

The Grapevine Newsletter



July 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

Never a dull moment around Pullman Memorial. We've just held our 3rd annual book sale fundraiser and are already planning our next public awareness event. Our annual treks to the Cobblestone Church in Childs are right ahead, and while we're away on June 29th the Pullman Church will serve as the setting for a scene in a locally-produced indie film. Walks are back (Tuesday Trekkers), and a trip to the 4-H Fair. Visitors are stopping by on Wednesday mornings, even from as far away as Kansas and maybe beyond. A clean-up workbee is scheduled. Potluck suppers continue to be fantastic fun. And Summer Salons start scintillating discussions this month.

Looking back just a few years I find it difficult to imagine that Pullman Memorial closed its doors in the summer. Sure, I know there is a long historical tradition for doing so but can you imagine all that might be missed now if that were still true? The lost opportunities to grow deeper in one's spiritual faith, the lost chances to stay connected with other religious liberals, the missed musings and lingering laughter that so well defines an encounter at church? And, the joys and sorrows that might go unheard, and/or have long-delayed responses once learned about?

I'm very grateful that PMUC is now an all-year church, and a church in every sense, not just open for a couple hours on Sunday morning but vibrant with so much other programming. I encourage all of you to enjoy your summer - get some R&R if you can - but also check in at Pullman, too. The coffee will be brewing.

PS. - If you are out and about this summer remember to grab a small sample of water as a memento to share during the water communion ceremony in September!

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

June 29	Peggy Meeker	Annual Cobblestone Church Worship Service "A Love that Wilt Not Let You Go"
July 6	Lee Richards	Annual Patriotic service at the Cobblestone Church "A Patriotic Call to Revolution"
July 13	Lee Richards	"Asa Saxe, local minister"
July 20	Louise Wu Richards	"Origen"
July 27	Darrell Dyke	"F. Forrester Church"
Aug. 3	Lee Richards	"Clarence R. Skinner"

~ *Childcare available during service times* ~

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 toll-free number: 877-265-1709. Lee is also available for home and hospital visits.

Saturday, June 28 - Workbee from 9 am to 11 am. General clean up inside and out. Bagels and coffee provided.

Sunday, June 29 – Building in use for filming a wedding scene, 9 am – ? Locally produced movie “Friends Don’t Let Friends Date Friends” will use PMUC for an on-location shoot. Extras needed to fill the pews (dress well – look like you were invited to a wedding). You can help support the film by making a donation at <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/friends-don-t-let-friends-date-friends>

Sunday, June 29 - “A Love That Wilt Not Let You Go” worship service @ 11 am with Peggy Meeker. Can we still believe in a love that will not let us go? Our changing views on universal Love, from the 1940’s to now. **Annual Cobblestone Church worship service**, held jointly with Brockport UU Fellowship. Loose cash in the offering plate goes to support the Cobblestone Museum, checks and pledge envelopes to the respective congregation. 14393 Ridge Rd West in Childs.

Tuesday, July 1 - Trekkers! Peripatetic Pullmanites go walking first Tuesday of the month @ 12:30 pm. Contact Louise at pmuc.albion@gmail.com for more info.

Wednesday, July 2 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 9:30 am to noon. Church open for meditation and/or touring, plus exhibit of Victorian devotional art prints from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century, in original frames, portraying popular images of the life of Jesus. From the collection of historian C.W. “Bill” Lattin. Free admission.

Sunday, July 6 - “A Patriotic Call to Revolution” @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Why do we assume patriotism must mean blind acceptance to our government’s agenda? Our politicians more often place corporate lobbyist’s concerns (with their abundant campaign contributions) above those of the populace. Maybe it’s time to “take back” America. **Annual Patriotic service at the Cobblestone Church**, held jointly with Gaines UCC. Loose cash in the offering plate goes to support the Cobblestone Museum, checks and pledge envelopes to the respective congregation. 14393 Ridge Rd West in Childs.

