

The Grapevine Newsletter



April 2014

Published by **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church** Albion, NY

Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

Minister: Lee Richards, 585-454-9450, pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com

Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

What's the BIG idea? Our Chautauqua Sunday series this spring on the the third Sunday of each month means that April's presentation falls on Easter. So what BIG idea is to be found for a religious holiday that has been celebrated for centuries? Well, I'll give you a couple of clues. The date falls very close to Earth Day, and toads and frogs figure in the mix. That's all I'll disclose for now. Come to the service on April 20th for the full story.

I'll actually be in the pulpit for three consecutive Sundays in April. Aside from Easter's BIG idea, I'll address how different religions perceive Jesus, and consider some of the advantages of smallness. I think you'll come, and leave inspired.

"Come as you are, leave inspired" was an idea put forth in my recent sermon on March 23rd when I answered the question "Why, or what, or who, do we *worship*?" If you missed this particular oration then I'd encourage you to access one of the many sources for catching it - printed copies are in the literature rack of the social hall vestibule, and text and MP3 podcast versions are available at our website online. I think it is helpful to understand "why we do church" so that one can get the most out of the experience.

Enough about me! Let me conclude by saying just how amazing I think you all are! A lot of work went into our "Pullman Pourings" fundraiser and it showed. The event was a big success on many fronts - the vendors were happy, the attendees were happy, we got some great publicity and good "buzz" in the community for putting on such a high class social event, a number of people who had never been in our church before had a chance to see what we have to offer, and we even made money on top of it. A BIG hearty thank you to all of you who worked hard to create this success!

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

Mar. 30	Julia Hickman-Himes	"Morality in a Pluralistic Society"
April 6	Rev. Don Reidell	
April 13	Lee Richards	"Christologies"
April 20	Lee Richards	Easter Service "Earth Miracles" (with communion)
April 27	Lee Richards	"When small is BIG"
May 4	Susan Daiss	Annual Congregational Meeting after service.

~ Childcare available during service times ~

Sunday, Mar. 30 – “How do we practice morality in a pluralistic society?” worship service @ 11 am with Julia Hickman-Himes, M.Div. Julia received a Bachelors of Arts in Religion and Biblical Studies from Smith College in 2003 and her Masters of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in 2007. She lives in Rochester and currently works for Heritage Christian Services providing in-home support for individuals with developmental delays.

Sunday, Mar. 30 – Newbery Book Discussion @ 12:30 pm. ”Holes” by Louis Sachar.

Sunday, Apr. 6 - worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Reidell.

Monday, Apr. 7 - Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation. Dish-to-pass.

Thursday, Apr. 10 - Intro to Unitarian Universalism @ 6:30 pm. A beginner’s class to help increase one’s understanding and comprehension of our faith in general, and of membership at Pullman Memorial in particular. Led by Darrell Dyke, with assistance from Lee Richards. Pizza and drinks provided – please sign up by replying to pmuc.albion@gmail.com.

Sunday, Apr. 13 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Apr. 13 – “Christologies” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. A comparison of some of the many ways Jesus is portrayed across religions, and what a Unitarian Universalist Christology looks like.

Sunday, Apr. 20 - Easter Service – “Earth Miracles” @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Can we resurrect the earth? WWJD? Exploring the intersection between Earth Day and Easter. Worship service includes communion.

Monday, Apr. 21 - Bereavement Support Group @ 7:30 pm. Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Join Pastor Lee on the 3rd Monday of each month for assistance in working through feelings of loss in an atmosphere of safe sharing with others on the same journey.

Friday, Apr. 25 - deadline for submissions to the April newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Saturday, Apr. 26 – Stained Glass Window Tour @ noon. Starts at Pullman. Tour guide Bill Lattin. \$5 suggested donation (and totally worth it!!) Light refreshments after at the Hoag Library.

Sunday, Apr. 27 – “When small is BIG” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Does size matter? Consider the mom&pop shop vs. Walmart, kayak vs. ocean liner, small church vs. megachurch. We’ll look at how being smaller can often be a BIG advantage.

Sunday, Apr. 27 – Book Discussion Group meets at 12:30 pm. “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle

Sunday, May 4 - worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

Sunday, May 4 – Annual Congregational Meeting @ noon. Lunch provided.

JOYS & SORROWS

Jim Knight - was a guest on the AM radio program 'Grapevine' for about 18 minutes promoting our Pullman Pourings Wine Tasting event! He is a follower of that program and it was pretty exciting!

Debby Rodrigues - went to the Country Club in Medina to sell an ad for our Wine Tasting event and they were more than receptive...this is a very nice place to go.

