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Member of The Unitarian Universalist Association

Minister: Lee Richards, (585) 454-9450, pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com

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Minister Musings -- by Lee Richards

Best Ever Congregation. The other day I was asked by a reporter to describe the church and my immediate response was to say I had the best ever congregation. Let me explain why...

Warmth. Everyone here really “gets it” when I speak about love. It’s visible in the way we care for one another with true caring and kindness, in how we greet when we meet and how we say goodbye when we must part.

Truth, honesty, and openness. These are high values we uphold verbally and they are also key in our relationship to each other. I think I can say that we are all here precisely because we seek, and expect to find, truth. We come with questions about how the world works, and maybe we come with some answers already figured out, but we also listen to each other to see if someone else has better answers that are even closer to the truth.

Diversity in, oh, so many ways. Blue collar, white collar, pink collar and no collar. Our members cross all social strata and all are welcome. No pretenses, no class snobbery. Diversity in ages. Diversity in sexual orientation. Diverse backgrounds, and diverse interests. Even better, it is diversity that does not divide - we enjoy, respect, and honor each other across our differences. We are, perhaps as Forrest Gump would say, like a box of chocolates - each a different flavor under the disguise of a similar coating.

Humor. I like to say we are the church that laughs. Life is too short to be taken with deadly seriousness. We enjoy the little surprises that cause us to laugh, and understand that it is humor which will get us through the tough times.

Appreciation for art, nature, and music - those things that make life beautiful - not the superficial beauty like in beauty pageants.

“Pullman people” are everything you’d want in a group of friends. We can’t choose our birth families, but this congregation is one I think most would choose to know and to become part of.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

June 2	Rev. Donald Reidell		
June 9	Kim Remley	"Orleans Sanitary Landfill"	2nd Sunday Stroll @ 9:00
June 16	Chaplain Susan Daiss		BoT meets @ 9:00
June 23	Pastor Lee Richards	"SBNR: Spiritual But Not Religious"	
June 30	Pastor Lee Richards	"Crossing Thresholds" w/ Brockport UU Fellowship at Cobblestone	
July 7	Jon Riley-Goddard	Patriotic Service w/ Gaines Congregational Church at Cobblestone	

Thursday, May 30 - "Guided Meditation" @ 7 pm. A quiet time for meditation and recharging the soul. NOTE: this is the last meditation service until September.

Saturday, June 1 – Mini Board Retreat, 10 am to noon.

Sunday, June 2 - worship service @ 11 am with Don Reidell.

Monday, June 3 - Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy good food and conversation with others.

Wednesday, June 5 - "Open House" from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring.

Friday, June 7 – Book Sale Benefit from 9 am to 6 pm. Books, gift basket raffles, popcorn, coffee and more all day. 11 am to noon: Presentation about "What makes books valuable, and identifying first editions."

Saturday, June 8 – Book Sale Benefit from 9 am to 6 pm. Books, gift basket raffles, popcorn, coffee and more all day. Presentations beginning at 11 am about appraising rare and antique books (see full schedule at <http://pullmanmemorial.org/special-events/>)

Sunday, June 9 – Second Sunday Stroll @ 9 am. NOTE earlier time for this event. Enjoy walking with fellow liberals before the Sunday service.

Sunday, June 9 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, June 9 – "Orleans Sanitary Landfill" worship service @ 11 am. Kim Remley, president of STOC - Stop Polluting Orleans County - will present information on the proposal to reopen and expand the landfill. At stake - 700 trucks hauling in 2200+ tons of any type of legally allowable waste per day.

Wednesday, June 12 - "Open House" from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring.

Sunday, June 16 - Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, June 16 - worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

Sunday, June 17 - 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 19 - "Open House" from 9:30 am to noon. Church open for touring.

Sunday, June 23 - "SBNR: Spiritual But Not Religious" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Emerson and Thoreau may have invented it in the 1800's but today it's the rage - the concept of having spirituality while rejecting formal religion. Let's explore the phenomena and make a case for being "churched."

Tuesday, June 25 - Last day for newsletter submissions. Please send your articles and news in advance of this date, if possible.

Wednesday, June 26 - "Open House" from 9:30 am to noon. Church open for touring.

Wednesday, June 26 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ 12:30 pm. Meet at the church. Join other Universalists in going "walk-about." A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Sunday, June 30 - "Crossing Thresholds" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards and Peggy Meeker. Annual Cobblestone Church worship service, held jointly with Brockport UU Fellowship. When does a pan become a pot? Lee will speak about some of the many thresholds we encounter in life. 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.

Wednesday, July 3 - "Open House" from 9:30 am to noon. Church open for touring.

Sunday, July 7 - Patriotic Service at Cobblestone Church @ 11 am with Jon Riley-Goddard and Lee Richards. Annual joint worship service with the Gaines Congregational Church.

JOYS & SORROWS

-Debby Rodriques - is so amazed that someone so young (Tyler Smith) plays so well!

-Susan Daiss - dedicated her sermon on May 12th to her 90 year old mother!

-Louise Wu - the recent Peaceful Protest was very cool, and so is the spread of pictures on the Facebook page at 'Keep The Villages of Orleans Public'. A lot of people turned out to save the nursing home and it was a good time.

-Chris Loss - has been taking her grandson, Carson, to T-ball practice and he was mostly acting up until this past week. He was listening, and following directions, and being very good. And he said later, "Na-na, was this my best day yet?" She said, "yes, I am very proud of you." And he said "Good...can I have ice cream?". Her older grandson, Caden, is in Little League and doing very well.

