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Member of The Unitarian Universalist Association

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Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings

by Lee Richards

“**Engage.**” That famous command from a starship captain in any Star Trek series was the signal to “start your engines” and begin the next journey. I want you all “engaged” this year and so our church will be offering you many opportunities - many ways - to engage.

- Attend worship services @ 11 am - as always, with a variety of speakers and topics
- Social Hour - attend, eat, converse, sign up to host
- Subscribe to and read our Newsletter to be up to speed on what's up
- Connect with your pastor on Facebook - facebook.com/pastor.lee.richards
- Explore our website at pullmanmemorial.org
- Check out our new online store at pullmanmemorial.com
- Enjoy great food at our monthly Potluck Supper on first Mondays at 6:30 pm
- Evening services - we've got some 7 pm nature-centered services planned for this year
- Come to Movie with the Minister night on 3rd Wednesday of each month
- Voice your opinion publicly with Occupy Albion - Mondays 3-4 pm
- Make electronic Donations and Pledges online through pullmanmemorialdonations.com
- Read a book and share your thoughts in Book Discussion Group
- Enjoy Fundraisers - one each quarter! Coming up - a cemetery Ghost Walk in October
- Suggest a sermon topic or guest speaker to the minister
- Maintenance - a little bit of tidying up can make everyone feel proud of our church
- Read, rebut, and repost the [Pastor's Blog](#) to spread UU ideas around the web
- Children's Church - take a turn getting to know our future (and learn about yourself, too)
- Tell a friend about Unitarian Universalism and your church
- Download an audio sermon for listening to in your own time: pullmanmemorial.org/sermons
- Share a joy or sorrow - publicly in a worship service or privately in pastoral counseling
- Display some art in the social hall “Gallery” - something new each month (starts Sept.)
- Buy Bill's book or a UU pendant - support our church and these make great gifts
- Join a committee (or two, or three) to share your thoughts and time supporting the work of the church
- Research our history and share your discoveries as we prepare for our upcoming 125th anniversary in a few short years - get info to Lee to add to our website

As you can see, there are many, many ways to engage with your church. Maybe you can think of others? Tell me about them. Need more info on any of the above? Ask me! I look forward to seeing you engaged!

Pastoral Care

One of the advantages of having a called minister is the 24/7 availability of a listening ear. Pastor Lee Richards is 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. 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.

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
Sept. 2	Pastor Lee Richards	“Sundae Sunday”	
Sept. 9	Pastor Lee Richards	Water Communion	
Sept. 16	Susan Daiss	"The end is where we start from"	
Sept. 23	Pastor Lee Richards	“Individualism and Community” + Mabon Feast following service (potluck)	
Sept. 30	Julia Hickman-Himes	"Redefining Family"	
Oct. 7	Rev. Donald Reidell	Catered dinner after service celebrating 35 years of service to PMUC.	

Sunday, Sept. 2 – “Sundae Sunday” @ 11 am. The much-loved ice cream concoction known as a sundae was (indirectly) invented by a Unitarian. Come, learn more about it, and then it’s a make-your-own sundae treat for social hour.

Monday, Sept. 3 - Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Great way to round out your Labor Day weekend by sharing a meal and conversation with your “church family.” Bring a dish to pass.

Sunday, Sept. 9 – Finance committee meeting @ 10 am.

Sunday, Sept. 9 – Water Communion Sunday @ 11 am. Please bring your small container of water from wherever you traveled this summer to the service. We’ll take turns adding our water to a communal bowl and share brief stories of our hot-weather escapades.

Sunday, Sept. 16 – Board of Trustees meets @ 9:15 am.

Sunday, Sept. 16 – worship service @ 11 am, with Susan Daiss. “What we call a beginning is often the end/and to make an end is to make a beginning./The end is where we start from.” (T. S. Eliot) On this last Sunday of summer, on the eve of the Jewish New Year, a meditation on beginnings and endings and the challenges often of discerning one from the other.

Sunday, Sept. 19 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. “Forks Over Knives” is 90 minutes that could change your life by tackling the three leading causes of death - heart disease, cancer and stroke. Free admission & popcorn.

Sunday, Sept. 23 – “Individualism and Community” worship service @ 11 am. Join Lee Richards for this first installment in a series of sermons on the theme of *community*.

Sunday, Sept. 23 – Mabon: The Feast of the Ingathering, immediately following the morning service. Sarah Diemer will lead us in a thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth and a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and the God during the winter months. Open invitation to all. Potluck - bring a dish to pass.

Saturday, Sept. 29 - Fundraiser for Cody Coopenberg at the Fireman’s field in Holley, NY. Pig roast, bands, activities for the kids, basket raffle and cake auction.

