



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

Have you sensed the excitement in the air? The energy levels continue to grow among our Pullmanites, with numerous opportunities available for participation.

Our Gathering of Hearts and Minds on Wednesday evenings has generated some interesting discussions. Chautauqua Sundays have returned after a summer hiatus. Religious education classes kicked into high gear on Sept. 21st. The newly reinvigorated membership committee is having fun generating ideas left and right. Another art show will be hung this month (grand opening on Nov. 1st). Plans are underway for “round two” of Pullman Pourings in the spring. And lots more.

Church is so much more than just a sermon on Sunday morning followed by coffee and socializing. Church is about creating community and relationships, focusing social witness and action to improve the planet, teaching and empowering our upcoming generations to engage their “super” powers for good, sharing our joys and empathizing with others’ sorrows, honoring and preserving our heritage, and developing and refining our own moral compasses. We do all these things at PMUC.

A lot of this has to do with the leadership of the church. Your elected trustees are working diligently to implement policies and programs that are growing our congregation, and raising funds for restoring our building with the least possible impact to our endowment. Their energy is contagious, and I’m sure is a key piece of the excitement I mentioned in the first paragraph.

But a lot of it is YOU, too. Your willingness to try new things, to step up and help with fundraising projects and workbees, to share your excitement with friends and coworkers so more people know about us, to fulfill your pledge commitments (and even throw some extra into the offering plate), to organize extra-curricular events like the field trip to Fruition Seeds, to offer suggestions for improving various aspects of the church experience - all these things increase the energy levels at Pullman.

**This month’s special events** include the 2014 Humanitarian Award ceremony, a special congregational meeting, college care packages packing party, the Making Strides ecumenical service, and the Albion Merchants Association shopping tour (includes our gift shop). We also have a world-renowned expert for Chautauqua Sunday. Who knew church could be so exciting?

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### Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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Oct. 5	Rev. Don Reidell	“The Bonds of Unitarian Universalism” <b>Special Congregational Meeting after Service.</b>
Oct. 12	Lee Richards	“It seemed like a good idea at the time”
Oct. 19	<u>Dr. Roslyn A. Karaban</u>	“OMG, What a Disaster!”
Oct. 28	Lee Richards	“Are you soul-less?”
Saturday Nov. 1	Special Event:	“Halloween is Going to Hell: From Saints to Spooks.” 7-9 pm.

~ *Childcare available during service times* ~

## Calendar stuff...

Saturday, Sept. 27 – Workbee from 10-12. General clean-up. Bagels and coffee provided.

Sunday, Sept. 28 – Jedi Academy Religious Education Program @ 9:45 am. Learn to be a Jedi by exploring and developing your skills, spirit, courage, senses, and insight. Ages 8-14.

Sunday, Sept. 28 – “We do not stand, we move!” worship service @ 11 am with Minister Emeritus Richard Hood. Much has changed in our UU faith, not just in the last 200 years, but even in the last 60. I will recall some of my personal experiences in church (including Pullman) to reflect on what changes have happened and, perhaps, what changes we can expect in the future.

Wednesday, Oct. 1 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Gay Smith will lead the current events dialogue, topic tba.

Oct. 3,4 – 2014 NYSCU Convention. With a theme of “Growing through Love,” the 188th annual meeting will host the Rev. Christana Wille McKnight as keynote speaker relating the story of how one small congregation has grown from a membership of under twenty people to over ninety in just two years, with the Universalist message of love at its center. Saturday afternoon workshops include topics on music, happiness, and “keeping our kids.” Held at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Watertown, NY. **Discounts for preregistration by Sept. 29.** More info at <http://nyscu.org>

Sunday, Oct. 5 – Jedi Academy Religious Education Program @ 9:45 am. Learn to be a Jedi by exploring and developing your skills, spirit, courage, senses, and insight. Ages 8-14.

Sunday, Oct. 5 – “The Bonds of Unitarian Universalism” worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Reidell. What are the dynamic ingredients of UUism that makes it the “Faith of the Larger Liberty?”

Sunday, Oct. 5 – **Special Congregational Meeting** @ noon. Proposed amendments to the By-Laws, and authorize the transfer of some assets.

Monday, Oct. 6 – Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Always good food and conversation. Dish to pass. Always an open invite to members *and* non-members.

Wednesday, Oct. 8 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Spirituality topic exploring the question, “What is your passion?”

Sunday, Oct. 12 – Jedi Academy Religious Education Program @ 9:45 am. Learn to be a Jedi by exploring and developing your skills, spirit, courage, senses, and insight. Ages 8-14.

Sunday, Oct. 12 – Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Oct. 12 – “It seemed like a good idea at the time” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Stuff happens when one fails to ask, “What could possibly go wrong?” ALSO – 2014 Humanitarian Award presentation honoring Kim Remley, with reception following at noon.

Sunday, Oct. 12 – Orleans County Genealogical Society meets @ 7 pm.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 - "Walkies" @ 12:30 pm. Join fellow liberals in a "walk-about" to enjoy the season. Meet at Swallow Hollow Nature Trail parking area on Knowlesville Road.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Pop culture topic is "My Life as a Meme." What image/phrase mash-up captures your essence?

Saturday, Oct. 18 - Albion Merchants Association Shopping Tour (includes our PMUC gift shop) 10am - 5pm

Sunday, Oct. 19 – Jedi Academy Religious Education Program @ 9:45 am. Learn to be a Jedi by exploring and developing your skills, spirit, courage, senses, and insight. Ages 8-14.

