



The Grapevine Newsletter

December 2016

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

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Fellow UU Members (and everyone else),

This is truly a confusing time for many of us. The conflicts and aggression of the past election campaign left a bad taste in everyone's mouth. Most of us can't remember what it was we were voting for and against. It reminds me a little of a quip from Steven Wright. He remarks, "Right now I'm having amnesia and Déjà vu at the same time. I think I've forgotten this before."

It is important to remember why we espouse the principles of our fellowship. And I feel that it is important to extend those principles to others who may not share them. When the triumphs and the gloating ends and the air clears a bit, many, maybe most, of our fellow Americans are going to think back and remember when we conducted ourselves in a bit more civil manner. The glow of victory always fades when the realities of everyday life return. Promises made merely become the bloated claims of people who do not live the lives that most of us share. Until civility returns, hopefully our time together in fellowship will help us remember the importance of compassion and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Rich

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

December 4	Libby Moore
December 11	Rev. Lori Staubitz
December 18	Susan Daiss
December 23 (Friday), 7 pm <i>Annual Candlelight Service</i>	Rev. Lori Staubitz
<i>December 25 – No Service</i>	
January 1	Lay-led Annual Fireside Chat

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

Coming Events

Sunday, December 4 – Libby Moore

Monday, December 5 – 6:30 pm, Potluck Supper. Join us for good food and fellowship.
Please bring a dish to pass.

Saturday, December 10 – 9:00 am, Workbee

Sunday, December 11 - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting

Sunday, December 11 - Rev. Lori Staubitz

Sunday, December 18 - 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, December 18 – Susan Daiss

Friday, December 23 – 7:00 pm, Rev. Lori Staubitz,
Annual Candlelight Service

**** No Service on December 25 ****

Sunday, January 1 – Lay-led Annual Fireside Chat



The Annual Candlelight Service will be held on Friday, December 23 at 7:00 PM. Rev. Lori Staubitz will be in the pulpit, and it will be a lovely service as always. Please plan on attending to get a dose of holiday spirit! You are also invited to bring cookies or a snack to share!! Happy Holidays to you and your family!!

Joys and Concerns

-Dennis Seekins- reminded the men that when they hear 'guy talk' that is disparaging to women, that if they don't say something about it being inappropriate, they become part of the problem. This is on the heels of the 'guy talk' that Donald Trump was engaged in during an interview with Billy Bush where he said that he could grab a woman anywhere and she would put up with it because of his power, and so on.

-Debby Rodrigues - is distraught over what is going on in North Dakota with American Indians protesting over the proposed pipeline. Ed Koban, well-known musician who was here at one of our wine tasting events, will be traveling there to protest with them around Thanksgiving. She fears mercenaries hired by the oil companies and the lengths they will go to deter protestors.

-Diana Dudley - is upset over the slaughter of Syrians that has been going on in Aleppo and wondered what we can possibly do to help??

-Alan Nugent - has a joy that he will soon be traveling back to Florida for the winter. And Chris Loss had a "sorry" that Alan will be going back to Florida. The congregation gave him a round of applause for all of the hard work he does for this church!!

-Tobin Carson - when President elect Trump was talking about late term abortions, which he knows nothing about apparently, Tobin was inspired to write down some experiences radically different than what he has been describing. They are just heartbreaking accounts, and 7,000 people read it! And she was delighted to see all of the good responses. A paper in Maine actually picked up on this and published it!!

-Rich Della Costa - talked about 'Wired' magazine and pointed out that the latest issue has Barack Obama as the guest editor on optimism. If you get a chance, check it out. When Obama first took office, he was dismayed that the War Room wasn't as technical as he had imagined. The bottom line is that technology can really solve a lot of society's ills. Artificial intelligence strikes a hopeful tune.

Debby Rodrigues is going to the Women's March on Washington 1/21/17. If anyone is interested and would like more information, please feel free to contact her.

-Monica Beck- is pleased that it is such a beautiful fall day!! And it is especially nice to see Dick Hoffman present!!

-David Purdy - said he hasn't seen his daughter in a while and had a chance to spend a week with her and that was very nice.

-Rich Della Costa - said it is interesting to note that the Southern Poverty Law Center has seen donations go up dramatically since Donald Trump won the election. And also since the election, the amount of hate mail has also gone up considerably.

PMUC Thanksgiving Dinner – November 20th

-Matthew Adema - it is a joy to see friends again and meet some new people. In response to the fears people have since the election, somehow, it's always darkest before the dawn, and things often have to hit rock bottom for change to occur. He hopes the world becomes more compassionate. Everything he has learned has been from hardship.



-Chris Loss- admits to being quite shaken from this election. Electing Donald Trump as president is a risky proposition. Some of what he has said he wants to do are good things, but having surrounded himself with the people he has and with both the House and Senate falling to the Republicans, the prospects are quite scary.

-Debby Rodrigues - is happy to report that her best friend's daughter was hired by the New York Times!

-Rev. Lori Staubitz - has a disabled son who finds it hard to be around people, but he will be present for an early Thanksgiving gathering. This is quite a success!

