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Visit our new Website at [pullmanmemorial.org](http://pullmanmemorial.org)

## Minister Musings by Lee Richards

Wow! I am so excited about this church year. Activity is ramping up and you've got to keep your ear to the ground so you won't miss anything.

September starts out with a water ceremony on the 4th. This is a great opportunity to come back together and share stories of "How I spent my summer vacation." Then the following Sunday PMUC will host a 9/11 interfaith observance for the Albion ministerium at 2 pm in our sanctuary in addition to our regular worship service at 11 am.

Another special service is planned for the following month on October 9th at 2 pm. For the first time in the 120 year history of PMUC we'll confer the honor of Minister Emeritus, and then formally install the first called minister in 40 years. Rev. Dick Hood, who served the congregation for 35 years (officially as pulpit supply - but he went above and beyond that by attending to the pastoral care needs of the church as well), will become our "minister for life." Then Dick will "hand me the reigns" to serve in his absence, completing the congregation's call for me to be your pastor.

Besides these two special services, we've got some special guest speakers lined up for the year. Kathy Tew Rickey, UU ministerial candidate, will be in the pulpit on Oct. 30th. The Sunday after (Nov. 6th) David Friedman from First Unitarian Rochester will speak about immigration. Poet Dwain Wilder will be with us on January 1st. Of course, your favorite ministers will also be taking turns in the pulpit - Don Reidell, John Rex, and Susan Daiss.

We've also got monthly book discussions and pot-luck suppers planned, plus I'll be starting "Movies with the Minister" night in October. There's even rumor of our holding a conference for young adults in the spring!

With so much going on there's no reason to stay home. Come on out to your church - you'll be glad you did. I'll see you there!

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## Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Sept. 4	Lee Richards	Water Communion	
Sept. 11	Rev. John Rex	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11	
Sept 18	Lee Richards	”So You Say You Want to Have Kids?”	
Sept. 25	Lee Richards	“On Faith”	
Oct. 2	Rev. Donald Reidell		

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## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

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**Sept. 4** - "Water Communion" at 11 am. Bring a small container of water from wherever you traveled this summer. We'll share stories of our summer escapades and enjoy being back together once again. Service led by Lee Richards.

**Sunday, Sept. 11** - Special Event: 9/11 Memorial Service - by the Albion Ministerium and hosted at Pullman Memorial Universalist Church at 2 PM. 10 years, 10,000 tears, and a million wishes for a better world. Everyone in the community is invited to come and remember – to honor those lost, to support the ones left behind, to try and come to terms with all that has happened since, and to move our hearts into a new place for the future. Let us find some comfort in being together, and find some hope for going forward.

**Wednesday, Sept. 14** - Concerned Citizens of Orleans meet at 6:30 pm in the church. A lot has happened since the last meeting on preventing the privatization of the county nursing home. Come, bring a friend, get caught up to date, and find out how your voice can make a difference.

**Sept. 18** - Board of Trustees meets at 9:30 am.

**Sept. 18** - "So You Say You Want to Have Kids?" at 11 am. Pastor Lee Richards reflects on what PMUC would look like with more "young-uns" among us (Gen-X, Gen-Y, and beyond).

**Sept. 25** - "On Faith" at 11 am. to kickstart our book discussion topic for after coffee hour, Lee Richards will explore what it means for Unitarian Universalists to "have faith."

**Sunday, Sept. 25** – Book Discussion group meets after coffee hour. New approach to book discussions this year – rather than everyone reading the same book we invite you to consider a monthly topic as a guideline in selecting your tome. Each month will have a different theme/topic. In this way we can each bring a different viewpoint we've read about to

the discussion. First topic is "Faith." Future topics (not in order) may include Hope, Charity, Love, Sex, Politics, Earth, Fire, Wind, Water.

**Saturday, Oct. 1** – Conference: "Leading at the Edge: Congregations at the Speed of Change." Leaders from across the St. Lawrence District will explore new ways of moving congregations into the 21st century. At the May Memorial in Syracuse, from 9am to 3:30pm. See our website: <http://pullmanmemorial.org/news-and-events/> for a link to more information.

**Sunday, Oct. 9** – Special Historic Dual Ceremony at 2 pm. Reserve the date! This afternoon the congregation of Pullman Memorial Universalist Church will confer the status of Minister Emeritus upon Rev. Richard Hood, and then formally install our newly called pastor, Lee Richards. Reception to follow.

### Pastoral Care

One of the advantages of having a called minister is the 24/7 availability of a listening ear. Pastor Lee Richards is officially serving in a 1/3rd time capacity, but is actually 100% committed to helping parishioners when stuff hits the fan. You are encouraged to call 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 585-436-1786, or on his cell at 585-729-8167. Are those long-distance calls for you? He also has 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.

