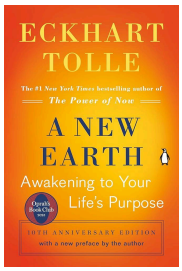
Prairie Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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November 2026 NEWSLETTER



ENGAGE Sunday, November 1, 10:00: "Journey From Ego To Consciousness" with Diane Rutsch. Eckhart Tolle's book, A New Earth, addresses that human suffering and societal dysfunction stem from being trapped in our ego which is built on thoughts, emotions, social roles, and past memories. Our transformation into consciousness awakens us to our essence, that which goes beyond thoughts and emotions. Please join us for this presentation and what's sure to be a fascinating discussion!



Special Sunday, November 8, 10:00 AM with Robyn Davis-Bartow: Meditation Session Part 2: Putting It Into Practice followed by a potluck. Building on our exploration of meditation, it's time to put it into practice! This special Sunday service will feature short meditation periods interspersed with instruction on different techniques, followed by time for questions, observations, and discussion. Join us for a special Sunday service that offers a different experience from our usual worship format.

You don't need to have attended our October 25 meditation gathering to participate, everyone is welcome! **Comfortable clothing is encouraged.**

After the service, join us for our usual fellowship over a potluck meal. Bring a dish to share!



ENGAGE Sunday, November 15, 10:00 AM "Celebrate and Live the Real You" With Sherman Leatherberry. This talk will be based on the book *Dying to Be Me*, by Anita Moorjani. The talk will be dealing with multicultural expressions in life, a near death experience, and learning to live life in consciousness, the universal life energy of which we are all a part of.



Worship Service Sunday, November 22, 10:00 AM "Finding Gratitude in Challenging Times" with Becky Feyen. Gratitude can feel elusive & inauthentic when obviously, there is so much wrong in our world. Often being grateful can feel like a luxury due to the advantages we have, or comes across as we are masking the ills of the world. Actually, it is the difficult times that require our gratitude to build resilience, connection & overall wellbeing. This Sunday we will revisit the importance of gratitude to help us navigate our challenges, & share techniques to cultivate a grateful mindset.



5th Sunday, November 29, 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 such as dusting, organizing, sweeping, and sprucing up. Weather permitting, we may even get outside for a project or two! Come lend a hand, enjoy good fellowship, and help make our fellowship shine!

There's a Place for You Here 💛

What does it mean to find your people?

It's having a place where you can ask questions, explore life's big mysteries, share your joys and sorrows, and work together to make the world a little kinder.



That's what makes our UU Fellowship special. Each Sunday, we have the opportunity to connect, learn from one another, reflect on what matters most, and find meaning in being part of a caring community.

Whether you join us every Sunday, come when you can, haven't been with us in a while, or are still finding your place in our Fellowship, **you belong here.** Your presence, your perspective, and your story are part of what makes our community who we are.

We hope you'll join us again soon to reconnect, share in the warmth of our community, and continue building the connections that make our Fellowship feel like home.

There's a place for you here, and we're glad you're part of our Fellowship.



Dave & Judy Harris
& Jim Goyette

Still Connected, Always Our Fellowship Family by Tanya

It was a joy to visit longtime Fellowship members Dave & Judy Harris at their retirement community at Touchmark in Appleton! Although they moved away four years ago, they remain a cherished part of our Prairie Lakes family. We enjoyed spending time together, sharing smiles, and letting them know that we miss their presence at PLUUF and are thought of with affection. Even when life takes us in different directions, the bonds we share in our Fellowship continue to connect us. ❤️

WISH LIST

A BIG thank you to **Spud Hannaford** who donated items off the October Wish List! **We have a unique request on our November wish list: 🌱 Help Our Community Grow**
A thriving Fellowship begins with connection. **This month, our wish is simple: invite someone new to experience a Sunday service with you.** A friend, a neighbor, or someone exploring life's big questions might find just what they've been looking for here.

Landing/Stairs/Ramp Update

Laird DeCramer and **Dennis Galatowitsch** have been working hard on replacing our deck, landing, and ramp, but have encountered a slight delay while awaiting state approval. In the meantime, they continue to make progress by preparing the building for the upcoming work.

A big thank-you to **Jim Goyette** for helping with debris removal, and special thanks to **Randy Roeper** for generously providing his truck and trailer to transport the debris to the Berlin landfill. We truly appreciate everyone's hard work, generosity, and continued dedication to this project!