Monday, July 7 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation. Bring a dish to pass. Open invitation to all.

Wednesday, July 9 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Sunday, July 13 - Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, July 13 - “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Victorian devotional art prints from the mid 19th century to the early 20th century, in original frames, portraying popular images of the life of Jesus. From the collection of historian C.W. “Bill” Lattin. Free admission.

Sunday, July 13 – Summer Salon @ 11 am. “Asa Saxe, local minister” will be presented by Lee Richards. An examination of the original writings of an early Universalist, with discussion.

Monday, July 14 – Open House @ 8 am – ?. Church open for touring and/or meditation.

Wednesday, July 16 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Sunday, July 20 - Board of trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, July 20 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, July 20 – Summer Salon @ 11 am. "Origen" will be presented by Louise Wu Richards. An examination of the original writings of an early Universalist, with discussion.

Monday, July 21 - 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, July 23 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Friday, July 25 - deadline for submissions to the August newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Sunday, July 27 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, July 27 – Summer Salon @ 11 am. "F. Forrester Church" will be presented by Darrell Dyke. An examination of the original writings of a Universalist, with discussion.

Wednesday, July 30 – Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 3 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, Aug. 3 – Summer Salon @ 11 am. "Clarence R. Skinner" will be presented by Lee Richards. An examination of the original writings of an early Universalist, with discussion.

Sunday, Aug. 3 – Annual Summer Picnic @ noon. Location tba.

JOYS & SORROWS

Craig Smith - Tyler is graduating from Kendall High School and his parents are so proud of him! He recently received so many awards that they can't name them all. It can certainly be said that Tyler has had one of the most successful four years of High School that anyone has ever had! Incredible job, Tyler!

Monica Beck - sadly had to say good-bye to her cat of 20 years, which was very hard! The family made the decision to get a new Siamese cat, and this new friend is fun to watch.

Louise Richards - was so glad to see Hunter back as a guest speaker! Many of us recall what a hit he was over the summer as a guest Summer Salon speaker. And she wanted to say a million thank-you's to everyone for all the hard work on the book sale at the Strawberry Festival! It was an amazing effort!

Monica Beck - is very grateful that summer is finally here! AMEN!!

Sara Phillips - went with her husband, Tom, and her daughter Katie and husband Jamie to see the jazz festival in Rochester and said it was a lot of fun! They got to see Steve Martin playing the banjo!

Debby Rodrigues - saw Ringo Starr in Portland with his band and said he looks like he's only 40 and he's just great!

Darrell Dyke - is happy to have found a nice used car! He also was contacted by a friend, Fred, he hasn't seen in awhile and found out that they are on similar career paths.

Aiden Carson - had a joy that school is over and he

doesn't have to go to bed at a reasonable hour! Yeah!

Chris Loss - actually saw a Crawdad (looked like a miniature lobster) walking down the laneway she uses to walk her dog! This is something she has never seen before!

Harlan McGrath - had a successful kidney transplant at Strong Memorial Hospital on May 13th. He had undergone weekly dialysis for 5 years while on the waiting list for a donated kidney. He expects recovery to be a long process, but says he is already feeling better than he has in a long time.

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Julie and John Andrews - for donating a microwave to the church! Many thanks!

John Andrews - has agreed to head up the Membership Committee, which is presently being re-activated!

Patti Adema, Julie Andrews, and Louise Richards - for cleaning up the old library and creating an absolutely amazing PMUC gift shop! If you haven't seen it yet, make sure you check it out! There are lots of unique items, shirts, cards, coffee drinks, biscotti, and more!

C.W. Lattin and Rene' Schasel - donated a lot of items to the gift shop!

Everyone who created a wonderful basket for the Basket Raffle...these baskets were truly fabulous! And Julie Andrew's idea to list the items in the baskets was very helpful!

