

# The Grapevine Newsletter



April 2015 **REVISED**

Published by **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church** Albion, NY  
Member of *The Unitarian Universalist Association*

Visit our Website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org) or check out [facebook.com/pullmanmemorial](https://facebook.com/pullmanmemorial)

## Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

Good Grief, Charlie Brown! It's been a difficult season just ending. One of our members had her house catch fire. Two others were hospitalized with illnesses, and several others caught "bugs" that put them down for awhile. One had eye surgery. Several have aging parents that require increased attention, and one went into comfort care. The son of one member died unexpectedly, and three former members passed away.

Stress and distress aplenty, and yet I am astonished by the resilience of the human spirit. In spite of the dark and cold of winter and the external botheration that came their way, I found our members able to maintain warm hearts and bright attitudes. It may be true that "hope springs eternal" because no one surrendered, no one gave up; you all took whatever lemons came your way and made lemonade.

This speaks well to the positive spirit of our Unitarian Universalist faith, and to this particular community of faith, as well. In the most difficult of times we still believe there will be a better tomorrow. We believe there will be a new season when the world is renewed, buds blossom, birds build nests, and the stronger sunlight lures us outdoors.

We have met the winter and survived, and now we greet the spring with delight and expectation. So let me close with an Irish blessing for you: "May you escape the gallows, avoid distress, and be as healthy as a trout."

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - April 26 @ 12:15 pm

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### Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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March 29	Marcia Buckley	"Palliating Pain"
April 12	Lee Richards	"The Faces of Jesus" + Communion
April 12	Lee Richards	"It's a situation"
April 19	Alona Kuhns	"The Future in Your Hands"
April 26	Lee Richards	"Anniversaries" + Congregational Meeting after service.

~ Childcare available during service times ~

### Pastoral Care

You are encouraged to contact Pastor Lee when experiencing difficulties. 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.

## Calendar stuff...

Sunday, March 29 – “Palliating Pain” worship service @ 11 am with Marcia Buckley MS, NP, AHPCN. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. It focuses on providing patients with relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness. Marcia is Sr. Nurse Practitioner for the Palliative Care Service of Strong Hospital in Rochester and she will share how pain can be managed and should not be feared. Includes time for Q&A discussion.

Sunday, March 29 - Building & Grounds committee meets @ 12:15 pm.

Sunday, April 5 – “The Faces of Jesus” + Communion, worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Joseph Campbell called him the hero with a thousand faces. We’ll explore how Jesus has been depicted over the millennia, and partake of our traditional Easter communion.

Monday, April 6 – Fundraising event committee meeting @ 5 pm.

Monday, April 6 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Dish-to-pass food and fun conversation. Open invite to all.

Sunday, April 12 – “It’s a situation” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. In big business, government, or the military they say “It’s a situation” rather than saying “We have a problem.” We’ll explore how the way one perceives trouble can affect their response.

Sunday, April 12 – Building & Grounds committee meets @ 12:15 pm.

Sunday, April 19 – “The Future in Your Hands” (Chautauqua Sunday) worship service @ 11 am with Alona Kuhns. Even ordinary people can often get a clue into a person’s lifestyle by looking at a person’s hands (are they rough/smooth, clean/dirty?), but some extraordinary people – palmists – can see much more. What might your hands reveal about your future?

Wednesday, April 22 – RESTORE will show “Brave Miss World” @ 7 pm in our sanctuary. The film is a documentary about the story of Linor Abargil, Miss World 1998. Linor was raped just six weeks before winning Miss World. You’ll see her struggles, her healing process, and her efforts to help others heal. A discussion follows the showing.

Saturday, April 25 – deadline for submissions to the April newsletter. Send to: [pmuc.albion@gmail.com](mailto:pmuc.albion@gmail.com)

Sunday, April 26 – “Anniversaries” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. 2015 is 120 years since the dedication of our church building. It also marks 20 years that Susan Daiss has been sharing her thoughts with our congregation. Whether we speak of personal or communal anniversaries, it is good to pause and reflect when the calendar reminds us of a significant date and the passage of time.

Sunday, April 26 – **Annual Congregational Meeting @ 12:15 pm** (pizza lunch starting at noon). Annual reports, elections, awards, and more.

## 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!

## **GATHERING of Hearts & Minds on Hiatus**

Our “Ministry of Ideas” program of Wednesday evenings is taking a break. I encourage you to use the extra time and longer sunlight hours to benefit your spirit in other ways – gardening, reading, strolling – whatever works for you for getting the most out of life. - Pastor Lee

## **Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges**

Our website [pullmanmemorialdonations.com](http://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. If you have a smartphone then check out our electronic “virtual offering plate.” Look for the QR code on the back of Sunday programs and do a quick scan. You’ll be whisked to a special donation page where you can easily make a donation online.

## **DOWN THE STAIRS RECYCLING**

Return-for-deposit bottles and cans, plus assorted metals, help generate additional funds for the church. Bins for these items are at the foot of the stairs between the kitchen and dining hall doors. Clean, washed metal objects may be mixed, but please separate aluminum from the rest.

### **Pullman Pourings 2 is a wrap!**

The place to be on Saturday night, March 21st, was definitely at PMUC. Our second wine tasting event was another superlative for reaching the public, generating goodwill toward our repair efforts, and raising money for the same, too (final tally won’t be in for a couple weeks). There were lots of smiling faces throughout the building, and reporter Tom Rivers gave us a lots of photos on the OrleansHub.com. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to this effort!

## **Eye on the Board**

The board set the date of the annual congregational meeting as April 26. One item added to the agenda is seeking approval to capture some funds from our investments to cover anticipated repair costs for this current year.

No official treasurer’s report due to illness. Gay Smith attended the GoArt grant awards ceremony on behalf of C.W. Lattin. The Building & Grounds committee mailed out an informational letter to all members which included a postcard for returning comments and suggestions.

Pastor Lee conducted the memorial service for Scott Hoffman on Feb. 21, and gave a homily about UU symbolism in the “Spirit of Life” hymn at the March 11th Lenten Luncheon (approx. 60 people in attendance). He also made several hospital and nursing home visits.

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Noted: Former member Laurretta Young died on March 13th..

The Southhold UU church (Long Island) was completely destroyed by fire the morning of March 15th.

## **Dharma**

by [Billy Collins](#)

The way the dog trots out the front door  
every morning  
without a hat or an umbrella,  
without any money  
or the keys to her dog house  
never fails to fill the saucer of my heart  
with milky admiration.

Who provides a finer example  
of a life without encumbrance—  
Thoreau in his curtainless hut  
with a single plate, a single spoon?  
Ghandi with his staff and his holy diapers?

Off she goes into the material world  
with nothing but her brown coat  
and her modest blue collar,  
following only her wet nose,  
the twin portals of her steady breathing,  
followed only by the plume of her tail.

If only she did not shove the cat aside  
every morning  
and eat all his food  
what a model of self-containment she would be,  
what a paragon of earthly detachment.  
If only she were not so eager  
for a rub behind the ears,  
so acrobatic in her welcomes,  
if only I were not her god.

"Dharma" by Billy Collins, from *Sailing Alone Around the Room*. © Random House, 2002

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