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Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

Beyond Charleston. Three pastors, a sexton, and five congregants are dead. By now you've probably read or heard many pundits weighing in on the church shooting of June 17th. Most focus on the sanity (or insanity) of the perpetrator, or on a renewed call for gun control, or on the Confederate flag.

If you stop to consider those three angles for a moment you may notice a commonality - they all focus on an aspect which is polarizing. People tend to quickly take sides, pro or con, about each of those issues. Is Dylann Roof responsible for his actions? Should guns be restricted or banned, or open-carried and promoted as a solution? Should an emblem of divisiveness (some would say of hatred) be portrayed or flown?

Few people are without opinions on those issues, and most are strongly opined toward one side or the other. Sides form ranks, convinced they are right and the others wrong. And so to my point...

The corporate media uses incidents/tragedies like this to keep us divided and fighting amongst ourselves. So long as we are caught up in these debates then they believe society will not discover a way to unite in common cause for all humanity. We are played like puppets on a string, *arguing* with each other instead of *helping* each other to find peaceful solutions, and unable to make demands for justice at a higher level.

Science tells us we are all one species and race is only a differing expression of melatonin. We all hail from Africa. We all have a common ancestor. We are all family in the most basic sense of what that means and while I know lots of families argue, very few wage war with each other. Very few try to kill each other. Rather, most try to get along for the common good, try to act in ways that benefit each other.

Let us not be shells in a corporate game where the only winners are one-percenters. Let us find that balance of familial relations which is knitted together in Love, and colored with Reason.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

July 5	Jon Riley-Goddard and Lee Richards	Patriotic Worship Service at Cobblestone
July 12	Lee Richards	“Disappointment”
July 19	Chava Redonnet	“Spiritual Maturity”
July 26	Lee Richards	“Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy days of Summer”
Aug. 2	John Rex	Worship service followed by picnic at Bullard Park

~ Childcare available during service times ~

Calendar stuff...

Sunday, June 28 – “Give me that Olde Tyme Religion” Civil War service at Cobblestone Church in Childs @ 11 am with Lee Richards. 150 years after the end of the Civil War, come and experience an 1865 Universalist worship service as Lee (in period costume) speaks to the topic of abolition, healing the wounds of war, and reconstruction. Feel free to come in 1860’s attire. Held at the historic church at 14389 Ridge Road West. Please note that loose cash in the offering plate is donated to the Cobblestone Museum. [Click here for even more information.](#)

Wednesday, July 1 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring or meditation.

Sunday, July 5 – Patriotic Worship Service @ 11 am with Jon Riley-Goddard and Lee Richards, held at the Cobblestone Church in Childs. Joint service with the Congregational Church of Gaines and Pullman Memorial. Held at the historic church at 14389 Ridge Road West. Please note that loose cash in the offering plate is donated to the Cobblestone Museum to assist in upkeep of the building.

Monday, July 6 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Dish-to-pass. Good food and conversation.

Wednesday, July 8 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon, for touring or meditation.

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

Sunday, July 12 – “Disappointment” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Just as life is not sweet without death (without being finite), the good things in life would not be good without the counterpoint of disappointment.

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

Wednesday, July 15 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon, for touring or meditation.

Sunday, July 19 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9 am.

Sunday, July 19 – “Spiritual Maturity” (Chautauqua Sunday) worship service @ 11 am with Chava Redonnet. Chava says it requires a certain level of spiritual maturity for a congregation to accept an ordained Roman Catholic woman priest. Her ministry includes aid to local migrant workers, and the Oscar Romero Church – an inclusive community of Liberation, Justice and Joy.

Wednesday, July 22 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon, for touring or meditation.

Saturday, July 25 – deadline for submissions to the July newsletter. Send to: pmuc.albion@gmail.com

Sunday, July 26 – “Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. Jim Knight told me “Laziness is the mother of invention” yet I wonder, can we really be lazy, laid back, relaxed or does our inherited Puritan work ethic prevent us from enjoying life?

Wednesday, July 29 – Open House from 9:30 am to noon, for touring or meditation.

Sunday, August 2 – worship service @ 11 am with John Rex.

Sunday, August 2 – Annual mid-summer picnic @ 1 pm, in Bullard Park, Albion.

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!

Discussion about Micro Loans

On Sunday, July 19th at 11:15 am, at the First Universalist Church of Rochester, 150 Clinton Ave South. Bill Holliday, from Tucson, Az., is the founder and director of Pro Mex Group, which provides low interest micro loans to groups of disadvantaged Mexicans, enabling them to start and maintain small businesses, thereby reducing the incentive to migrate to the U.S. Bill will give a brief powerpoint presentation, followed by Q. & A. More info at www.ProMexGroup.com.

New UU World Website

As of May 18th, UUWorld.org has a new website. The new site allows you to take UU World wherever you go. Read articles on your phone and tablets and view bigger pictures. Check it out!

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.

Prepare Now to Give After You've Gone

Leaving a legacy is easy but requires you take action while still alive. You can make a bequest to Pullman Memorial when updating your Last Will and Testament by including a version of this language: “I hereby give and bequeath \$ _____, or _____ percent of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, or the proceeds from the sale of real estate by my estate that I own located at _____, to Pullman Memorial Universalist Church, located at 10 East Park Street, Albion, NY 14411, Federal Tax ID # 47-2500608.”

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. Lee is also available for home and hospital visits.

Eye on the Board

From the May board meeting (May 31st): Business began with Betty Knight elected chairperson, and Alan Nugent appointed for a one year term to fill a vacancy created by Craig Smith's resignation from the board. Board liaisons to committees were then appointed, and Sara Phillips appointed to the third seat on the nominating committee. Board members and officers then filled out and signed the annual "conflict of interest" forms.

The recent past, and current state, of the church's finances were discussed at length. A timeline narrative for the past year was requested of the finance committee for the next board meeting. A local mason was approved for resetting the front steps, making repairs to the west chimney, and pointing walls that extend above the roof. Plans for the Strawberry Festival and "Local Lore" storytelling event were outlined.

Grapevine Supplement

The special edition of our newsletter - which is available only to church members and published irregularly (dependent on if there is anything to communicate) - has been on hiatus but there will be a July issue within the next few weeks.

Neil deGrasse Tyson – Books everyone should read:

- 1.The Bible, to learn that it's easier to be told by others what to think and believe than it is to think for yourself.
- 2.The System of the World by Isaac Newton, to learn that the universe is a knowable place.
- 3.On the Origin of Species by Charles Darwin, to learn of our kinship with all other life on Earth.
- 4.Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift, to learn, among other satirical lessons, that most of the time humans are Yahoos.
- 5.The Age of Reason by Thomas Paine, to learn how the power of rational thought is the primary source of freedom in the world.
- 6.The Wealth of Nations by Adam Smith, to learn that capitalism is an economy of greed, a force of nature unto itself.
- 7.The Art of War by Sun Tzu, to learn that the act of killing fellow humans can be raised to an art.
- 8.The Prince by Machiavelli, to learn that people not in power will do all they can to acquire it, and people in power will do all they can to keep it.



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