

# *The Grapevine Newsletter*



October 2017

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

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'This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.'  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **From the Board Chair -- Taking Our Time**

Beloved Community,

To paraphrase Albert Einstein and Douglas Adams, "Time is an illusion, deadlines doubly so." I am one of those people who is continually surprised about how fast time passes, or rather, I am shocked by how quickly deadlines and important dates sneak up on me. Folks like me try to use calendars and planners, which do work- up to a point. I am still somehow surprised by due dates and deadlines.

I was warned by my elders: "Time just keeps going by, faster and faster as you get older." I'm sorry I ever doubted them. Whole seasons zoom by. The years just whiz along faster and faster.

Time is actually relative and flexible, as Einstein claimed: "the dividing line between past, present, and future is an illusion". Maybe what Albert was saying that it's the dividing lines we make between the hours and days and weeks that makes the years of our life seem so speedy. For someone like a prisoner, whose days are not markedly different, time slows way down and creeps along in a petty pace. For those of us with full schedules chock full of dividing lines, there sometimes aren't enough minutes to each day. Sometimes, when we're experiencing something called "flow," when we are really getting into a project, time can fly by without a care.

I am going to submit this newsletter blurb late. I missed the deadline. This might remind me to be careful how I divide my day with the illusionary lines. Some lines are immovable, by agreement, to make interpersonal lives move more smoothly. That's what schedules and deadlines are all about. But what's left over- the personal time- maybe I can build fewer fences between those minutes/hours/days and weeks.

Time to unwind.

Time to be still.

Let's take time to just let time be what it is- an illusion.

*Darrell A. Dyke*



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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

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October 1	Rev. Donald J. Reidell
October 8	Rev. Lori Staubitz
October 15	Rev. John Rex
October 22	Rev. Libby Moore
October 29	Susan Frawley
November 5	Rev. Donald J. Reidell

 Assisted listening devices are available for services – available near the lectern

### Coming Events

**Sunday, October 1** – 9:30 am, Book Discussion – Please join us at the next book discussion on Sunday, October 1, at 9:30 am. The book for discussion will be, *Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice*, by Dr. Willie Parker. You do not have to have read the book to attend. Please join us!

**Sunday, October 1** – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

**Monday, October 2** – 6:30 pm, Potluck Supper. Join us for good food and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.

**Saturday, October 7** – 9:30 am – 3:00 pm, Retreat with Rev. Lori Staubitz. See details on page 4.

**Sunday, October 8** - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting/Building & Grounds

**Sunday, October 8** - Rev. Lori Staubitz

**Thursday, October 12** – 7:00 pm, Meditation with John Mosher, Ph.D.

**Saturday, October 14** – 9:00 am, Workbee. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Diana Dudley ([diana527@gmail.com](mailto:diana527@gmail.com)) with any questions.

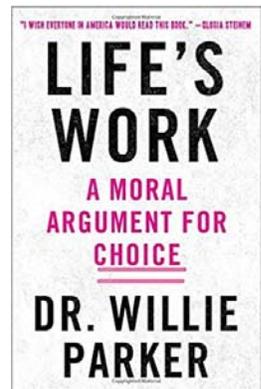
**Sunday, October 15** - 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

**Sunday, October 15** – Rev. John Rex

**Sunday, October 22** – Rev. Libby Moore

**Sunday, October 29** – Susan Frawley

**Sunday, November 5** - Rev. Donald J. Reidell



## Joys and Concerns

Sept 10

Mark Porter - has prayers for all victims of hurricanes past, present, and future!

Alan Nugent - Hurricane Irma has him worried about his friends in Florida, and he has a residence in Cape Canaveral.

Chris Loss - is also worried about friends and family in Florida because of the impending hurricane, especially two dear friends in Ft. Meyers.

Susan Daiss - explained her Pastoral care role with this church. There are points in life we all journey through where we may need to be listened to, and she is very willing to listen. She does not offer counseling, nor can she fix problems. But she can connect us with others who can help. If you need to talk and be listened to, please contact Susan! This is a service that this church offers members and friends so do not hesitate to call!

Diana Dudley - pointed out that the window 'Christ the Consoler' has been cleaned, broken glass repaired, and Plexiglass has been replaced with sturdier material so it is well protected. It looks beautiful! 'I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly'.

Chris Loss - had a joy that Alan and a friend of Diana's tackled the unruly bush in front of the west end of the church, and it looks so much better now. It was actually covering up a historical sign! The workbee held yesterday was very successful!

Sept 17

Al Capurso - had a joy that Pullman hosted his Meet and Greet yesterday! It was well attended and was successful. Wine, cheese and other snacks were served. Al is running for office, Legislator at Large, and we wish him all the best!

Debby Rodrigues and Jim Hobbs - have been generously helping out a refugee family from Syria, and trying to assist them to feel more comfortable and have all that they need to get on their feet. But they are currently in need of beds. Donations are welcome!

Sylvia Goodstine - had a mixed blessing! Her brother and a neighbor were hit by a heavy object and her brother suffered a broken foot and a few severed fingers! Despite all that, it actually could have been so much worse! We wish him a speedy recovery!

Joyce Riley - is thankful to have received such a warm welcome at the church this morning. She has been looking for a new church home, and feels that she has found it here! Welcome Joyce, it is a pleasure to have you here!



THE NEXT MEDITATION WITH  
JOHN MOSHER, PH.D., IS  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 PM.  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

## Joys and Concerns *continued*

Debby Rodrigues - said some friends of hers are going to New York City to see Michael Moore in the Broadway production 'Terms of My Surrender'.

