon. She is widely recognized for her dedicated advocacy on behalf of immigrants and asylum seekers. Kat brings both professional insight and firsthand community experience to the conversation. Her extensive work in immigration policy and local community development offers a thoughtful, informed perspective on one of today's most important issues.



Worship Service Sunday, March 22, 10AM, with Cheri Salzberg: "Faith Over Fear: What Does This Look and Feel Like for UU's?"

Unitarian Universalists choose hope, trust, and ethical courage over fear, without requiring belief in a specific God or doctrine. In this exploration, we'll reflect on how faith, grounded in love, shared values, and human dignity guides our response to uncertainty and division. What practices help us embody courage and compassion in our daily lives, especially when fear feels loudest?



5th Sunday, March 29, 10AM, Sunday Fluff 'N Buff Indoor (& maybe outdoor) Cleanup Day at Prairie Lakes.

Please join us for a morning of camaraderie as we make PLUUF shine! Weather permitting, we may try to get some outdoor work done, too, like picking up sticks and raking the leaves on the east side of the building.

Webster Grant Awarded to Prairie Lakes



In 2001, Rob (in the photo standing in the middle) and Kathy Webster turned their passion for community into action by launching the Webster Foundation, planting seeds of generosity that continue to grow throughout Ripon and the surrounding area.

This year, Prairie Lakes is proud to once again be among the organizations supported by the Foundation, receiving a \$1,500 grant to help further our mission. Jim Goyette and Tanya Schwartz-Roeper had the pleasure of attending the awards celebration at Knuth's on

February 18, where more than 60 local organizations gathered to celebrate the power of community giving.

Each recipient was invited to share a 30-second message about their work and impact, an inspiring reminder of just how many meaningful initiatives are happening right here at home. We are incredibly grateful to the Webster Foundation for their continued investment in PLUUF.

These are the words Tanya shared at the event: *On behalf of the congregation of Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, thank you to the amazing Webster Family for creating the Webster Foundation 23 years ago. Thank you for believing in our vision and approving our grant. Prairie Lakes is a small congregation here in Ripon, grounded in six shared values—all centered on one simple, powerful idea: love. This grant will help us in two meaningful ways. First, it supports our children by funding our June–August off-site youth programs. And second, it allows us to replace our aging entry ramp, making our building safer and more welcoming for everyone. This grant helps us turn love into action. And for that, we are deeply grateful. Thank you.*



ART & SERVICE AUCTION Sunday, April 26, 10AM

🎉 Prairie Lakes' Biggest & Best Fundraiser Is Coming Up! 🎉

This is our largest fundraising event of the year and we want to make it unforgettable!

We're now collecting auction items and would love your support. The morning will feature entertainment, an exciting live auction, and an incredible selection of prizes you won't want to miss. It's going to be a morning full of fun, laughter, and community spirit!

✨ How You Can Help:

- Donate an auction item
- Invite friends and bring guests
- Help us spread the word

If you'd like to contribute an auction item, please pick up a signup sheet in the entry at PLUUF or contact pluufripon@gmail.com with the item(s) you'd like to donate.

Let's come together and make this year's fundraiser a great one! 💛

News From the Prairie Lakes Board of Directors



Connie Ghinazzi
Moderator



Cheri Salzberg
Secretary



Beth Howman-Combs
Treasurer



Nicole Roost
At-Large Rep



Jim Goyette
At-Large Rep

Our upcoming **Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, May 3** and **Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7** are more than just dates on the calendar. They're vital opportunities for our entire community to come together, reflect, and shape what comes next.

The **Town Hall Meeting** gives every member a voice. It's where ideas are shared openly, questions are addressed directly, and important updates are discussed transparently. Whether you've been deeply involved or are just getting more engaged, your perspective matters. This is your chance to hear firsthand about current priorities, upcoming initiatives, and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The **Annual Meeting** is equally significant. It's a time to review our progress, celebrate milestones, and outline our vision for the year ahead. Key decisions are made, leadership is affirmed, and the foundation is set for continued growth and success. Participation ensures that our direction reflects the collective interests and values of our membership.

Your presence and input strengthen our organization. Mark your calendar, bring your questions, and join us as we work together to build a stronger future.

It is Time For a Change

Approximately every five years, the Prairie Lakes Board of Directors undertakes a thoughtful review of our Vision, Mission, and Covenant to ensure they continue to reflect who we are and who we aspire to be. In light of the adoption of Article II and the transition from the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles to the Six Shared Values, the Board believes this is an appropriate time to revisit and update these guiding statements.

We invite you to carefully review the following two pages outlining the proposed revisions. Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Board Moderator Connie.

A congregational vote on the proposed changes is scheduled for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7.