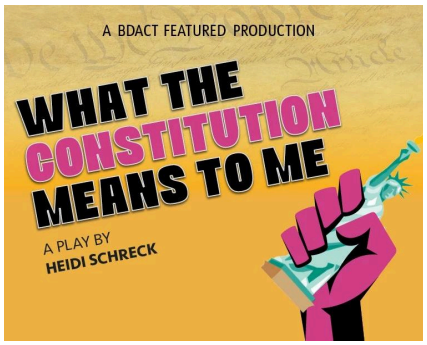


Jim Goyette & Tanya loaded up the trailer and delivered the debris to the Berlin landfill

Linda DeCramer to Star in the Beaver Dam Community Players Theater

WHEN: November 6-15 (Linda is in cast B on 11/7, 11/13 & 11/15)
WHERE: 117 W. Maple Ave | Beaver Dam, WI 53916
Ticket Cost: Adult $18 Student $10
Order tickets on-line: bdact.org or call (920) 885-6891





About The Show

Heidi Schreck needed money for college. To raise funds for tuition she became a Constitutional debater, tackling complex issues and critically examining the Constitution's impact on women, specifically the four generations of women in her own family. She connected it to themes of domestic violence, immigration, and civil rights. The script explores how this foundational document both fails and protects individuals, ultimately questioning how it can evolve for future generations.

Note: This show contains topics that may be uncomfortable with some viewers including sex trafficking, rape, sexual assault, mental health disorders, and abortion.

What's Happening on Worship & ENGAGE Sundays?

There's a lot happening behind the scenes! Our Worship Service & ENGAGE Sunday programming team has been busy planning meaningful services, exciting events, and opportunities for our community to gather, connect, and grow. Keep an eye on your inbox! Detailed information about each upcoming service and event will be shared by email as the dates get closer, including what to expect and how you can participate. We're looking forward to all that's ahead and we hope you'll join us!

Nov.-Dec. Calendar of Services & Events At-a-Glance

SERVICE	DATE	TITLE	LEADER(S)
ENGAGE	11/1/26	*Journey from Ego to Consciousness*	Diane Rutsch
Worship	11/8/26	Meditation Part 2	Robyn Davis Bartow
ENGAGE	11/15/26	*Celebrate and Live the Real You*	Sherman Leatherberry
Worship	11/22/26	*Finding Gratitude in Challenging Times*	Becky Feyen
5th Sunday	11/29/26	Fluff 'N Buff Cleanup Day	Everyone who would like to participate
ENGAGE	12/6/26	Political Science topic	Henrik Schatzinger
Worship	12/13/26	Festivals of Light: *Let the Music Tell the Story*	Jill & Tanya
ENGAGE	12/20/26	TBA	TBA
Worship	12/27/26	Labyrinth	Robyn

Caring for the Earth: A UU Commitment in Action 🌎

At the 2026 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly, delegates affirmed an *Action of Immediate Witness* titled “Defend Against the Assault on Environmental Protections: Public Lands Rules and the Endangerment Finding.” This action calls on UUs and their congregations to learn about changes affecting public lands and environmental protections, understand their impact on people and the natural world, and work with others to protect the Earth. The action was affirmed by an overwhelming majority of delegates voting on the measure.

Why does this matter to Unitarian Universalists?

Our faith calls us to recognize the interdependence of all existence. The Earth is not simply a resource for human use; it is the home we share with countless other living beings. Clean air and water, healthy forests, thriving wildlife, and protected natural places sustain our communities and future generations.

Environmental concerns are also matters of justice. When ecosystems are damaged or pollution increases, the effects can fall especially heavily on Indigenous communities, low-income families, and people who already face barriers to good health and a safe environment. Caring for the Earth means caring for one another, including those whose voices may not always be heard.

Caring for the Earth Starts Close to Home

How can we put our UU values of interdependence and environmental stewardship into practice right here in our community? We don't have to look far. The **Green Lake Association** works to protect local water quality, the **Green Lake Conservancy** preserves important natural areas, and the **Green Lake Bird and Nature Club** helps people learn about the wildlife around us. Near Ripon, **Ceresco Prairie Conservancy** offers an opportunity to appreciate and learn about native habitats, the **South Woods Park Association** works to preserve and maintain Ripon’s South Woods natural area, protecting its woodlands and trails for wildlife, nature study, and outdoor recreation.

These organizations remind us that caring for the Earth can take many forms, from volunteering and supporting conservation to simply spending time in nature and learning how to protect it.

The General Assembly's action reminds us that our faith is not only about what we believe, but how we live those beliefs. Each of us has a part to play in caring for the interconnected web of life.

A question for reflection: What is one place in nature that has given you peace, wonder, or a sense of belonging—and what can we do to help protect such places for generations to come?

Consider exploring one of these local organizations. Supporting the natural world in our own backyard is one meaningful way to live our UU values.

- Green Lake Association
- Green Lake Conservancy
- Green Lake Bird and Nature Club
- Ceresco Prairie Conservancy
- Green Lake Farmers Coalition
- South Woods Park Association

Santa Club Donations!

