

# The Grapevine Newsletter



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Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

Minister: Lee Richards, 585-454-9450, [pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com) Editor: Alan Nugent, [pmuc.albion@gmail.com](mailto:pmuc.albion@gmail.com)

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## Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

If there is a “thread” or theme to this month’s worship services I would have to say it’s about getting the most out of life. November 30th I’ll address the idea that procrastination can be a good thing (if not taken to extremes). Indeed, there is a spiritual element to delaying, or waiting, that can be of great benefit once attuned to it.

December 7th I’ll consider the concept of gifting. As you consider making your love for others tangible by way of a gift, I’ll present some ideas for getting the most from the exercise. There is a “value-added” aspect to giving which is often overlooked.

On the 14th I’ll explore the proposal that growth only happens, or growth is best, following “the fall.” Put another way, the phrase I’ve been hearing recently - and that I’ll be responding to - is that one must be broken, or hit rock bottom, before a new and better life is to be had.

Two ways of thinking about time will be examined on the 21st. Our lives tend to be controlled by the clock which causes us to miss a deeper, more spiritual, element of time. It is my hope that “Kairos vs. Chronos” will help prepare us for the special time we’ll share together two nights later as we gather for our delightful Candlelight “Eve Eve” service, with music coordinated by Rich Della Costa.

And finally, we’ll wrap up the month on the 28th with a look at life hacks. I’ll share some quickie ideas for making life better or easier, and offer a “talkback” time to hear your ideas, too. Here’s one life hack to get you started thinking: always buy a car the color of duct tape.

Of course, I hope every Sunday service (not just this month) offers you something that makes your life better. Attending Pullman Memorial Universalist Church should be on your list of “life hacks” for achieving a better, richer, more meaningful life. Do you know someone else who might benefit from the TLC at PMUC? Why not gift them by sharing how you spend your Sunday mornings? Doing so just might be the best gift ever for them, for you, and for all of us at the pink church on the square.

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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Nov. 30	Lee Richards	“The Spirituality of Procrastination”
Dec. 7	Lee Richards	“Getting real about gifts”
Dec. 14	Lee Richards	“Breaking to become better”
Dec. 21	Lee Richards	“Kairos vs. Chronos”
Dec. 23	Lee Richards	<b>TUESDAY Candlelight Service at 7:00PM</b>
Dec. 28	Lee Richards	“Life Lessons (or life hacks)”

~ Childcare available during service times ~

**Whenever the church is open** - “All Saints All the Time” art show exhibit. Religious prints in original frames, and objects of the Victorian era, from Bill Lattin’s collection, reflecting what people respected and what they found important within the legends and examples of the sainted. Many of the prints represent the more popular saints as seen through many unidentified illustrators of the past. Earlier print examples are hand colored, while later publications are chromolithographs.

**Sunday, Nov. 30** - “**The Spirituality of Procrastination**” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. I’ve put off this topic long enough! It’s time to address the guilt and frustration of a very common phenomenon.

**Monday, Dec. 1** - Fundraising committee meets @ 5 pm (planning for next Pullman Pourings)

**Monday, Dec. 1** - Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation.

**Wednesday, Dec. 3** - “**A Gathering of Hearts & Minds**” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Current events topic: “6 days of darkness” (the news hoax) and “Snowvember” will have us consider what life would be like for a week without amenities. Are you prepped?

**Thursday, Dec. 4** - Cobblestone Society board of trustees meets (evening).

**Saturday, Dec. 6** - Workbee from 10 to noon. General clean up. Let’s look our best going into this holiday season! Bagels and coffee provided.

**Sunday, Dec. 7** - “**Getting real about gifts**” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Gifting, money, values and finding real meaning in Christmas.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10** - “**A Gathering of Hearts & Minds**” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Spirituality topic poses the question, “Why can’t we all just be Christians?”

**Saturday, Dec. 13** - Gift Shop Open 10-5. Part of the Albion Merchants Association Hometown Shopping Gala.

**Sunday, Dec. 14** - Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

**Sunday, Dec. 14** - “**Breaking to become better**” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Must we suffer the fire to become the Phoenix? Sink before we swim? Hit rock bottom before blooming?

**Sunday, Dec. 14** - Cookie Exchange @ 12:15 pm.

**Sunday, Dec. 14** - FOR SINGING’s SAKE! A female choir from Rochester, NY @ 3:30 pm, presented by the Orleans County Genealogical Society. Free admission.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17** - “**A Gathering of Hearts & Minds**” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Pop culture topic is Christmas nostalgia and reminiscing.

**Sunday, Dec. 21** - Board of trustees meets @ 9 am.

**Sunday, Dec. 21** - “**Kairos vs. Chronos**” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Timing is everything, and how we perceive time is everything else. Are you ready for a kairos moment?

