

The Grapevine Newsletter



May 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

Our chosen faith. This is the title of a book about Unitarian Universalism but those three words also very much describe the act of joining our church community. In the past couple months we've been blessed to have five new members sign the book, declaring that they choose to walk with us in their spiritual journey.

Whether one grows up a UU, or comes to us having never been in a church before, or makes the decision to leave another community of faith to become a part of Pullman Memorial - *however* one finds us - it is a wonderful affirmation when a person chooses to engage with us, bringing their new insights and energy into the equation.

It is not merely about a growth in numbers or pledge units but it is about a growth in spirit. A revitalization of our community. New people bring new ideas which refresh us, and hopefully challenge us, too. Challenge us to keep doing better and not get stodgy or set in our old ways. Challenge us to live up to our high standards of not only professed morality, but also our engagement with the wider world.

If you, the reader, have not been to church in a while then I would encourage you to come check us out again. You will find both the familiar and the strange (but a *good* kind of strange). There is so much love in this community of faith that it will knock your socks off! As I said in last month's newsletter, "Come as you are, leave inspired."

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

May 4	Susan Daiss	Annual Congregation Meeting at noon, lunch provided.
May 11	Lee Richards	"Help, I need somebody (not just any body)"
May 18	John Roche, Ph.D.	Chautauqua Sunday - "Cyberpunk Science Fiction and the Sixties Counterculture / Psychedelic Movement"
May 25	Lee Richards	"The Normalization of Evil"

~ 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.

Sunday, May 4 – “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, May 4 - worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

Sunday, May 4 – Annual Congregational Meeting @ noon. Lunch provided.

Monday, May 5 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Good food and conversation.

Sunday, May 11 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, May 11 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. See description above.

Sunday, May 11 – “Help, I need somebody (not just any body)” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Helping professions, volunteers, and mothers.

Saturday, May 17 – Sacred Sites Open House, noon – 3 pm. Church open for touring. Includes “Images of Jesus” art print exhibition.

Sunday, May 18 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, May 18 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. See description above.

Sunday, May 18 – Chautauqua Sunday @ 11 am. “Cyberpunk Science Fiction and the Sixties Counterculture / Psychedelic Movement” with John Roche, Ph.D. Cyberpunk is a late 20th century science fiction literary sub-genre that was remarkably predictive of technologies and social conditions that we take for granted today. For example, it anticipated the invention of the internet. Dr. Roche will talk about some of the genre’s other surprising elements, such as its spiritual dimension. John Roche is an Associate Professor of English at RIT. He earned a Ph.D. from SUNY/Buffalo and an MA in Anglo-Irish Studies from University College Dublin, and taught at Michigan State, Emory University, and other schools before coming to RIT, where he has been for the past fifteen years. He has published numerous essays on literature, in addition to four volumes of poetry and three edited collections.

Sunday, May 18 – Sacred Sites Open House, noon – 3 pm. Church open for touring.

Monday, May 19 – 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, May 21 – 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, May 25 – “Images of Jesus” exhibition open 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. See description above.

Sunday, May 25 – “The Normalization of Evil” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Cultural reflections on how we get endless war, and the true nature of evil.

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

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.

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

Sunday, June 8 - Friends of the Library reception for Hoag Library former director Sue Rudnicky and special events coordinator Susie Gaylars. After church, time TBA. Public event open to all to thank Sue and Susie for their service at the library.

June 13 & 14 – 3rd Annual Book Sale.

JOYS & SORROWS

Tobin Carson and Darrell Dyke - have been spending anxious days awaiting Tobin's Board exams (scheduled for the first week in April). Tobin faced 7 hours of grueling testing and was so anxious that she forgot an engagement! Darrell has been very concerned and trying to be helpful. Tobin said that she has received loving messages of concern from this congregation and wants everyone to know what a wonderful place this is. Tobin is finishing work in the long process of becoming a doctor! Good luck, Tobin, we know you will do well!

