



# The Grapevine Newsletter

April 2017

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

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## From the Board Chairman

I have a poster in my office that I often get a chuckle from: a picture of Andy Warhol and the caption “I think everybody should like everybody.” A bit guileless perhaps, but I find a kind of comfort in that simple statement. Of course, we don’t like everybody and probably shouldn’t. But at times it might be nice to see the best in those around us, even when disagreeing with them, or their actions, or their thoughtless comments in the heat of the moment. Over these past months at Pullman, I have seen our active members working to preserve our community and grow our membership. We share much more than we sometimes seem to express to each other. There are disagreements and arguments, but somehow we keep moving forward. We are a valuable asset in the community, but only if we are a community ourselves. And that takes a commitment from membership to attend services and support our church.

There is no question that our culture and society are troubled. We are angry at the injustice, hatred, and violence that we see around us. And we sometimes turn on each other in our frustration. But withdrawing from each other, retreating into ourselves and into the safety, however illusional, of our homes, does not address what we must do to heal ourselves and our community.

There is a Buddhist saying that I often repeat to myself when I am feeling angry and frustrated at the injustice, hatred, and violence that I see around me: “You will not be punished for your anger; you will be punished by your anger.” I think that that gentle reminder is an effective way to rethink how we engage each other.

*Rich*

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

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April 2	Rev. Donald J. Reidell
April 9	Susan Daiss
April 16	Rev. Lori Staubitz
April 23	Rev. John Rex
April 30	Darrell Dyke
May 7	Rev. Donald J. Reidell

\* A sign-up sheet is available for anyone who wishes to bring a snack for Coffee Hour \*

## The 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting – Please Attend

Please join us for the *123rd Annual Congregational Meeting* on **Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>** following the regular church service! Your attendance is very important because business cannot be conducted unless there is a quorum of 15 voting members present! Every year this meeting is held to address the congregation and report on the progress of the year, vote on Board members and officers for the coming year, and give the congregation a chance to have a voice and add their input. As always, lunch will be served. There has been a lot of progress this past year, and we hope to make even more strides next year! You are important, and your ideas are needed! We are counting on you!  
See you on the 30th!

### Coming Events

**Sunday, April 2** – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

Following the service: *Members and Friends Lunch Meeting and Pledge Kick-off*

It will be a short informal discussion about the progress we've made this year and talk about how pledging will assist the church in planning for the coming year. Pizza, salad and dessert will be served. *(If you cannot attend the lunch meeting, a pledge form is included at the end of the newsletter. Please submit forms by April 30<sup>th</sup>.)*

**Monday, April 3** – 6:30 pm, Potluck Supper. Join us for good food and fellowship.  
Please bring a dish to pass.

**Saturday, April 8** – 9:00 am, Workbee

**Sunday, April 9** - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting/Building & Grounds

**Sunday, April 9** - Susan Daiss

**Sunday, April 16** – Rev. Lori Staubitz

**Sunday, April 23** - 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

**Sunday, April 23** – Rev. John Rex

**Sunday, April 30** – Darrell Dyke

Following the service: *123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting*. Please plan to attend.



### Joys and Concerns

Sun, Feb 26

-Chris Loss wished a belated birthday to Pat Cammarata, the congregation sang to her, and Diana Dudley brought a cake. She also had a joy that the book discussion this morning on the 'Rise of the Warrior Cop' was so enjoyable and robust!

Sun, March 5

-Sylvia Goodstine - her sister-in-law passed away recently from esophageal cancer, after being diagnosed only three weeks ago. Our condolences, Sylvia, for this sad loss.

-Diana Dudley- was happy that we had such a successful workbee yesterday. The kitchen and bathroom were cleaned, woodwork was polished, the church was vacuumed, and posters were put up.

-Dennis Seekins - said he attended a fantastic concert at Daemen College. It is worth checking out their programs!

-Chris Loss - was sad to report that Rev. Libby Moore's husband, Bob Brennan, was in Strong Hospital diagnosed with a brain tumor. Bob unfortunately did die on March 6th. We are so sorry to hear this, and our hearts go out to Libby and her family.

-Susan Daiss' father-in-law, Chuck Daiss, died on Monday, February 27th. Susan flew out to California for the services. Condolences to you and your family, Susan.

Sun, March 19

Al Capurso - said his family has been struck several times with sorrow...the wife of one of his best friends passed away after suffering a long illness, as well as a friend who suddenly died. This has been a sad time for his family and we are all thinking of you at this time with love.