-Matthew Adema - had a beloved cat who died several years ago in August, and this past August, another cat appeared out of nowhere who looked and acted just like this cat...it was incredible.

For those interested in the Southern Poverty Law Center which Rich Della Costa mentioned during Joys & Concerns on the 13th, here is some information from the website:

“The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, the SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality.” (<https://www.splcenter.org/>)

Debby Rodrigues - spent a lovely day at a beautiful gorge with her dear friend, Reggie!

Dennis Seekins - had a first estimate on the chimney recently and was pleased to find out that we were right about what needs to be done!

Monica Beck - is glad to be here today with her church family, which is something to be thankful for!!

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.

Eye on the Board

The Board of Trustees met on Sunday, November 27, and had a large agenda. The regular reports were reviewed. Donations of \$25 will be made to the Ministry of Concern and the Downtown Association. \$2,013 will be moved from the Restoration Fund to the checking account. We have \$5,300 in cash in the Scottrade account. The endowment is holding up well and was at \$443,060 at the end of October. The market has gone down and then went back up and has been climbing.

Payne's Carpet completed the work on the rug, and it looks great! Dennis Seekins had Turnbull come in to do an estimate on the chimney, and they recommended that a fireplace enclosure be added because the current set-up is generating moisture in the chimney, causing deterioration. Turnbull is not able to do that aspect of the work and recommended Big Ash. All-ways Warm was also mentioned to get a possible estimate.

The hot water heater is venting only partially and so heat is not going up the chimney. It is melting parts of the heater. Replacing the gas water heater with an electric one is one option, which would solve a lot of the problems. Jim explained that in order to do that, we would need a 220v plug/line added. He will also obtain an estimate for updated electrical outlets (grounded outlets) throughout the church. In addition, Jim said he may have someone to do work on the ceiling.

A workbee has been scheduled for Saturday, December 10 from 9-noon, and more work will be done on the office area. Someone will be needed to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks this winter, and Richard Nenni will be called to see if he is interested.

The Jedi Knight group has not been happening, and ways will be explored to advertise more. The book discussion group in November was a robust talk, and the Board is considering having one every other month with book input from the congregation. Another group will meet in February to talk about the book, 'Rise of the Military Cop'. Rich is working on a service to be held in the Spring, which will be a combination of poetry readings, music, and other offerings concerning women's issues. Rev. Lori Staubitz will be in the pulpit for the Annual Candlelight Service and musicians have been lined up. Christmas bonuses were discussed. Rich Della Costa attended a Regional Workshop about partnerships between congregations. Joan VanBecleare led the discussion, and Rich reported on how that went and made some recommendations. Darrell will be attending a conference in Amherst on 'Right Relations' in January.

The Cobblestone Society has requested to meet at the church and the Board approved this. The wine tasting event was discussed and while it is too late to work on it for the Spring, we may have the event in the Fall. New member outreach was also discussed. The next Board meeting will be held on Sunday, December 18th.

UUA East Region Conferences (Spring 2017)

Worship Arts Conference

On April 8 worship artist Marcia McFee will be offering a day-long “**Transform Sunday Morning**” workshop in **Pittsburgh, PA**. She has been working with UU religious professionals for years, but this is the first local opportunity – and we want our lay worship leaders to have access to her ideas. We have a great discount for early registration and a bonus book for worship arts teams of 4 or more. This is a once-in-a-decade opportunity! More information can be found here: <http://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/worship-arts-conference?month=2017-04>.

Description: Bring your team (program staff, worship associates, artists, musicians and other interested people) to discover ways to enliven and deepen your congregation’s worship services. Based on presenter Marcia McFee’s book *Think Like a Filmmaker*, this conference will help you layer visual, auditory and experiential elements into a transformative worship experience. Marcia McFee has been teaching, preaching, performing, and leading worship in a professional capacity for over twenty years. She is a nationally-renowned teacher in worship arts for many different faiths, and has led several workshops for UU professionals, including ministers, music directors and religious educators. We are thrilled to be able offer this opportunity to our congregations!

Stewardship Conference

On May 6, we are bringing in Stewardship Consultant Barry Finkelstein to join me in talking about “**Money, Membership and Shared Ministry**” in **Akron, OH**. More information can be found here: <http://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/stewardship-conference?month=2017-05>. (This will be similar to the conference offered in Syracuse, NY last Spring.)

Description: As the world is changing and the role of faith communities is in transition, how do we make sure that our UU communities are ready--not just to respond--but to thrive? Using examples from congregations that are growing while others are declining, we’ll help your leaders (including staff, board, clergy, stewardship, membership, faith development, strategic planning) imagine new ways of growing and deepening your church.

Pullman Plaudits

-Thanks to Ministerial Associates for the month: Darrell Dyke and Debby Rodrigues.

-Dennis Seekins - who is currently seeking three bids on work on the chimney.

-Chris Loss - who hosted the book discussion 'A Mother's Reckoning' on November 6th.

