

The Grapevine Newsletter



October 2013

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

I was in Bindings Bookstore the other day and noticed a new book by local pastor Tim Lindsay, titled *1000 Sundays and Counting*. Put another way, it's about twenty years of delivering sermons on a weekly basis. That's a lot of verbiage, yet he says the sermons mostly boiled down to different ways of communicating just a handful of messages.

One thousand Sundays. Have you ever thought about how many Sundays you have spent in church? Even if you haven't attended Pullman Memorial for twenty years, I'll bet you've heard far more than a handful of core messages.

Our variety of speakers in the pulpit is part of the reason why. Each brings his or her own unique views to share with us. Another reason for the variety is that we don't follow the lectionary or some other schedule that proscribes what should be taught and when. Our inherent freedom of the pulpit allows each speaker to be free to choose the topic that is uppermost in the mind at the time.

We also benefit from our perspective that everything is worthy of contemplation. We don't focus solely on God or the Bible, or how to live a Christian-style life. We are interested in, and give our attention to, all aspects of the world and the universe. We want to grow our own spirits, but we understand that we can't do so without considering the spirits of all life around us - other human beings in Orleans county, in the nation, around the globe, as well as other non-human beings.

Gosh, there is no way a thousand Sundays could even come close to covering all the subjects that we deem important. That is both the blessing, and maybe the curse, of being a Unitarian Universalist. We demand the bar be set high and that there should never be a boring lecture from our presenters. So come, spend a few Sundays with us, and see if you don't find multiple messages that speak to your life.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

Oct. 6	Don Reidell	
Oct. 13	Lee Richards & Jeff Pier	“2013 Humanitarian Award”
Oct. 20	Lee Richards Susan Daiss	“Making Strides” ecumenical worship service @ 7:00 am. Worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.
Oct. 27	Lee Richards	“I Don't Want to Talk About It”
Nov. 3	Rev. John McCarthy	

~ Childcare available during service times ~

Sunday, Sept. 29 – Fundraising committee meets @ 9:30 am.

Sunday, Sept. 29 – “Once a Catholic” worship service @ 11 am with Elizabeth Osta. Elizabeth Osta’s background includes being a teacher-trainer, college professor, and novelist (Jeremiah’s Hunger, an Irish historical novel set around An Gorta Mor). She is currently chronicling her years in the convent and her journey through breast cancer. Avid about social justice issues, human trafficking is of particular concern. Elizabeth and husband Dave Van Arsdale live in Pittsford, NY, and are members of First Universalist in Rochester. Kitty Forbush, soloist, will accompany Osta's talk at Pullman Memorial singing Ave Maria. Bonnie Beiswenger will play a dulcimer version of Simple Gifts, the Shaker tune.

Sunday, Oct. 6 – worship service @ 11 am with Don Reidell.

Monday, Oct. 7 – Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Enjoy good food and conversation in a relaxed atmosphere. Guaranteed laughter. Dish-to-pass.

October 11-12 – The St. Lawrence District UU Women & Religion is hosting the Fourth Annual Women's Spirituality Conference at the First UU Society of Syracuse. For more information about the conference and to register, please visit our website at: www.slduuwr.org. You may also call or email Jody Brown at (315) 476-0447 or jfb523@gmail.com.

Sunday, Oct. 13 – Second Sunday Stroll @ 9 am. Join other liberals for a little walk before service.

Sunday, Oct. 13 – “2013 Humanitarian Award” @ 11 am. Jeff Pier, Regional Manager of Rape Crisis Service for Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties, will accept the award for his organization. At the ceremony, Mr. Pier will speak about 40 years of caring for rape survivors. Afterwards, the church will hold a reception for Planned Parenthood employees, volunteers, trustees, and members of the community who support and care about the services which Planned Parenthood provides. A special offering will be taken as a gift to support the Rape Crisis Service Center. All are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, Oct. 16 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. “Mythic Journeys” is an inventive fusion of documentary, story, artwork and animation. Despite the fact that myth has always existed, surprisingly few people today are aware of even the classic myths, or the potential that myths have to impact their lives. Myths are the reservoir of human wisdom – the story and the meaning of life. Free admission and popcorn.

Sunday, Oct. 20 - “Making Strides” ecumenical worship service @ 7:00 am. Pastor Lee Richards offers a special service for people attending the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Refreshments afterwards provided by Tim Hortons. Shuttle bus to the farm.

Sunday, Oct. 20 – Join the Pullman Pink Ladies and Gents at Watt Farm @ 9 am to participate in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Fundraising Walk.

Sunday, Oct. 20 - worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

Monday, Oct. 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, Oct. 23 - 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.

Thursday, Oct. 25 - Newsletter deadline. Please try to get submissions in before this date if possible.