-Sarah Diemer - said she and Jenn are so glad to have this church to come back to! They do a lot of traveling, but it is always nice to come back here!

-Rich Della Costa - his daughter's in-laws were visiting from Argentina recently and it was nice to get a different perspective on America from other eyes on America. They told him that they are so surprised that things are efficient and work so well. We have so many problems here, but compared to some other countries, things aren't so bad.

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!

Hearing Assistive System

We have six hearing assistive devices available. They look like, and work like, little FM transistor radios. Each has an on-off switch and volume control, plus a choice of earplugs or headphones. We provide labeled ziplock plastic bags to our regular users so you can, in essence, have and identify your own device. The bag system will allow you to maintain your individual settings and keep your device from entangling with others while in storage.

Strawberry Festival Book Sale Benefit, June 7 & 8

This was our most successful fundraiser last year, and plans for this year should make it even better. The main effort will be centered around a book sale. Dennis Seekins will again offer book appraisals and give tips for evaluating books. If you have books to donate they can be brought to the church at any time and left in the dining room.

-Louise Richards - we can pat ourselves on the back that we were awarded a grant for Crawford and Stearns to come up with specifications and plans for our roof project!

-Sherry & Dave Hagmier - Cody Coopenberg, their grandson, had what was supposed to be one major surgery to repair muscles in his neck area and it turned into four major surgeries in the span of a short period, and he is in an induced coma. They are told that this is not life-threatening, though. They would appreciate good thoughts and prayers to be directed his way.

-Sarah and Jenn Diemer - have decided to have a new work schedule. Prior to this, they were working all day and night with very few breaks and now have made a plan to take a day off each week and have a limit on their work time daily. So if you think working at home is a piece of cake, think again. These talented ladies are amazing!

Pullman Plaudits

Heather Boyd- who has been bringing boxes of books for the book sale!

-Pastor Lee Richards - his first Bereavement Group was very well attended and well received.

-Andrea Rebeck - we never would have gotten a grant without her expert help!

In addition, we are asking for folks to use their imagination to create gift baskets that could be raffled off. One or two larger, or high value, items are also sought for raffling - for example, a handmade quilt, or a nice antique piece of furniture.

Cans of soda and bottled water - kept in ice chests to stay chilled - are in the plans. Early coffee and donuts will be available, and the pastor will do popcorn.

Donations of items and/or your time are gratefully accepted and appreciated. We need books and baskets before Friday, June 7th. if you need help getting your donations to church please give us a call. You may call (585) 454-9450 to learn more on how to help out, or speak to Louise Wu, or Sarah or Jenn Diemer at church.

Bereavement Support Group

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

Pullman Pastor's Blog by Lee Richards

Bucking the [austerity] trend, we're bigger than you think, the swings of life in a single day, and seeking rest as a gift were all topics on the pastor's mind this past month.

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

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.

Pullman Memorial Online Store

Bill Lattin's limited edition book, Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York, is just one of a number of items available for purchase in our "virtual storefront." We also have a variety of collectibles related to Pullman, other books, DVD movies, postcards, and more. The next time you feel a need for a little consumerism, why not shop your favorite church market first? Proceeds go to a great cause. Go to: pullmanmemorial.com

Who's Who

A number of people serve in various capacities throughout the church. If you have an interest in helping out with a committee then please watch this newsletter for times when they meet, or contact a person associated with that committee.

Board of Trustees - Gay Smith (chair), C.W. Lattin, Jim Knight, Sara Phillips, Diana Dudley, Rich Della Costa

Secretary - Chris Loss

Collector - Chris Loss

Treasurer - Andrea Rebeck

Assistant Treasurer - Alan Nugent

Building & Grounds - Dennis Seekins, Andrea Rebeck, C.W. Lattin as board liaison

Children's Church - Betty Knight, Diana Dudley, Jim Knight as board liaison

Finance Committee - Rene' Schasel, Alan Nugent, Diana Dudley as board liaison

Fundraising - Jennifer & Sarah Diemer, Sara Phillips as board liaison

GUUSTO - Gay Smith as board representative

Newsletter - Alan Nugent, Chris Loss as board liaison

Nominating - Heather Boyd, Sarah Diemer, Sara Phillips,

Pulpit/Music/Ministry - Chris Loss, Liz Schaal, Deborah Rodriguez, and Rich Della Costa board liaison

Shut-ins (Caring Com.) - Jennifer Diemer

Ex-officio member of all committees - Pastor Lee Richards

Eye on the Board

The first order of business for May was to elect a new chairperson. Gay Smith accepted the nomination and was approved unanimously. Board liaisons to the committees appointments were also made.

Details about the transfer of the treasurer's duties from Diana Dudley to Andrea Rebeck were addressed. One new strategy: Andrea will be creating a paper voucher system for people submitting receipts for reimbursement.

Chris Loss reported that the Landmark Conservancy awarded us a grant to help offset the costs of having architectural details and specs drafted. The board then authorized engaging the firm Crawford and Stearns to perform the work. (The details and specs report will be used for bidding out the roof repair to contractors.)

The board will meet for a mini-retreat on June 1st to develop a church year calendar and begin work on a policy manual. We had one applicant for the position of childcare, who will have references checked and be interviewed.

The fundraising committee advised the board of plans for the upcoming Strawberry Festival. New this year is the need to obtain a Health Department permit to serve food and the requirement to have a certified food handler on the premises. Louise Wu volunteered to get the certification.

- Complete minutes 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 585-454-9450, 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.



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P.O. Box 87
Albion, NY 14411