Dennis Seekins - pointed out a good program that was aired in early March on PBS. Bill Moyers interviewed the author and legal scholar Ian Haney López about dog whistle politics – code words that use race to turn Americans against each other. Politicians manipulate deep prejudice to rouse hostility against minorities and the government, according to Haney López, and summon support for policies that make economic inequality even worse. If you happened to miss this program, you can probably find it by browsing the internet. He also pointed out that the Southern Poverty Law Center has worked on profiling hate groups across America. It turns out that the KKK has smaller numbers than other hate groups. Hate groups currently design sophisticated websites and make efforts to look credible. Since President Obama was elected, the number of hate groups has increased exponentially. It is clear that racism is alive and well, sadly.

Diana Dudley - went to see the movie 'My 12 Years as a Slave' and she does not recommend it. She said it has all the bad that was in 'Roots' and none of the good. And Diana just can't understand how man can be so cruel to others.

Chris Loss - reported that her husband, Ernie, injured his leg recently and is out of work for awhile. He will return to the doctor soon to see if surgery will be necessary.

Pastor Lee - is glad that this congregation created joy by sending care packages to our college students. They are under a lot of pressure to do well in school and sometimes get lonely being away from home and these gifts certainly helped to lift their spirits. Thanks to Julie Andrews for the suggestion.

Chris Loss - was listening to the radio on the way to church and happened to hear a story that was told by Jen Senko, a filmmaker who watched the transformation of her father as he slowly came to believe the extreme right-wing propaganda he listened to on the radio. Senko is now making a documentary about it called "The Brainwashing Of My Dad." Said Senko, "I was inspired to make this film after watching my father – a non-political Democrat – turn into a right-wing fanatic after a change in his car commute exposed him to reactionary shows on talk radio. The changes in his behavior drove me to research the changes in the media over the last 30 years – and the effect of those changes on the country was indisputable. As the media have been co-opted more and more by special interests, documentarians have become the new journalists. My hope is that after seeing my film, people will question what the media tells them, and will insist on laws that would hold them accountable." As a filmmaker, Jen Senko, tries to understand the transformation of her father, she uncovers the forces behind the media that changed him completely: a plan by Roger Ailes under Nixon for a media by the GOP, The Powell Memo and the dismantling of the Fairness Doctrine, all of which would ultimately misinform millions, divide families and even the country itself. If you get a chance please catch this documentary when it comes out!

Jim Knight - said he and Betty are relieved that the wine tasting event is over and glad that it went over so well!!

Liz Schaal - is sad that her friend, Ken, passed away recently. She had known him for over 20 years and said he was a lot of fun to be around. His end was relatively peaceful..he didn't suffer.

Diana Dudley - has traveled to California to care for her daughter, Holly, who was diagnosed with cancer. Holly has been living out there near her brother and has been taking in the sunshine while she follows a health regime with the hopes of improving. We certainly miss Diana and send her and Holly our love!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Jim, Betty, and Sarah Knight, C. W. Lattin, and Pastor Lee Richards and Louise Wu Richards - who worked so hard on the Pullman Pourings Wine Tasting event on March 15th! It was a great success and everyone reported that they had a great time. And comments were heard by those who attended that we should have this again next year! The church was buzzing with people and activity! It was a high class production from the exceptional poster to the lovely wine glasses! And thanks also to Gay and Craig Smith, Andrea Rebeck, Chris Loss, Debby Rodrigues, Julie and John Andrews, Rich Della Costa, Sarah and Jenn Diemer, Monica Beck, Patti and Matt Adema, for all of their help in this endeavor! C.W. Lattin sold some items and gave part of the profits to the church! And thanks, also, to our vendors who brought wonderful food, wine, cheese, and produce to this event. Tyler Smith and his group Boo, Rich Della Costa, and Bonnie

Beiswenger - who provided music for the wine tasting event!! Great job!!

Darrell Dyke - who continues to facilitate the UU classes!

Chris Loss - is serving as Treasurer Pro-Temp for a month while Andrea is unavailable.

Gay Smith and Louise Richards - are working on a Chalice Lighter's grant proposal.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did.

[Mark Twain](#)

Come Early, Stay Late

Having a quick bagel and coffee ready to grab on a Sunday morning can sometimes make the difference in deciding to roll out of bed and show up at church. So come a few minutes early, get a bite, and then stay after the service for our usual social hour. We'd love to see you at church!

Newbery Book Discussions

Our book group meets on the last Sunday of each month and we're reading the same titles for each discussion. The focus this spring is on Newbery award winning books. Books written for children and youth sometimes yield amazing truths that are missing from adult publications. The selection for April is "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle, on April 27th at 12:30 pm.

Bereavement Support Group

Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Pastor Lee offers an opportunity for people who have experienced a loss to come together in a safe environment on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Stories encouraged, and feelings lovingly accepted. Tears okay, and tissues provided. Loving support offered for, and by, others on the same journey to wholeness.

New to UU Class

Are you still wondering what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist - what we believe, what we do, where we came from, how to explain yourself to others? Here's your chance to learn more about UUism in general, and about Pullman Memorial in particular. Darrell Dyke has agreed to lead a class, with the third session scheduled for Apr. 10th at 6:30 pm. The focus for the evening will be Unitarian history. Pizza and drinks provided - please sign up in advance to help determine how much food to order. Sign up by replying to pmuc.albion@gmail.com.

