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Member of The Unitarian Universalist Association

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Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings by Lee Richards

In the Good Old Summertime. It was a radical idea - to have church services in the summer. Yet, even as I continue to work out the kinks in our different format, I see now exactly why it was so important to do it.

Foremost is the fact that our spiritual needs don't evaporate when the season heats up. One of those needs is for community and connection. Checking in with your PMUC "family" on a regular basis offers a renewal that just can't be matched in any other way. This is especially true for sharing joys and sorrows. One the very best things we do is support those who are struggling, and I'm very glad we offer the venue of J&S's each week so we know who has need.

I hope that those who are attending Sundays find it of interest. My goal of presenting a look at our church's history through the eyes of its ministers has offered up some interesting ways of defining Universalism. Royal Pullman said universalism was originally negative - as in "no hell" - but became positive, as in "God is Love." Charles Fluhrer talked of universal brotherhood, and the law of love as the supreme rule for human conduct. Arthur Grose described moving toward an ultimate destiny of universal righteousness. And on July 29th we'll hear Charles Vail speak of a "universal savior" to unite all religions.

Our summer sermon series offers a relaxed venue - easy chairs, bagels and coffee, children, conversation, a chance to learn a little something, air conditioning to take the edge off of the heat and humidity, and most importantly - an opportunity to be together once a week. Come join us!

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Aug. 5	Pastor Lee Richards	"The Unity of Life"	Picnic after service
Aug. 12	Pastor Lee Richards	"The Minister's Great Expectations"	Enjoy coffee and bagels before, during & after our informal Summer Services.
Aug. 19	Pastor Lee Richards	"Religion's Great Failure"	
Aug. 26	Pastor Lee Richards	Final in Summer Sermon Series.	
Sept. 2	Pastor Lee Richards	"Sundae Sunday"	

Sunday, Aug. 5 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with “**The Unity of Life**” - the words of Rev. Lewis H. Robinson, 1921-1941.

Sunday, Aug. 5 – **Mid-summer picnic** @ noon (following service). Open invitation - potluck picnic at Bullard Park, East Avenue (Rte. 31), Albion, NY. Church providing meat, condiments and tableware. Please bring a dish to pass, and games if you'd like (balls, horseshoes, frisbees, etc.). No dogs or alcohol allowed per park rules.

Saturday, Aug. 11 – Building reserved for a wedding

Sunday, Aug. 12 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am

Sunday, Aug. 12 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with a look at “**The Minister’s Great Expectations**” – a sermon by Rev. Donald W. Lawson, 1946-1951.

Sunday, Aug. 19 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9:15 am.

Sunday, Aug. 19 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with “**Religion’s Great Failure**” – a sermon by Rev. H. Kelsey Bicknell, 1967-1970.

Sunday, Aug. 26 – Summer Sermon Series wraps up @ 11 am with the words of Rev. Betty Sintzenich McCollum, 1989-1995.

Sunday, Sept. 2 – “**Sundae Sunday**” @ 11 am. The much-loved ice cream concoction known as a sundae was (indirectly) invented by a Unitarian. Come, learn more about it, and then it’s a make-your-own sundae treat for social hour.

Sunday, Sept. 9 – **Water Communion Sunday** @ 11 am. Pick up a small container of water from wherever you travel this summer and bring it to the service on the 9th.

Saturday, Sept. 29 - Fundraiser for Cody Coopenberg at the Fireman’s field in Holley, NY. Pig roast, bands, activities for the kids, basket raffle and cake auction.

Friday, Oct. 3 – First of a 4-part series “Path to Reducing Community Violence” presented by Peaceful Genesee.

JOYS & SORROWS

Jenny Orr – her joy is this summer format at church!!

Louise Wu – her joy is that the Orr’s made it back from their trip safely!

Debbie Rodriguez – is a proud new grandma! Her granddaughter, Audrey Francis, was born on her great grandfather’s birthday!

Sherry Hagnier – wanted to thank everyone for the all the cards and prayers on behalf of her son-in-law, Cody Coopenberg, and counts herself very lucky to have found this place!

Chris Loss – and her husband spent a wonderful week with grandsons, Caden and Carson, doing all

kinds of fun things such as going to Brown’s Berry Patch, the Planetarium, Chuck E. Cheese, fishing, and so on. The boys were so good!

Andrea Rebeck is very happy to see we have summer services, and liking the relaxed format

Sarah & Jenn Diemer felt very proud to represent Pullman in the Rochester Pride Parade. Lee Richards' joy was that our church's participation in the parade doubled since last year.

David Hagnier reported that his son-in-law Cody is in Texas, breathing on his own, responding to his wife Hannah, but may need a year of hospitalization. Grandson Landon is staying with Sherry and David.

Sara Phillips attended a sorority reunion and noticed a good deal of hair loss among the men she used to know.

Diana Dudley had her son and several other family members staying with her, making for a full house.

"Life is not lost by dying; life is lost minute by minute, day by dragging day, in all the thousand small uncaring ways."

Stephen Vincent Benét
(1898-1943)

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Debbie Rodriguez and Chris Loss for donating AC units for the summer services!

Pastor Lee Richards – for designing summer services that have been so inviting! It's nice to come in and get a bagel and orange juice, listen to the sermon in an informal environment, and discuss it afterwards. And we are learning about the church history as well, hearing the words of past ministers with the addition of some context about the time period. Lee is always coming up with great ideas!

