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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

**Breakfast with the Minister** is Sunday, Feb. 24th @ 10 am. I want to say that right up front since this may be the first thing you read in the newsletter. I want you to read it, make note of it, put it on your calendar, leave sticky notes around the house - whatever it takes - because I want to see you there! Whether you attend every Sunday or you've been away for a year or more - I want to see you. Whether you come alone or bring a friend - I want to see you.

There is no denying that we - members and friends of Pullman Memorial - generally won't pass up any excuse to get together to break bread and drink coffee. Our potluck suppers, especially, have become wonderful opportunities to leisurely chat about a wide range of topics (in between mouthfuls of yummy food).

Social hour is mostly about socializing but it is enhanced by members taking turns at hosting (not lavish, just a little snack to tide one over until lunch). Our "wandering walkies" folks enjoy some time together over "a little something" after their strolls. Our Occupy Albion group also meets after their protest to chat over some refreshment. Face it, we are about feeding more than the soul, we are about feeding our bodies, too.

So let's "break fast" together on the 24th. Whether you are vegetarian or omnivorous, coffee or tea drinker, prefer bagels or croissants, there will be something there for you. Serving is buffet style beginning at 10 am, followed by our worship service at 11. I'll be looking for you!

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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. 3	Rev. Don Reidell		
Feb. 10	Lee Richards	"Ladies First"	
Feb. 17	Susan Daiss		
Feb. 24	Lee Richards	"The Economics of Community"	
Mar. 3	Chaplain Kelly Kilmer Hall		

Thursday, Jan. 31 – “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. Join Sarah Diemer and others for a quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Feb. 3 – Pulpit committee meets @ 10 am in the minister’s study.

Sunday, Feb. 3 – worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Reidell.

Monday, Feb. 4 – “Potluck Supper” @ 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and conversation.

Thursday, Feb. 7 – “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Feb. 10 - Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Feb. 10 – “Ladies First!” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Since its inception, the women of Pullman Memorial have been key to the success of this church. The Ladies Aid and Missionary Society, The Merry Maids, Pullman Girls, Get-Togethers, and the Pull-Togethers all had a role in our history, as well as many individual women. We’ll review some of their key accomplishments and consider the role of women in our church today.

Sunday, Feb. 10 – Second Sunday Stroll @ 12:30 pm. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.” A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals. Followed by a light soup lunch.

Wednesday, Feb. 13 – “Comfort Zone” film @ 7 pm in the Little Theater, 240 East Ave, Rochester. A documentary exploring the effects of climate change in Upstate New York. Following the film (70 minutes), you are invited to a reception in the Little Cafe behind the theater.

Thursday, Feb. 14 – “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Feb. 17 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Feb. 17 – Worship service @ 11 am with Chaplain Susan Daiss.

Sunday, Feb. 17 – Legislative Advocacy Training @ 1:30 pm. A training on the role of progressive faith communities, engaging elected officials, following legislations, and joining others to advocate in coalitions. Presenters: Rev. Richard Gilbert (Interfaith Impact), Dana Alas (Political Director – Upstate NY at 1199 SEIU), Colin O’Malley (Organizing Director, Metro Justice). At First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 Winton Road South

Wednesday, Feb. 20 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. “Happy” Truly a “feel good” movie that explores what really makes people happy – the secrets behind our most valued emotion. Free admission & popcorn.

Thursday, Feb. 21 – “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Feb. 24 – Breakfast with the Minister @ 10 am. Back by popular demand! Enjoy a breakfast of fruit salad, eggs, bacon, croissants, and more before the Sunday service.

Sunday, Feb. 24 – “The Economics of Community” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. A look at the value of being in community.

Monday, Feb. 25 – Last day for newsletter submissions. Please send your articles and news in advance of this date, if possible.

Wednesday, Feb. 27 – ‘4th Wednesday Walkies’ @ time to be announced. Join other Universalists in going “walk-about.” A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Thursday, Feb. 28 – “Vespers Service” @ 8 pm. A quiet, reflective service to help center your soul.

Sunday, Mar. 3 – worship service @ 11 am with Chaplain Kelly Kilmer Hall.

Saturday, Mar. 23 – Beatrix Potter Tea Party @ 3 pm. Gretchen Murray Sepik – descendent of John Murray (founder of the Universalist religion) – portrays Unitarian author Potter. Refreshments include tea and finger sandwiches. Free will donation.

Sunday, Mar. 24 – Book Discussion group @ 12:30 pm. This month it’s “anything goes” on the theme/topic of “Fire.” Choose any book related to the element of fire and then share what you learned – how you were influenced – by the author.

April 26-27 – District Assembly in Niagara Falls, NY. “Out of Bounds: Moving Beyond Our Boundaries.” Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, will be the keynote speaker. Early registration deadline for discounts is March 29. More info at [www.ohiomeadville.org/districtassembly](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/districtassembly)

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### JOYS & SORROWS

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•Heather Boyd – celebrated her birthday on January 13th! Happy Birthday, Heather!