Sunday, Oct. 19 – “OMG, What a Disaster!” @ 11 am with Dr. Roslyn A. Karaban. Homicide, catastrophic illness, trauma, and violent conflicts: how to cope when the worst happens. Dr. Karaban’s book, “*Crisis Caring*,” about complicated grief caused by disaster, large and small, is a standard text for chaplains all over the world. Dr. Karaban is an author, professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at St. Bernard’s Institute of Theology and Ministry in Rochester, NY; Director of Pastoral Formation at St. Bernard’s; and a licensed family and marriage counselor.

Monday, Oct. 20 – College Care Packages @ 6:30 pm. Get together to assemble gifts for our students.

Monday, Oct. 20 – 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. 22 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. It’s *Wild Card Wednesday* – come with an idea to discuss that has meaning for you.

Saturday, Oct. 25 - submissions deadline for the October newsletter. Send to: [pmuc.albion@gmail.com](mailto:pmuc.albion@gmail.com)

Sunday, Oct. 28 – “Are you soul-less?” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. An exploration of the concept of soul.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and watch a full length *movie with the minister* featuring “Paper Clips” with discussion following.

Saturday, Nov. 1 – Art Show Opening... “Halloween is Going to Hell: From Saints to Spooks.” 7-9 pm. [More info and tickets available at pullmantickets.com](#)



### **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!

### **Special Congregational meeting**

October 5th, 2014 at noon - In order to bring our Bylaws into compliance for obtaining 501(c)3 status, it is necessary amend them by adding two items. One is a stipulation that all board trustees will sign a yearly ‘Conflict of Interest’ notice, and the second is to define how the congregation would be dissolved and what would happen to the building and property if such were to happen. Additionally, a proposal to sell our Comcast stock will be up for vote.

## **Special Collection**

During our worship services on Sundays 9/28 and 10/5 we will be taking up a special collection during the offering. This is to raise funds for one of our young members (and Jedi Knight in training) Tyler Orr. Tyler needs a specially trained service dog to alert him of high or low blood sugar events that could lead to seizures and, if untreated, even death. Dogs like this are very expensive and his family needs help raising the funds. Please come prepared to “pitch in” when the plate is passed, or if you won't be in church then you can make an electronic donation here: <http://pmucdonations.blogspot.com/p/electronic-offering-plate.html> or mail a check made out to Pullman Memorial Universalist (put "dog" in the subject line) to:  
Pullman Memorial Universalist  
PO Box 87  
Albion, NY 14411

## **Bereavement Support Group**

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

## **College Care Packages**

Again this semester we plan to send “care packages” to our UUs attending college. This program shows they are in our thoughts, that we miss them, and we hope they do well. Please send names and addresses of those who should be recipients to [pmuc.albion@gmail.com](mailto:pmuc.albion@gmail.com)

## **Pullman Gift Shop**

Coming in October- PMUC Christmas cards! Looking for a special gift? Notecards and posters, t-shirts and sweatshirts, antique and vintage glassware, Pullman porter uniform buttons, totebags, bumper stickers, and hand-crafted jewelry are available now. Check out our “wee shoppe” for your gift-giving.

## **Wednesday Evening GATHERING of Hearts & Minds**

Our new “Ministry of Ideas” program will present a topic for discussion each Wednesday at 7 pm. In general, first Wednesdays will focus on a current events issue, the second on some aspect of theology or philosophy, the third on pop culture, and the fourth is a “wild card” where the evening’s topic is up to the audience. The success of *Wild Card Wednesdays* will depend on attendees bringing something they’d like to share with others for a more in-depth discussion. A light supper is also offered. Read more about the whole concept in the Minister’s Musings on page one of this newsletter, and check the detailed listings on page two for October’s topics.

## **DOWN THE STAIRS RECYCLING!**

Return-for-deposit bottles and cans, plus assorted metals, help generate additional funds for the church. Bins for these items are at the foot of the stairs between the kitchen and dining hall doors. Clean, washed metal objects may be mixed, but please separate aluminum from the rest. **SPECIAL INCENTIVE!** Debby Rodriguez has offered to match the amount received from the scrap metal recycling center every month that the total is \$10 or higher.

## **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 accepted, or fund your contribution with a bank transfer or 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.

**NEW!** If you have a smartphone then check out our electronic “virtual offering plate.” Look for the QR code on the back of Sunday programs and do a quick scan. You’ll be whisked to a special donation page where you can easily make a donation online.

## **Eye on the Board**

Tyler Orr is in need of a diabetic alert dog and the cost is significant. The board decided to take up two dedicated plate collections as a quick way to assist in raising these funds.

Notification that our Chalice Lighters award check will soon be issued; Gay Smith will send thank you letters to donors. Gay and Pastor Lee will be our delegates at the New York State Convention of Universalists in Watertown, October 3 and 4.

The treasurer reported we have rec’d several memorial gifts which helps the income side of of the balance sheet. Expenses are running close to our budget. The finance committee recommended selling all of our Comcast stock but will reinvest any funds raised above \$5000. Posters for the next fundraising event on All Saints Day need to be distributed. A date for the next wine tasting in March is set and one vendor has already committed.

Building & Grounds committee to meet after the Sunday service to review a proposal for short term repairs to the roof. Craig Smith made repairs to our sanctuary’s piano.

The board moved to formally recognize Jim Hobbs for his volunteer labor to refurbish the wooden folding chairs as a salable asset. The board also recognized the work being done on a GoArt grant by C.W. Lattin, Julie Andrews, Gay Smith and Louise Richards.

Jedi Academy is off to a great start. Kudos to Darrell Dyke and Gay Smith.

At the suggestion of Joyce Gilbert, the board approved a motion to ordain Pastor Lee, with the timing to be determined. Pastor Lee will be on vacation (staycation) the first two weeks in October.

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## **Pastoral Care**

You are encouraged to contact Pastor Lee when experiencing difficulties. 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.

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**Looking for the Joys & Concerns or Pullman Plaudits columns?  
These items will now appear as an additional supplement sent only to members.**

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