Oct. 25-26 – 187th Annual Meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists @ St. Paul’s Universalist Church, Little Falls, NY. Christine Hart (born a UU in East Aurora, NY) gives the keynote address on: BEYOND BORDERS: Living UU Values through Service & Social Justice. Christine has served in the Peace Corps (2006-2008: girls’ education and empowerment in rural Burkina Faso), worked at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, and been Associate Director of the University of Denver’s Human Trafficking Clinic. Africa and Asia are areas of specialization. Respondents to her talk are the Rev. John Rex and author/educator/former nun Elizabeth Osta. More information and registration at nyscu.org.

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, Oct. 27 - “I Don’t Want to Talk About It” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. A book can change a person’s life, and this book changed Lee’s. Come hear about how depression uniquely affects men in our society, and how they can be helped. Every man (and woman) needs to hear this presentation in order to understand how pervasive the problem is, and how it may be affecting yourself, or your friends, coworkers, and family members.

Saturday, Nov. 2 – Board of Trustees mini-retreat from 10-noon.

Sunday, Nov. 3 – worship service @ 11 am with Rev. John McCarthy.

Sunday, Nov. 3 – “Church Stories You Won’t Hear in Church” @ 7 pm. Historian C.W. (Bill) Lattin conducts a very special storytelling session and no denomination is spared! A donation of \$20 will reward the listener with entrance into a world of “dish” – stories from the past pertaining to Albion’s local churchgoers (and even a few ministers!).

JOYS & SORROWS

Debby Rodrigues reported that her friend, Jim, thankfully has been doing a lot better medically lately!

C.W. Lattin was proud to announce a new addition to the family. His daughter, Adrienne, gave birth in August to Graham Patrick Kirby, 9 lbs, 8 oz! Both mom and son are doing well. Congratulations to C.W., Rene, and Heather (Adrienne’s mother)! This makes the third child for Adrienne and Justin Kirby!

Chris Loss’ joy was the celebration of her grandson Carson’s 6th birthday on September 2nd! Carson is such a wonderful guy..he loves to be silly and loves animals!

Andrea Rebeck traveled to Oregon to be with her elderly friend in hospice. It was a beautiful place and she was glad to be there to help Lucy transition over.

Barbara Houck, former member of this church, passed away on September 6th at Medina Memorial Hospital. Pastor Lee officiated at her service on September 11th at the Cooper Funeral Home in Medina.

Dennis and Jan Seekins celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary recently!

C.W. Lattin traveled to Assemblyman Hawley’s office and told them that he doesn’t want them to be able to say that not one person has come to voice support for the Safe Act, because he is in favor!!

Pastor Lee said it was his joy that Tyler Smith is back playing the piano for us!

Sarah Knight’s joy is that her sister, who has been undergoing chemotherapy for her breast cancer, is now done with her treatments and is doing well! This has been very stressful for the entire family and it is a joy indeed that they can relax now!

Rich Della Costa felt mindful to not ever take for granted the teens he teaches and how difficult it is for them, especially if they lack parental support or have other big challenges. It is his last year of teaching, and the first couple of weeks have been hard as they always are. But for many of the inner city kids, school may be the only stability they have in their lives and he recognizes the importance of his role.

Gay Smith's joy is that papers have been filed and PMUC is now officially reincorporated! Gay has done a great job with this!

Louise Richards and Chris Loss both expressed joy that it appears that there will not be military action in Syria and that the American people will not support it!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Please welcome the newest additions to our PMUC church family!! Darrel Dyke and Dr. Tobin Carson joined the church on 9/1/13 with their sons, Aiden and Leland, in attendance! Sarah and Jenn Diemer served as witnesses! It is a pleasure to have you with us!

Diana Dudley has been busy in the children's church room shampooing the carpet, doing general cleaning and organizing, and she also turned one of the tables into a sand table! Thanks Diana for all that hard work! The sand table has been a hit!

C.W. Lattin has been hard at work this summer varnishing the doors, cleaning the windows, and has been available and giving tours at Wednesday Open Houses! He also has been helping out as needed with Concerned Citizens meetings!

Many thanks to all who participated in the water ceremony on September 8th! It was a joyous event! Gay Smith, Chris Loss, Mike Chapman, Diana Dudley, C.W. Lattin, Rene' Schasel, Louise Richards, Alan Nugent, Sara Phillips, Heather Boyd, Tobin Carson, Darrell Dyke, Tyler Smith, Debby Rodrigues, Craig Smith, a visiting couple from the First Unitarian Church, and Pastor Lee Richards came up front to pour water into the communal bowl and share a story.

ON THE ROAD WITH SUSAN

Dave Hagmier saw hay mowed down and lots of apples on the trees.

