

The Grapevine Newsletter



January 2014

Published by **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church** Albion, NY

Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

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Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

It's official. We have both a historic *and* a beautiful church. On December 12th we were inducted into the Medina Sandstone Hall of Fame, a decision based upon the superior craftsmanship and beauty of our stone building.

This was the first year for the “Sandy” awards and 21 different historic and landmark structures around New York state were nominated, with just six chosen for the inaugural class. The combination of George Pullman's exceptional pink Medina sandstone and the most precise stonework in the area, along with the many other design superlatives, figured prominently in the Sandstone Society's choice of PMUC.

I was fortunate to attend the ceremony and I said a few words but, as is so often the case, Bill Lattin's remarks absolutely nailed it! He said, “Don't miss the extraordinary ordinary we have in Medina sandstone buildings here locally and spread throughout New York State.”

Bill's right. We enjoy our wonderful church weekly and maybe our frequent presence sometimes dulls us to what a splendid asset we have. I know some congregations suffer with their buildings - suffer with poor construction, or poor locations, or deteriorating structures from lack of upkeep, or poorly done remodeling efforts, or lack of accessibility for the differently abled, or any of a number of other things. And while it is true we need to make a number of repairs, we're on top of the situation and do not feel threatened or burdened by the responsibility.

Indeed, even as we work toward restoring our roof to its original grandeur, we continue to make progress in other areas of the building. The massive doors separating the sanctuary from the social hall now open properly to allow easy access for wheelchairs and walkers. The hearing assistive system seems to be finally fully functional (with some tweaks made on Dec. 23rd). The front step with a broken corner is scheduled for repair in the spring - and the Medina Sandstone Society has given us a grant award to help offset some of those costs.

We have a beautiful church building, and it is filled with beautiful people who care about it, and about each other. That's an award-winning combination if ever there was one!

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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| Jan. 5 | Susan Daiss | |
| Jan. 12 | Lee Richards | “Les Miserable” |
| Jan. 19 | Deborah Bridge | “Depth Psychology” (Chautauqua Sunday) |
| Jan. 26 | Lee Richards | “Universalism is the new Universalism” |
| Feb. 2 | Don Reidell | |

~ *Childcare available during service times* ~

Sunday, Dec. 31 - "Fireside Chat" service @ 11 am in the parlor. Reflections on the year ending, and hopes for the year beginning.

Sunday, Jan. 5 – worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

Sunday, Jan. 5 – Memorial Service @ 2 pm for Margaret "Peg" Wilson.

Monday, Jan. 6 - Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation. Dish-to-pass.

Sunday, Jan. 12 - Second Sunday Stroll @ 9 am. An opportunity to get a little "communing with nature" on a local walk-about. Meet at church to start.

Sunday, Jan. 12 - Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Jan. 12 - "Les Miserable" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Have you ever noticed some people don't seem happy unless they're miserable? We'll examine why some prefer to wallow instead of dancing.

Sunday, Jan. 12 – Fundraising committee "check-in" in pastor's study @ 12:10 pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 15 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. "Between the Folds" is an award winning film that chronicles the stories of ten fine artists and intrepid theoretical scientists who have abandoned careers to forge unconventional lives as paper-folders. It's art, it's spiritual, it's engrossing. One reviewer said, "Probably the first documentary I've ever watched that I hoped would never end." Free admission and popcorn.

Sunday, Jan. 19 - Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Jan. 19 - "Depth Psychology" (Chautauqua Sunday) @ 11 am with Deborah Bridge. Learn about the growing popularity of myth-based psychoanalysis in the 21st Century. Depth Psychology is a new counseling movement influenced by Carl Jung, which seeks to go into our deep spiritual realms that hold the archetypal motives for our actions. Ms. Bridge is a former Catholic nun, works as the greenhouse specialist in Rochester's "Grow Green" urban agriculture program, and is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Southern California.

Monday, Jan. 20 - Bereavement Support Group @ 7:30 pm. Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Join Pastor Lee on the 3rd Monday of each month for assistance in working through feelings of loss in an atmosphere of safe sharing with others on the same journey.

Wednesday, Jan. 22 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ 12:30 pm. Enjoy the company of others while getting a little exercise. Meet at church to start.

Sunday, Jan. 26 - Fundraising com. meets in the parlor @ 9:30 am.

