



# Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## August 2026 NEWSLETTER



### Summer Wishes!

As summer unfolds, our congregation is taking a well-deserved pause from our regular schedule of on-site programming. Whether your days are filled with travel, family, friends, quiet mornings, gardening, adventures, or simply a chance to slow down, we hope this season brings you moments of joy, renewal, and peace.

We hope you'll join us for one last guided hike on a **Green Lake Conservancy** property, led by **Pat Dobrinska**. This walk will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature, connect with one another, and experience the wonder that surrounds us while staying connected as a community during the summer months. Please see page 2 for the details.

And while we're enjoying these sunny days, exciting things are already taking shape for September!

A new fellowship year means new opportunities to connect, learn, serve, celebrate, and grow together. We're planning inspiring worship services, engaging ENGAGE programs, opportunities for fellowship, and fresh ways to put our Unitarian Universalist values into action. Whether you've been with us for years or are just finding your way, there will be a place for you.

### Wednesday, August 5 at 5:30pm: Important Fellowship Programming Planning Meeting



Whether you're interested in leading a Sunday **Worship Service**, facilitating an **ENGAGE Sunday**, or discovering other ways to assist on Sunday mornings, we'd love to have you join this meeting. Your ideas, talents, and enthusiasm help make our fellowship a welcoming and vibrant community for everyone. PLUUF Moderator Connie Ghinazzi will be leading this meeting and we'll be setting up the calendar of events for September through January and possibly beyond. .

We hope you can join us! If you are unable to attend but want to be involved, please contact Connie at [connieghinazzi@gmail.com](mailto:connieghinazzi@gmail.com)

Until then, may your summer be filled with laughter, rest, curiosity, and moments that nourish your spirit.



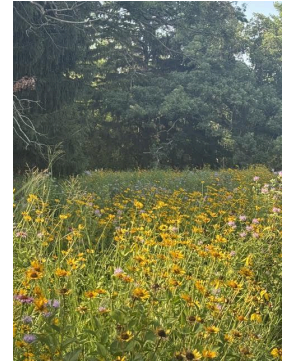
## August Off-Site Events!

### Walk the Tichora Conservancy Property With Pat Dobrinska

**When: Sunday, August 2, 9:00AM**

**Where: 2599 Oakwood Beach Road | Parking Lot at trail head**

Join Pat Dobrinska for a spectacular hike through towering forest and vibrant restored prairie, and with breathtaking panoramic views of Big Green Lake. Explore this remarkable property featuring 800 feet of pristine Big Green Lake frontage and 1,200 feet of Spring Lake shoreline, where diverse landscapes, abundant wildlife, and stunning scenery create an unforgettable outdoor experience. You won't want to miss this!



Please bring a water bottle and good walking shoes.

### Special Summer Event on August 14 thanks to the Generous Webster Foundation Grant!

#### Special Event for Inquisitive PLUUFers of All Ages!

Join us on **Friday, August 14**, for a hands-on exploration of the ecology of beautiful Green Lake with our favorite biologists, **Brad and Nicole Roost**.

From **9:00 a.m. to noon**, participants will be divided into two groups. One group will begin aboard the pontoon on Green Lake with Brad Roost while the other explores a nearby tributary stream with Nicole Roost. **At approximately 10:30 a.m., the groups will switch**, so everyone enjoys both experiences.

The pontoon will depart from **Daycholah Center** on W1010 Spring Grove Road, Ripon (on Big Green Lake). Because the boat is limited to **12 passengers**, please **RSVP to Connie by email [connieghinazzi@gmail.com](mailto:connieghinazzi@gmail.com) or phone 563-349-3805** if you plan to attend. Parents are welcome to join their children for the pontoon ride & tributary experience.

**This is a wonderful opportunity for PLUUFers of all ages, including children and grandchildren, to discover the fascinating ecology and unique features of Green Lake.**

Life jackets will be provided, but please bring a water bottle and maybe a snack.

**Reminder: Friday, August 7, 10AM: Coffee, Cookies & Conversation in downtown Ripon**  
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.

## 5th Annual Jean Johnson Memorial Kayak on Sunday, September 6

On Sunday, September 6, kayak or canoe from the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park in Green Lake and paddle the scenic perimeter of Spring Lake with other PLUUFers. When we are finished paddling, we'll all meet up at the landing to say a few words about Jean Johnson. Note: Please bring a water bottle and a snack to share.



### Here's the plan:

- Kayak/Canoers will meet at the Spring Lake landing at Spring Valley Park: W2290 Spring Lake Road, Markesan by 9:45. (You can Google Map it by typing in Spring Valley Park, Markesan, WI). Be sure to bring a life jacket.  
**Need a kayak?** Ask Tanya at [tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com)



Who is the late Jean Johnson? She was a co-founder of PLUUF who served as Program Planner, Moderator (twice), Board Member, and in many other leadership roles. She loved being on the water and, through a generous legacy gift after her passing, continued to support the fellowship she helped build. We are deeply grateful for her vision, service, and lasting impact on Prairie Lakes.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT IN July A Conservancy Hike With Pat Dobrinska



A little wildfire smoke in the air didn't keep this crew from hiking the Spaulding Hill Conservancy property on Sunday, July 19. Thank you to Pat Dobrinska for coordinating and leading this event for PLUUFers!

## What's happening on-site at PLUUF during our summer hiatus from Sunday on-site programming?

The raised garden beds have beautiful flowers, the PLUUF Peace Lilly is peacing out with multiple blooms, Becky's wild flower garden is thriving, plus our aging ramp/stairs/landing is being evaluated for a complete makeover beginning in September thanks to the team of Laird DeCramer and Dennis Galatowitsch.



## 2025/26 Fiscal Year Summary Report HOW DID WE DO? Good, thanks to YOU!

### Treasurer Report At-A-Glance

**Treasurer Report Balance as of June 30, 2026** *(The end of our fiscal year)*

10100 AST-BMO checking \$4,558.70  
 10111 Golden Rule Savings Vision \$29,027.11  
 10112 Golden Rule Checking for Debit Card \$925.35  
 10202 AST-UUA CEF Vision \$57,389.65 (CEF fiscal year increase \$6,796!)

**Total Assets \$91,900.81**

| Category                                                                          | Fiscal year<br>2024/25 | Fiscal year<br>2025/26 | 2025/26 Budget |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Member/FriendContributions                                                        | \$21,684.              | <b>\$19,887.</b>       | \$25,000       |
| Total Income (includes UUA CEF, fund<br>raisers, grant, and miscellaneous income) | \$31,967.              | <b>\$32,235.79</b>     | \$31,875.      |
| Expenses                                                                          | \$29,284.              | <b>\$28,349.</b>       | \$31,875       |

**In summary: The 2025/26 fiscal year was a strong financial year because of your generous donations, a successful \$4,000 fundraiser, the \$1,500 Webster Grant, the \$6,796 Common Endowment Fund increase (and working hard to keep our expenses lower than budgeted.**

**THANK YOU!!**

If you would like a complete copy of the minutes or treasurer reports, contact  
[tanyapapermaker@gmail.com](mailto:tanyapapermaker@gmail.com) or [pluufripon@gmail.com](mailto:pluufripon@gmail.com)