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Minister: Lee Richards, 585-436-1786, pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com
Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings by Lee Richards

120 years in 8 hours, sort of. I'm very pleased to present more details about the **Summer Sermon Series** of which you may have been hearing rumors.

PMUC will have services every Sunday, all summer-long. I haven't been able to find out if this is totally new, or if at some point in our history we were a year-round church. Certainly, we've been closed in the summers for decades, so it will be an interesting experiment.

To make it even more interesting, services will be quite different from our "standard fare." We'll gather to sit comfortably in the social hall, enjoying our coffee and refreshments right from the get-go (no waiting for coffee hour!). There will be a time for sharing Joys and Sorrows, and maybe a familiar song (a cappella - no musicians). Then I'll set a little bit of contextual background for that day's reading, read the written words of a former minister, and we'll discuss what we've heard.

I think this will be an interesting look back at the history of our congregation, as seen through the eyes of its pastors. What were they dealing with during the time of their call at Pullman? What things happening locally, or in the world, grabbed their attention? How did they relate their thoughts to their parishioners? And what of their messages still rings true today? Did the world they envisioned actually happen? Are we repeating history, or have we learned from it?

Relaxed atmosphere. Time for sharing. Time for learning. Come, spend the past 120 years with me as we time travel for 8 summer Sundays in July and August.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
July 1	Pastor Lee Richards	Patriotic service with Gaines UCC at Cobblestone	
July 8	Pastor Lee Richards	First in our Summer Sermon Series	
July 15	Pastor Lee Richards	"Evolution and Christianity"	
July 22	Pastor Lee Richards	"Strength and Beauty"	
July 29	Pastor Lee Richards	"World Saviours"	
Aug. 5	Pastor Lee Richards	Mid-Summer Picnic follows service.	

Sunday, July 1 – “Aim for the Heart” Patriotic worship service at Cobblestone Church, jointly with Gaines UCC Church @ 11 am. As our country faces another election and another intense round of mud-slinging, Pastor Lee Richards will examine how patriotism may be used to influence our vote. The church is located at 14389 Ridge Road, near the intersection with Rte. 98 (about 2 miles north of Albion).

Monday, July 2 – Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Open invitation to one and all. Come and enjoy good food and conversation.

Sunday, July 8 – Finance committee meeting @ 10 am.

Sunday, July 8 – Summer Sermon Series begins @ 11 am with a look at the sentiments expressed upon the dedication and opening of the Pullman church building in 1895 – the words of Rev. Royal H. Pullman. Our Summer Sermon Series will present examples of the works of a different historical PMUC minister each week in a relaxed atmosphere with discussion to follow.

Saturday, July 14 - Gay Pride Parade in Rochester, 3:30 pm (line-up starts @ 2:30). Theme for this year is “Superheroes.”

Sunday, July 15 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9:15 am.

Sunday, July 15 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with a look at "**Evolution and Christianity**" as written by our first called minister, Rev. Charles L. Fluhner, 1895-1900. The Summer Sermon Series presents examples of the works of a historical PMUC minister each week in a relaxed atmosphere, with discussion following.

Sunday, July 22 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with "**Strength and Beauty**" - a sermon by our 2nd minister, Rev. Arthur W. Grose, 1901-1905. The Summer Sermon Series provides examples of the thoughts of a PMUC minister from our past, in a relaxed atmosphere, with opportunity for discussion.

Sunday, July 29 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with a look at "**World Saviours**" by Rev. Charles H. Vail, who served from 1906-1915. The Summer Sermon Series engages the writings of a historical PMUC minister each week, with open discussion.

Sunday, July 29 – Ecumenical Picnic @ the Elks Recreation Grounds, West State St., from 3 – 6 pm (dinner served at 4 pm). Entertainment for children and adults, fellowship. Food items include beef on weck, hot dogs, salt potatoes, baked beans, salads, cookies and beverages (PMUC is providing the hot dog rolls). No tickets needed – free will offering, but please sign up before July 22nd (headcount needed for preparation). Sponsored by the Albion Ministerium.

