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Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

Sometimes I am astonished at how much work we have to do. On April 24th I was asked to give a prayer at a vigil to honor advocates for ending domestic violence and to remember those lost in the past year. One of the speakers was District Attorney Joseph Cardone. His "job" that evening was to read and present a proclamation by the county legislature regarding domestic violence.

Now imagine my surprise as I was sitting there listening to Mr. Cardone reading this document he had not seen before and he gets to the acronym "LGBTQ" and immediately after stumbling through spelling out the letters he says "LGBTQ. I don't even know what that means." The woman sitting next to me did a face palm. I'm sure I heard a gasp from somewhere in the audience. I shook my head in disbelief. Well, he continued reading, made the presentation, and sat down.

After I gave my prayer and the ceremony concluded, Mr. Cardone came running up to me to shake my hand (like any politician would). I grabbed his hand and did not let go until I said, "A teaching moment. LGBTQ - Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans..." He actually did not let me finish. He jerked his hand back from mine and turned away muttering "Oh, a teaching moment" and he disappeared into the crowd as quickly as he could.

The district attorney for the county is either gay-illiterate, or worse, homophobic. We of the pink church have our work cut out for us if we are to bring love and respect to our corner of the world. I urge you not to miss any teaching moments that come your way. Please speak up when you hear someone being ill-informed or outright intolerant. Hey, maybe you might even invite them to visit our church some Sunday and experience what "Love your neighbor" really means.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

May 3	Darrell Dyke	"Let's Make Belief"
May 10	Susan Daiss	"Thanks for the Memories"
May 17	Valerie O' Hara	"Coloring Our Lives Through Stained Glass"
May 24	Lee Richards	"Died so that you might live"
May 31	Lee Richards	"Booking Now"

~ Childcare available during service times ~

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.

Calendar stuff...

Sunday, May 3 – “Let’s Make Belief” worship service @ 11 am with Darrell Dyke. Are you game for a fun look at the power of playtime and the development of our philosophies and faith? How do we learn to believe in the intangible but important things like honesty, hope and love? What part does pretending play in our moral and spiritual development? Let’s take a peek at what culture, science and theology have to say on the matter. Tag, you’re it!

Sunday, May 3 – Building & Grounds committee meets at 12:15 pm.

Monday, May 4 – Fundraising event committee meeting @ 5 pm.

Monday, May 4 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Dish-to-pass food and fun conversation. Open invite to all.

Wednesday, May 6 – Bluebird Society at Pullman. Time to be announced.

Sunday, May 10 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, May 10 – “Thanks for the Memories” worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss. On Mother’s Day 2015, a meditation on the influences that have shaped our lives – maternal and otherwise. 20th anniversary celebration for Susan follows in social hour.

Saturday, May 16 – Sacred Sites Open House, from 9 am to 3 pm. Church open for tours and/or meditation.

Sunday, May 17 – Sacred Sites Open House, from 9 am to 3 pm. Church open for tours and/or meditation.

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

Sunday, May 17 – “Coloring Our Lives Through Stained Glass” (Chautauqua Sunday) worship service @ 11 am with Valerie O’ Hara. Ms. O’Hara purchased Pike Stained Glass Studios from her father in 1987 and did a survey of Pullman’s Tiffany windows soon after.

Sunday, May 24 – “Died so that you might live” Memorial Day worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. A service to honor our country’s fallen.

Monday, May 25 – deadline for submissions to the June newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 27 – Albion Chamber Orchestra Concert at Pullman. Time to be announced.

Sunday, May 31 – “Booking Now” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.” What “must reads” are on *your* reading list for summer? This interactive service will feature some short selected excerpts and allow all of us to exchange recommendations for passing our time with a good book. Please come prepared to share a few titles.

June 12 & 13 - Strawberry Festival fundraiser. More information to come.

Focus on Domestic Violence

On April 22nd the church hosted a meeting and movie about DV. The meeting was an opportunity for Orleans county organizations to get together with people of faith interested in helping to put an end to domestic violence, and in helping heal those wounded by such. Then two nights later Pastor Lee was asked to give the prayer of remembrance at the candlelight vigil held at the courthouse. Here is a copy of what he said....

We sometimes speak of the church as a sanctuary, a place of safety from the stresses and violence of the world. Likewise, we may think of the home as a sanctuary, too, and it should be a place of safety for all who reside there. For it to be otherwise, for there to be violence or the threat of violence to anyone in the home is absolutely counter to the ideals of God and our country.

So I offer this prayer to the God of many names, whether you think of God as Jesus or Allah or the Spirit of Life or the Universal Energy of all Creation - whatever name you call God by, we beseech that powerful presence to inhabit our hearts with Love. Let us be healed when we have been hurt. Lead us to sanctuary from harm, and embrace and comfort the souls who have departed this world.

In God, through God, all things are possible. And because we are touched by that incredible force we have faith that Love will win. Love will defeat the sins of abuse and neglect. Love can reshape hearts and minds. Love will win, and we will again know sanctuary in our homes and churches and at work and play. I know it can, and it will be, so. Amen.

Let us pause now for a moment of silence to remember those who we have lost in body but never in memory. [silence]

[closing] "To live in the hearts and minds of those left behind is to never die." Be keepers of the memories and share the stories. That is how to honor the dead. Amen.

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.

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.

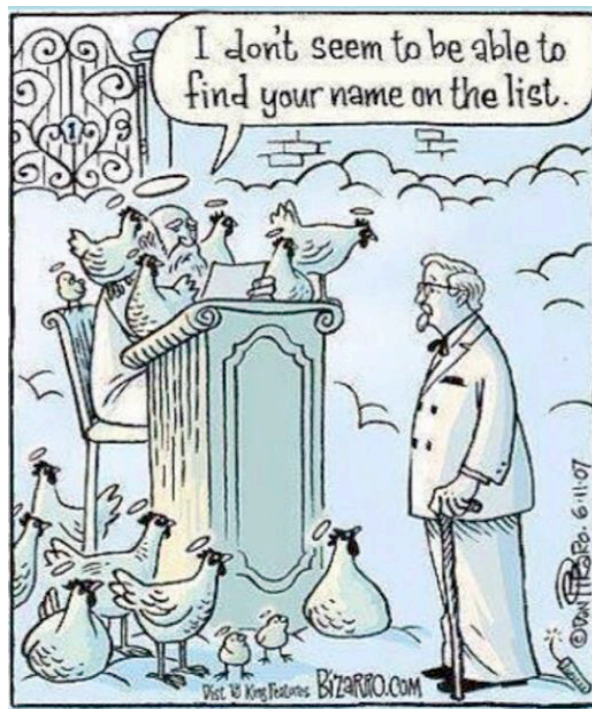
Eye on the Board

The board voted to sponsor a hole at the golf tournament fundraiser for the Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern. Pastor Lee introduced a proposed membership policy for review that will help define the process and expectations for membership.

Craig Smith made a video of the current roof conditions that is available for people to watch. C.W. Lattin has created statements of authenticity for the benches and chairs that were redone. The board authorized repairs be made to the piano in a two-step process

Plans are being made for the Jedi Academy students to be in the Strawberry Festival parade. The wine tasting fundraiser generated a nice profit. Lee announced the Cobblestone service (last Sunday in June) will be a Civil War era Universalist service, with assistance from Matt Ballard.

On May 10th, a cake will be provided to honor the 20 year anniversary of Susan Daiss preaching at Pullman. The Nominating committee is preparing a slate for the annual meeting. We will be hosting the NYSCU annual convention a year from this October and preparations will need to be started now.



Colonel Sanders Enters Heaven

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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