



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

Minister: Lee Richards, 585-436-1786, pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com
Visit our new Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings by Lee Richards

"You can't keep doing the same thing and expect different results." These familiar (yet often forgotten) words were spoken by Chris Loss at the conclusion of our most recent meeting of the board of trustees. It is a powerful statement, and when taken in context of the meeting, one that expresses tremendous courage and hope for the future of PMUC.

The meeting started with a discussion of whether or not we should have a worship service on Sunday, December 25th. Historically, the church has been closed whenever Christmas landed on a Sunday. But I shudder to think of the effect it would have if someone came to our church on that morning and found the doors locked. If someone feels compelled to be in church on Christmas day, shouldn't we honor my favorite phrase, "the church of open minds, open hearts, and open arms" by including "open doors?"

So we decided to break with tradition to see if we couldn't expect different results. On Christmas morning the doors will be open, there will be a worship service, and anyone who wishes to attend will be most welcome.

But wait, there's more! And in fact, this is the part that really impresses me about your elected leadership at Pullman. For the past several months we've talked about the wonderful legacy left us by George Pullman – our gorgeous church building – and how, after 120 years, it needs a number of repairs and renovations to keep it in good stead for lasting another hundred years. Some issues are being addressed even as I write. And, of course, you know we have sought a grant to repair or replace the roof.

But there are many other items needing attention, such as new wiring, repointing the stonework, a chair lift to get from the main floor to the dining room, an improved sound system, and so on. All taken together we're talking big bucks to set everything right.

Your board has considered a number of ways of raising funds but here's the place where they stepped up and said it's time to do things differently. Rather than slowly pecking away at fixing a little bit here and there, and raising a little bit of money here and there, or spending down the endowment so there would be no emergency reserves – the board courageously opted to seek assistance from a professional fundraiser.

Yes, it will cost some money up front (and there are ideas on how to raise that) but your trustees understand that sometimes one must spend money in order to generate money.

It's not been done before at PMUC. But with faith, perseverance, and courage we will meet the challenge and preserve this grand old building for generations to come. Let this be our Christmas gift for the future of Unitarian Universalism in Orleans county.

Pastoral Care

One of the advantages of having a called minister is the 24/7 availability of a listening ear. Pastor Lee Richards 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.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Minister</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|---|
| Dec. 4 | Rev. Donald Reidell | Coffee Hour -- Eileen DellaCosta |
| Dec. 11 | Susan Daiss | |
| Dec. 18 | Lee Richards | "The Christmas Card Sermon" |
| Dec. 21 | Lee, Sara & Jenn | Winter Solstice Service @ 7:00 PM (Wed.) |
| Dec. 23 | Lee Richards | Christmas Candlelight @ 7:00 PM (Friday)* |
| Dec. 25 | Lee Richards | Christmas Worship service |
| Jan. 1 | Dwain Wilder | Fireside Service* |

*Everyone is invited to bring snacks for the Candlelight and Fireside services.

Sunday, Dec. 4 - @ 11 am, by Rev. Don Reidell

Monday, Dec. 5 - Occupy Albion on the courthouse square @ 3 pm. **Every Monday** afternoon starting at 3, join Diana and others to demonstrate our commitment to social justice for all. Bring a sign, or make one at the church.

Monday, Dec. 5 - Pot-Luck Supper at 6:30 pm. Every month on the first Monday we get together to share our bounty. Everyone invited – you need not be a member of the church to join in on the good food and stimulating conversation.

Sunday, Dec. 11 - @ 11 am, by Susan Daiss

Sunday Evening, Dec. 11 - St. Cecilia's Handbell Choir Concert, under the direction of Harriette Greaser. At PMUC, 7:00 pm.

Monday, Dec. 12 - Occupy Albion on the courthouse square @ 3 pm

Sunday, Dec. 18 - Board of Trustees meets at 9:15 am.

Sunday, Dec. 18 - "The Christmas Card Sermon" @ 11 am. Can a simple card capture the essence of Christmas? Can Santa be Black? Questions pondered, and some answers suggested, by Lee Richards.

Monday, Dec. 19 - Occupy Albion on the courthouse square @ 3 pm.

Wednesday, Dec. 21 – Winter Solstice Service @ 7 pm. Lee, Jenn and Sara team up to present a Yule celebration intended to invite the return of the sun after this longest night of the year.

Friday, Dec. 23 – Candlelight Service @ 7 pm. Prepare your heart and soul for the gift of the coming Christmas day by participating in this vespers-style service.

Sunday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Worship Service @ 11 am, led by Lee Richards.

Sunday, Jan. 1 - Annual Fireside Service, with poet Dwain Wilder @ 11 am.

Sunday, Jan. 29 - Book Discussion group meets after coffee hour (about 12:30 pm). We will heat up this chilly month with the topic of "Sex." Choose a book to read on the topic of sex and then share with us how it impacted your spiritual life. Our approach to book discussions this year – rather than everyone reading the same book we invite you to consider a monthly topic as a guideline in selecting your tome. Each month will have a different theme/topic. In this way we can each bring a different viewpoint we've read about to the discussion. Future topics (not in order) may include Charity, Love, Politics, Earth, Fire, Wind, Water.