Winetasting @ Pullman a Success!

Over 100 people came out on a Saturday night in March to “Pull a cork for Pullman” and a good time was had by all. Food and wine samples were in abundance, and the music was non-stop throughout the evening. Smiles were everywhere, and the buzz coming back from the community is that this was a great event.

Many thanks to all the vendors, musicians, and volunteers who made the evening such a success!

Stained Glass Window Tour

Saturday, April 26th is your second chance opportunity to be enlightened by county historian Bill Lattin on the variety of pictorial glass in Albion’s courthouse square churches. Learn about the different ways stained glass is made, and learn the significance of the many religious depictions in this one-hour walking tour. \$5 suggested donation, and worth every penny! Light refreshments available afterwards at the Hoag Library. Tour starts at Pullman Memorial at noon. Bonus: Albion’s merchants will hold a sidewalk sale (weather permitting) from 10-4 that day, so you have many reasons to visit the county seat.

METAL Recycling Drive

Have any scrap metal lying around the house? Save any clean, washed metal but please separate aluminum from the rest. Bring to the church and leave in the library room. Proceeds going to the church. **SPECIAL INCENTIVE!** Debby Rodriguez has offered to match the amount received from the recycling center every month that the total is \$10 or higher - AND THIS HAPPENED IN MARCH!

Pullman Pastor’s Blog

by Lee Richards

“Topics to talk about” during the past few weeks included health and chronic pain, being classified as not a UU, reacting to protest signs, the length of a good sermon, and Pullman Memorial being a home for the God-less and God-loving but not the God-fearing.

The Minister’s Musings column appears on the first page of the monthly newsletter. In between, I invite you to check out my explorations and ramblings on the weblog. And please, if you feel so moved, leave your own ideas in the comments section after an article. The direct url for the blog is pullmanpastor.blogspot.com, or you can get there by a link on our main church website at pullmanmemorial.org

SPECIAL >>>> No access to the internet but want to read my weekly musings? Subscribe to receive a paper copy by postal mail once a month. Send your name and address to: Lee Richards, 31 Ravenwood Ave, Rochester, NY 14619. This service is offered free of charge as a means for staying connected and promoting Unitarian Universalist thought.

Sermons

Missed a sermon, or want to partake of one again? You can find many sermons by Pastor Lee available on our website, in either text or MP3 format (<http://pullmanmemorial.org/sermons/>). There are also a number of sermons by other ministers, including some older ones by the Reverends Lewis H. Robinson and H. Kelsey Bicknell. **NEW:** a selection of sermons from Lee's current series on the psyche are now being made available in print format - look for them in the literature rack of the social hall's vestibule.

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

Our website pullmanmemorialdonations.com offers several choices for making financial contributions to our mission. Drop-down menus provide a variety of monthly and weekly automatic options. Alternatively, you can make one-time donations in any amount, learn where to send a check, or inquire about planned giving. All major credit cards are accepted, or you can fund your contribution with a bank transfer or a PayPal account.

Of course, cash and checks still work OK, too. The offering plate will continue to circulate during a Sunday service to provide an opportunity for "instant wallet withdrawals." But if you prefer to plan ahead and pay online then please check out our donations webpage.

Childcare Available During Services

Kasandra Connor is now available to provide childcare for Sunday morning services. Kasandra is finishing a program in education at Genesee Community College.

Eye on the Board

Jim Knight was appointed to the nominating committee, and he also agreed to serve on the pulpit committee. Chris Loss will serve as treasurer until mid-April. Rich Della Costa has been working on editing the video of Bill Lattin's storytelling event prior to making it available online. The board granted Louise Wu Richards the authorization to perform rites of passage.

Bill Lattin proposed changing the format of how annual reports are generated and presented, bringing them more inline with the standard presentations used by other organizations. The finance committee has been looking at moving our remaining individual stock holdings into mutual funds but is not yet ready to make a recommendation. Discussion of air conditioning was tabled pending the need for more information.

The church rec'd a recognition certificate from the UUA for paying our full fair share of denominational dues which led to a brief discussion about membership reporting. Following upon the site visit by architect Randy Crawford, it became apparent we would not be using the loan we rec'd from NYSCU as intended. Motion made and approved to return the funds rather than continue the original repayment schedule.

Correction to last month's report - Pastor Lee suggested the church join AMA - the Albion Merchants Association - and the board approved. Complete minutes available upon request.

Pastoral Care

You are encouraged to call Pastor Lee and share what's going on, or pull him aside during coffee hour. Lee wants to know about the difficulties people are facing. Sometimes just talking about your troubles with a minister will help with finding a solution. Lee can be reached at 585-454-9450, or on his cell at 585-729-8167, or at his a toll-free number: 877-265-1709. Lee is also available for home and hospital visits.