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**Member of The Unitarian Universalist Association**

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Visit our Website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org)

## Minister Musings

by Lee Richards

If you've been following my sermon series on the history of Unitarian Universalism in the U.S. then you've heard how our early congregations figured out a three-prong approach to "doing church." 1) They established the principle that love would be the informing doctrine, or spirit, of how they related to each other, and to their larger society. 2) With love as a guide they would determine the "divine will" –or truths – necessary for living a good life, and then 3) they would apply them. Note that it was not enough to simply love and learn, but they also had to take action or else their expression of religion was incomplete.

Here is what I know. The mission of the church – any church – is, or should be, about changing lives. We are an intentionally formed community of faith – each of you decides to attend (and hopefully join) with others who are different from you. Each of us is in a different place in our spiritual journey– we may think about issues in a liberal or conservative way, we may be shy or vocal, struggling financially or well off, older or younger (in body and/or mind), etc. You get the idea – we are all different.

Yet we find that coming together each Sunday we are encouraged to see beyond our differences and notice the similarities. As in point number one above, we exercise our ability to love – *expand* our ability to love – by practicing with each other so we may be better at it out in the "secular world." It is not about agreeing with someone else's viewpoint, but learning to love the person even when we disagree. As your pastor, I want to help you change your life for the better, help you to love more –more people, more deeply. And I expect that the goal of changing lives is the goal of everyone who takes to our pulpit on a Sunday.

As you discover the truths that enrich your life I want to encourage you to apply them in your own life, and then share them with others. I know many (maybe most) of you are doing just that. For some of you it is demonstrating on the street for the cause of economic justice. For some it is challenging our legislators to do the right thing for our county nursing home. For others it's writing blogs on the internet, circulating petitions, walking to raise money for cancer research, salvaging history before it is forgotten, and probably a dozen other activities.

If I can change your life – if your presence at church can change your life for the better – then I'm sure you will want to help other people make their lives better, too. It's not always in-your-face activism, either. It can be as simple as smiling at a tired cashier, lending a listening ear to someone who's angry or feeling down, maybe even just bending down and picking up a piece of litter when out for a walk – whatever it is that in its own small way makes a difference for others – then you are living your faith, and spreading the spirit of love.

And let me add this: some of you may be coming to church because you need help healing from a loss or a hurt. You may feel nearly exhausted, tapped out, feel unable to give anything of yourself to others because your own need is so great at this moment. If that is the case then I'm very glad you made it through our doors. This is a good place to renew your spirit, to find some solace, some care, some love. Even though it may feel difficult at this moment I want to encourage you to live your faith by doing something to help another – to give something of yourself –because I've discovered that helping others will help you to feel better about yourself.

I am grateful you have chosen to receive this newsletter, to be informed about what's happening at Pullman Memorial. I hope you will attend our services, or pot-luck suppers, or movie night, also. Please join me in this mission of changing lives – for yourself, and for others.

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

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Feb. 5	Rev. Ron Reidell	“Time After Time”	Heather
Feb. 12	Susan Daiss	Valentine’s Day (14th) “A Meditation on Love”	Chris Loss
Feb. 19	Lee Richards	“Thus Do We Covenant”	
Feb. 26	Lee Richards	“What is the Question”	
Mar. 4	Lee Richards	Breakfast with Minister at 9:45	

**Sunday, Feb. 5** – Worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Donald Reidell. “Time After Time” -- A sermon on time, habits, and inertia. How are they related?

**Monday, Feb. 6** – 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, Feb. 12** – Worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss. In anticipation of Valentine's Day this year, my topic for February 12th will be a meditation on love--from today's cultural focus on sensation and infatuation to life-giving and defining connections. Drawing on sources from ancient mythology to contemporary poetry, the service will celebrate the abiding force of love in all our lives--love that goes the distance from the beginning to the end of our lives--and perhaps beyond.

**Wednesday, Feb. 15** – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. "4 Little Girls" is a tragic story, the story of four young girls killed when their Birmingham Alabama church was bombed by racists in 1963. This excellent telling of the story gives a good background leading up to the murders from the perspective of those caught up in the events at the time. A very important history lesson with echoes through time that can be found in today's news. Pastor Lee encourages you to come out to be informed.