JOYS & SORROWS

Andrea Rebeck – explained to the congregation that the deadline for the grant to be submitted was October 31st and we met that deadline!! She has a folder if anyone would like to see the grant and attachments that were submitted. Now we will wait and see, possibly in January, if we are approved. The chances are fairly good as only one other church in this area has submitted a grant.

And, Andrea celebrated a birthday around the time she submitted the grant. . Happy birthday, Andrea!!

Diana Dudley – has been heading up the Occupy Albion group which has been out marching on the Courthouse Square pretty regularly. She extended an invitation to the congregation to join the group, and if you can't march at this point, there are posters available and you can write your message down for others to carry. And please note that an article on the group appeared in the local paper recently!! She also wished her niece, Hillary, a happy birthday!.

Louise Wu - has been busy in Rochester with the Occupy Rochester group marching regularly and camping out!

Sarah Knight – closed on their first house recently in Brockport!! And she celebrated a birthday this month, also!!

Sara Phillips – announced that her Aunt Jean's (Jean Bistoff) 93rd birthday is today! Chris Loss commented that her mother pretty much devoted her life to this church and that if she could be here, she would be. Her heart will always be with this church. She resides at the Villages of Orleans County nursing home now and is not able to get out.

Dick Hoffman – spoke about Jean Bistoff's birthday and said that Jean didn't just attend here, she was a pillar. She carried the church on her back for a number of years. He said there wasn't anything she couldn't do and he respects her highly.

Dennis Seekins – has marched with the Occupy group and is pleased to be a part of it. He is also glad that the Rochester group have had their stay extended through January.

Jim Knight – was marching with the Albion Occupy group and was pleased that two children around age 10 stopped to ask a few questions. He was also pleased to have his grandchildren out to see him.

Gay Smith – announced that Craig celebrated his birthday on the 18th! Happy birthday, Craig!!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

C.W. Lattin, Diana Dudley, and Sarah Diemer for making the turkeys for the Thanksgiving dinner on the 20th! They were great and we even had a 'tofu' turkey that was absolutely delicious! It is a lot of hard work making a turkey, so thanks for your efforts!

PMUC Congregation – for another wonderful Thanksgiving dinner with so much great food!

Diana Dudley – who has been heading up the Occupy Albion group! Diana is someone who lives by her principles and stands by her beliefs and we need more people like her. She's a true inspiration! Diana and Gerald Lombardi also trimmed the hedges so we can see the Wayside Pulpit.

Andrea Rebeck – who despite her demanding work and many trips was able to submit the grant by the deadline! And she even sacrificed a weekend and wasn't feeling very well when she completed the work. We owe her a debt of gratitude indeed!

C.W. Lattin – for the beautiful flower arrangements each week!

Dick Hoffman – who has been very busy working on repairing windows, and has been doing a lot of other work on the church in his spare time. He devotes a lot of time to the betterment of this church!

Pastor Lee Richards – who has been finding some very interesting speakers for us. Kathy Tew Rickey and David Friedman were here most recently.

C.W. Lattin – Who was a guest speaker at the Memorial Art Gallery on November 6th. He spoke on printmaking techniques and compares reproductions from his own collection of religious art with works at MAG, including Study for "Christ Rejected" by 19th-century American artist Benjamin West. This is where our own Susan Daiss works as her regular job and she was very excited to have C.W. as a speaker.

Dennis Seekins – has been our representative, along with Pastor Lee, at GUUSTO meetings.

Rene Schasel – who has notarized several documents for the Board recently, and who also has audited our financial records.

Pastor Lee Richards – for introducing us to the interesting and disturbing movie 'Duck' on Movie with the Minister night. Please check this movie out if you haven't already seen it.

Many thanks to all who have hosted Coffee Hour. We don't always get your names in time to acknowledge everyone in the schedule. Your efforts are vital to this very important UU event and greatly appreciated.

GUUSTO

GUUSTO is an acronym for "Genesee UU Societies Together" and refers to our "local neighborhood" of Canandaigua, Brockport, Albion, and the two Rochester churches. Reps from each congregation get together to explore how we might pool resources to accomplish more than any one church might be able to do alone. Currently being considered are issues involving immigration, GLBT, and environmental justice. There is also an effort to coordinate support for Occupy Rochester (since First Universalist is right across from the encampment). If you'd like to know more about how to get involved speak to Dennis Seekins or Lee Richards.

UUSC Guest at Your Table

The UUSC – Unitarian Universalist Service Committee – was founded over 70 years ago. This organization works throughout the United States and the world to further social justice on our behalf. The UUSC develops partnerships with organized, effective, and transparently run grassroots organizations of people who courageously confront and challenge oppression and inequality.

Some of the issues they address include access to clean water, civil liberties (women's and children's rights), climate justice, and humanitarian issues, such as ending torture and disaster relief.

I like the UUSC because I can't do it all myself. I'm too small, and don't have the time or resources to go all over the world and help all who need help. But the UUSC can do it for me, and it takes only a small effort on my part to support them.