Diana Dudley - sadly, we learned that her daughter, Holly Annette Robinson Grazioplene, died peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Sunday morning (March 30, 2014) in San Diego, Calif. after a four-month battle with cancer. On April 6, Diana spoke about Holly, said she didn't want much to do with church, was a loving mother and friend, who would go out of her way to help others. She spoke about how Holly raised three wonderful children, and was loved by her co-workers at GCC. A Memorial Service was held April 11th at the Village Inn, and so many people attended that some had to be turned away. Holly was a beautiful young woman, as many here know. Rich Della Costa played 'Sleep, My Child' as a tribute to Holly. Our condolences to Diana and her family, and many hugs will be coming her way! On 4/13, Louise expressed the deep sorrow we all feel regarding Holly's death and how lovely the Memorial Service was, and how nice so many people could attend.

Louise Richards - was pleased that the UUA came to the aid of several students who were jailed because they were protesting hydrofracking. Because of social media, the UUA knew about the incident and was able to get them out of jail.

John Andrews - thanked everyone who signed the petition for him to be on the Library Board. Remember that the vote is on May 5th!!

Debby Rodrigues - wanted to recognize that Tobin Carson and Darrell Dyke brought a lovely guest to church from Baltimore today (April 13th).

Patty Adema - brought her friend, Marcie, to church on the 13th, as well. Welcome, Marcie!

Louise Richards - wanted to thank Gay Smith for completing and submitting the Chalice Lighter grant! Great job, Gay!!

Pastor Lee Richards - is awed by the beautiful religious pictures of Jesus on display courtesy of C.W. Lattin.

Chris Loss - reported that her husband, Ernie, had a cortisone shot in his knee and is back to work and doing well. Also, her daughter, Joni, and family are in Key Largo for a vacation over the Easter break.

Beth Allen - was sad that her good friend, Bill, lost his son to liver cancer in late April. She also has a neighbor who was in a car accident and is fighting for his life.

Jim Hobbs - wanted to wish his good friend, Debby Rodrigues a happy birthday!!

Sara Phillips - said it is always a joy to get together with family as they will for Easter dinner. Everyone always has such a good time. And she was able to bring her mom, Doris Brown to church!

Debby Rodrigues - has a niece who went to New Zealand for a visit and wants to stay there!

Chris Loss - was so happy to see her aunt Doris Brown at the service on Easter!!

Pastor Lee Richards - was also very glad to see the Coopenberg family in attendance for Easter.

Diana Dudley said on 4/27 that it is a joy to have all of you folks! She has been given a lot of support!

It is a joy for the entire congregation to welcome three new members on Easter Sunday...Matt Adema, Julie Andrews and John Andrews! Welcome to the family!!!

Matt Adema - said he used to come to church a lot when he was young, but then stopped coming when he attended college. He recently started attending again and wants everyone to know how much joy it has brought to his life! He really enjoys being here! And Matt, we are so happy you are back!!

Gay Smith - Tyler would be embarrassed if he was here today (4/27), but he has been named Salutatorian of his class! And he was also selected by the Kendall Superintendent as 'Student of the Year'. Way to go, Tyler!!

Louise Richards - is again proud of the UUA for making the decision to divest from fossil fuels. They are ahead of the curve, and by the way, our church had made the same decision!! Desmond Tutu is calling for a boycott on fossil fuel companies!

Andrea Rebeck - spend about a month in Australia. It was a beautiful country, a place where people cooperate with each other. She did say, though, that she didn't see one church there as beautiful as ours!!

Monica Beck - said on 4/27 that she is glad to have Andrea Rebeck back from the land down under!!

Kasandra Conner - sadly, her last day with us as a childcare provider was April 13th! She has moved on to new employment and we wish her luck with her future endeavors, and thank her for her help! We will miss her!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Chris Loss - filled in as Treasurer Pro-Temp while Andrea was out of the country.

Gay Smith - completed the Chalice Lighter grant and submitted it! She had to obtain a lot of information and put it all together. Good work, Gay!

C.W. Lattin - has a remarkable display of religious pictures of Jesus for everyone's enjoyment in the coffee hour room!

Diana Dudley and Jim Knight - were thanked by the Board of Trustees for their service on the Board and all their good work!! They will be going off the Board after the Annual Meeting.

Andrea Rebeck - was thanked at the Board meeting on 4/27 for all of her hard work this year, and for the wonderful professional reports she has been presenting to the Board.

Pastor Lee Richards - was thanked at the Board meeting on 4/27 for the incredible energy he has brought to this church with his wonderful leadership!! And his wife, Louise, has also worked very hard on behalf of the church. We are so lucky to have this amazing couple!!