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## PULLMAN PLAUDITS

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Ø **Pastor Lee Richards** – who continues to amaze us with all the tremendous work that he has been doing on behalf of this church! It is clear that this is a labor of love for Lee, and we are filled with gratitude and appreciation for all of his efforts! Board members have also been hearing good comments from the community regarding Lee. He is a wonderful representative for this church!

Ø **C.W. Lattin** – for conducting a cemetery tour at the Mid-Summer picnic at Mt. Albion Cemetery, highlighting deceased UU's and friends of UU's. It was a wonderful event.

Ø **C.W. Lattin** – for agreeing to donate a gas insert for a fireplace in the minister's study.

Ø **Diana Dudley** – for obtaining copies of the newspaper for Andrea Rebeck for the grant proposal.

Ø **Andrea Rebeck** – for her tireless work on the grant proposal and for her clear direction of what is needed to assist her. We are indeed fortunate to have her expertise and assistance!

Ø **Susan Daiss** – for the wonderful Mid-summer service on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ø **Dennis Seekins** – who has been spending time investigating a roof leak that has perplexed us all.

Ø **Rene' Schasel** – who attended the last Board meeting and notarized a document for us.

Ø **Lee Richards, C.W. Lattin, Chris Loss, Dennis Seekins, Diana Dudley, and Dick Hoffman** – for taking a Saturday out of their summer to attend the Board retreat on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Their efforts to better this church are noted and appreciated!

Ø **PMUC Congregation** – for taking time out of the summer to participate in the on-line vote regarding whether to bestow the honor of Minister Emeritus on Rev. Richard Hood. And you came through with an affirmative vote!!

**Dan Miller** has opened a counseling practice in Leroy. Dan has a Master's Degree in Social Work and over 30 years of counseling experience. These include working in juvenile justice, with the developmentally disabled, outpatient settings and, for the last 20 years, in private practice. His clinical practice in LeRoy provides individual, couple and family therapy in a very relaxed, home-like atmosphere. Visit his website at [leroycounseling.com](http://leroycounseling.com) or call 585-768-7620

### "Help Us Help You"

The above is the name for a new fund-raising campaign intended to benefit all who pass through our doors. Because Pullman Memorial Universalist Church is a public institution, it behooves us to think ahead on the safety of everyone who uses our facility. To that end, the Board of Trustees has approved purchasing an AED - an automated external defibrillator.

AEDs are portable "heart-shockers" that can save a life by saving precious minutes when responding to someone who has collapsed because of heart failure. The unit is capable of diagnosing the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia, and then applying electrical stimulation to stop the arrhythmia and return the heart to a normal cardiac heartbeat.

AEDs come with easy instructions, and 5-year batteries, but are not inexpensive. Obtaining a unit will cost about \$1350.00 which is not a budgeted item. So here's the deal - we want to raise the funds completely through donations. Any donations made using the PayPal button on the church website will automatically be earmarked for the AED. We also invite you to make a donation by check (heck - we'll even accept cash!) - just be sure to notate "AED" so we'll know to add it to the special fund. As soon as we've raised the funds we'll acquire the device.

So Help Us Help You - after all, you never know what "heart-stopping" event may transpire when at church!

## **Report on the Mid-Summer Service/Picnic**

On Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, a Mid-summer service was conducted by Susan Daiss. When the congregation was asked for a 'Report From the Road', Eileen DellaCosta reported seeing a near car collision. Chris Loss said she could see a 'muggy haze' and a garden full of vegetables. Dick Hoffman reported that the lake had rolled over, bringing the temperature way down and creating a fog. For Time Share offerings, Diana Dudley mentioned that August 6 is the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dropping of the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima . She also had a joy in that her nephew, John, could attend the service. Chris Loss said that a cousin has been researching the family genealogy and has managed to go all the way back to the 1300's on the Culver and Rice lines. The family name 'Culver' originated as Colver and came from Lancaster , England . And the name Rice came from the original Rhys from Wales . The cousin was able to find a few Earls and Dukes and Duchesses, and a few Knights. One ancestor was beheaded at the Tower of London for treason.