Saturday, Aug. 4 – Building reserved for a wedding

Sunday, Aug. 5 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with a look at the words of Rev. Lewis H. Robinson, 1921-1941. + **Mid-summer picnic**

Saturday, Aug. 11 – Building reserved for a wedding

Sunday, Aug. 12 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with a look at "**The Minister's Great Expectations**" - a sermon by Rev. Donald W. Lawson, 1946-1951.

Sunday, Aug. 19 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9:15 am.

Sunday, Aug. 19 – Summer Sermon Series continues @ 11 am with a sermon by Rev. H. Kelsey Bicknell, 1967-1970.

Sunday, Aug. 26 – Summer Sermon Series wraps up @ 11 am with the words of Rev. Betty Sintzenich McCollum, 1989-1995.

Sunday, Sept. 2 – “Sundae Sunday” @ 11 am. The much-loved ice cream concoction known as a sundae was (indirectly) invented by a Unitarian. Come, learn more about the story, and then it's a make-your-own sundae treat for social hour.

Sunday, Sept. 9 – Water Communion Sunday @ 11 am. Pick up a small container of water from wherever you travel this summer and bring it to the service on the 9th.

JOYS & SORROWS

Beth Allen – has been facing the challenge of finding a medical diagnosis for a myriad of symptoms she's been having lately, such as inflammation and pain. Things have improved very much lately since she's been able to sit in the pool. Our thoughts are with her in solving the mystery and hope she feels better soon!!

Tyler Smith – left on Sunday to attend UU Camp in West Virginia. He'll be staying at the Cultural Center and will be doing a variety of activities for the betterment of the community there. He left from the First Unitarian Church in Rochester with a few other students from the Rochester area. It should prove to be a great experience and we can't wait to see the pictures!

Eileen Williams, daughter of the late Grace Isle Williams (long-time member of this church), visited the church a few times this past month. She had resided in Hawaii for a number of years and is now back in the area and wanted to stop by and say hello. It was great to see her after so many years!

Jim and Betty Knight – traveled to North Michigan for a reunion with Jim's buddies from the unit he served in during the Vietnam War. He served in the communication center. It proved to be a great time for all, and they witnessed some beautiful scenery.

Sara and Tom Phillips – had a nice vacation at the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts recently, and they had a wonderful time and the weather was beautiful!

Sarah Diemer – won a coveted Golden Crown Literary Award recently in speculative fiction for her novel 'The Dark Wife' !! What an honor! Sarah will receive a lot of literacy recognition for this award and it is well deserved! Great job, Sarah!

Diana Dudley – sadly reported that one of her best friends of 40 years, Margaret Ann Jurinich, died on June 22nd. Diana thought a great deal of her and will need our thoughts and support at this difficult time.

Patricia Stahl, daughter of Carolyn Starkweather, died on June 20th. Some members may remember Carolyn's father, Wrance Wright, who was a pillar in the church for many years. Her obituary can be found at the Medina Journal website.

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Sarah and Jen Diemer – for the fantastic job they did organizing the events of the Strawberry Festival. It was a very successful endeavor!

Dennis Seekins – who not only donated his time to help out with the Strawberry Festival, but also was available to give free book estimates! He also had donated a large number of books to be sold.

C.W. Lattin – who did a beautiful job with the writing of his new postcard book, and gave a wonderful talk on Friday night of the Strawberry Festival. He also was there both days and helped out in every way he could, including climbing a great height to put up the banner for the festival. Bill is one of the best assets of this church!

Sara Phillips – who worked hard both days of the Strawberry Festival selling coffee and doughnuts to the vendors and other customers.

Pastor Lee Richards and Louise – our 'Popcorn Pastor' and his wife were there each day of the festival helping wherever there was a need, and especially selling popcorn! Louise helped out by selling books and cupcakes!

Heather Boyd, Jim and Betty Knight, Rene' Schasel, Jan Seekins, Diana Dudley, Debra Rodriguez, and Chris Loss, all helped out during the Strawberry Festival and donated a lot of time and effort! Many thanks!