Sunday, Jan. 26 - "Universalism is the new Universalism" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. What's old is new again. Universalism is not a stagnant religion but constantly evolving. We'll take a look at version 20.14

Sunday, Jan. 26 – Newbery Book Discussion @ 12:30 pm. "The High Power of Lucky" by Susan Patron.

Sunday, Feb. 2 – worship service @ 11 am with Don Reidell.

Monday, Feb. 3 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation. Dish-to-pass.

Saturday, Feb. 8 – Board of Trustees mini-retreat from 10-noon.

Sunday, Feb. 9 – Breakfast with the Minister @ 10 am. Join Lee in the social hall for this annual tradition of a breakfast featuring fruit salad, eggs, bacon, croissants, oatmeal, and more before the Sunday service.

JOYS & SORROWS

Andrea Rebeck – is very happy about the large double-doors having been re-hinged recently so that the doors now can swing open easily for every service!

Monica Beck – witnessed a most beautiful sunset recently, containing various shades of pink and lavender!

Darrel Dyke – lost his wallet and that was traumatic, but feels surrounded at church by people who care.

Chris Loss – had an especially wonderful Thanksgiving at her home, lots of good food, people, and laughter.

Sara Burroughs – Ran into Don Zimmer recently and was so glad to see him, and he asked her to tell everyone “hi” on his behalf!

Debby Rodrigues – in a bit of poetic justice, the four men who robbed her recently have been arrested. Apparently, they have been invading homes all over Orleans County. This brings her a bit of closure.

Andrea Rebeck – has a sorrow regarding the recent death of the beloved Nelson Mandela. Her brother, who lives in South Africa, has told her that things are not good there.

Louise Richards – we are so sad to report the passing of Louise’s 87 year old mother on December 9th. Louise thanked everyone for the cards, messages, and expressions of sympathy and said that her mother passed away quietly. Louise, we all have you in our hearts!!

C.W. Lattin – reported that Donna Trolley died in Florida in early December. Some of you may recall her relatives - Lola Trolley and Bob Trolley, who were members many years ago and very active in this church.

Andrea Rebeck – enjoyed the Stained Glass Window Tour courtesy of our own C.W. Lattin. She learned about other churches’ windows, but also learned more about our own. Thanks Bill!!

C.W. Lattin and Rene’ Schasel – told the congregation with great sorrow that they had to put down their beloved dog, Jairus. Jairus was a frequent visitor at Potluck Suppers and Movie Nights and his presence was enjoyed by everyone.

Diana Dudley – asked the congregation to keep her beautiful daughter, Holly, in your thoughts and prayers as she is facing some very serious health challenges.

Holly has gone out to California to be with her brother, Eric, who is looking into alternative options for her treatment. Let's all also keep Diana in our thoughts and prayers as well!

Andrea Rebeck – said that she (and Chris Loss) are without power due to the ice storm, and it is interesting to harken back to an earlier era for awhile!

Dave and Sherry Hagmier – were very pleased to let the congregation know that their son-in-law Cody Coopenberg, their daughter Hannah, and grandson Landon, are all back home now for good!! What a relief to finally have them nearby!!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Gay Smith and Louise Richards – who worked very hard to put together an outstanding grant application to the Sandstone Trust of Medina, only to learn that Pullman did not qualify because grants were limited to properties located in the western part of Orleans County. But they submitted the grant anyway and our boldness paid off because the application for repairing and resetting our main entrance steps was so compelling that the Trust made an exception this year, and gave us a grant for \$500. The project will cost much more than we received from the grant, but it is a start, and simply being awarded this will help us when we seek funds from other organizations. Thanks, ladies, for a terrific grant application...we are on a roll! And thanks also to Andrea Rebeck for her assistance and expertise!

Monica Beck and Diana Dudley – who performed ‘Bless the Beasts and the Children’ on the Sunday before Christmas. Wonderful performance!

Bonnie Beiswenger, Andrea Rebeck, and Eileen Della Costa – who performed together for the Christmas Candlelight Service and did a great job! It was Andrea’s premier performance on the hammered dulcimer!

Maarit Vaga – performed several vocal solos at the Candlelight Service and what a treat! Rich Della Costa did a fine job on the piano as her musician.

C.W. Lattin – who once again worked his magic and decorated the church beautifully for Christmas!

