

# The Grapevine Newsletter



July/August 2011

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

Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

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Visit our new Website at <http://pullmanmemorial.wordpress.com/>

## The Minister's Musings

by Lee Richards

The tune and lyrics of "Hot Time in the City Tonight" have been playing in my head. Yes, Rochester has been warm this summer, and I envy those of you with country abodes that might get more of a breeze. The majority of my life I've lived in country environs and while I do enjoy the ease of getting to in-town events, I still relish the opportunity to drive out to Orleans county for some country air.

I want to remind everyone that if you are out-and-about this summer to grab a small vial of water for our "water communion" ceremony in September. Bring a sample of water, and a "What I did this summer" story to share with others in your faith community when we reconvene on September 4th.

Of course, you'll be seeing more of me in Sunday services this year, but your other favorite ministers (Don, John, and Susan) will all be back. And we're lining up some other interesting speakers, too, like David Friedman to talk about immigration issues, poet and dulcimer maker Dwain Wilder, First Unitarian's intern minister Kathryn Rickey, and more. You can keep track of "who's on first, what's on second..." at our website under the Services Schedule tab (<http://pullmanmemorial.wordpress.com/schedule-of-services/>)

Also, I want to encourage you to "friend" me on Facebook. I've been trying to post the latest news and events there, as well as articles and videos that I think you'll find of interest. The direct link to my page is:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002308947994>

In other online news, I've put up a new website specifically for couples wanting to get married (I'm so glad we've moved beyond "union ceremonies" to the REAL thing - officially recognized and legal). If you know someone in the area wanting to get hitched, send them to check out [uuwedding.com](http://uuwedding.com) for info.

Finally, please remember that as your dedicated minister I am available for pastoral counseling, weddings, funerals and memorial services, child dedications and namings, and home and hospital visitations. So if you have 'Joys or Sorrows' going on in your life and want to talk about it, don't hesitate to call. That's what I'm here for! 585-436-1786

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Aug. 7	Susan Daiss	Mid-Summer at PMUC Time Share	Picnic after service.
Sept. 4	Lee Richards	Water Communion	

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## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

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PLEASE NOTE: There will be only one more summer service held on August 7th at Pullman Memorial. Regular, weekly church services resume on September 4th.

**Saturday, July 16** – Gay Pride Parade in Rochester, NY at 3 PM. Route along Goodman St and Park Ave. Forming up starts at 2 PM. UUs wishing to participate can join together under the GUUSTO banner. Pastor Lee Richards is planning to march - contact him at 585-436-1786 for more info or check out [www.gayalliance.org](http://www.gayalliance.org)

**Sunday, July 17** – Board of Trustees meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the church.

**July 29 – 30** – “Connecting Women’s Spirits” Second Annual St. Lawrence District Women’s Spirituality Conference. For info contact Jody Brown 315-476-0447 or email [jfb523@gmail.com](mailto:jfb523@gmail.com)

**Sunday, August 7** – “Mid-Summer Service” by Susan Daiss at PMUC, with Time Share. 11:00 a.m. Potluck picnic to follow at Mt. Albion cemetery (please bring a dish to pass). PLUS Special Bonus- C.W. will conduct a tour of Universalist gravesites! In case of rain – picnic will be held inside at the church.

### **Special Event: Mid-Summer Service/Picnic/Tour**

Please join us on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> for the mid-summer church service at PMUC at 11:00 a.m. with Susan Daiss in the pulpit! Please remember that this will be a Time Share Sunday, so bring a 3 minute offering (poem, article, thought, etc) to share with the congregation! And following the service, we will caravan over to Mt. Albion Cemetery for a very special treat!! Following our picnic lunch, C.W. Lattin will be conducting a tour of the eastern portion of the cemetery focusing on deceased UU’s !! Imagine our own private tour!! C.W. has said that he has already mapped out the area that we will be exploring and there is much to see! There will be no grill available so the church will provide a cold cut platter and some drinks. Please bring a dish to pass that will not require any cooking or heating! You will also need to bring a lawn chair. Directly following the church service, we will all meet at the cemetery chapel, and when we have all arrived, we will proceed to the eastern part of the cemetery for lunch, and have the tour directly following. Feel free to bring family and friends to this event. This is an event that you will not want to miss! Please plan on attending!

**Saturday, August 20** – Church’s Board of Trustees Retreat, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, August 21** – Board of Trustees meeting, 9:30 a.m. at the church.

**Sunday, Sept. 4** – Water Communion Ceremony, 11 a.m. Pick up a small container of water from wherever you travel this summer and bring it to the service on the 4th.

Services Begin Again on September 4<sup>th</sup>!!

Pastor Lee Richards will be in the pulpit on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m., which will mark the first official service of the year following our summer hiatus! At this point, regular services will be held again every Sunday. Pastor Lee is asking that each of us bring a small vial of water for the water communion service he will be introducing. The vial of water should have some significance regarding how you spent this past summer. Did you go on a great vacation to Hawaii ? 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 think. Everyone who wishes to participate will have a special story to tell. And won’t it be great to be back!