PMUC Congregation – who donated so many cupcakes and lemonade!! We had boxes and boxes of cupcakes! And they were so delicious! Many thanks to those who donated!

Diana Dudley and Alan Nugent – for the smooth transfer of Treasurer duties, and for the hours of hard work they have put in!

Pastor Lee Richards – for all of his work putting together a summer program, something new for us to try. It will be a more relaxed and informal experience.

Rev. John Rex – for his 7 years of exceptional service in the pulpit to this church. He will be very greatly missed!



We received a card from Rev. John Rex dated June 11, 2012.

Dear Chris, and Albion Board and members,

Thank-you all for the lovely send-off yesterday. I very much appreciate your kind words and good wishes, along with the champagne, cake, slide show, and fascinating postcard book.

Thanks to all,

Blessings. John Rex.

Pastor Lee Richards and Rev. Peggy Meeker held the first combined worship service with Pullman Memorial Church & Brockport UU Fellowship. An historic milestone!



Water Communion Sunday - Sept. 9

Last year we held our first water communion to mark our September “ingathering” (return from summer vacations and travels). It was well received and so we’ll do the same again. I ask that during the summer months you be aware of your surroundings, especially of the water element. If you are traveling, or even if staying at home, collect a small vial of water for the water communion service.

The water should have some significance regarding how you spent this past summer. Did you vacation in Niagara Falls, or at the coast? Then capture some water from there and tell us about why this was such a wonderful time. Did you spend a lot of time in the pool in your backyard? Then bring some water from the pool and tell us how relaxing it was to bask in the sun and swim. Maybe the water you bring will be from several different locations! Or perhaps you want to bring tap water from home because you spent the summer gardening and it was a wonderful opportunity for you to relax and think. Everyone who wishes to participate will have a special story to tell.

New Pullman Pastor’s Blog

by Lee Richards

I usually go by the attitude that “less is more.” Put one’s efforts into doing something well rather than doing many things in a mediocre fashion. However, in the online world - the larger one’s presence the more likely your message will be found, heard, and “rebroadcast.” It’s not about building one large website, however, but about creating multiple points of entry and engagement.

With that in mind, I’ve started a blog. This is another opportunity for people to interact with the mind of their minister, and for me to further “evangelize” our church’s message of Love to the wider world. We Universalists do have a story to tell, a hope to share, a dream of a better future, and many plans for getting there.

My hope for this blog is that you’ll discover my thoughts, and any posted comments, to have value in helping you to develop your spirituality, and thereby live a better life.

Thus far, I’ve written about popcorn theology, my book reading list, multiple right answers, proposed sermon topics, and Universalist optimism. I hope you’ll check it out the next time you’re online, and consider leaving a comment, reposting an article elsewhere, throwing the link up onto your Facebook, or any other creative way you can think of to participate in this endeavor to make a difference.

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

Original Pullman Dedication Program

by Lee Richards

On June 6th I received an email from Warren Pullman Miller of California. It started out, "I have in my possession a bound volume of the dedication service of the church, on January 31, 1895. By way of introduction, George M. Pullman, who built the church in memory of his parents, was my great-grandfather."

Warren then asked if we would like to have it, and the rest is history - literally. History because not only is the program an original from the 1895 dedication but history because it is likely to have been George Pullman's personal copy. Imagine! So it has travelled across the country - twice - to now be in our possession. And after almost 120 years it is near mint condition. Our heartfelt thanks go out to this descendent who proves once again that the Pullman family really knows how to gift a church.

Alternative Craft Fair Follow-Up

The reports are in and by all measures the Alternative Craft Fair with its various activities during the Strawberry Festival was a rousing success. Sources of revenue included vendor fees (vendors report being happy with their own sales), book sale, donuts + coffee + water, cupcakes + lemonade, popcorn (200 to 250 bags sold), and raffle gift baskets. Bill Lattin's book - Historical Postcard Views of Albion, NY - also sold well.