Gay Smith – who purchased the gifts for the children for the Candlelight service, and also put together a nice basket of goodies for Louise Richards!

Louise Richards, C.W. Lattin, and Jim and Betty Knight – and everyone else who are working hard on the Pullman Pourings Wine Tasting event slated for March!!

Come Early, Stay Late

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!

Newbery Book Discussions

Beginning this month we'll have book group on the last Sunday of each month and we'll all be reading the same titles for each discussion. We're focusing on Newbery award winning books. Books written for children and youth sometimes yield amazing truths that are missing from adult publications. First up is "The High Power of Lucky" by Susan Patron, on January 26th at 12:30 pm.

Bereavement Support Group

Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Pastor Lee is offers an opportunity for people who have experienced a loss to come together in a safe environment on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Stories encouraged, and feelings lovingly accepted. Tears okay, and tissues provided. Loving support offered for, and by, others on the same journey to wholeness.

UU Course at Colgate Rochester Crozer

The Rev. Peggy Meeker will be teaching a course at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School this spring on "Unitarian Universalist History & Polity" (course # e PT 365). The course will cover early Unitarianism in Europe, the history of Unitarian and Universalism in America, the UUA, and some issues of polity and governance. It will be a seminar course, with emphasis on reading and discussion, presentation of papers, and shared leadership. Classes will be held approximately every other Wednesday afternoon, from 1:15 to 4:00 p.m., beginning February 5 and ending May 7. If you'd like to learn more, or to get the syllabus and reading list, contact Peggy at pmeeker@frontiernet.net. To learn about auditing a course at CRCDS, see <http://www.crcds.edu/admissions-2/programs-of-study/non-degree-options/auditing-classes/>.

Summer Camp for UU Youth and Families

Registration for UU summer camp experiences for our youth and families is under way. Sessions fill quickly at many of the UU Camp and Conference Centers and now is the time to register to avoid waiting lists.

Many youth from the region attend Unirondack, a UU Camp and Conference Center in the forever-wild Adirondacks in upstate New York. The camp provides an opportunity for children and families to live our UU values in a creative, accepting and nurturing community outside the doors of our congregation. For more information about Unirondack, and to register for summer camp or weekend programs, visit their website at <http://www.unirondack.org/>.

Other Camp and Conference Centers in the region include Rowe, Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Murray Grove. In addition for folks looking for experiences further from home, there is DeBeneville Pines in California, U-Bar-U in Texas, Unistar in Minnesota, and The Mountain in North Carolina.

Many of the centers have year-round programs. All provide an opportunity for personal growth, fellowship and community.

Pastoral Care

You are encouraged to call Pastor 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, or at his a toll-free number: 877-265-1709. Lee is also available for home and hospital visits.

METAL Recycling Drive

Have any scrap metal lying around the house? Save any clean, washed metal but separate aluminum from the rest. Bring to the church and leave in the library room. Proceeds going to the church. SPECIAL INCENTIVE! Debby Rodriguez has offered to match the amount received from the recycling center every month that the total is \$10 or higher.

Pullman Pastor's Blog by Lee Richards

Since our last newsletter, I offered up essays with the following titles: No blessings for the already blessed, Wise words I did not say, All I want for Christmas...is less, and a reprint of the "I am the Light" homily from our Christmas Eve service.

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, or you can get there by a link on our main church website at 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

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.

Childcare Available During Services

Kasandra Connor is now available to provide childcare for Sunday morning services. Kasandra is finishing a program in education at Genesee Community College.

Eye on the Board

At the Board of Trustees meeting held on Sunday, December 15th, the Board finalized plans for our contracts with Alan Diesel to work on the door hinges and Mark Soeth to work on the stone step. Christmas bonuses were discussed and voted on. There was discussion regarding hiring someone to prepare our 2013 income tax return as well as perform an outside audit of our finances. While we have gone much longer than anticipated without having to dip into our endowment, we will now have to sell some stock to cover our expenses. An online congregational vote will be taken to sell up to \$5,000 of stock. All church members will be encouraged to sign up to donate to Chalice Lighters. Advertising in the Tri-County and in the Pennysaver seem to be too costly, but other ways that cost very little were discussed. Our needs regarding Health permits also were talked about. We are in good shape for the holidays and have lined up performers for the December 22nd service as well as the Candlelight Service. Complete minutes available upon request.



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