PROPOSED VISION/MISSION/COVENANT STATEMENT REVISIONS

Current Vision Statement: As a Fellowship, we strive to support, promote and exemplify the ideals of the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles

Current Mission statement:

Individually, collectively, internally and externally we agree to be a transformative presence for our members, friends and the larger community by:

- Creating an atmosphere of love, compassion and caring for all ages and stages in life's journey
- Promoting intellectual curiosity and open-minded discussion
- Acting as stewards of the Earth
- Advocating for a more just and equitable world
- Honoring the worth and dignity of all beings
- Nurturing our communal spiritual journey
- Committing time, talent and treasure to promote positive change in ourselves and in the world

Proposed Vision Statement: A world rooted in love, dignity, justice, and care for all by striving to promote and support the ideals of the six Unitarian Universalist Values: Interdependence, Pluralism, Justice, Transformation, Generosity, and Equity.

Proposed Mission Statement that weaves in the 6 UU values centered around love: While we are a small congregation, love binds us together in a shared vision of mutual care, justice, and hope for the wider world.

- Rooted in love, we seek to foster compassion and care for all people, honoring our interdependence with one another and the Earth.
- We cultivate pluralism by encouraging open-minded inquiry, deep listening, and respectful dialogue across differences.
- We act as responsible stewards of the planet, recognizing that the flourishing of all life is bound together.
- We advance justice, equity, and the inherent dignity of every being, working to transform systems that harm into ones that heal.
- We nurture spiritual growth, shared purpose, and personal and collective transformation grounded in love.
- With generosity of time, talent, and resources, we commit ourselves to creating positive change within ourselves and throughout the world.

CURRENT COVENANT:

We each embrace our personal responsibility to choose respect and kindness, to the best of our human ability as we journey together. We strive to:

- Care for each other through deep listening and genuine kindness while assuming good will
- Create a safe environment by respecting and trusting one another
- Encourage each to express the authentic self; supporting, inspiring, and challenging one's quest for truth, meaning and spiritual growth
- Nurture a diverse and welcoming congregation

REVISED COVENANT

We, as a congregation rooted in love, covenant together to:

- Care for one another and all people, honoring our interdependence.
- Listen with open hearts, embrace pluralism, and seek understanding across differences.
- Be faithful stewards of the Earth, nurturing and protecting all creation.
- Work for justice and equity, affirming dignity and transforming harm into healing.
- Grow together spiritually, supporting one another in love and shared purpose.
- Give generously of our time, talents, and resources to bring hope and positive change to our community and the world.

Together, we commit to live these promises in love, guided by faith and strengthened by one another.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2026 ENGAGE & WORSHIP SERVICE EVENTS

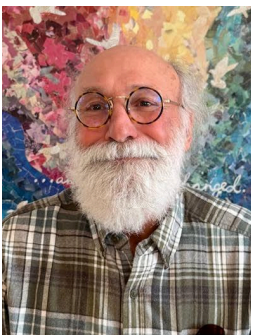


ENGAGE Sunday, February 1, with Steve Sorenson “Is the Constitution Being Protected or Eroded by the Current U.S. Supreme Court?”:

Whether the Roberts Court is preserving the U.S. Constitution is subject to intense legal and political debate. Perspectives are largely split amongst those who see the role as preserving the originalist view of the constitution and those who believe that the constitution is dismantling long-standing legislative initiatives. It can also be viewed as those who favor federalism as opposed to those who advocate local and state control. There is also an underlying debate between those who prefer a pure democracy, and those who support the constitutional framework of a republican form of government. These questions were raised and discussed during this fascinating presentation.



Worship Service Sunday, February 8, with Robyn Davis-Bartow: “Embracing the Cold: Seasonal Living as Spiritual Practice” plus, it’s 2nd Sunday Potluck! This Worship Service was Inspired by different cultural traditions, Robyn discussed adopting intentional practices to embrace a seasonally centered existence that contributes to a life well lived.



ENGAGE Sunday, February 15, with Tom Eddy “Beneath the Oaks - Green Lake Before the Settlers” Long before the Green Lake area became a hub of towns and farmland, the land was alive with open, sun-dappled oak savannas. Around 1830, early surveyors crisscrossed the area, recording the lay of the land, and their notes give us a rare window into this vanished world. They describe vast stretches of oak woodlands, with sunlight spilling onto grassy openings where wildflowers and prairie grasses thrived. Historical accounts from people who actually saw it confirm the picture: a landscape that felt open and airy, with scattered oaks standing like sentinels over rolling meadows. It was a place shaped by nature’s quiet rhythms—before plows, roads, and towns transformed it forever.



Worship Service Sunday, February 22, with Becky Feyen “The Power Within.” We paused to honor the quiet power within us—the source of our will, our love, and our identity. Within us, too, is a void felt in loneliness, sorrow, and despair, where anger and greed can take root. We are shaped by both our need for solitude and our deep urge to connect. If we look inward with honesty, we find a personal center that defines us and binds us to others, widening outward to all humanity. This shared, irreducibly human core is the heart of love, growth, and spiritual life—a place where we feel at one with each other, with nature, and with the universe itself.