•Louise Richards – told this congregation just how ‘fearless’ we are! Several members went to Albany recently to protest hydrofracking, and joined the crowd to stand up for their beliefs!! And they were especially excited that Pete Seeger sang to them!! Debby Rodrigues added that people really seemed to like them there! Louise is also happy that the flu hasn’t struck us in great numbers!

•Chris Loss – said the Board Retreat the day before was very productive and enjoyable! It was nice to relax a bit and talk more freely.

•Jim and Betty Knight – stood up and took a bow on the 13th for their wonderful matching tie-dye shirts...awesome!

•Sarah Diemer – was elated on the 20th that she had finished a novel...and promptly started the next one!! And on the 27th, she followed up by saying that this is a very exciting time because her agent is now ‘shopping’ one of her books. Wow! Sarah and Jenn have amazing talent and energy and will have much success!

•Andrea Rebeck – was glad to say that she was able to spend some time recently with her two sisters!

•Dan Wright – has had some sad losses this past year, but is happy to be with us and believes things will work out.

•Dennis Seekins – says his book business has been picking up, and hopes this means that consumer confidence is going up in general.

•Heather Boyd, C.W. Lattin, Rene’ Schasel – were pleased to announce that Heather and C.W.’s daughter, Adrienne Kirby, is expecting another baby in August! This will be Adrienne and Justin’s third child! Congratulations to the whole family!!

•Rich Della Costa – some time ago, he had announced that his daughter, Hannah, had met and married a man from Argentina. Now their son, David, has found a woman named Yoko in Japan that he plans to marry. Rich and Eileen did a lot of traveling in the Peace Corps and met there. So their children are following in their footsteps by meeting their soul-mates abroad!

•Pastor Lee Richard – his great joy on the 27th was that the Board meeting actually ended on time!! And Chris Loss added that we got through the whole agenda!!

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### PULLMAN PLAUDITS

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•The Congregation – who turned in Guest At Your Table contributions totaling \$186!! Many thanks to all who participated!

•Andrea Rebeck – who was able to send in applications on two different grants with only a few days notice!! She did have a lot of help from Pastor Lee and Louise Richards as well! They spent quite a few hours going over all the particulars. These Sacred Sites grants were submitted on January 15th to the Landmarks Conservancy. We could not have done this without Andrea's expertise and great ability!! Many thanks, Andee!!

•Tyler Smith – welcome to our newest pianist! He will be here the second Sundays of each month! And he did a great job his first day on January 13th!

•Pastor Lee and Louise Richards – who have worked very hard on a plan for fund-raising for our capital fund and also have worked on a guideline for accepting non-monetary gifts. And Lee has just about finished installing the speaker system, which includes earpieces for the hearing-impaired. Make no mistake about it...Lee and Louise work everyday for the betterment of this church! And you may also have noticed the recent article in the Journal-Register on Tim Madigan's talk on 'body snatching' that Lee submitted!

•Sarah Diemer – her Vespers' services on Thursday evenings are wonderful! Those of us who have been attending are hooked!

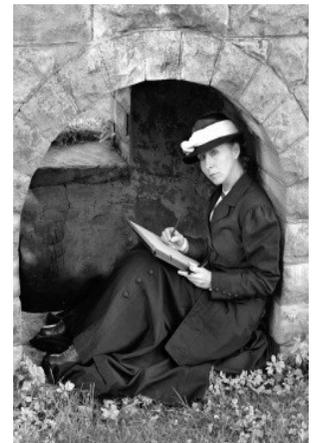
•C.W. Lattin – has put up a fresh new display of art in the church!!

•Tim Madigan – was a wonderful speaker on January 27th on the subject of bioethics (body-snatching and other issues!). He happens to have been a friend of our late member, Tad Clements.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church is looking for someone reliable and willing to watch children in the Kid's Church on Sundays and during special services. We are offering \$15/hour. Please submit three references. A background check will be performed. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Lee Richards or Chris Loss via e-mail with your name and phone number. Or you may submit a resume to the Board of Trustees no later than Feb 15, 2013 for consideration.

### **Bunny Rabbit Tea Party with Beatrix Potter**

March 23 @ 3 pm. A very special event for all ages on the Saturday before Easter: Gretchen Murray Sepik, veteran children's theater actor and ancestor of Universalism's founder, Rev. John Murray, will play Beatrix Potter in an interactive performance, followed by a complimentary English afternoon tea reception with "Beatrix." Children under 12 bring your adult and a favorite bunny toy to the party! Free or a voluntary donation at the door to benefit Pullman's playroom and dining hall restoration project. More info at [pullmanmemorial.org/special-events](http://pullmanmemorial.org/special-events)



### **Come Early, Stay Late**

One thing we know is that hospitality really helps “sell” a church, and so does making attendance easy. 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, grab a bite, and then stay after the service for our usual social hour. We'd love to see you at church!