Debby Rodrigues - thanked Al Capurso for dedicating a song to her. She was overwhelmed with emotion as he talked about her bravery in joining the Women's March in Washington and for all the social justice work she does.

Diana Dudley - had a sorrow that Thursday the 16th marked the death of her sister 32 years ago...the grief lingers. She also had a joy that there was a picture of her in the Orleans Hub shoveling the church ramp during the storm. It can't be said enough what an amazing woman Diana is!!

Jessica George - is a rape crisis counselor for RESTORE (sponsored by Planned Parenthood), and said she sat with two victims yesterday...was up all night. But she wasn't alone because there were supportive nurses, doctors, and other staff with her. This is such a crucial program, but sadly, the funding is now in jeopardy. Please call, e-mail or write your representatives and let them know how important it is to keep the funding for Planned Parenthood!

Chris Loss - thanked Debby Rodrigues and Jim Hobbs for their work on the Sip N Stroll last Saturday. We had a steady stream of people in the church on that day despite the terrible storm raging outside! The church was set up and looked lovely, and Debby brought a basket she had put together that was quite classy.

Chris Loss - had a joy in welcoming a new Great Niece, Aubrey, on Friday. She is beautiful little girl, all cheeks! And her grandson, Caden, turned 12 on March 12th!

Chris Loss - was upset about the many programs in peril for funding including Meals on Wheels, NPR, and Planned Parenthood.

Sun, March 26

Liz Schaal - had a joy that she belongs to a church that will have a program with a pagan emphasis in the pulpit as we did today with Reverend and Priestess Amy Koban.

Al Capurso - suffered a heart attack on Thursday, March 23rd. He was Mercy Flighted to Rochester General Hospital where he is now in stable condition. Al says he doesn't remember a thing. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers for a very speedy recovery!

## Support PMUC and the Planet



Just a reminder – We have a bin for refundable cans/bottles and one for aluminum. *Both our church and the environment benefit!!*

- The bins are located in the vestibule at the ramp entrance.
- Please be sure the aluminum is clean and labels are removed.
- Please do not crush the aluminum.

## Eye on the Board

From the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Jim Hobbs tendered his resignation from the Board. We are thankful for all that Jim has done as a board member for PMUC.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Diana has sent out 1099's. Our endowment has increased about \$20,000 higher than last year due to a robust Stock Market, and we have never been in better shape. The issue of an endowment trust came up and was discussed, and some research has been done. More inquiry will be needed.
- Building and Grounds had a meeting last week, and the gas water heater has been replaced, outlets have been added, the dining room needs to be finished, Ron Beiswenger has been dealing with the books, the furnace in the dining room is working but eventually there are two that will need to be replaced, the basement needs to be cleaned, and the piano is in need of repair. The piano repair is not a high priority at this time, but options will be looked into.
- The April 2nd Members and Friends Agenda was worked on. Pizza, salad, cake, and brownies will be served.
- Darrell Dyke is working with RESTORE on the April display in front of the church.
- The Annual Meeting is being organized and a checklist has been distributed.
- The Fund Raising Committee will decide on what to do for the Strawberry Festival.
- The Nominating Committee has been activated.
- Some suggested services for the future included a Women's Service, Saturday Potluck, and possibly an evening service.
- Due to the Easter holiday, the next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2017.

## Pullman Plaudits

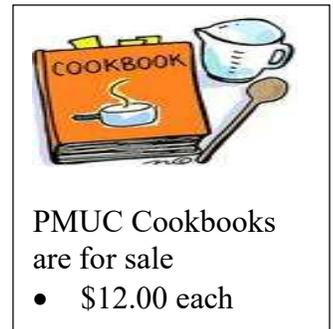
Chris Loss - for hosting the book discussion for 'Rise of the Warrior Cop' by Radley Balko. It was an engaging exploration of the book concepts, and so appropriate for what is going on today. Specifically, our Fourth Amendment has been quite compromised largely due to most people not paying attention, and to lawmakers more concerned with looking tough on crime. Many thanks to Diana Dudley, Dennis Seekins, and Pat Cammarata for joining in!

Diana Dudley - has been doing a great job keeping track of the many projects we have been doing, including adding electrical outlets, switching to an electric water heater, adding heat tape to the pipes in the kitchen, etc. So much has been accomplished this past year!! She has also been chairing the joint Finance Committee/Building and Grounds meetings.