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

**Sunday, Feb. 19** – "Thus Do We Covenant" worship service @ 11 am. This fourth installment in Lee Richards' series on the Unitarian Universalist basis for "doing church" will outline what it means to be in a loving, communal relationship.

**Sunday, Feb. 26** – "What is the Question?" worship service @ 11 am. Is there one single question that is more important than all others? Is there an overarching question for which the answer informs us how to live life well? Lee Richards will explore some questions, and possible answers.

**Sunday, Feb. 26** – Book Discussion group meets after coffee hour (about 12:30 pm). This month's topic is "Charity." Choose a book to read on the topic of giving or charity 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 Love, Politics, Earth, Fire, Wind, Water.

**Sunday, Mar. 4** – "Breakfast with the Minister" @ 9:45 am. Pastor Lee Richards (with some additional help) will feed the crowd. Come to church early today and enjoy a breakfast before the service.

**Sunday, Mar. 4** – "The Gift of Giving" worship service @ 11 am. Lee Richards will help us think beyond the *obligation* of giving to understanding the role of charity in enriching our own lives.

**Sunday, Mar. 4** – Building reserved for a wedding, 1-4:30 pm.

## GUUSTO (Genesee UU Societies Together)

Area churches have been supporting social justice work by getting together to provide a weekly meal and meeting space for Occupy Rochester. First Universalist Church (which sits right across from the occupied park) has opened its doors on Tuesday evenings, with some 60-70 people being served. Each church has helped with the project by donating money or materials or volunteers – or a combination, and the occupiers have been quite grateful.

At the last GUUSTO meeting an agreement was reached to support the local community of migrant workers. Several efforts are pending from our last meeting in November, and the Brockport congregation will work on developing some ideas for the next steps. Point people will be identified from each congregation to share information and ideas.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 29th at 7:00 pm at First Universalist. Anyone is invited to attend - if you cannot go then contact Dennis Seekins (the board liaison for PMUC) to carry your suggestions to the meeting.

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### JOYS & SORROWS

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•**Betty Knight** – says she has been enjoying her new Kindle that she received for Christmas! And she was excited that the community came out in large numbers recently to support Lakeside Hospital in their fight against Unity coming in to offer the same services just to increase their market share. If Unity is successful in their endeavor, it would threaten the existence of Lakeside and the livelihoods of many of our friends and neighbors.

•**Rich Della Costa** – and Eilleen were overjoyed when their son David returned home for a surprise visit. David lives in Japan and works in Tokyo, and it was so nice to have him home for awhile.

•**Chris Loss** – reported that her mother, Jean Bistoff's health has been declining lately.

•**Susan Daiss** – has learned that her mother's condition has worsened over the past few months, as well.

•**Diana Dudley** – her son, Eric, has been excited about a substance called 'thorium', which is plentiful and has much less harmful effects than uranium, and which might help us someday solve our power and pollution problems. It is more plentiful in nature than uranium and can be used as a safer fuel source.

•**Dennis Seekins** – said it is a joy to see and hear children in the church on January 29th!! Yes, it was!!

•**Andrea Rebeck** – reported it being a joy to have the church full of people having intelligent discussions on January 28th, and watching how they marveled at the beauty of our church. We are very lucky!

•**Sarah Diemer** – is happy to report that her and Jennifer's goddess daughter is doing much better now. She had been severely jaundiced but is much improved.

•**Chris Loss** – had a joy recently when she purchased 'The Dark Wife' by our own Sarah Diemer and started reading it. It is a well-written book and will grab you from the first page on. Sarah is certainly a very gifted writer!!

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### PULLMAN PLAUDITS

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•**Andrea Rebeck** – for playing hostess on Saturday, January 28th, to the AMSA and the Western Erie Canal Alliance, who came to meet in our church for a WECA board training session - helps them all know what a wonderful historic gem we have.

•**Pastor Lee Richards and Louise Wu** – for all of their continued good ideas and hard work. This past month we had the pleasure of seeing the movie

'Edie & Thea – A Very Long Engagement', had a wonderful potluck supper, and were introduced to the group 'Take Back the Land Rochester' all courtesy of this talented couple.