### **New Website Features**

Our [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org) website has passed the 10,000 mark in the number of visits since launching a little less than two years ago. One of the things that contributes to people finding the site is interesting and fresh content. There are some new “pages” under construction to be made live soon, but we have three new pages up and running right now.

First is a “**Classifieds**” page. It is primarily intended to assist in the recycling of items between folks - from those who have something they no longer use to someone who would be delighted to become the new owner. Our first

classified ad was for a set of lace curtains and they were claimed within a day of being made available! Obviously, we can't say it will always be that quick and easy but it is service worth trying before throwing away something still useable.

“Free to new home” items list for free. If you have an item to sell then we request you “buy” an ad with a free-will donation to the church. Free will donation means you set your own price. For example, if you want to sell something for \$5 then maybe it's worth a dollar to list it? A more valuable item might be worth more to you to advertise.

While you can see the Classifieds have the potential to be a small money-maker for the church the best part is that they are connecting people, and hopefully keeping things from being landfilled.

The second new page is a visual **Calendar** of events. We've always listed what's happening in and around PMUC on the “News and Events” page. Now, you can see at a glance what day of the week an event is scheduled for, and by clicking on the event get a brief description.

Our third new page is for **Special Events**. This will be the place to go for expanded information on the really groovey things coming down the pike. The Beatrix Potter Tea Party info is up now. Soon you'll see details added about the many things we have planned for the June Strawberry Festival. So head on over to the website and explore!

### **Hearing Assistive System**

The hearing assistive system is ready for use. We have six hearing assistive devices on hand. They look like, and work like, little FM transistor radios. Each has an on-off switch and volume control, plus a choice of earplugs or headphones. We provide labelled ziplock plastic bags to our regular users so you can, in essence, have and identify your own device. The bag system will allow you to maintain your individual settings and keep your device from entangling with others while in storage.

### **Pullman Pastor's Blog**

by Lee Richards

Do you know what SBNR stands for? What are you missing? About once a week I post a short reflection on the internet regarding some subject matter that captures my attention. Recent posts have been about conversion experiences, leaving our (UU) principles behind, what it means to be spiritual but not religious (SBNR), and inspired social justice.

The Minister's Musings column appears on the first page of the monthly newsletter. In between, I invite you to check out my explorations and ramblings on the weblog. And please, if you feel so moved, leave your own ideas in the comments section after an article. The direct url for the blog is [pullmanpastor.blogspot.com](http://pullmanpastor.blogspot.com), or you can get there by a link on our main church website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org)

**SPECIAL >>>>** No access to the internet but want to read my weekly musings? Subscribe to receive a paper copy by postal mail once a month. Send your name and address to: Lee Richards, 31 Ravenwood Ave, Rochester, NY 14619. This service is offered **free** of charge as a means for staying connected and promoting Unitarian Universalist thought.

### **Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges**

It's the easiest way to support your faith community. Using modern technology to “set it and forget it” you can make regular electronic donations and pledge fulfillment via the internet.

The website [pullmanmemorialdonations.com](http://pullmanmemorialdonations.com) offers several choices 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 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.

### **Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York**

Less than 50 copies left before they are all gone! 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. This book is a one-time-only, limited edition run so get your copy today while you still can. Books are available at the church, in our online store ([pullmanmemorial.com](http://pullmanmemorial.com)), and select area stores.

### **Eye on the Board of Trustees (BoT)**

The board held a mini-retreat on 1/12 that was very fruitful. Action items included generating more publicity with newspaper articles and ads, plus creating a PSA (Public Service Announcement) video for the local cable channel that could also be on our website. It was also decided to hire a childcare person to assist on Sundays and other special events, proposed By-Laws amendments were firmed up, the policy on honorarium fees was updated, a scheduling change for regular BoT meetings was initiated, grant applications for the Landmark Conservancy's Sacred Sites program were approved, and more. Several other topics were discussed and brainstormed. The board decided to schedule regular mini-retreats every three months going forward.

During the regular board meeting on 1/27, plans for hosting a forum on gun control to help educate our members were begun. Several action items were approved: 1) inviting a speaker from Planned Parenthood's Rape and Crisis Counseling Center, 2) a fundraising (friend-raising) event with Gretchen Murray Sepik, 3) the "before service bagels" hospitality was extended, 4) a policy statement regarding donations to the church (all non monetary gifts, or monetary gifts with stipulations, are subject to Board approval), and 5) intent to pursue additional grants to help with the renovation project.

Complete minutes of both BoT meetings are available upon request.

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#### **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 585-454-9450, 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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