

# The Grapevine Newsletter



June 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](http://pullmanmemorial.org)

## Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

For the past couple months I've been saying, "Come as you are, leave inspired." Well, I'm certainly inspired - inspired by all the activities going on around Pullman Memorial. Let me highlight a few...

- Our new gift shop (yet to be named) is open, with a grand opening to be scheduled soon.
- Walkies return in June - that great opportunity to get some exercise and enjoy the scenery with fellow liberals.
- We'll do our 1st (and maybe our last?) mud mass on June 8th.
- Our 3rd annual book sale is June 13 & 14, and it's shaping up to be bigger and better than ever.
- The church is open every Wednesday morning in the summer for meditation and/or touring.
- The "Images of Jesus" Victorian art prints exhibit continues to captivate.
- Hunter Dudkiewicz - the most popular salon presenter last summer - will do an entire worship service for us on June 22nd.
- Our annual trek to the Cobblestone Church happens on June 29th.

All these things are happening because of the extreme generosity of our members and friends. I feel so fortunate to be pastoring such a wonderful group of people. I hope you'll find the time to partake of some of these special offerings so you, too, can leave inspired.

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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June 1	Don Reidell	
June 8	Lee Richards	"Mud Mass"
June 15	George Payne	Chautauqua Sunday "Principled Non-violence"
June 22	Hunter Dudkiewicz	"Luke, Doubt your Feelings": The Importance of Reason in Religion"
June 29	Peggy Meeker	Annual Cobblestone Church worship service

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

Wednesday, May 28 – 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. Free admission.

Sunday, June 1 - “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, June 1 – worship service @ 11 am with Don Reidell.

Monday, June 2 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation. Bring a dish to pass. Open to all.

Tuesday, June 3 – Walkies return! Peripatetic Pullmanites go walking first Tuesday of the month at 12:30 pm.

Wednesday, June 4 - Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 9:30 am to noon. See description above.

Sunday, June 8 - It's a **come-in-your-grubbies mini-workbee!** Between 9 am and 10:30 am we will be portaging boxes of books up from the dining hall to the children's RE room. Many hands make light work so please come and help if possible. It's OK to dress casually because our worship service is the Mud Mass!

Sunday, June 8 - Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, June 8 - “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, June 8 - **Deadline for bringing in your gift baskets for the raffle.**

Sunday, June 8 - “Mud Mass” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Mud (primordial ooze) may be the building block of all life. Several religions, including Christianity, depict humans as being formed from mud. When one starts thinking about mud it becomes apparent how frequently mud surfaces in everyday language. Let’s explore, and celebrate, the substance created by mixing the elements of water and earth.

Sunday, June 8 – Friends of the Library reception for Hoag Library former director Sue Rudnický and special events coordinator Susie Gaylars. 3-5 pm. Public event open to all to thank Sue and Susie for their service at the library.

Monday, June 9 - Set up for the book sale, afternoon and evening. Volunteers welcome to help set up tables and start setting out books for the sale on Friday. Help also welcome on the following evenings with book set-up.

Wednesday, June 11 - Open House & “Images of Jesus” exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Friday, June 13 - 3rd Annual Book Sale from 9 am to 7 pm. Books, phonograph records, games & puzzles, gift basket raffles, donuts, coffee and more all day.

Saturday, June 14 - 3rd Annual Book Sale from 9 am to 2 pm. Books, phonograph records, games & puzzles, gift basket raffles, popcorn, donuts, coffee and more all day.

Sunday, June 15 – Board of Trustees meeting @ 9 am.

Sunday, June 15 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, June 15 – Chautauqua Sunday @ 11 am. “Principled Non-violence” with George Payne. Principled nonviolence is a form of social resistance to injustice pioneered by Mahatma Gandhi. George Payne from the Gandhi Institute in Rochester, NY will talk about the tradition of nonviolence and how it is shaping the world today. George Payne has served since 2009 as the Peace and Justice Educator with the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence at the University of Rochester. In addition to his many non-violence certifications, Mr. Payne holds philosophy degrees from

St. John Fisher College, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and Emory University (Candler School of Theology), and teaches philosophy at Finger Lakes Community College.

Monday, June 16 - 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, June 18 - Open House & "Images of Jesus" exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Saturday, June 21 - Workbee from 10 am to noon. General clean up inside and out. Bagels and coffee provided.

Sunday, June 22 - "Images of Jesus" exhibition open 10:30 - 12:30. See description above.