Ron Beiswenger - has been removing the books downstairs. Many of the books are no longer usable due to all of the work that has been going on including drywall, so Ron has been taking them to various dumpsters.

Debby Rodrigues and Jim Hobbs - for their work on the Sip N Stroll on March 11th. They did a wonderful job coordinating the event. And thanks also to Ron Beiswenger, Rich DellaCosta, and Chris Loss for attending to help out.

Liz Schaal - has been working on the welcoming Board as we enter the church...adding decorative fabric, and putting up appropriate posters indicating current events, the pulpit schedule, our statement of purpose, and so on. It looks wonderful!



Jim Hobbs- brought in a filing cabinet for the church office!! Thank you Jim!

Debby Rodrigues - brought a movie for the March potluck supper entitled 'Where To Invade Next' by Michael Moore that everyone enjoyed! And many thanks to Darrell Dyke for operating the technical equipment so we could watch the movie!

Darrell Dyke - has been working with Jessica George (from RESTORE) on a project for April. There will be a display in the front lawn similar to what was done last year to represent all of the victims of rape.

Worship Associates and other pulpit volunteers this month included Darrell Dyke, Debby Rodrigues, and Chris Loss.

Workbee participants this month included Diana Dudley, Chris Loss, Liz Schaal, Monica Beck, Pat Cammarata, Debby Rodrigues, Rich Della Costa, Bonnie Beiswenger, and Ron Beiswenger.

Liz Schaal - created a Survey Monkey survey to obtain feedback from the congregation on our services this past year. Great job, Liz!

Coffee Hour treats this month were provided by Sylvia Goodstine, Diana Dudley, Bonnie Beiswenger, Liz Schaal, Rich Della Costa, and Chris Loss.

## Share the Pulpit

The "share the pulpit" initiative continues in which some of our ministers have invited members to join them in leading Sunday Services. If you would like to volunteer to read the welcome/announcement message, chalice lighting words, and other elements of our worship, please contact Chris Loss, Rich Della Costa, or Darrell Dyke.

### Next Book Discussion – May 7th

The book discussion group will meet again on Sunday, May 7th at 9:30 a.m. to talk about 'Strangers In Their Own Land - Anger and Mourning on the American Right' by Arlie Russell Hochschild. In this book, the author travels to the 'red' states to try to determine how life feels to people on the right of the political spectrum, and what the deep story is behind their beliefs. The author has undertaken this research to try to understand viewpoints that she doesn't understand in the hope that she can find some way to bridge the divide between parties. She reveals that there is a belief on the right that refugees, immigrants, state workers, welfare recipients, etc. are line cutters, placed ahead of people standing in line for the American dream by a Federal government that gives them additional advantages to be there. It is a story of people who feel displaced, and that their lack of jobs, opportunities, healthcare, etc. is because of all of those line cutters who are sucking up all of the resources and making their dreams more distant. And so they place more faith in corporations, even ones that pollute their air and water, over the federal government. But the reason for a stagnating middle class is more complicated than this.

Since it is true that almost everyone wants clean water and air, a good education for their children, housing, good jobs, and safety, what will it take to find common ground and start to work for effective solutions rather than two ideologies always butting heads? What will it take to overcome the lack of facts, especially since there are so many radio and television programs that know the 'deep story' and reinforce the myths all the time?

Join us for a robust discussion!

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*We are a welcoming congregation*



# PULLMAN MEMORIAL UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

## Members and Friends

### 2017 PLEDGE FORM

Please help us continue to provide a liberal sanctuary to you and other members and friends of the PMUC Congregation where “an open and democratic environment” is part of our continued mission.

Name	
Address	
Email	

- Pledges can be given on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly basis.
- Please contact the collections officer if you are interested in pledge envelopes.
- Electronic pledges can also be made via Paypal on our webpage at <https://pullmanmemorial.org/>
- Please note: \$60.00 per member is sent to the Unitarian Universalist Association on a yearly basis to maintain our UUA standing.

Total <u>ANNUAL</u> Pledge	\$
I understand that the amount above can be revised or cancelled should the circumstances make it necessary.	
Signature	Date

- Should you need to adjust your pledge at any time during the year, please contact the collections officer so that we can adjust our budget accordingly.

*Your stewardship is greatly appreciated! Thank you.*