

# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## June Newsletter



### Saturday, June 6, **PRIDE '26**

Village Green downtown Ripon 1-4PM. Enjoy Food, Music, Games and much More! Free entry. Stop by the event if you can and visit PLUUFer Brad Roost and the Social Justice Alliance group from Ripon High School. (Flyer on page 3)



**Worship Service Sunday, June 7, 10:00 AM:** Kicking off Pride month with Travis Nygard: **Exploring LGBTQ Science: Surprising Studies and Fun Facts.** Travis Nygard is an Associate Professor at Ripon College, where he teaches art history and museum studies. Travis will share some of the ways that scientists have explored the topic of LGBTQ people in recent decades and lead a discussion. Participants are welcome to share their thoughts on the topic, including facts that they may have heard, as well as opinions about how well the objective scientific world captures the subjective experience of gender and sexuality.



### Annual Meeting Sunday, June 14, 10AM

**It is a big, important day.** The annual meeting serves 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**



### ENGAGE Sunday, June 21, 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.

**Note: June 21 will be our last service at PLUUF before we take our summer break, BUT check out Connie's Moderator message on the next page for our first off-site summer gathering!**



## A Message from the Moderator by Connie Ghinazzi

Beautiful summer weather is here, and I hope you are enjoying these longer, sun-filled days!

During June, we will wrap up our spring programming with a presentation by **Travis Nygard, our Annual Meeting, and a final ENGAGE gathering with Kat Griffith**. Our regular schedule will resume on September 6.

### **Summer Gathering at Little Green Lake**

We are also planning some informal summer get-togethers, beginning with a **Potluck and Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak Event on Saturday, June 27**, at my lake house on Little Green Lake.

### **Kayaking**

- Meet at **3:00 p.m.**
- The lake can be paddled in about 90 minutes, or you can enjoy a leisurely trip along the shoreline.
- I have two kayaks and a paddleboard available for use.

### **Potluck & Social Gathering**

- Begins at **4:00 p.m.**
- Swimming is excellent, and I have a lily pad that children will enjoy.
- Yard games will also be available.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your family and spend time with other PLUUF families while enjoying a beautiful summer day together.

As an added bonus, the City of Markesan will launch its fireworks display over Little Green Lake at dusk. You're welcome to stay for the show! We'll gather around the fire pit, roast marshmallows, and enjoy the evening together. Please RSVP to Connie at 563-349-3805 or [connieghinazzi@gmail.com](mailto:connieghinazzi@gmail.com).

### **Annual Meeting Reminder**

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Annual Meeting on June 14. It is important that we have a quorum to conduct the business of the fellowship, so please plan to attend. If you are unable to be there, please contact Tanya about voting by proxy.

Until then, get outside, enjoy the sunshine, and have a wonderful start to summer!

### **One more reminder**

#### **Coffee, Cookies & Conversation in downtown Ripon the 1st Friday of the month 10AM**

Members can gather at Ripon **Dough Company** to connect with fellow PLUUFers at the Ripon Dough Company 223 Watson Street, Ripon

No program- just coffee, cookies, and friendly conversation.

## ☀️ **PLUUF ANNUAL MEETING: Our Voice. Our Future**

Every year, there is one gathering that matters more than any other—the Annual Meeting.

It's where we celebrate achievements, review progress, share ideas, and make decisions that guide the direction of our organization for the year ahead. Whether you've been involved for years or are joining us for the first time, your participation helps shape our future.

This isn't just another meeting on the calendar, it's an opportunity to be informed, be heard, and be part of what comes next.

 **Annual Meeting Date:** June 14, 10AM

 **Location:** Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship

 **Time:** 10AM

Mark your calendar and join us as we reflect on where we've been and chart the course for where we're going.

**The future isn't decided for us—it's decided by us.**

*Annual Meeting Packets will be sent to all Members on June 2 along with Proxy forms.*



Ripon High School Social  
Justice Alliance

**PRIDE 2026**  
Standing Together in Pride

- Games
- Food Truck
- Karaoke
- And More!

@ Village Green, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 PM

On Saturday, June 6th, the fifth annual Ripon Pride Rally will take place from 1-4pm at the Village Green in Ripon, WI. This will be a family-friendly event. Many resource groups and other organizations will be attending.

The Pride Rally will include games and activities for kids, food, music, and entertainment. Stop by for what promises to be a fun, positive, and meaningful event.