**Sunday, Sept. 25** – Book Discussion group meets after coffee hour.

### **New Year and Design for the Book Discussion Group**

The book discussion group will have a new design this coming year, and the first meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> directly following the coffee hour. Rather than everyone reading the same book and going over it, we will have a common idea to focus on and will be sharing a book that we have read on that topic. That way, each of us can bring a different vantage point to the discussion. And for the 25<sup>th</sup>, the topic will be on **'faith'**. So please be looking for a book that addresses the idea of faith and bring that along to share with the others. Other topics throughout the year (not in any order) may include love, charity, earth, wind, fire, sex, etc. This should prove to be an engaging and thought provoking exercise, and will introduce us all to a wealth of literature. Please join us!

**Oct. 7-8** – Universalist Annual Meeting in Binghamton, NY. See separate attachment for poster.

### **PMUC Will Marry You!!**

*With cheers and shouts of "USA ! USA !" and tears from the disappointed, New York Friday night became the sixth and largest state in the nation to allow gay and lesbian marriage.*

*State senators voted 33-29 after days of private meetings and little open discussion about whether enough support existed to legalize same-sex marriage. In the end, a freshman from Western New York and a mercurial lawyer from Dutchess County — both Republicans — put the vote over the top.*

-from the Post Standard, 6/24/11

New York's Governor Cuomo signed the gay marriage law into effect and it is official that gays and lesbians can now marry their partners!! PMUC has always stood on the side of rights for gays, lesbians, transgenders, and bisexuals and now we will be one of the few area churches available and willing to marry both gay and straight couples!! Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors!! What a historic piece of legislation and proof that there is hope for the future!

This information also appears on our PMUC website at: at <http://pullmanmemorial.wordpress.com/>

The Pullman Memorial Universalist Church is available for weddings, christenings (dedications) and memorial services no matter what religious principles you hold. Our church is a Liberal Church , we believe your religious convictions are your own personal concern. To arrange use of the building for your special service call 585-589-9510.

Pastor Lee Richards is available for special services and rites of passage (such as weddings, funerals and memorial services, and child dedications). He can be contacted by email at [pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com) or by phone at **585-436-1786** or **877-265-1709**. You can find additional info about having Lee serve as your wedding celebrant at [uuwedding.com](http://uuwedding.com)

### **A Case for Gay Marriage**

[Gay marriage] won't destroy the democracy; it doesn't destroy the family; it strengthens the institution of marriage and its principal premise of fidelity; and it increases the number of people living in stable and loving homes. ... This is, corny as it seems, not about politics or religion or power or lobbying. It is about *love*. In a time of impermanence and fly-by-night relationships these people over here want the same chance at permanence and happiness that is already yours. They don't want to deny you yours. They don't want to take anything away from you. They want what you want: a chance to be a little less alone in the world. And your acceptance of their love turns out to be your own expression of love to your fellow human beings.

Excerpt from Keith Olbermann's comments on 6/24/2011

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### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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Ø Louise Wu – is very concerned that Governor Cuomo is considering the use of hydrofracking in New York State. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that this is a

dangerous practice and should not be allowed. Please call or write to his office!

Ø Andrea Rebeck – has a very good friend who is 90 who entered the hospital recently with a high heart rate. Happily, he was ok and was soon discharged.

Ø Chris Loss – is thrilled that her grandson, Caden, graduated from kindergarten in Albion this past month!

Ø Pastor Lee Richards – announced that his son, Glen, will be spending about six months in India . And his daughter, Kelly, and her boyfriend appeared in church recently and he was pleased about that.

Peggy Meeker and Janet said at the Cobblestone service in June that it is a joy to be in this church and be with all of us. Thank-you for attending, Peggy and Janet!!

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### Pullman Plaudits

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Ø C.W. Lattin - for agreeing to donate a fireplace log for the Minister's Study and for offering to conduct a tour of deceased UU's at our summer picnic at Mt. Albion Cemetery .

Ø Sara Phillips – for her hard work selling coffee and doughnuts at the Strawberry Festival.

Ø C.W. Lattin, Rene' Schasel, Pastor Lee Richards, Louise Wu, Betty Knight, Craig Smith, Gay Smith, Tyler Smith, Diana Dudley, Dick Hoffman, and Chris Loss for helping out on Friday or Saturday (or both) for the Strawberry Festival festivities. My apologies if anyone was forgotten!

Diana Dudley and Chris Loss – for participating in Time Share on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ø C.W. Lattin and Rene' Schasel – for setting up for the Cobblestone and Patriotic services and making sure that hymnals were in the pews.

Ø Andrea Rebeck – for all the prep work that she has done for the grant that she will soon be writing!

Ø Pastor Lee Richards and Dennis Seekins – for attending a workshop at GCC pertaining to the grant.

Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard of Gaines Congregational Church for preaching on “The Right to Be Wrong” at our annual Patriotic Service held at the historic Cobblestone Church in Childs, NY.

### Quote of the Week

"There are very many in our day, who though not denying the Holy Scriptures, do not believe in endless torments."

- Augustine (354-430 A.D.)

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### Eye on the Board of Trustees

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-from the meeting held on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Ø **Treasurer's report** - HSBC may be merging and there has been an issue with this bank not exchanging Canadian money.

Ø **Ministerial Report** – Pastor Lee Richards brought up the following items:

o **PayPal** – Board approved that we set up a PayPal account to allow easy access for members to contribute to PMUC , and links will appear in the new website.

o **Installation Ceremony** – Board approved that Rev. Richard Hood be bestowed the honor of Minister Emeritus at Lee's installation ceremony in the fall.

o **Internet Services** – Board approved that the church be set up for internet access.

o **Board Retreat** – Pastor Lee has organized this event, which will take place on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with one hour for lunch. Rev. Robert Spilan will be facilitating. Board members will be attending. The Board approved the cost of \$500. Lee offered to donate several services to help pay for the cost of the speaker, but the Board did not feel this was necessary.

o **Pastor's Study** – Lee's study will be set up. He will need a phone, and we will look for a bookcase. C.W. Lattin will donate a gas log to put in the fireplace. Board approved the installation of a gas line to the pastor's study.

o **Tax Status Form** – Lee checked into obtaining 501C3 status through the UUA, and this will be kept on file, and will be useful for many things, including the grant application.

o **Pulpit Schedule** – Lee has coordinated the pulpit schedule for the 2011-2012 church year. Some openings were left, but he is working on them. And the schedule may change a bit.

Ø **Pledges** – Sara Phillips reported that all pledges are now in. The pledge level is about the same as last year.

Ø **Building & Grounds** – Dennis Seekins and Pastor Lee Richards attended a grant workshop on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Andrea Rebeck is actively working on the grant proposal, and the deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion was held regarding criteria for the proposal. There has been leakage lately, but Andrea and Dennis went into the attic and could find no points of entry...may have to wait for rainfall to see what is happening.

Ø **Strawberry Festival** – Sara reported that the amount collected from the sale of coffee and doughnuts was \$90, and the rummage sale netted us \$351.74 for a total of \$442.00. The 25 cents charged for popcorn was not sufficient, will have to raise to 50 cents next year. A sign was suggested for next year regarding our tours.

Ø **Cobblestone Service** – the BUUF congregation, First Universalist and First Unitarian churches in Rochester have received invitations to the service.

Ø **Summer Service** – is scheduled for Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. A summer picnic was discussed. A suggestion was made that we have the potluck picnic at Mt. Albion Cemetery . C.W. Lattin offered to do a tour of deceased Unitarian Universalists.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:30 A.M.**

### Remember to Check Out the New Facebook Page!

Pastor Lee has been hard at work introducing items of interest on his Facebook page, which can be found under Lee Richards. If you have not had an opportunity to do so yet, check it out and add a comment or two. Items are added daily and it has been very interesting. This is our opportunity to engage in discussion on important matters or become more informed about what is going on in the world. Many of the items have to do with PMUC , such as upcoming sermons, but also included are social justice concerns, political concerns, environmental concerns, and so on. We have long dreamed of a way to be able to discuss sermons and other items online and Lee has done a fantastic job with this page. Add your comments! Be part of the discussion! Go to: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002308947994>



The image is a screenshot of a Facebook profile page for Lee Richards. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the Facebook logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the profile picture of Lee Richards is shown on the left. To the right of the profile picture, the name "Lee Richards" is displayed, followed by his bio: "Pastor at Pullman Memorial Universalist Church", "Studied at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School", "Lives in Rochester, New York", "From Genoa, New York", and "Born on November 7". Below the bio, there are sharing options for Post, Photo, Link, and Video. A text input field with the placeholder "Write something..." is visible. Below the input field, there is a post by Lee Richards with a small profile picture and a blue 'x' icon. The post text reads: "Now available online - the 1994 PMUC Centennial Newspaper, 'Celebrating 100 Years of the Free Spirit.' Read the fascinating history of the church, the Ladies Aid Society and Pullman Girls, see a chronology of church events, and more. Follow the link, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click to open each page in pdf format." Below the post, there is a link to "History << Pullman Memorial" with the URL "pullmanmemorial.wordpress.com". To the left of the link is a small image of a brick building. Below the link, there is a paragraph of text: "The history of our church began with the Pullman Family who moved to Albion, N.Y. from Chautauqua Country, N.Y. in 1845. James Lewis Pullman and Emily Caroline Pullman had ten children of which George M. Pullman 1831 – 1897 was the third. James Lewis Pullman was a 'cabinetmaker' or builder of fine f". On the left side of the page, there is a vertical menu with options: Wall, Info, Photos, Notes, and Friends.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church  
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Albion, NY 14411