Each year at this time they raise funds through a program called "Guest at your Table." They provide a little cardboard box that folds into a piggy bank and we are asked to keep it nearby – on the dining room or kitchen table, for instance, and make a contribution at mealtime. A few coins, a few dollars, over the course of a month can add up. And all the contributions collected (from about 25,000 individuals each year) can really amount to a sum that accomplishes great work.

These boxes are available in the social hall. If you did not get one at the service on the 27th then please pick up one and live with this "guest" for December. We'll collect your donations in January and forward the total to the UUSC. For more information check out www.uusc.org/guest/donations

Oh, one more thing – you should know that donations of \$100 or more are matched by the Shelter Rock UU congregation on Long Island. So if you can be that generous then you can double your contribution. Isn't that a great Christmas gift?

- Pastor Lee

Skiing Trips

The Unitarian Ski Club invites all UUs and friends to join us on the following trips we've planned for the upcoming ski season.

First, is a 5 day trip to Stratton, VT on 1/29 – 2/3. Cost of the trip is approx. \$590/person which includes lift tickets for 5 days and accommodations for 4 people in a 2 BR 2 Bath condo.

Second, we are returning to our favorite locale which we have visited for the past 40 years or so – Mt Tremblant, Quebec, Canada, on 2/5 – 2/10. Cost of the trip is approx. \$950 for seniors (65+) and \$995 for adults/person which includes lift tickets for 5 days, 3 meals a day and accommodations for 4 in a 2 BR 2 bath condo.

Lastly, our big trip for the season is to Snowmass, CO on 2/24 - 3/2. Cost is approx. \$1760 for seniors and \$1800 for adults/person which includes air and ground transportation, lift tickets for 6 days for Snowmass, Aspen, Heavenly and Buttermilk, and accommodations for 6 in a 3 BR 3 Bath condo. We can be flexible in our trips for non-skiers and those desiring other types of accommodations. Pricing will vary accordingly.

To join us, or if you have any questions, please contact Bob Borrell at rborrell@rochester.rr.com, or Moritz Wagner at moritz.wagner@xerox.com.

"Help Us Help You"

PMUC's campaign to purchase an AED (portable defibrillator) continues. We've received over \$400 but we still need your help to reach our \$1350 goal. You can donate on our website <http://pullmanmemorial.org/> using PayPal or any major credit card 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!

Eye on the Board of Trustees

-from the meeting held on 11/27/11

- Approval was given for Dick Hoffman to write out Christmas checks.
- Discussed upcoming services for the holiday season. Pastor Lee will coordinate a Winter Solstice Service with Sarah and Jen Diemer. We are set for the Annual Candlelight Service on the 23rd. Pastor Lee would like to have the church open on Christmas Day and it was approved. A guest speaker will be here for the Fireside Service on January 1st. It will still be an informal service by the fireplace.
- Ministerial Report - 1). Pastor Lee has been looking into having some Eastman students come out to perform several times per year. A motion was made and carried that a fee of \$100 will be paid to the students who agree to perform. 2). Lee will be meeting with the Pulpit/Music/Ministry Committee to discuss how things are going. 3). Lee explained the UUSC "Guest at Our Table" program. He will be introducing this in his sermon today. Donations from local communities over the month of December will help to fund the Social Justice efforts by UU's throughout the world. UU's are all over the globe fighting for justice and equity, peace, clean water, healthcare access, and so on.
- Building and Grounds Report - Dick Hoffman read off a list of items that have been accomplished. Downspouts need to be done soon. Other jobs that need to be done soon involve pointing, removing plastic from windows, painting, repair of stained glass window, etc. Special mortaring for the basement was discussed. Diana brought up that a railing needs to be installed by the entrance door, but other methods that have been used created cracks in the steps. Other ideas were considered. C.W. suggested that to keep track of all the volunteer (in-kind) work that is being done, a ledger book should be purchased and all activity logged.
- Finance Committee – Rene' Schasel has audited the financial records and has signed a document that he has done so. Diana has contacted several CPA's in the area who she hoped might agree to do a final sign-off on the audit, but no luck so far. Motion was made and passed to give Diana authority to sign bank checks.
- GUUSTO Report – Dennis Seekins and Pastor Lee have attended meetings. GUUSTO is now focused on issues such as migrant workers and the Occupy movement. A motion was made and passed for the church to spend up to \$200 to provide a meal to the Occupy Rochester movement at the First Unitarian Church. Each church will be assigned one night to provide a meal. Louise Wu will coordinate the planning.
- Professional Fundraiser – Lee provided information regarding fees, etc. A feasibility study may have to be done. Information was provided from the Danforth Development group, which has worked with the Eastman House. Other possibilities will be pursued. A loan to pay for a Professional Fundraiser was discussed because the NYS Convention of Universalists offers loans for up to 3 years at 0% interest. The deadline for submissions is December 31st. A motion was made and approved for PMUC to apply for a loan of up to \$75,000.

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 18, 2011 AT 9:15 AM.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church
10 East Park Street
Albion, NY 14411