For the 3rd year in a row Prairie Lakes is supporting the Ripon Santa Club by collecting everyday essentials through 12/13 that **SNAP benefits don't cover but families use every single day.** If you're able, please consider bringing an item to support our neighbors. A donation box is available in the entryway at PLUUF. You can also make monetary gifts (see box to the right).

Most-needed items include:

- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Body wash or bar soap
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Napkins

Donation box available in the PLUUF entryway.



At the Gratitude service on November 22 led by Becky Feyen, you will have an opportunity to make a monetary gift to the Santa Club during the Collection of the Offering.

Special thanks to PLUUF member Beth Howman-Combs for bringing this opportunity to Prairie Lakes. She's been involved with the Santa Club of Ripon for many years.



If You Would Like to Make A Special Holiday Donation to PLUUF, We Have Made It Easy

You can use your credit card by donating via PayPal on the Prairie Lakes website https://pluuf.org

Another Opportunity to Give - Brighten Someone's Thanksgiving

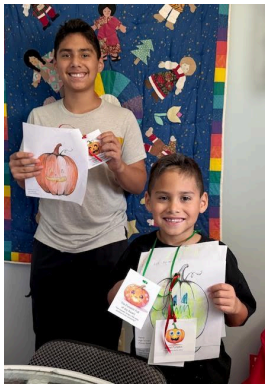
My name is Lindsey DeVries and I am the new Executive Director of the Traded Treasures Thrift Store and Community Food Pantry. I'm sure you are familiar with the organization and that over the holidays, our food pantry puts together Holiday Meal Bags for families in need to distribute through our Food Pantry. We are hoping to distribute at least 200 Thanksgiving Holiday Meals bags throughout November and need help reaching our goal.

As the holiday season approaches, many families will struggle to celebrate the way they deserve. Here at the Ripon Community Food Pantry, we are on a mission to give a Thanksgiving meal bag to **over 250 families** in November, and you can be a part of it by donating any of the following items:

Instant mashed potatoes
Gravy packets or canned
Stuffing mix
Canned sweet potatoes
Cranberry sauce
Dinner roll

TRADED TREASURES
& Community Food Pantry

If you're interested in supporting their efforts, items or monetary donations for these holiday meals can be made directly to Traded Treasurers or dropped off at PLUUF.



October Religious Exploration (RE)

Tanya created and led a lesson called ***Halloween & Día de los Muertos: Remembering and Celebrating*** on 10/11. The kids learned that these traditions can look very different, but both can involve remembering, storytelling, imagination, and community. The lesson concluded with a nod to Halloween: A Pumpkin Coloring sheet contest with awards. The Pumpkin Perfection in Details Award went to Emmy; Isaiah won the Interconnected Pumpkin Patch Award, the Silliest Pumpkin Award, AND the Pumpkin Full of Joy Award! The Pumpkin Rainbow Award went to Becky😄🌈. On 10/25 Emmy Luna made his teaching debut with a lesson plan on Courage.

Thank You To Our October Service Leaders!



ENGAGE Sunday, October 4: "Gather, Share, & Listen - A Fireside Chat" with the Committee for ENGAGED Sundays The Committee for ENGAGE Sundays created space for an informal time of sharing and conversation. The group who attended brought ideas and questions.Thank you to Sherman Leatherberry and Pat Dobrinska leading this discussion.



Worship Service Sunday, October 11, Plus Potluck. "People We Should Emulate" with Jill Stiemsma Can we save our democracy and keep moving toward social justice and equality? Look around PLUUF and across our community, state, and country, and you'll find people working every day to do just that. The October 11 service recognized activists, famous and not-so-famous, including ourselves who are standing up, speaking out, and working for a better future. **Attendees recognized the work already underway, and considered what we can do together.**



ENGAGE Sunday, October 18: "Beyond the Single Story" with Kathryn Severson Kathryn led a thought-provoking session on how our own biases and assumptions shape the way we see people from different cultures and with different beliefs. Attendees watched Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's powerful TED Talk, *The Danger of a Single Story*, followed by guided reflection and discussion about stereotypes, open-mindedness, and recognizing our own blind spots. With a polarized political climate leading up to the election, this was an opportunity to pause, center ourselves, and consider how we can approach one another with greater curiosity, empathy, and intention.



Worship Service Sunday, October 25, with Robyn Davis-Bartow: Meditation Part 1 Why Bother? By now we all know that meditation is good for us. But so is eating raw kale and taking cold showers. Attendees discovered what meditating means, different approaches and techniques, and about the myriad real life benefits that meditation brings to a flourishing spiritual life. Cold showers are up to you. **"Meditation Part 2 Experience" will take place on November 8th.**