Sunday, June 22 - "Luke, Doubt your Feelings: The Importance of Reason in Religion" worship service @ 11 am with Hunter Dudkiewicz. In Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope—in the climactic final scene—Luke Skywalker hears a voice from Ben Kenobi which commands, "Luke, trust your feelings." This is a common refrain in our society in which we are often told to trust our gut, our instincts, or to follow our heart. Together we will explore the relationship between feelings, and the important role that reason plays in discerning our feelings or intuitions. We will also contemplate the interdependent relationship between reason and feeling. This service will provide us with the opportunity to celebrate the great human ability for rationality.

Wednesday, June 25 - Open House & "Images of Jesus" exhibit 9:30 - noon. See description above.

Wednesday, June 25 - deadline for submissions to the June newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Sunday, June 29 - worship service @ 11 am with Peggy Meeker. 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.

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## JOYS & SORROWS

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Rich Della Costa - highlighted a series that has been running on Channel 10, an expose on "Who Killed East High?" He objects to the station using that kind of language for shock value and higher ratings, because all of the students know what 'kill' means and most have a relative or friend who has died from violence. It was not appropriate to twist and distort things.

Jim Knight - was thrilled to see a female Northern Flicker in his backyard recently!

Deb Rodrigues - reminded everyone of the anniversary of Kent State!

Matt Adema - told Susan Daiss that it is his joy to see her again! The last time he saw her, she was reading children's books!

C.W. Lattin - on the Annual Meeting day before everyone left the service to attend the meeting, he told a parable about a man who was disenchanted with attending church. The man said to the minister "why should I attend church? I can pray by myself and

commune with God in nature...tell me why I should be a member of this church?!" The minister said nothing but stepped over to the fireplace, took some tongs, and picked out a red hot ember and placed it on the hearth. Soon the red hot ember turned gray, and then black. The man said, "I see what you mean."

Monica Beck - is sad to report that her 20 year old cat is on his way out! This is truly hard to go through!

Louise Richards - is happy to report that when Chuck Schumer made a pro-fracking comment recently, he had to walk it back within 24 hours due to pressure from anti-fracking groups.

Pastor Lee Richards - it was his great joy to announce that he and Louise recently celebrated their wedding anniversary! Happy Anniversary to two of the best people around!

Debby Rodrigues - is happy to report that her dear friend, Jim Hobbs, had a good doctor visit recently...is cancer free and is gaining back some weight. This is wonderful, Jim!!

C.W.Lattin - has a sorrow that the Supreme Court recently came down on the side of allowing Christian prayers before public Board meetings (as in the case with the Town of Greece).

Darrell Dyke - wanted the congregation to keep in mind that for some people, Mother's Day is a bit confusing and sorrowful.

Chris Loss - was talking to her cousin, Penny Brown, who has been working on the family genealogy and Penny was able to go back to the reign of King Henry VIII in England, where two of our ancestors were burned at the stake due to religious persecution. Chris is grateful that in this day and age, she can attend the church of her choice without fear of such retribution.

Louise Richards - wanted to say again just how generous and helpful this congregation is. Curtains have been hung, the library was transformed into a lovely shop, and drainpipes were fixed. This congregation is amazing!

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### PULLMAN PLAUDITS

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Tobin Carson- has completed her medical boards! Great job!

Craig Smith - fixed some more leaky pipes in the basement. Craig is our hero!!

Gay Smith - was elected to another term as our Board Chairman! We are so lucky to have her expertise and dedication! And the Chalice Lighter grant that Gay wrote awarded us with \$6,000!

Patti Adema & Betty Knight - were welcomed at the May 25 Board meeting as new members of the Board! They were elected at the Annual Meeting on May 4th.

John Andrews - was elected to the Library Board on May 5th. John wished to thank everyone who made a point to go out and vote!

C.W. Lattin - will be hosting tours every Wednesday at the church in conjunction with the Presbyterian church, and will also be painting, varnishing, and so on if things get slow. And C.W.'s portraits and paintings depicting Jesus have been a big hit!

Patti Adema, Julie Andrews, Louise Richards & C.W. Lattin - have turned the library into a very classy gift shop! They cleaned it out and set out items. C.W. Lattin and Rene' Schasel also donated items from the Barn. Don't forget to check it out!

Dennis Seekins and Matt Adema - have been collecting books for the 3rd Annual BookFair for the Strawberry Festival in mid-June.

Louise Richards - made a donation to the church in honor of her mother, who passed away recently.

Pastor Lee Richards - received a round of applause for his sermon on May 25th entitled 'The Normalization of Evil'. If you missed it, go to the [website](#) and check it out.