In a follow-up meeting to analyze the fair, a number of ideas for how to do it even better next year were brainstormed. Many different possible food offerings were suggested, having the craft sale only on Saturday and outside on the lawn, holding our antique & rummage sale on Friday, increasing the number of books for sale, having a musical entertainment, and many other ideas. Planning for next year's event will start earlier, and in all likelihood we could double our income.

Many congratulations and thanks to Sarah and Jenn Diemer for heading up this endeavor, and to all the many volunteers who contributed time, books, cupcakes, and other necessities to make this a success!

Book Discussion Group

by Lee Richards

Our book group is on hiatus until September while we catch up on our summer pleasure reading. If you want to get a head start on your reading list, we've agreed to all read the same book for our first discussion group on September 30th.

"God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything" by Christopher Hitchens may seem like an odd way to begin a church year but I think it will serve as an interesting challenge for me to prove him wrong in the following months. (I happen to believe that our Unitarian Universalist religion is more of an antidote than a poison.) So pick up a copy, and come to the group with your thoughts on 9/30. Then in October we'll have a "choose any book on the topic" discussion in the same format as we used this past year.

Topic for October? Fire.

Book Launch and Signing

Bill Lattin's newest book has rolled out to great success. Everyone is raving about "Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York." This limited edition book was published on behalf of our church with proceeds to be used for building restoration.

This beautiful book features 200 postcard views in full color, with the images covering almost an 80 year span – from the 1890's to the early 1970's. It makes a wonderful gift, and since it is a one-time-only, limited edition run I recommend you do your Christmas shopping early before they are gone. Books are modestly priced at only \$20 each and are available at the church, and selected stores.

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

The twenty-first century has arrived at PMUC. It is now possible to make donations online, or make automatic pledge payments from your choice of funding sources. If you go to the website pmucdonations.blogspot.com you'll find several choices available for making financial contributions to our mission. (You can also click on the "Donations" tab at the top of any page in our main website.)

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 using a bank transfer or a PayPal account.

Of course, cash works OK, too. The offering plate will still circulate during a Sunday service to provide an opportunity for "instant wallet withdrawals." But if you prefer to plan ahead and pay online then I invite you to check out our new donations webpage.

AED Fund

We are closing in on the end of our special fundraiser to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator – or as I like to say, a "Heart Shocker"). The total cost for one unit is about \$1350 and we have less than \$300 left to reach our goal.

You may donate on our main website pullmanmemorial.org using PayPal or any major credit card and it will be earmarked for the AED. Or you can donate by check or cash - just be sure to notate "AED" so we'll know to add it to the special fund. So Help Us Help You - after all, you never know what "heart-stopping" event may transpire when at church!

Eye on the Board

The June 17th board of trustees meeting covered a variety of topics. In financial news, Pastor Lee's contract for 2012-13 was approved, the treasurer was authorized to complete paying our Fair Share to the UUA, and the board will actively begin looking for a professional grant writer.

A resolution was passed by the board to recognize the contributions of Sarah and Jenn Diemer in their outstanding efforts to make the Strawberry Festival a success. Dennis Seekins was appointed as board liaison to the pulpit committee, and Sarah Diemer to the nominating committee. A policy was established about loaning PMUC equipment to outside groups.

Pastor Lee agreed to design a 1/3 sheet brochure (rack card) about the church - for distribution at the New York State Fair and other promotional events. It was agreed to have the church provide a menu item for the Albion Ministerium's annual picnic. A discussion about proposed By Laws amendments was begun, and the Building and Grounds committee was urged to make a plan for retaining a roofing contractor to make repairs.

The complete minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

Pastoral Care

One of the advantages of having a called minister is the 24/7 availability of a listening ear. Pastor Lee Richards is 100% committed to helping parishioners when stuff hits the fan. You are encouraged to call 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 585-436-1786, or on his cell at 585-729-8167. He also has a toll-free number: 877-265-1709.

Lee is also available for home and hospital visits, or can meet with people in the pastor's office at the church.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church
P.O. Box 87
Albion, NY 14411