Stop by the event if you can and visit PLUUFer Brad Roost and the Social Justice Alliance group from Ripon High School.

## Honoring a Founding Member by Tanya Schwartz-Roeper

With gratitude for Barbara Lukas's years of vision, service, and friendship

*(Barbara will be leaving Wisconsin and moving to Virginia this month to be closer to her son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons)*



Dear Barbara,  
With warm wishes on your next chapter

In the early years of our Prairie Lakes community, your spirit helped nurture what this fellowship would become. You brought wisdom, wit, and a characteristically British voice to our community. You also wore an extraordinary and delightfully diverse array of hats, which became something of a signature in those days.

Through Harvest celebrations, your laughter, and beautiful flowers that brightened our sanctuary, you reminded us again and again of the power of beauty, connection, and shared humanity. And your stories! Rich, funny, wise, and wonderfully told.

*Barbara is a true delight. She welcomed our family into PLUUF when we first moved to town in 2001. She was always willing to be a part of our jokes at the Art & Service Auction. She had a hilarious sense of humor. I am glad Barbara was a part of my life's journey.*

*-Betsy Bruce*

Though your path led away from the fellowship years ago, your thoughtful candor, wit, and wisdom have never truly faded from memory. From the traditions you helped shape, to the scrapbook you created 30 years ago chronicling the fellowship's earliest days, to the 7 principles banner you made for the sanctuary, still on display to this day, remain part of the story and spirit of this community.

Now a new season opens before you, one filled with family, shared mornings, and the rhythms of everyday life woven closely into your son's family. What a gift they are about to receive: your wisdom, your laughter, your stories, and your love, shared in the life you will now live together.

*May you feel at home in Virginia, surrounded by family. We thank you for your years of service to PLUUF. May the move go well!*

*- Jill Stiemsma*

May this next chapter bring connection, peace, and a fair share of good stories in the making. And may you always know that those whose lives you touched here at Prairie Lakes continue to carry gratitude for the light and laughter you shared so generously.

We remain grateful for your place in our history and wish you all that is good in the days ahead.

Best wishes always,

*From all of us at Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship* ❤️

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN MAY



**ENGAGE Sunday, May 3: Town Hall Conversation** A 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. A meeting summary is available by request.



**Worship Service Sunday & POTLUCK, May 10: “Rethinking Purpose: A Conversation on Meaning Without Religion” with Cheri Salzberg.** Cheri led a discussion on living a purposeful life without religion, drawing on Dan Barker's idea that “life doesn't need purpose; purpose needs life.” The conversation explored how meaning can be created outside of belief, alongside Barker's journey from ordained minister to prominent secular activist.



Huge thanks to the Shikoskis, the Salzbergs, and Jim for helping make the Prairie Lakes Adopt-A-Highway cleanup a big success! 🍌🗑️ The crew put in the work and made a real difference. Here's the best part: there was LESS litter this year! 🎉 The grand total was “just” 4 bags collected. We're calling that a win for our roads, our community, and Mother Nature.



### **ENGAGE Sunday, May 17, A Walk through South Woods with Pat Dobrinska:**

It was a guided hike in South Woods led by Pat Dobrinska. We're very thankful to the individuals who joined the hike. The rain transformed the trails into a shimmering landscape, where every leaf and plant species glistened with droplets while the group identified 16 different plant species..



**Worship Service Sunday, May 24, 10AM “Children's Books & UU Values” with Linda DeCramer.** This presentation explored how children's books bring Unitarian Universalism values to life, highlighting themes of kindness, inclusion, justice, and respect. It offered examples and simple ways for caregivers and educators to use stories to nurture empathy and thoughtful conversations with children. She incorporated excerpts and ideas from literature across all age groups, recognizing that the soothing and cathartic power of books extends to readers of every stage of life.



**5th Sunday, May 31, Sunday Fluff 'N Buff Indoor/Outdoor cleanup day:** Spring is here and a crew of PLUUFers helped spruce up our fellowship grounds at our Outdoor Clean-Up Day and a BIG thank you to those of you who cleaned inside, too. Thank you to all! See photos on next page.

**Fluff 'N Buff: After the Sweat  
A Photo Celebration of Our Indoor & Outdoor Cleanup Day**

**WOW! What an Amazing Cleanup Crew!  
Thank You for Your Time, Energy, and Teamwork!**

