



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

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Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

Laziness? My sermon topic for July 26th was on the concept of laziness vs. our cultural work ethic. It should be available on our website soon after the 26th in case you missed it. But what I want to point out here is that there is no amount of laziness to be witnessed around Pullman Memorial.

For example, our "building hit list" - a list of items to be repaired in the near future - is quite impressive. Some of the repairs will be obvious, such as resetting the front steps, thanks to a Chalice Lighter Grant. Other repairs won't be so visible, such as the work being done above eye level - roof leaks, pointing of wall masonry, repair of the west chimney. There are several other items on the list, too, that are forging ahead.

Your fundraising committee is not idle, either. This month our church is the venue for hosting the Leonard Oakes Estate Winery during Albion's Sip 'n Stroll event. Len Oakes is very popular and will attract many people to our doors where we'll entice them with other "glittery objects" for purchase. And Bill Lattin's upcoming book - Halloween Pictures and Pranks - is underway. We'll be hosting its publication launch, along with an art show, later in the Fall and proceeds from the sale of the book go to PMUC, thanks to a generous grant from GoArt.

Your board is certainly not being lazy! They are planning to take a special retreat to have the time to consider the church's needs in greater depth than can be done during a regular board meeting. The pulpit committee expects to convene in September to assist me with planning for the upcoming year. A new subcommittee will form soon to start planning for us to host the 2016 annual NYSCU (New York State Convention of Universalists) conference. And we've engaged an outside firm to assist our treasurer and help lighten her load.

No, laziness is not a problem at Pullman, so I feel like I need to caution everyone here to be sure and take some down time. There's only one month of summer left. Be sure to enjoy the warm weather while you can, relax and recharge, because before you know it, winter will creep back into western New York. So savor the summer - you'll be glad you did.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

Aug. 2	Rev. John Rex	"Cultural Intelligence" followed by picnic at Bullard Park
Aug. 9	Lee Richards	"Risk taking"
Aug. 16	Rev. Laverne Bates	"A Ministry of Last Resort"
Aug. 23	Lee Richards	"Acceptance"
Aug. 30	Hunter Dudkiewicz	"Sundays are a Drag"

~ Childcare available during service times ~

Calendar stuff in more detail...

July 27 – 31 – Jedi Academy Vacation School “Day Camp,” each day from 10 am to 1 pm. For ages 8-14. Thanks to a generous grant from NYSCU (New York State Convention of Universalist) we are able to offer this fun and educational program free of tuition. Call (585) 993-0666 for more info.

Wednesday, July 29 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon. Each Wednesday during the summer the church is open for touring or meditation.

Sunday, August 2 – “Cultural Intelligence” worship service @ 11 am with John Rex. After millennia of misunderstandings among world cultures, a new science has emerged that can provide a means for people to have better relationships. Since he last spoke at Pullman Memorial, John has advocated among Unitarian Universalists at home, and Unitarians worldwide, for a focus on, and understanding of, how critical our Cultural Intelligence is to all that we think and do. Today: the basics.

Sunday, August 2 – Annual mid-summer picnic @ 1 pm at Bullard Park, Albion. Dish-to-pass, with the church providing hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers.

Monday, August 3 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Dish-to-pass. Good food and conversation.

Wednesday, August 5 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon, for touring or meditation.

Sunday, August 9 – “Risk taking” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Do you tend to play it safe or take chances? Does one approach lead to a better, happier life than the other? Are you willing to risk it all, or even some? Today we’ll look at risk aversion and risk takers to find some clues on how to get the most out of life.

Wednesday, August 12 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon, for touring or meditation.

Saturday, August 15 – Sip ‘n Stroll wine tasting event from 3 – 7 pm. Leonard Oakes Estate Winery will be set up in our social hall. [Tickets available online here.](#)

Sunday, August 16 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, August 16 – “A Ministry of Last Resort” (Chautauqua Sunday) worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Laverne Bates. The story of how one local organization is there for the needy when other resources are exhausted.

Wednesday, August 19 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon, for touring or meditation.

Sunday, August 23 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, August 23 – “Acceptance” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Going with the flow. When should we accept something? When should we not accept it? Acceptance is not the same as resignation or passivity, but how is it different?

Tuesday, August 25 – deadline for submissions to the Sept. newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Wednesday, August 26 – Open House 9:30 am to noon. LAST Wednesday church is open for touring or meditation.

Sunday, August 30 – “Sundays are a Drag” worship service @ 11 am with Hunter Dudkiewicz. As the world famous drag queen, and supermodel of the world, RuPaul says, “We are all born naked and the rest is drag.” This Sunday I hope you will join me in briefly exploring the topics of drag, gender, and the fluidity of life. We will be asking, “What can drag queens teach us about life?” Are we drag queens and kings without even knowing it? If this topic tickles your fancy, then strap on your stilettos—or pumps for beginners—and join Pullman for a celebration of frivolity and utter fabulousness.

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!

School supplies needed...

...for Orleans Community Action backpacks. New items for grades K-12, with a special need for erasers, 3-ring binders, and hand pencil sharpeners. Money donations also accepted to purchase supplies. Get your donations to Julie Andrews by mid-August.

D.A.D.

Can you help finish up the fundraising effort for Tyler Orr's diabetic alert dog? The dog will arrive soon but the Orr family still needs to raise a few thousand dollars more. Monetary gifts welcome, but they're also holding a raffle with tickets at only \$5 each, for a grand prize of an iPad Air, and two cash prizes of \$50. Write to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com for more info.

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 under the kitchen sink. Clean, washed metal objects may be mixed, but please separate aluminum from the rest.

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.

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. Or use the scan on this page to make an impromptu donation right now!



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. Lee is also available for home and hospital visits.

Eye on the Board

Highlights from the June 21 board meeting:

- A subcommittee is to be formed to prepare for hosting the 2016 NYSCU annual convention
- The proposed membership policy was reviewed with suggested amendments made, to be reviewed again in July before voting to adopt
- Ideas for disposing of the surplus used books were suggested
- A meeting will be scheduled with the Thaney Group of Brockport for help in setting up our Quickbooks accounting system
- The board authorized the sale of some of our stock holdings (as previously approved by the congregation in April) to cover repairs to the building
- Fundraising efforts discussed: Strawberry Festival, Sip 'n Stroll, and "Halloween Pictures & Pranks" book and art show
- Pastor Lee reported offering public prayers at the Albion Baccalaureate and a demonstration on behalf of the Waterport Mosque
- Our website front page now includes a 360 degree view of our church, courtesy of Rodney Casey
- A resolution was adopted to have a special board retreat before the end of Sept.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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