•**Diana Dudley** – for sharing her reasons why she enjoys attending PMUC on January 29th.

•**Sarah & Jen Diemer** – who offered the movie 'Edie & Thea – A Very Long Engagement' as a good idea for the Movie with the Minister evening.

•**Sarah Diemer** – who is an accomplished author of lesbian fiction romance books. Her books are filling a much needed niche in the romantic genre. Be sure to check out some of her offerings, which can be found easily on Amazon.com. by typing in Sarah's name. Some of her titles includes 'The Dark Wife', 'Sugar Moon (The Maja Trilogy)', 'Hallow's Eve:

A Halloween Fairy Tale', 'Far', and 'Once Upon a Hallow's Eve: A Halloween Fairy Tale'. She also writes under the pen-name Elora Bishop.

•**Dick Hoffman and Diana Dudley** – who continue to come and work at the church in their spare time.

•**Jim Knight** – who donated some of his own money toward wonderful Christmas gifts for the shut-ins!!

•**Pastor Lee Richards, Louise Wu, Gay Smith, Andrea Rebeck, Chris Loss, Heather Boyd, Jim Knight, Betty Knight, Jan Seekins, and Dennis Seekins** who all participated in the book discussion on Sex and Spirituality. It was a truly interesting discussion! And the book selections were marvelous!

### From Our Historical Archives

*Transcribed 2012 from the original handwritten notes, dated 1921*

*please note that multiple dashes (- - - -) were used in the original document to represent portions of the speech delivered extemporaneously*

Address Given by Fred W. Tanner

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies & Gentlemen

On being called on to speak here tonight I find myself in the position of the young Bridegroom who was called on to speak at some social function. He arose and placing his hand on his blushing bride said Mr. Toastmaster Ladies and Gentlemen I want it distinctly understood that I have had this thing thrust upon me.

So I have had this forced upon me as you all know, speachmaking is out of my line. What I have to say will be necessarily brief. At least I do not intent (*sic*) to talk as long as a certain minister preached, that I read about recently. - a visitor - - - - -

*(dashes and blank lines by author)*

It has been suggested to me that I give a little history of this society. There are many here tonight as just familiar with the history of this society as I am. But there are others who have come into our Parish in recent years that would like to know its early history. I think you all know that this is the 26th anniversary of the dedication of this church. But the society is some older. I think everyone present knows that this church was built and given by Geo. M. Pullman in memory of his Father & Mother. The first concret (*sic*) action leading up to this was taken at Mr. Pullman's Summer home "Castle Rest" – 1000 Islands in the summer of of 1890. In a statement to Mr. Chas. A. Danolds, an old friend & acquaintance of Mr. Pullman and one of the leading Universalist is (*sic*) this locality, Mr. Danolds suggested to Mr. Pullman that if he would subscribe \$5000.00 another \$5000.00 could be raised toward the erection of a Universalist Church in Albion.

Mr. Pullman replied that if a society could be formed and a fund of \$5000.00 raised as a guarantee for the physical maintenance of the church he would undertake to build such a church.

From that moment enthusiasm ran high among Universalists of this locality. Several meetings were held and a general conference was called to be held in the Court House in Albion July 15-16-1891. Wm A. Tanner, who was my father, was made chairman of that meeting and F. E. Kittridge[1] was elected secretary.

All the leading Universalist ministers of Western N.Y. were present including J. K. Nason of Buffalo, Dr. Asa Saxe of Rochester, D. I. M. Atwood[2], Pres. Canton Theological Univ.

A temporary organization was effected and following officers elected trustees C. A. Danolds, Wm Hallock, Sheldon Warner, Wm A. Tanner, Mrs. S. S. Spencer[3], Mrs. F. E. Kittridge[4], Mrs. Geo. J. Reed[5]. Trea. Wm Hallock, Sec. F. E. Kittridge.