-Jim Hobbs and Debby Rodrigues - Jim cooked the turkey for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Debby made the gravy. It was wonderful!! And many thanks to all who contributed to the dinner. It was an incredible meal and a lot of fun! And it was an amazing clean-up!!

-Monica Beck, Julie Andrews, Liz Schaal, Bonnie and Ron Beiswenger, Chris Loss, and Diana Dudley who provided treats for Sunday coffee hour!!

-Pat Cammarata, Liz Schaal, Diana Dudley, Monica Beck, Chris Loss, Rich Della Costa, and Bonnie Beiswenger for contributing their talents at the workbee on November 12th. The Pastor's study/office was cleaned out and organized, and the rug was vacuumed. Diana took her chainsaw out to tackle some of the foliage. Monica went above and beyond in cleaning the kitchen!

-Chris Loss - has been putting up the minister names for the Wayside Pulpit every Sunday.

-C.W. Lattin - has been making the coffee every Sunday and making sure that flowers are on the altar.

-Darrell Dyke - has continued to work on the website.

-Alan Nugent - is now in Florida, but he continues to monitor the endowment and assists Diana with the Treasurer's reports.

-Payne's Carpeting has completed repairs to the carpet! New carpeting was added to the aisles and around the Pulpit. Many thanks to Jim Hobbs for finding the company and to Diana Dudley for following up!

Book Discussion Report

On November 6th, a small group met to discuss the book 'A Mother's Reckoning - Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy' by Sue Klebold. Seventeen years ago, Sue's son Dylan along with Eric Harris, walked into Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado at 11:15 AM with assault weapons and bombs and shot and killed 12 students and one teacher, wounded many others, and then killed themselves. The media's response was wall to wall coverage of the event for weeks, showing screaming children running out of the school. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were mentioned over and over, their lives were examined, there were aerial views of their homes, and it was surmised that they were bullied, outcasts, Satanists, indulged brats, etc.

The group examined what Dylan's parent went through when the event first took place. They were removed from their home for many hours, not told anything, and then allowed to get a few things and leave. Eventually, they learned their son was dead. The media blamed them right away, saying they must have ignored their son, allowing him to make bombs in the basement, bought him expensive cars and guns and so on. In reality, according to Sue Klebold, they were the kind of parents who read to their children, didn't allow guns in the house, spent a great deal of time with their children. In other words, they were a typical family, or so they thought. Mrs. Klebold was not asking for forgiveness for her or her son, but wanted to caution parents to be more aware of their children if something seems a bit off. The Klebolds became a pariah in their town, and even getting a haircut was difficult. Since this event, they have lived in a virtual hell.

The truth is that the boys were not outcasts in the school, and the bullying was pervasive throughout the school. They weren't overindulged, they weren't Satanists, they weren't goths, they weren't gay. But Eric Harris was likely a Psychopath who wanted to kill, and Dylan was depressed and wanted to die. The two boys meeting and becoming friends was like a perfect storm of horror. And they both were very good at deception. They didn't let their parents know who they really were.

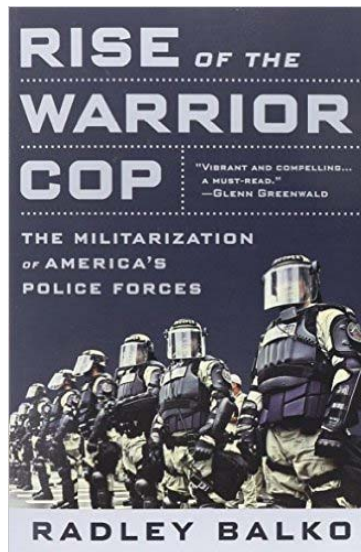
The group examined a few questions such as 1. What could the Klebolds have done to prevent this tragedy? 2. How aware were we about what the boys' families have gone through? 3. How could Sue have been so wrong about her son? 4. Is Sue's warning legitimate? 5. What is intrusive into your child's privacy and what is necessary? 6. How did the media contribute to the family's suffering? 7. What should you do if you feel your child is hanging around a bad influence?

It was a great discussion. If anyone has an idea for another book we might check out, please see Chris Loss!!

Next Book Discussion will be February 26, 2017

February's book will be 'Rise of the Warrior Cop: The Militarization of America's Police Forces' by Radley Balko

We hope you will join us!



In case you need an idea for a snack this holiday season

Harlequin Christmas Fudge
(provided by Chris Loss)

3 oz. package softened cream cheese
3 cups confectionery sugar
Dash salt
1/2 cup chopped mixed candied fruit and chopped walnuts

Cream the cheese. Slowly blend the sugar and salt, add fruit and walnuts and mix. Spread onto parchment paper in a shallow pan. Place in fridge for an hour. Cut into squares.



Recycling



Recycling bins are now located in the vestibule at the ramp entrance.

Please separate the beverage cans and bottles with deposit from the scrap (container) aluminum.
Kindly be sure it is clean.

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

Our website pullmanmemorialdonations.com offers several choices for making contributions.

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 and PayPal are accepted.

For “The Lord of the Rings” fans



Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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We are a welcoming congregation