**Tuesday, Dec. 23 - Candlelight Service @ 7 pm.** A celebration for the senses, in music, light, and meaning, followed by a reception in the social hall.

**Wednesday, Dec. 24 - NO Gathering this week.**

**Thursday, Dec. 25** - deadline for submissions to the January newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

**Sunday, Dec. 28 - “Life Lessons (or life hacks)”** worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. A compilation of advice from around the planet to get the most out of your time on Earth. Includes talkback time for sharing your own ideas on the topic.

Anyone interested in recent events regarding fracking on Seneca lake, please sign up for an overview of the conference Debby Rodrigues attended at Ithaca college. Debby will be scheduling a meeting on a Monday or Wednesday, date and time TBA. Sign up sheet in church social hall.

### **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!

### **Holiday Drive to Support Community Action**

On Nov. 16th the board of trustees agreed to honor a request from Community Action of Orleans and Genesee to help collect gifts for children in need. The agency’s holiday appeal is specifically for NEW, UNWRAPPED toys, books, clothing, food, or a donation of money. Additionally, donations of tape, wrapping paper, and new boxes are also welcome. The drive ends on Friday, Dec. 5th.

You may bring your donation(s) to the church Sunday 11/30 between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm, Wednesday evening 12/3 between 7 pm and 8:30 pm, or to the Monday Dec. 1st potluck (6:30 pm to 8:30 pm).

Community Action would also appreciate volunteers who can help with set up and distribution. If you have some time to offer you can contact them directly at (585) 589-5605. Please consider participating if you are able.

### **Bereavement Support Group**

Like programs often do, this group has run its course and no longer fills a need so it’s been brought to a close. Pastor Lee still remains available for short-term pastoral counseling.

### **Own a piece of original Pullman history**

In limited supply! Jim Hobbs has donated a lot of time and skill to restoring the few remaining two-seater folding loveseats that were neglected in our basement for years. These beautiful wooden chairs with newly upholstered seats are no longer made so when they’re gone, they’re gone. They make great conversation starters - when your friends and relatives see one at your home or office you can tell them all about the generosity of George Pullman in erecting and outfitting our church! Get one while you can - only \$150 each - with funds going toward our restoration project.

### **Dedicate a Hymnal**

We now have several new copies of *Singing the Living Tradition* available for “memorializing.” For a mere \$50 you can have a personalized bookplate placed in the front of a book and know that you are helping augment our restoration funds at the same time. See Louise or Lee to arrange for your dedication.

## **Pullman Gift Shop**

Christmas cards are here! Looking for a special gift? Notecards and posters, t-shirts and sweatshirts, antique and vintage glassware, Pullman porter uniform buttons, totebags, bumper stickers, hand-crafted jewelry and Pullman love seats are available now. Check out our “wee shoppe” for your gift-giving needs.

## **Wednesday Evening GATHERING of Hearts & Minds**

Our “Ministry of Ideas” program will present a topic for discussion each Wednesday at 7 pm. In general, first Wednesdays will focus on a current events issue, the second on some aspect of spirituality or philosophy, the third on pop culture, and the fourth is a “wild card” where the evening’s topic is up to the audience. The success of *Wild Card Wednesdays* will depend on attendees bringing something they’d like to share with others for a more in-depth discussion. A light supper is also offered. Check the detailed listings on page two for December’s topics.

## **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. **SPECIAL INCENTIVE!** Debby Rodriguez has offered to match the amount received from the scrap metal recycling center every month that the total is \$10 or higher.

## **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 website page where you can easily make a donation online.

## **Eye on the Board**

**Financials:** A UUA policy for handling money was presented, and referred to the finance committee for discussion. The treasurer reported expenses for the year to date are on track, with income running ahead of predictions. Payments to the UUA and St. Lawrence District will make us a “Full Fair Share” congregation again this year. The fundraising committee is confirming vendors and wineries for the next wine tasting event on March 21.

**Building & Grounds:** The organ was tuned in November. Estimates for roof repairs are still being sought for comparison. A proposal by Tom Rivers was presented - to have PMUC sponsor a Pullman-themed park bench for the Albion downtown area. Decision on the bench was postponed until more information could be sought.

**Membership:** Albion High School contacted PMUC through the Andrews about creating a grant or loan for graduating seniors. John and Julie will obtain the paperwork as a start. Gay Smith will obtain gifts for our children, and Chris Loss will get gifts for our shut-ins. The board approved a request from Community Action to have our congregation help with a holiday donation drive (see details on page 3 in this newsletter). Complete minutes available upon request.

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## **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.

**Looking for the Joys & Concerns or Pullman Plaudits columns?  
These items now appear in an additional supplement sent only to members.**