Darrell Dyke - has agreed to send cards to our shut-ins! If you know of someone in need of a card, please let him know!

C.W. Lattin and Chris Loss - for providing salad and a cake for the Annual Meeting.

Matt Adema - will be mowing the lawn for us now. Thanks Matt!!

Pastor Lee Richards and Andrea Rebeck - who labored on the budget and 5 year budget for the Annual Meeting!

C.W. Lattin and Rene Schasel - provided a large quantity of items to help fill the shelves of the gift shop.

C.W. Lattin - had the church open for the Sacred Sites Open House and regaled visitors with our history.

Andrea Rebeck - continues working behind the scenes to measure and create plans of the building.

Alan Nugent & Gerald Lombardi - have returned to us from Florida!! We are so glad to have you both back! Alan, of course, has continued to manage the Endowment and produce our Newsletter even in Florida!

Pastor Lee Richards - his Continuing Letter of Agreement was signed by the Board members on May 25th.

### **3rd Annual Book Sale**

Friday, June 13, 9 am to 7 pm & Saturday, June 14, 9 am to 2 pm. Free admission.

It's our third year for offering great values in previously read books. This two day event is a great fundraiser for our church, and features antiquarian books, maps, children's books, local history, first editions, illustrated books, and more, located in our church's social hall. This year we'll also have other media, including phonograph records, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, and similar items. A variety of gift baskets will also be raffled off.

There will be many things of interest in the social hall off the east portico and main sanctuary. The parlor adjacent to the social hall will have representatives from the Cobblestone Society and Museum, the Orleans County Genealogical Society, local and regional historical book author Bill Lattin with his multiple titles relating to Albion, NY, and antiquarian book dealer Dennis Seekins from Quiet Friends Books in Lyndonville, NY appraising books any visitor may bring in for his expert opinion.

There is the local Strawberry Festival happening at the same time as the book sale, a number of nice shops on Albion's Main Street, and of course the Cobblestone Museum, home of the Cobblestone Society's Collection of Orleans County and Regional artifacts. Tours of Pullman Memorial Universalist Church are free. Admission to the Cobblestone Museum is free with membership, \$8 at the door and \$6 with AAA. The Cobblestone Museum is open during the book sale on Friday 11AM to 5PM, on Saturday from 1PM to 5PM, and is just a short drive north from the book sale on Route 98 at Rt 104.

### **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 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.

### **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).

### **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 go 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.

## **Gift Shop**

A new fundraising venture is now up and running, and looking for a name. Notecards and posters, t-shirts and sweatshirts, antique and vintage glassware, Pullman porter uniform buttons, totebags, and pendants are available now. Coming soon - jewelry and coffee mugs. Check out the old library off of the social hall for this “wee shoppe.” Many thanks to Julie Andrews, Patti Adema, Bill Lattin, and Louise Wu Richards for heading up this project. Watch for a grand opening in the near future, and if you have a suggestion for a name, send it to [pmuc.albion@gmail.com](mailto:pmuc.albion@gmail.com) or relate it to one of the above mentioned individuals.

## **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 began May 21 and runs through August 27.

## **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 May I wrote about emotional and spiritual baggage, and responded to a popular article making the rounds on the internet about dying churches.

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](http://pullmanpastor.blogspot.com), or you can get there by a link on our main church website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://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](http://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.

**120th Annual Congregational Meeting Report (May 4).** Here is a condensed summary...

Board of Trustees chair Gay Smith reported we've increased our recognition and visibility in the community, and fundraising efforts were moved to an unparalleled level. The church continued to fight for social justice, with issues such as LGBT, Cancer, Alzheimers, etc. The church gained four new members, but lost one by death (Margaret "Peg" Wilson). We reincorporated last summer, and work is progressing to obtain our own 501c3 IRS status separate from the UUA.

Pastor Lee Richards stated he conducted or facilitated 37 worship services, plus conducted one memorial service for former member Barbara Houck. He started a grief support group, offered movie with the minister nights, and represented the church at a number of events around the state. He also reported some of Louise's contributions, including coordinating Walkies & Strolls, developing the idea for Chautauqua Sundays, locating guest speakers.

Secretary Chris Loss noted the board held 3 mini-retreats in June, November, and February, and two special congregational meetings were called (voting to reincorporate, and to sell stock).

Treasurer Andrea Rebeck reported that in kind donations of goods and services, coupled with improved stock market earnings, helped the church end the fiscal year in much better financial shape than anticipated. She noted that all fundraising efforts for the year were dedicated to repair and restoration, with none going toward operating expenses.