Strawberry Festival workers - Pastor Lee Richards and Louise, Gay & Craig Smith, C.W. Lattin, Julie and John Andrews, Monica Beck, Sara Phillips, Mark & Patti Adema, Alan Nugent, Diana Dudley, Rich & Eileen DellaCosta, Andrea Rebeck, Chris Loss, Dennis Seekins,

Darrel Dyke, Betty and Jim Knight, Debby Rodrigues, Jim Hobbs, etc.(hope I didn't forget someone)..everyone who worked so hard to make this fund-raising effort a success! And books are still being sold! Some highlights from the event include the concert we had in the church on Friday night due to the possible rain, running out of 8 dozen doughnuts for the first time ever, Patti and Chris out selling popcorn during the parade, Craig Smith saving the day by fixing the toilet, Jim Knight and Woody Nicholson jamming in front of the church, and all the fun we had! And let's not forget all the prep work to get the books (many thanks to Dennis Seekins and Matt Adema, the donations of supplies, and all of the books donated by the congregation! And we all know the amount of work Lee and Louise put into this effort was over the top! This effort was truly accomplished by the entire congregation. Great work!

John Andrews - was elected to the Library Board! He thanks everyone who supported and voted for him!

Tobin Carson - not only passed her medical boards but did very well! Great job, Tobin...we knew you'd do well!

Jim Hobbs - has been working on restoring some of the

old chairs in the basement, and one has been sold already! His craft work is amazing! He takes them out broken, dusty and looking like junk, and turns them into works of art!

Friends of the Library - thank-you for your generous donation to the church following the retirement celebration here for Susan Rudnicki and Susan Gaylord. We had a large turn-out! It was a lovely event.

Jim Knight - who reprised his former hit 'Hominid On a Mudball' with musical accompaniment by Woody Nicholson (who wrote the music) for the Mud Ball Mass Service. This piece was surely taken up a notch!! Jim and Woody wowed the crowd!

Pastor Lee Richards - gave the benediction at the Albion Baccalaureate event.

Gay Smith - we were awarded \$6,000 from the Chalice Lighter's grant that she submitted, with a letter apologizing that it wasn't more. Way to go, Gay!

Debby Rodrigues - has continued to turn in aluminum cans and also sold a chair for the church.

Just Friends Program (of the Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern)

This program matches carefully screened adult volunteer mentors with children and youth ages 5 and over in the counties of Genesee and Orleans. Just Friends is a great volunteer service to children who are in need of extra attention and support, providing them with role models who showcase positive behaviors they can emulate. In addition to individual mentoring, the Just Friends program offers group events and family advocacy and guidance to all participants. If you are interested in making a difference in a child's life, please call: Jacki Mowers-Sciarabba, Program Coordinator at [585-589-9210](tel:585-589-9210), or email: justfriends@ministryofconcern.org for more information.

Summer Salon Returns

For our third straight year, PMUC continues the tradition of using the summer months for more interactive presentations and discussions. Beginning July 13 and running for seven Sundays through August 24, we'll have various members of the church reading from original Universalist writings and then opening up the floor for discussion of the ideas just shared. What's new this year is we'll be meeting in the sanctuary rather than the social hall, and our musicians will help us keep our voices "in tune" with songs as well.

These salons are a return to our Transcendental roots of the early 1800's, when "Many of the country's smartest thinkers, for example, were calling for the U.S. to finally establish an artistic and philosophical community for the first time -- to start really beefing up our school and university systems, stop automatically shipping off all our children to Europe in order to get a decent education, actually publish literary magazines and hold discussion salons and all the other things that at the time you literally had to sail all the way to London or Paris to find." [Excerpt from a review by Jason Pettus of the book "American Transcendentalism: A History," by Philip Gura.]

Salons predated Chautauqua assemblies by more than 50 years, but never became as widespread as the assemblies, ending before the Civil War. However, Pullman Memorial's salons have been quite popular the past two years and Pastor Lee has heard that many are looking forward to their return.

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, get a bite, and then stay after the service for our usual social hour. We'd love to see you at church!