Water Communion Sunday - Sept. 9

by Lee Richards

During the summer months I invite you to be aware of your surroundings, especially of the water element. If you are traveling, or even if staying at home, please collect a small vial of water to mark the occasion and bring it to the water communion service.

The water should have some significance as to how you spent the summer. Then, when you take a turn to add your water into the common bowl, share a bit of your story with all of us. This is a nice ceremony for reconnecting, and for learning more about each other.

Helping Cody Coopenberg

Early in July Pv2 Cody Coopenberg was caught in an gasoline explosion while serving in Afghanistan (Cody is the son-in-law of David and Sherry Hagmier). He suffered severe burns over 60% of his body and faces a long and painful recovery with many surgeries. He is now in a burn treatment center in Texas.

As you might imagine, his family faces many unanticipated expenses over the course of the next year or so. Many people are stepping up to help. Because Cody was a Holley volunteer fireman that group will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, September 29. To make it the best possible event, the organizers are asking for donations of cakes and gift baskets for a raffle. If you have items to donate, want to volunteer, or help in any way, please contact Debbie Patt (585-329-3296). If you have items for the basket auction, please contact Jeana Hayes (585) 509-8860.

An account has also been set up for Cody and Hannah at First Niagara Bank. You can go into to the bank and tell them you would like to donate/deposit money into the Coopenberg Family Fund. If you can't get to a bank, it is possible to make donations online through GoFundMe.com.

There are also blood drives being organized: the 17th of August at the firehall in Holley, and the 29th of August in Hamlin.

And don't forget that cards and letters mean a great deal to Hannah and Cody. You can write to the address below to pass along your best wishes...

Hannah Coopenberg
2108 9th st. Suite 407
Bldg 4190 Door X
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5100

Pullman Pastor's Blog

by Lee Richards

Perhaps the most important blog post to date was written on 7/20/12, and is titled "[Moving Beyond Prayers](#)." This post tells a little more of the story of Cody Coopenberg but, most importantly, offers a concrete action that the reader can take to help.

Too often we hear of tragedies and wonder, "What can I do?" Prayers and good thoughts and well wishes often don't seem like enough. And while I'm not saying that contributing money is the answer in every situation, it is a good and honest way to help in this particular case.

I invite you to read more about this, and engage some of the other thoughts on the blog as well. 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

Book Discussion Group

by Lee Richards

Our book group is on hiatus until September while we catch up on our summer pleasure reading. If you want to get a head start on your reading list, we've agreed to all read the same book for our first discussion group on September 30th.

"God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything" by Christopher Hitchens is the choice for September. Pick up a copy, and come to the group with your thoughts on 9/30. Then in October we'll have a "choose any book on the topic" discussion in the same format as we used this past year. Topic for October? Fire.

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

The 21st century has arrived at PMUC. It is now possible to make donations online, or make automatic pledge payments from your choice of funding sources. If you go to the website pmuconations.blogspot.com you'll find several choices available for making financial contributions to our mission. (You can also click on the "Donations" tab at the top of any page in our main website.)

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 using a bank transfer or a PayPal account.

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

AED Fund

Many, many thanks to all who have donated thus far!!!! We are in the final stretch for our special fundraiser to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator – or as I like to say, a "Heart Shocker"). The total cost for one unit is about \$1350 and we have only about \$150 left to reach our goal.

You may donate at our donations website pmucdonations.blogspot.com using PayPal or any major credit card - just write 'AED' in the comments box during checkout and it will be earmarked for the AED. Or you can donate by check or cash - just be sure to notate 'AED' so we'll know to add it to the special fund. So Help Us Help You - after all, you never know what "heart-stopping" event may transpire when at church!

Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York

Everyone is raving about Bill Lattin's newest book. This limited edition book was published on behalf of our church with proceeds to be used for building restoration.

A beautiful book, it features 200 postcard views in full color, with the images covering almost an 80 year span – from the 1890's to the early 1970's. It makes a wonderful gift, and since it is a one-time-only, limited edition run I recommend you do your Christmas shopping early before they are gone. Books are modestly priced at only \$20 each and are available at the church, and selected area stores.

Eye on the Board

Picnic action: PMUC is providing hot dog rolls for the Albion ministerium ecumenical picnic. Our own mid-summer picnic will be at Bullard Park on Aug. 5th, with the church providing meat, condiments and tableware.

In money matters, the Strawberry Festival more than doubled last year's proceeds. The next fundraiser is being planned for October. Lee started a GoFundMe fundraiser to support the Cody Coopenberg family. It was noted that our Fair Share obligation to the UUA is higher this year - a result of increased membership. A suggestion was made to hold one or two Saturday morning retreats to provide concentrated time for Building & Grounds and the Capital Campaign committees to develop plans.

Also of interest - Lee designed a new rack card (promotional literature) for the church. Lee represented PMUC at the dedication of the Our Lord's House church building in Waterport, and attended a number of other local events to increase our presence in the community. An additional ByLaws amendment was proposed. The Children's Church committee is asked to meet and consider plans for the Fall.

Complete minutes are available upon request.

Pastoral Care

One of the advantages of having a called minister is the 24/7 availability of a listening ear. Pastor Lee Richards is 100% committed to helping parishioners when stuff hits the fan. You are encouraged to call 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 585-436-1786, or on his cell at 585-729-8167. He also has a toll-free number: 877-265-1709.

Lee is also available for home and hospital visits, or can meet with people in the pastor's office at the church.

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