Susan read the book 'Sadako', about a young girl who died of atom bomb poisoning in Japan despite the efforts of a friend who tried to make 1000 origami and fell short. The legend was that if you can make 1000 origami swans, your wish would be granted, and her wish was that her friend would live. Although the friend was only able to make 600 out of the 1000 figures and she worked tirelessly and with desperation, each figure was a tribute of love and beauty. Susan's message was that as the anniversary of 9/11 fast approaches, we see that when there are tragedies, people continue to take solace in beautiful works of art. They lend meaning to our distress when words just cannot convey the pain adequately, and help us through the myriad of emotions. And so we see beautiful works of art and symbolism engraved on tombstones in cemeteries. Following the service, we met at Mt. Albion Cemetery for a picnic lunch and good conversation, and then attended a tour conducted by C.W. Lattin and we were able to see some very creative and beautiful carvings and learn about their origins and meanings, along with information about the UU occupants. It was a beautiful day, albeit a bit muggy, but those who attended had a great time.

### **Eye on the Board of Trustees**

-from the Board Meeting held on Sunday, August 21, 2011

**-Treasurer's Report** – Dick Hoffman reviewed our status. Shares of stock have been transferred from Century Government Fund to Select Fund. HSBC has been bought out by First Niagara and discussion was held regarding how this will affect the church. Also discussed was a possible security risk with Paypal having access to our general account. A motion was approved to open a separate account for this function.

**-Update on the Grant Proposal** – Andrea Rebeck continues to work on the application, and was told only very recently that the application process has been changed, which almost never happens at such a late date!! We will wait and see what these changes are to see how close we are to completion. All Board members are actively assisting with this grant and obtaining necessary materials. Letters of support have been obtained as well as a description of the deed, outline of the property, and etc. Rene'Schasel notarized the official letter of authorization of resolution. The good news is that we will have a bit more time to submit the application, but the bad news is that if material changes need to be made there will be twice as much work.

**-Ministerial Report** - went over all of Lee's activities over the past month. This is what he has been working on:

-created a Wikipedia page for PMUC on the web which makes the church a priority for search engines and will give us more visibility.

-attended Ministerium meetings and led an effort to organize a service to commemorate September 11<sup>th</sup> here at PMUC . It will be an afternoon service and will include other area ministers, a possible choir, and the Waterport Mosque will be participating.

-purchased a changing table in the bathroom, stocked with diapers and other supplies for families who might attend who have infants.

-has met with Karen Ferguson, Andrea Rebeck , Dennis Seekins, Bill Lattin, and Dick Hoffman regarding the grant proposal.

-conducted a wedding and rehearsal for a local couple.

-Submitted two press releases to the newspaper: one on the topic of the new pastor, with mention of the church and wedding websites, and our support for the nursing home, and one press release was submitted on the topic of our 120 year anniversary of formation.

-has visited the nursing home, visited Jean Bistoff, and introduced himself to staff and families as our pastor.

Also noted: Reverend Richard Hood has agreed to be Lee's mentor on this last leg of his program to be made a minister; recommended that a first aid kit be placed in the bathroom, recommended that we purchase or have as a fundraiser an onsite AED (automated external defibrillator); will be performing another wedding at the end of the month; and internet connection for the church is still being worked on. It was agreed by the Board that the AED be purchased through fundraising efforts.

**Board Retreat Follow-Up:** Pastor Lee Richards, C.W. Lattin, Chris Loss, Diana Dudley, Dennis Seekins, and Dick Hoffman attended the all day retreat at the church on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Robert Spilman conducted the event and the discussion topic was on 'Creating Healthy Congregations'. Most felt that this was very helpful in assisting the Board in dealing with situations that create anxiety within the congregation and may result in members leaving. Rev. Spilman has agreed to be a consultant for any future questions or concerns.

**Installation Ceremony Update:** The e-mail congregational vote tally was affirmative, with 18 e-mail votes, and 2 oral votes. The ceremony, which will include the installation of Lee Richards as our pastor and Rev. Richard Hood as Minister Emeritus, will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Chris requested that a time-line be drawn up of tasks to be done in preparation and people to be contacted. A formal reception will follow.

**Conference to Attract Young Adults:** Louise Wu has offered her services in conducting a "Steam Punk" program at the church. She will attend the next Board meeting to give more details.

**Building and Grounds** – recently Dennis Seekins went up into the attic area over the fireplace and literally cleaned out all around the chimney. It's somewhere around there that the water came in that's causing all that ceiling plaster to deteriorate and fall in. He scooped up several cubic feet of plaster dust and then brushed & vacuumed the area. Dennis will continue to investigate and try to see where the rain is coming in. Dennis and Andrea Rebeck had looked over the area prior to this and could not find the source of the leak. Electrical work is still pending.

**Condolence Card** – a card was sent to David Markham following the death of his mother.

**UUA Meetings** - The District Conference on leadership will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> in Syracuse .

Next Board Meeting is scheduled on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

## Labor Day Thought

"Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."

Abraham Lincoln, from First Annual Message to Congress, December 3, 1861.

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