Bereavement Support Group

Grief is experienced individually but handled better communally. Pastor Lee 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.

Images of Jesus: Victorian Artists, Printers & Publishers

This art exhibit represents various 19th century printing techniques and a variety of themes, some allegorical and devotional, and others illustrate narratives quoting scripture. The antique prints from the United States and Europe range in age from the 1860s to around 1905. These devotional prints were mass-produced for the home using a number of processes including engraving, chromo printing, and lithography, with some printed on metal, and some with hand coloring and decoration. The prints all appear in their original frames.

The exhibit was curated by Orleans County historian C. W. "Bill" Lattin, and draws on his collection of over a thousand Victorian devotional art objects.

"Images of Jesus" is open to the public now through August 31st on Sundays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm (exception is the last Sunday in June on the 29th and the first Sunday in July on the 6th), and open every Wednesday during guided church tour hours from 9:30 to noon until the end of August. The exhibit and church tour are also available by appointment (call 585-589-9510).

Gift Shop

Looking for a special gift? Notecards and posters, t-shirts and sweatshirts, antique and vintage glassware, Pullman porter uniform buttons, totebags, and pendants are available now. Check out the old library off of the social hall for this "wee shoppe."

Wednesday Morning Open House

Again this summer Bill Lattin is opening up the church on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to noon for touring and/or meditation. This is a great opportunity to visit our architectural delight and have Bill point out some of the finer details, or to come for some respite and just sit in a pew for a bit to gain some renewal of spirit. An added bonus is the "Images of Jesus" art print exhibit which is also available for viewing during these times, with Bill present to tell some of the stories behind the various images. Wednesday Open House runs through August 27.

METAL Recycling Drive

Have any scrap metal lying around the house? Save any clean, washed metal but please 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.

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.

3rd Annual Book Sale

Many thanks to all the volunteers who put in many hours and “sweat equity” on this event, and also to those who donated gift baskets for the raffle! We tried several different things this year to make the sale even better, and can probably say that we host the largest book sale in Albion, and maybe even Orleans County.

A lot of people walked through our building, although it seemed that attendance for the entire Strawberry Festival was down from previous years. Many books, sodas, coffees and donuts were sold. The increased exposure was great - several comments about being first-time visitors were overheard. Literature about us, and hand-fans with our list of mottos, went out the door. At least one person expressed interest in attending services.

The fundraising committee has since met and is already making plans for improving next year’s sale.

Sermons

Missed a sermon, or want to partake of one again? You can find many sermons by Pastor Lee available on our website, in either text or MP3 format (<http://pullmanmemorial.org/sermons/>). There are also a number of sermons by other ministers, including some older ones by the Reverends Lewis H. Robinson and H. Kelsey Bicknell. A selection of recent sermons are now being made available in print format - look for them in the literature rack of the social hall’s vestibule.

Pullman Pastor’s Blog by Lee Richards

In June my attention turned to the test for membership at Pullman Memorial (did you even know we had one?); a problem with the UUA interfering with our inactive members; and a little shameless self-promotion of my various business websites. I also gave the forum over to Louise as guest blogger for her response to many other UU pundits who say the sky is falling.

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.

Eye on the Board

The board formally thanked the following for their contributions toward creating and setting up the gift shop: C.W. Lattin, Julie Andrews, Patti Adema, and Louise Wu Richards.

Membership in Pullman Memorial was discussed: the count reported to the UUA, mentoring new members, contacting members who have not been seen in a while, and reaching out to potential members. Darrell Dyke has agreed to head up a religious education program for children’s church that would be open and advertised to the public.

Pastor Lee Richards had a role in the Albion Baccalaureate. Problems (and possible solutions) with the main toilet were discussed. A motion was approved to have a different plumber (than the original installer) check out the system. On-going issues the treasurer has with our bank were discussed. The Book Sale was mentioned briefly - a more complete report will be made next month.

Complete minutes are available upon request.