Buildings & Grounds reported that after rehinging of one, the social hall folding doors now open for easier access to the sanctuary. Numerous water leaks were repaired (thanks Gay & Craig!). A grant from the Landmark Society was awarded and used to offset the costs of retaining the Crawford and Stearns architectural firm to help plan our restoration work. A grant from the Medina Sandstone Society will be used for repairing the large front step. We are waiting to hear about another grant request for resetting the steps.

Religious education: Cassandra Conner provided childcare for approximately eight months during the year. Dennis Seekins had a reading program for older children. Darrell Dyke facilitated an adult RE group. Going forward, Diana Dudley will be organizing volunteer teachers.

Membership care & outreach: Patricia Adema & Julie Andrews organized care packages for our college students.

Fundraising: three major events were held and proved successful - the Book Sale, C.W. Lattin's Storytelling, and our first Wine Tasting. In addition, C.W. Lattin's tours resulted in donations from participants, and his postcard book netted a lot of sales. Julie Andrews, Patricia Adema, and Louise Richards have cleaned out the old library and are preparing it to be a gift shop. Several grants were also pursued.

Worship: Summer Salons were a big success last year. This year the theme will be the original writings of Universalists. Rich Della Costa is planning to utilize more of the congregation's talent in the coming year.

Jim Knight and Diana Dudley completed terms on the board. Nominated to replace them, and accepted by vote, are Patricia Adema and Elizabeth "Betty" Knight.

The budget was presented by projection on a screen. Increases were made for higher utility costs, using musicians for all Sunday services, denominational dues, and hiring an accountant. Most items were held at the previous year's levels, including the minister's compensation package, and a few were decreased, such as costs for groundwork. At least one fundraising event (the book sale) will be solely for operating expenses. The restoration & repair budget for this year includes a new water heater (completed), lining the parlor chimney flue, and repair of the front step.

Complete minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

## Church Leadership 2014-2015

Board of Trustees:	Fundraising Committee:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gay Smith - 2015 (chairperson)</li><li>• Rich Della Costa - 2015</li><li>• C. W. Lattin - 2016</li><li>• Sara Phillips - 2016</li><li>• Elizabeth Knight - 2017</li><li>• Patti Adema - 2017</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jim Knight</li><li>• Betty Knight (board liaison)</li></ul>
Secretary:	Buildings and Grounds:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chris Loss</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• C. W. Lattin (board liaison)</li><li>• Andrea Rebeck</li></ul>
Collector:	Newsletter & Publicity:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chris Loss</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alan Nugent (editor)</li><li>• Chris Loss (board liaison)</li><li>• Lee Richards (websites)</li></ul>
Treasurer:	Shut-Ins:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Andrea Rebeck</li><li>• Alan Nugent (assisting)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Darrell Dyke</li></ul>
Children's Church:	Pulpit / Music / Ministry:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Betty Knight (board liaison)</li><li>• Diana Dudley</li><li>• Chris Loss</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Craig Smith</li><li>• Rich Della Costa (board liaison)</li><li>• Jim Knight</li><li>• Lee Richards</li></ul>
Finance Committee:	Nominating Committee:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alan Nugent</li><li>• Rene' Schasel</li><li>• Andrea Rebeck</li><li>• Julie Andrews</li><li>• Gay Smith (board liaison)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John Andrews</li><li>• Sara Phillips</li><li>• Patti Adema (board appointed)</li></ul>

*Note: Pastor Lee Richards is an ex-officio member of all committees*

### Eye on the Board

The May 25th meeting began with a unanimous vote to reelect Gay Smith as chairperson, followed by appointments of board liaisons to committees. Lee Richards' continuing letter of agreement was approved and signed.

The treasurer reported having several difficulties with our bank branch. The board decided to send a letter to the management about our concerns. The finance committee reported that growth of our investments are as expected.

Buildings & Grounds: 1) Craig Smith continued making plumbing repairs, and replaced the downspout and gutter near the social hall entrance. 2) Carpeting was laid in the old library (the new gift shop). 3) Bill will be making a number of repairs this summer on Wednesday mornings while the church is open for visitors. 4) A proposal for air conditioning the sanctuary was rejected by the board. Next step is to locate and retain an HVAC engineer familiar with historic buildings to design a system. Meanwhile, fans will be employed as best as possible. 5) Work is scheduled for June 4th to repair the broken front step. 6) The church was awarded a Chalice Lighter grant which will help cover the costs of resetting the front steps.

Complete minutes are available upon request.