Sunday, Sept. 30 – worship service @ 11 am, with Julia Hickman-Himes. **"Redefining Family"** worship service @ 11 am, with Julia Hickman-Himes, M.Div. Julia received a BA in Religion and Biblical Studies from Smith College in 2003 and her Masters from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in 2007. She lives in Rochester with her wife, two cats, and hamster. She currently works for Heritage Christian Services providing in-home support for individuals with developmental delays. She and her wife are working to develop a line of GLBTQI friendly greeting cards for their company Papersaurus Creative. Julia is committed to GLBTQI equality as well as promoting the Social Gospel. For fun she enjoys reading, crocheting, playing bridge and board games.

Sunday, Sept. 30 – Special Congregational Meeting @ 12:15 pm. The Finance committee has been examining our endowment funds and will present some ideas for improving our investments. Information will be provided, and a vote sought to authorize and direct the buying and selling of certain stocks and mutual funds. All members are urged to attend. Pizza lunch will be provided.

Sunday, Sept. 30 – Book Discussion group RESCHEDULED to Nov. 11.

Monday, Oct. 1 - Potluck supper @ 6:30 pm. Open invitation: come share a meal and engage in amazing conversation. First Monday of each month. Bring a dish to pass.

Wednesday, Oct. 3 - First of a 4-part series "Path to Reducing Community Violence" presented by Peaceful Genesee. [More information at peacefulgenesee.weebly.com](http://peacefulgenesee.weebly.com)

Sunday, Oct. 7 - worship service @ 11 am with Rev. Don Reidell.

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Recognition of 35 Years of Service - a catered dinner for Rev. Donald Reidell immediately following the worship service @ noon. Please join us in the social hall to fete Don in appreciation of his dedication to our congregation since 1977.

Sunday, Oct. 14 – Walk to End Breast Cancer with the Pullman Pink Ladies & Gents @ 9 am. Join us in a fundraiser to help the American Cancer Society. Registration @ 8 am, walk through the orchard begins @ 9. Watt Farms on Rte. 98 (just north of Albion).

Sunday, Nov. 11 – Book Discussion group meets @ 12:30 pm. This time we've agreed to all read the same book: "God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything" by Christopher Hitchens. Come, and share your insights. January's "choose any book on the topic" discussion will be about the element of Fire.

JOYS & SORROWS

* **Sara Phillips** – announced that her daughter, Katie, will be married to James Sconfitto on October 27th in Rochester! Congratulations!! Katie will surely make a beautiful bride!

* **Beth Allen** – had a joy that a friend finally 'tied the knot'. Beth continues to have some health challenges but has begun some new treatments and has been able to do more activities. She expressed appreciation for all the support she's had from the church family.

* **C.W. Lattin** – asked the congregation to keep Doug Bower in their thoughts. Doug had a freak accident, was run over at the Walmart parking lot recently and was in poor condition. Doug is well known in the Albion area.

* **Sarah Knight and Chris Bundy** – had a lovely wedding at the church on the 4th. Sarah thanked Pastor Lee for all his help, and Diana Dudley for playing the organ. Sarah is the daughter of Betty and Jim Knight, and Betty pointed out that everyone commented on how beautiful this church is. We were all excited about this wedding and wish the couple much happiness!!

* **C.W. Lattin** – stated that "I must have nine lives" in response to almost falling into the 30 ft sinkhole that opened up on the Eagle Harbor Road in late July. He could see the hole open up in his rear view mirror!! Fortunately, a quick-thinking man positioned his truck in front of the hole to caution other travelers. That was a close one, Bill!!

* **Sarah and Jen Diemer** – spent a few sleepless nights over the Chick-Fil-A disgrace (CEO Dan Cathy made remarks against gay marriage recently and supporters staged a day for as many people as possible to come out and eat there in support of his inane comments). They were particularly distressed that this spilled over into a family situation. However, their joy was that they could come to this church and feel totally supported.

* **Dave and Sherry Haggmire** – joined the church on August 26th!! Rene' Schasel and Louise Richards were witnesses! They selected this day to join to mark their son-in-law Cody Coopenberg's release from ICU in Texas. And thanks, Dave said, to all the support they have received, they were able to travel out to Texas to see Cody. Sherry said that it was so wonderful to see him and see that he is making progress ahead of schedule and that he is himself and has retained his sense of humor. This also coincides with their in-law's 51st wedding anniversary...so a very special time! Sherry and

Dave, welcome to this church family!! It is wonderful to have you with us!

* **Sara Phillips** – sadly had to put down her beloved 15 year old Shitzu, Tai, recently! And then on that same day, learned that her mother, Doris Brown, had fallen and had to go to the emergency room. Doris has recovered from the fall and is back on her feet now and back to church, thank goodness!

* **Gay Smith** – was proud to tell us that she and son, Tyler, participated in a triathlon recently at Lakeshore, and she took 2nd place, and Tyler took 3rd! What a team!

* **Chris Loss** – remarked about how nice the PMUC picnic was. Such great food and conversation!