Pastor Lee Richards and Andrea Rebeck - have been working on budget plans, and that has meant hours and hours of work!!

Julie Andrews - brought some wonderful food to the coffee hour on Easter Sunday! She had a sausage-egg casserole, marshmallow bars, and almond bark with jelly beans...absolutely awesome!!

Patty Adema - has also been bringing some wonderful food to the coffee hour experience! She has brought lemon-cucumber bites, cherry cobbler, and other goodies!

Diana Dudley and Tyler Smith - provided special music, including a duet, for the Easter Service!

Patti Adema - many thanks to her for polishing the communion cups for the Easter Service!!

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!

3rd Annual Book Sale – We Want Your Books!

Scheduled for June 13 & 14 during the Strawberry Festival. Last year we started with about 900 books. We want this sale to be even bigger so we need your castoffs. This is a great time to downsize your library and gain some zen in your home by clearing your bookshelves. Please bring to the church ASAP to help us with sorting. We also plan to have a **gift basket raffle** again. These generated a lot of income in addition to the books. Please consider making one or more baskets for the raffle.

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 begins May 21 and runs through August 27.

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 and is intended to compliment the Albion Stained Glass Window Tour led by Bill Lattin, and sponsored by the Albion Merchants Association.

"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 beginning May 21 until the end of August. The exhibit will be open for the Stained Glass Window Tour on Saturday, May 26th beginning at 11:30 am at Pullman. "Images of Jesus" will also be open for the New York Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Tour on Saturday and Sunday May 17 & 18 from 12 noon to 3pm. The exhibit and church tour are also available by appointment (call 585-589-9510).

Note Cards and Posters

Now available for purchase – some of the beauty of Pullman Memorial's Tiffany stained glass windows in a form you can take home and display. A 12" x 18" poster of the Jesus window, with its two sidelights, is only \$3.00. Gift packs of 10 notecards with envelopes featuring five examples of windows throughout our building are only \$10.00. These are specific to our church, but we also continue to carry a variety of other notecards, books, and items for sale. Look for a new GIFT SHOP opening soon just off of the social hall.

Social Justice Conference

Scheduled for September 20th – the day before International Peace Day. Our church will be hosting an opportunity for several area organizations to present information and ideas for making a better world. Volunteers are needed to help with planning, promotion, set-up, and food preparation of a light lunch. Contact Louise or Lee Richards to take part in creating this interesting public event.

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 downstairs bins. Proceeds going to the church. Debby Rodrigues has offered to match the amount received from the recycling center every month that the total is \$10 or higher.

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. **NEW:** a selection of sermons from Lee's current series on the psyche are now being made available in print format - look for them in the literature rack of the social hall's vestibule.

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 Pastor's Blog

by Lee Richards

In April I wrote about puzzling out theologies of life, the stress of having a loved one die, lessons learned from other generations, and redirected blog readers to my sermon on Christologies where I presented a UU concept of Jesus.

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 of trustees met twice in April to prepare for the 120th annual congregational meeting on May 4th. Much of the discussion centered on the budget proposal, which is about 10% higher than last year's. Increases included higher energy bills and insurance costs, plus costs for compensated services (people who are paid for providing a service to the church). It was noted that in-kind contributions of time and materials have saved the church more than the total of all the budgeted expenses.

Childcare provider Kasandra Connor's resignation was accepted. Diana Dudley will coordinate volunteer childcare for the near future. The board will look to committees to take a more active role in the coming year. The board approved holding a social justice conference on September 20th. Buildings and Grounds committee noted a new water heater was installed, and information is still being sought regarding air conditioning.

Dennis Seekins and Matt Adema will be honorary co-chairs of the 3rd Annual Book Sale June 13 and 14 during the Strawberry Festival. The nominating committee made recommendations for trustees to fill the vacancies created by Jim Knight and Diana Dudley completing their terms. A resolution was passed acknowledging Diana and Jim for their invaluable service the past three years. Complete minutes available upon request.

Mother's Day Proclamation

by Julia Ward Howe, 1870

*The First Mother's Day proclaimed in 1870 by Julia Ward Howe
was a passionate demand for disarmament and peace.*

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or tears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have taught them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of the devastated earth, a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, Disarm!"

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail & commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesars but of God.