

The Grapevine Newsletter



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Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

Minister: Lee Richards, 585-454-9450, pastor.lee.richards@gmail.com Editor: Alan Nugent, pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org or check out facebook.com/pullmanmemorial

Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

It's a new year, or is it? Time is such a funky thing. Who says a year begins on January 1st? We have school years and church years that start in September, and our congregation's fiscal year that starts April 1st (something funny about that). Jewish years roam around the calendar because they are based on lunar cycles. A prison inmate starts a calendar based on the first day of incarceration. And if we speak only of seasons then we usually think of spring as the start of the year, not a cold day in January.

Still, it's useful to think about beginnings and endings. In my "Kairos vs. Chronos" sermon I said many scientists are suggesting there is no such thing as a past or future, only the current moment of now. That means one can choose to make changes right now, to start over one's path right this moment and not have to wait for the next morning or some other future time. If there is something that's not working for you, end it now, and set a new course. No better time than the present. We'll explore this in more depth at the Gathering of Hearts and Minds on January 14th.

In the calendar year just ended we started some new things at Pullman. Our first wine tasting event was quite a success for us and also for our vendors. Indeed, one vendor was so thrilled that she's increased her production to have more available for our event this spring! The Wednesday night Gathering got off to a little bit of rough start as we sorted through the logistics but it's now "ready for prime time" with attendees reporting they find value in the discussions. Our superlative religious education program was launched, and we also started the newsletter supplement to provide more detailed news to our members.

What's new for this year? Look for true all-year worship services. This will provide a continuity of worship experiences, with summer services structured the same way as the other three seasons (summer salon having been replaced by the weekly Gathering). A number of building repairs will be undertaken. A video promo for our church is in the works. And, I'm sure, more cool stuff that hasn't yet been suggested. What are *your* ideas to make Pullman Memorial even better? This just might be the best time to get them started.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

Dec. 28	Lee Richards	"Life Lessons (or life hacks)"
Jan. 4	Susan Daiss	
Jan. 11	Lee Richards	"UU Saints"
Jan. 18	Marsha Rivers	"It really is 'who you know'"
Jan. 25	Lee Richards	"UU censorship: words matter"

~ Childcare available during service times ~

Calendar stuff...

Sunday, Dec. 28 – “Life Lessons (or life hacks)” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. A compilation of advice to get the most out of your time on Earth. Includes time for sharing your ideas.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 – NO Gathering this week.

Sunday, Jan. 4 – worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss.

Monday, Jan. 5 – Pullman Pourings Event meeting @ 5 pm.

Monday, Jan. 5 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Dish-to-pass. Always good food and conversation. Open to all.

Wednesday, Jan. 7 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. The current events topic will be a review of 2014’s social justice activism – locally and globally. What successes were won? What still needs effort? What concerns you enough to do something about it?

Thursday, Jan. 8 - Cobblestone Society meets @ 7 pm in the parlor.

Sunday, Jan. 11 - Finance committee meets @ 10 am.

Sunday, Jan. 11 – “UU Saints” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Although we don’t formally confer sainthood, there are many Unitarians and Universalists who would qualify for the honorific. We’ll take a look today at a few people whose lives made a difference.

Sunday, Jan. 11 – Orleans County Genealogical Society meets @ 7 pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 14 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Changing for the better is the spirituality topic of the evening. What one thing will you do differently this year to improve your life?

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

Sunday, Jan. 18 – “It really is ‘who you know’” (Chautauqua Sunday) worship service @ 11 am with Marsha Rivers. Navigating the crowded streets of fundraising and friend-raising without losing one’s way. Marsha Rivers is an Albion native who has developed a career in Development, drumming up financial and moral support for various nonprofit organizations since 1997. She lives down the street from us with local journalist Tom Rivers, along with their four children, four pets, and a whole lotta books.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. Kitsch art is the pop culture topic. Mass produced & sentimental in nature, kitsch art is too often dismissed without developing an appreciation for the message.

Sunday, Jan. 25 – “UU censorship: words matter” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Many of our hymns and prayers are adapted from traditional versions used in other denominations. Masculine pronouns are out. “God” and “Jesus” – if mentioned at all – may be called “The Spirit of Love.” Have we lost something of value by becoming so politically correct?

Sunday, Jan. 25 - Clothing Exchange @ 12:15 pm. Gently used, or new, clothing you no longer wear may be left for others, or exchanged for items that others have donated. Any unclaimed donations will go to the Main Street Store run by Community Action.

Sunday, Jan. 25 – deadline for submissions to the December newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Wednesday, Jan. 28 – “A Gathering of Hearts & Minds” @ 7 pm. Gather for a light supper offering and discussion. *Wild Card Wednesday* – topics of interest brought by attendees.

Sunday, Feb. 1 – worship service @ 11 am with Don Reidell.

Monday, Feb. 2 - Pullman Pourings Event committee meets @ 5 pm.

Monday, Feb. 2 - Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Dish-to-pass. Always good food and conversation. Open to all.

Sunday, Feb. 22 – Breakfast with the Minister Buffet from 9:30 to 10:30 am.

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!

All Saints All the Time

Written up in the Universalist Herald! The “All Saints All the Time” art show exhibit is available for viewing whenever the church building is open. Religious prints in original frames, and objects of the Victorian era, from Bill Lattin's collection, reflecting what people respected and what they found important within the legends and examples of the sainted. Many of the prints represent the more popular saints as seen through many unidentified illustrators of the past. Earlier print examples are hand colored, while later publications are chromolithographs.

GOMOC needs you and your stuff

The Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern is always in need of functional items to help people in need. If you are replacing an appliance (such as a washer or refrigerator) or a mattress and/or box spring or other basic furniture then consider calling GOMOC. They will arrange to pick up your item(s) and deliver them to those without. Additionally, if you can donate time as a mentor there are dozens of children age 5 and up in need of supportive role models. Learn more about this “agency of last resort” at their [website](#) or call (585) 589-9210 in Albion, or (585) 343-5452 in Batavia.

Dedicate a Hymnal

We now have several new copies of *Singing the Living Tradition* available for “memorializing.” For a mere \$50 you can have a personalized bookplate placed in the front of a book and know that you are helping augment our restoration funds at the same time. See Louise or Lee to arrange for your dedication.

Wednesday Evening GATHERING of Hearts & Minds

Our “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 spirituality 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. Check the detailed listings on page two for January's topics.

Pullman Gift Shop

Looking for a special gift? You'd be amazed how much is available in our little shop. Notecards and posters, t-shirts and sweatshirts, antique and vintage glassware, Pullman porter uniform buttons, totebags, bumper stickers, hand-crafted jewelry, Pullman loveseats and more are available now. Check out our "wee shoppe" for your gift-giving needs.

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.

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.

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

The resignation of the treasurer, Andrea Rebeck, was regretfully accepted and Julie Andrews appointed to fill the position until the next congregational meeting. It was noted the church received a donation in appreciation for our assistance with the "Save the Nursing Home" effort, and a grant award from GoArt was won by C.W. Lattin to develop a book in 2015 (proceeds to go to the building repair and restoration fund). A grant to assist with advertising the religious education program is being sought.

Pastor Lee (and several other church members) attended the memorial service held for former member Daniel G. Miller. The board approved retaining an artist to create a Pullman-themed park bench for the Albion downtown area. Documents and invoice for the architectural work were received for review. Musicians and vendors for the March wine tasting event are being confirmed. A promo video about the church is in development. The board adopted a number of policies pertaining to the handling of finances, building use, conflict resolution, and respectful relations.

Complete minutes available upon request.

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