On Aug 18-1891 a meeting was held at the C.H. (*courthouse*) in Albion for the purpose of legally organizing & incorporating the society according to the laws of N.Y. State. A committee consisting of S. S. Spencer, John A. Dibble & J. W. Wright[6] was appointed to present a list of By Laws & report a list of Officers. The Com. Reported that the name of the organization shall be known as the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church of Albion & this Society dates from that time which was Aug 18-1891. The following trustees were elected – C. A. Danolds, John Lattin, Mrs. Joseph Hart, Sheldon Warner, Mrs. S. S. Spencer, Wm A. Tanner, J. D. Billings, Adelbert Chapman, Mrs. F. E. Kittredge, Trea. Geo. J. Reed, Sec. F. E. Kittridge.

Then began the struggle to raise the \$5000.00 guarantee fund. It may seem to some of you that the raising of \$5000.00 for the erection of a Universalist Church here should have been a easy thing to do. But it was not by any means and the soliciting committee worked hard until Dec. 25 1892 when the money was all pledged & Mr. Pullman notified of the fact. There were between 100 & 200 donors to M\_t (*match?*) Fund in amts 5-600. On Apr. 13 1893 Mr. Pullman came to Albion to select a site for this church. He immediately chose this spot and wished to purchase also the adjoining lot upon which our parsonage now stands. But through the influence & religious bigotry of one of the prominent residence (*sic*) of this village Mr. Pullman was not able to purchase that lot & had to change the church plans.

The corner stone of this church was laid on May 19 1894 by Renovation Lodge 97 F. & A. M. of Albion of which Mr. Pullman was a member as was also his Father James L. Pullman. The sermon was preached by Rev. Royal H. Pullman D.D. of Baltimore, Brother of George M.

The building of the church progressed rapidly during the summer of 1894 and the Society began to look for a pastor. On Oct. 14-1894 a unanimous invitation was extended to Rev. Charles Fluhrer D.D. Of Grand Rapids Mich to become pastor of the P.M.U.C. The pastorate to begin with the dedication of the church and on Nov. 19-1894 a letter of acceptance by Dr. Fluhrer was received by the sec. of this Society.

This church was dedicated Jan. 31-1895. Rev. Royal H. Pullman D.D. Delivered the sermon & Rev. James M. Pullman DD of Lynn Mass. delivered the installation sermon.

During all these years from the time the society was legally organized until this church was dedicated, church services were held every Sunday in the Court House, a good share of that time under the Superintending of the State Missionary, Rev. Daniel Wright. I Think it took a little stronger faith in Universalists to attend in the Court House than it does in this beautiful edifice. At least the congregation was materially enlarged after this church was dedicated and services held here.

Of the first temporary Board of Trustees of the Society there is one survivor, Mrs. George J. Reed, and of the first legal Board of Trustees there are no survivors. Mr. Adelbert Chapman, whoes (*sic*) untimely death occurred in an auto reck (*sic*) last Fall, being the last one.

I was elected Trustee of this society in J.--1894 and have served continuously ever since, being the only surviving member of the Board of Trustees at the time this church was dedicated. The Board being composed at that time of the following named persons

C. A. Danolds, S. G. Nott[7], S. E. Warner, Stephen Hallock, John Lattin, Mrs. Joseph Hart, Mrs. F. E. Kittridge, Mrs. S. S. Spencer, and F. W. Tanner[8]

This Parish has been extremely fortunate in the selection of its ministers having had but four in 26 years. The calling of Dr. Charles Fluhrer as its first Pastor was calling the right man at the right time. Religious bigotry and intolerance were rather strong in this Village at the time and I am sorry to say has not entirely died out. But Dr. Fluhrers strong character & personality stood four square against and such attacks and won for him the respect and confidence of his fellow townsmen. Dr. Fluhrer was followed by Dr. Arthur Grose who was with us four years. Then came Dr. Charles H. Vail who served us faithfully for nearly ten years. And now what shall I say of our good Mr. Mr. (sic) Wood. A story comes to my mind at this time of a certain man who was a great lover of fast horses. - - - - -

(dashes and blank lines by author)

Mrs. Wood.