Chris Loss noted how incredibly tall the corn stalks have gotten, and noted that they are starting to be harvested and mowed down.

Diana Dudley found evidence of fall approaching, a bright red sumac leaf.

C.W. Lattin saw nature at work, vultures cleaning the carcass of a dead fox.

Susan Daiss noted that the yellow line in the middle of the road is now a golden color. She said we need to be mindful of this incredible world!

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!

Book Discussion

Our next book discussion forum will be on December 8th. This time out we're focusing on Newbery award winning books. Books written for children and youth sometimes yield amazing truths that are missing from adult publications. Choose any award winning book and then come share what you learned with others. Lists of Newbery winners are easily found with a Google search, then check your local library for a copy, or search for book titles to buy on used.addall.com

Movie with the Minister

Join us on third Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for films and popcorn with the pastor. This month on October 18th Lee will show "Mythic Journeys." Few of us are aware of the extent to which myths steer our lives. This fascinating film opens a window on classic tales that still speak to our modern world.

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.

Aluminum Recycling Drive

Have any scrap aluminum lying around the house? Save clean washed aluminum, sans wrapper.

Example...small cat food or tuna cans, old gutters and downspouts, etc. Any clean aluminum item can be recycled. If a magnet doesn't stick, it's good. Bring to the church and Debby Rodriguez has offered to take to the recycling center, with the proceeds going to the church.

Connect and Breathe - Upcoming Training Sessions

Connect & Breathe is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that was born out of the Reproductive Rights Task Force of First Unitarian Church of Rochester. Currently, it holds the status under First Unitarian Social Justice of an "ongoing project." We would like to open the opportunity to other UUs in this area to become a volunteer on the nonjudgmental post-abortion talk line. Our Mission: We listen. We affirm women's lives and decisions. We provide an unbiased talk line for women and their loved ones after having an abortion. Our Vision: We envision a world where women are listened to and trusted, where the stigma of abortion is lifted, and where women serve as their own moral agents regarding their reproductive health. Training Opportunities: Do you believe in a world where the stigma of abortion is lifted, and where women are trusted and listened to? Connect & Breathe is recruiting volunteers to provide unbiased, confidential listening services on our nonjudgmental after-abortion talk line. Talk line volunteers need to be available for **ALL** upcoming classroom training sessions to be held at First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 South Winton Road on: Saturday, October 5, 10:00am-4:00pm, Tuesday, October 8, 6:00-9:00pm, Thursday, October 10, 6:00-9:00pm, and Saturday, October 12, 10:00am-4:00pm. Lunches are provided on Saturday sessions and dinner on the weeknight sessions. If you are able to make that time commitment and have the passion to make a difference, email Jenny to get an application at jenny@connectandbreathe.org and receive more information. Training space is limited, and an application is **REQUIRED**. For more information about Connect and Breathe, [click here](#).

Pullman Pastor's Blog

by Lee Richards

This month I reviewed a movie (The Hairdresser) and a TV series (Orange is the new Black), wrote about reading water, considered choosing last words, and reasons to come to church.

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.

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.

Childcare Available During Services

Kasandra Connor is now available to provide childcare for Sunday morning services. Kasandra is finishing a program in education at Genesee Community College.

Eye on the Board

Pastor Lee suggested joining the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce and attending their events as a way to help increase our presence in the community; the board agreed. Lee also provided information about the NYSCU annual convention in Little Falls. Plans were made for the reception following the Humanitarian Award service, and a special collection was authorized to gift to the Rape Crisis Service organization.

Treasurer and Finance committee reports were rec'd and it was noted the stock market has been rewarding in growing our endowment. Fundraising events discussed were: 1) a wine tasting in the spring, 2) and Bill's storytelling event on Nov. 3rd.

Buildings and Grounds reported quotes are now being sought for repair to the front steps and rehangng the large social hall door to swing in the opposite direction. Upon examination it was found the water heater does not need replacement at this time. Bill will look for a local person to clear our sidewalks this winter. A new handheld wireless microphone system has been installed.

Our reincorporation papers were signed and notarized, and will be filed at the courthouse. The board will meet for two hours on Saturday, Nov. 2nd to continue work on the new policy manual. The October 20th BoT meeting is rescheduled to the 27th due to a conflict with the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk. Pastor Lee has planned a worship service for 7 am on the 20th. Louise arranged for Tim Horton's to provide free coffee and Timbits, and for a shuttle bus to take attendees to and from Watt Farms. Complete minutes are available upon request.

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 585-4354-9450, 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, or can meet with people in the pastor's office at the church.

Love the earth and the sun
and the animals,
despise riches, give alms
to everyone that asks,
stand up for the stupid
and crazy, devote your
income and labor to others,
hate tyrants, argue not
concerning God.

Walt Whitman from the introduction to Leaves of Grass