Chris Loss - had a joy that the Meditation group with John Mosher Ph.D. this past Thursday went very well with eight people in attendance. This is a monthly event and everyone is welcome! Please plan on attending!

Sept 24

Monica Beck - has a sorrow that her daughter, Fiona, had an accident with her Suburban, and it was totaled. However, she wasn't hurt and that is what matters! It is great news that she is ok!!

Darrell Dyke - following hurricane Maria, they have not heard from a family member in Puerto Rico but have heard that there were no fatalities in that area. He knows that folks there go door to door to check on everyone and that is a great comfort. There is currently no gas and no electricity, and it will be that way for a while. Tobin will be going down to help at the hospital there. We will all keep Darrell and his family in our thoughts until they do locate Grandma!

Rev. Lori Staubitz - would also like to lift up the families in Mexico affected by the earthquake!

Debby Rodrigues - had a week of incredible stress! After thinking for days that they weren't able to secure a house for the refugee family, she finally found out that they did get it. It is located on South Avenue, and the family is very happy! This is a big step for them since they had been renting a small place and paying a huge amount.

Alan Nugent - had been very worried about his friends in Florida but they are all fine, and his residence was unharmed by the hurricane. He hopes that folks in Puerto Rico can quickly recover from the awful destruction there!

## PMUC Retreat for Members and Friends

*Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm*

“We’ve Got a New Way to Walk”

Renewing the Life of Your Congregation

Facilitated by Reverend Lori Staubitz

- Want to know the secret to limiting destructive drama?
- Want to encourage new ideas in a supportive environment?
- Want to join with members and friends for an interactive, fun, and informative day of discovery?
  - Surprise yourself on how well you can handle a difficult situation and think outside the box!

Please email ([darrell.dyke2@gmail.com](mailto:darrell.dyke2@gmail.com)) or contact Darrell Dyke by October 4<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.



## Eye on the Board

The Board of Trustees met on Sunday, September 24th. Since the market continues to be robust, our endowment is at an all-time high of \$476,645.

The Building and Grounds Committee is waiting for an updated proposal from Country Contracting, Inc. and an initial proposal from Jim Babcock for repair of the south roof, and hopefully a decision will be reached by mid-November. Once a decision is made, there will be an online congregational vote to approve the funds.

Pat Cammarata's resignation was accepted with regrets. A replacement Board member will be sought.

Rev. Lori Staubitz will host a mini-retreat on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, which will be open to the entire congregation. It will concern tools for us to help with relating to each other with love and respect. All members and friends will receive an invitation, and RSVP's will be needed.

### Please Sign-Up to Bring a Snack for Coffee Hour

- Sign-up sheet available in the parish hall



For many reasons, our AED has become more of a burden than a benefit and will be donated to an appropriate agency in need of one.

A 40-year celebration will be held for Rev. Don Reidell on November 5th. Plans for the celebration were discussed.

The church will have an additional donation plate on September 24th to assist with obtaining beds for a Syrian refugee family.

The Honorary Citizen Award will return in February, and the Board discussed names of possible candidates.

The possible hiring of a custodian was discussed by the Board, along with what the duties would be and how often this will be needed.

## Share the Pulpit Continues

The below ministers have requested worship associates for the following dates. 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 ([closs1626@gmail.com](mailto:closs1626@gmail.com)) or Darrell Dyke ([darrell.dyke2@gmail.com](mailto:darrell.dyke2@gmail.com)) and let them know what date you are interested in "sharing the pulpit".

Rev. Lori Staubitz: 10/8/17, 11/12/17, 12/10/17, 1/21/18, 2/4/18, 3/18/18, 4/15/18, 6/10/18

Susan Daiss: 11/19/17, 12/17/17, 12/23/17, 1/14/18, 2/18/18, 3/25/18, 4/22/18, 5/13/18, 6/17/18

Rev John Rex: 10/15/17

## Pullman Plaudits

Thanks to those who attended the first Potluck supper on Monday, September 11th! Julie Andrews made a wonderful hamburg pie! There was good food and conversation!

Diana Dudley - has been looking at our chair situation and trying to salvage some wicker chairs that are broken. She discovered that she could apply a round wooden piece and make it work so we will hear more about this at a later date! She has also been looking into what to do about the gray folding chairs to make them look better. She is always thinking of ways to make the church better!

John Mosher, Ph.D., has been doing a wonderful job with the monthly meditation group! He begins with information about the practice, points out ways to live life with more purpose and joy, and then he leads us in a short but powerful meditation. Some have reported leaving the session with so much more energy!

Pat Cammarata has resigned from the Board, and the Board recently did regretfully accept it. Pat has worked very hard, and we are very grateful for her professional, meticulous, and excellent contributions. She has done a great job on the many projects she has taken part in. Many thanks Pat!

If not for Rich Della Costa's persistence, we might not have received a payment from the insurance company to help defray the cost of cleaning and repairing the Christ the Consoler window. Great job, Rich!

Thanks to Diana Dudley, C.W. Lattin, Dick Hoffman, Dennis Seekins, and Julie Andrews for all the work they have been doing looking over proposals for repair of the roof. They are getting a lot closer to a solution!!

Thanks to Darrell Dyke, C.W. Lattin, and Pat Cammarata for helping out with Al Capurso's Meet and Greet at the church on Saturday, Sept 16th.

Thanks to C.W Lattin for opening the church and closing up, cleaning up, and being present for a recent wedding.

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*We are a welcoming congregation*