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Footnotes:

- [1] Frank E. Kittridge (*the text's author switches spelling between Kittredge and Kittridge but mostly uses an tʃ*)
- [2] Isaac Morgan Atwood (*D. possibly meaning Dean, but also could have meant Dr. – Atwood held a D.D.*)
- [3] Mrs. Seth S. Spencer
- [4] Mrs. Frank E. Kittridge
- [5] Likely Mrs. Maude Reed
- [6] Justus W. Wright
- [7] Sylvester G. Nott
- [8] Fred W. Tanner

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**Eye on the Board of Trustees**  
-from the meeting on January 15, 2012

**Internet Connection** – the Pastor's Office will have Verizon DSL installed.

**Ministerial Report**– Pastor Lee has transcribed some handwritten notes from Fred Tanner, an original Board member of this church, on the occasion of our 25th anniversary. Lee is interested in gathering other old notes, pictures, or other items from our church's past. Pastor Lee also mentioned that he would like to look into the cost of some hearing devices for members who find they have trouble hearing the service. The last day for collecting UUSC Guest at our Table boxes will be January 29th!!

**Letter of Support** – Chris Loss passed around an internet listing of all churches who have expressed support for the Occupy Wall Street movement, and illustrated the the name 'PMUC' appears on the page!!

**Buildings & Grounds** – C.W. has contacted a blacksmith who is willing to look at our railing and give us a quote on cost and a recommendation for constructing the item.

-the Building and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committees will meet next week.

-Dick Hoffman is working with Bill Robinson with the mortar of the blocks in the basement.

-Pipes froze in the basement due to a door being left open and now only the sink in the lower basement can be used.

**Loan Application** – Chris submitted the loan application on time in the amount of \$40,000. She stressed the water damage from needed repairs on the roof. The District Board will meet in February and we will hear from them shortly after that.

**P.O. Box** – Diana Dudley has obtained a new post office box for the church – #87. She will complete paperwork so that mail will go to the box instead of coming directly to the church.

**Shut-In Gifts** – Jim Knight did a great job of arranging for gifts for the shut-ins and even funded some of it himself! He purchased a Poinsettia plant for Jean Bistoff, and fruit baskets went to Sara Burroughs, Peg Wilson. Eileen Della Costa arranged for a flower basket to be delivered to Dave LeSourd.

**Wayside Pulpit** – C.W. Lattin will be following up with a person he has in mind who could create posters with our Principles and Purposes, and it was suggested that we use the shorter, children's version.

**Strawberry Festival** – ideas for fund-raising for this event will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Request from BUUF** – Chris received an e-mail from David Markham from BUUF suggesting a collaboration of services. Diana offered to be the liaison and will contact Dave.

Next Board meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2012 at 9:15 a.m.

### "Help Us Help You"

PMUC's campaign to purchase an AED (portable defibrillator) continues. We've received about \$500 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!

## The House with Nobody in It, by Joyce Kilmer

the reading from the January 29 service

Whenever I walk to Suffern along the Erie track  
I go by a poor old farmhouse with its shingles broken and black.

I suppose I've passed it a hundred times, but I always stop for a minute  
And look at the house, the tragic house, the house with nobody in it.

I never have seen a haunted house, but I hear there are such things;

That they hold the talk of spirits, their mirth and sorrowings.

I know this house isn't haunted, and I wish it were, I do;  
For it wouldn't be so lonely if it had a ghost or two.

This house on the road to Suffern needs a dozen panes of glass,  
And somebody ought to weed the walk and take a scythe to the grass.

It needs new paint and shingles, and the vines should be trimmed and tied;

But what it needs the most of all is some people living inside.

If I had a lot of money and all my debts were paid  
I'd put a gang of men to work with brush and saw and spade.

I'd buy that place and fix it up the way it used to be  
And I'd find some people who wanted a home and give it to them free.

Now, a new house standing empty, with staring window and door,

Looks idle, perhaps, and foolish, like a hat on its block in the store.

But there's nothing mournful about it; it cannot be sad and lone

For the lack of something within it that it has never known.

But a house that has done what a house should do,  
a house that has sheltered life,

That has put its loving wooden arms around a man and his wife,

A house that has echoed a baby's laugh and held up his stumbling feet,

Is the saddest sight, when it's left alone, that ever your eyes could meet.

So whenever I go to Suffern along the Erie track

I never go by the empty house without stopping and looking back,

Yet it hurts me to look at the crumbling roof and the shutters fallen apart,

For I can't help thinking the poor old house is a house with a broken heart.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church  
P.O. Box 87  
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