* **Sarah and Jen Diemer** – were proud to have volunteered at the LGBT booth at the fair recently, and had some great experiences! And no bad ones! Great job as always ladies!

* **Louise Richards** – wanted to thank everyone who continued to help out over the summer. A/C units were donated, treats were provided, coffee was made, and folks helped with the clean-up. She said every kind of help was noted and appreciated!

We have just religion enough to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another.
Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

* **Pastor Lee Richards and wife, Louise** – many thanks for all of your hard work to make the whole summer service experience such a great one! The bagels, orange juice, and coffee each week, a less formal setting, fantastic slideshow presentations, wonderful discussions, and historical information about PMUC was a big hit! Not only were they well attended and folks had a great time, but the church was open for visitors all summer. Great job, Lee and Louise!!

* **Debbie Rodriguez and Chris Loss** – for donating A/C units to help make the summer sessions a bit cooler!

* **Pastor Lee Richards and Diana Dudley** – who did such a great job with Sarah Knight and Chris Bundy's wedding!

* **Alan Nugent** – who was able to move the stocks and mutual funds into the Scottrade account and provide an analysis of the performance of each of the funds.

* **Diana Dudley and Chris Loss** – Diana obtained the permit for us to have a spot at Bullard Park, and Diana and Chris had a wonderful time doing the shopping for PMUC Picnic.

* **Andrea Rebeck, C.W. Lattin, and Dennis Seekins** – who are working hard to find a company with the ability to do the best possible job repairing our roof and stopping further water damage!

Helping Cody Coopenberg

Early in July Pv2 Cody Coopenberg was caught in an gasoline explosion while serving in Afghanistan (Cody is the son-in-law of David and Sherry Hagmier). He suffered severe burns over 60% of his body and faces a long and painful recovery with many surgeries. He is now in a burn treatment center in Texas.

As you might imagine, his family faces many unanticipated expenses over the course of the next year or so. Many people are stepping up to help. Because Cody was a Holley volunteer fireman that group will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, September 29. To make it the best possible event, the organizers are asking for donations of cakes and gift baskets for a raffle. If you have items to donate, want to volunteer, or help in any way, please contact Debbie Patt (585-329-3296). If you have items for the basket auction, please contact Jeana Hayes (585) 509-8860.

An account has also been set up for Cody and Hannah at First Niagara Bank. You can go into to the bank and tell them you would like to donate/deposit money into the Coopenberg Family Fund. If you can't get to a bank, it is possible to make donations online through GoFundMe.com.

And don't forget that cards and letters mean a great deal to Hannah and Cody. You can write to the address below to pass along your best wishes...

Hannah Coopenberg
2108 9th St. Suite 407
Bldg. 4190 Door X
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5100

Upgrading our Sound System

During the month of September we'll be adding enhancements to the sound system of the sanctuary. New speakers should help carry the sound a little further into the back pews. We are also adding hearing assistive devices (little FM radio units) for folks with some auditory deficit. In conjunction with these upgrades, our presenters will be employing new microphones to better capture the spoken word wherever they may wander. Will it all come together and work well? We're hoping so, but please bear with us as we work through any bugs that crop up. Hopefully it will all be sorted out by the end of the month.

Pullman Pastor's Blog

by Lee Richards

What is Truth - can it only be known by looking back in hindsight or can we determine it in the moment (and be sure we got it right)? Is there a weapon that can be used which is mightier than the sword, or an AK-47? Two examples of topics being explored online in the pastor's blog during August.

The Minister's Musings appears in our monthly newsletter. In between, I invite you to check out my explorations and ramblings on the blog. 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

Electronic Donations & Automatic Pledges

The 21st century has arrived at PMUC. It is now possible to make donations online, or make automatic pledge payments from your choice of funding sources. If you go to the website pmucdonations.blogspot.com you'll find several choices available for making financial contributions to our mission. (You can also click on the "Donations" tab at the top of any page in our main website.)

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 using a bank transfer or a PayPal account.

Of course, cash works OK, too. The offering plate will still circulate during a Sunday service to provide an opportunity for "instant wallet withdrawals." But if you prefer to plan ahead and pay online then I invite you to check out our new donations webpage.

AED Fund



Level of Donations
You did it!
FULLY CHARGED!

The AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is a reality!!! As this newsletter goes to press we've reached our goal of \$1350. Many, many thanks to all our donors for making this possible!!! We hope to have a unit purchased and installed by mid-September.

We can all be very proud to be able to add this important safety feature to our church facility. Of course, we'll hope that no one ever needs to make use of it, but if the need arises it will be ready to help save a life.

Historical Postcard Views of Albion, New York

Everyone is raving about Bill Lattin's newest book. This limited edition book was published on behalf of our church with proceeds to be used for building restoration.

A beautiful book, it features 200 postcard views in full color, with the images covering almost an 80 year span – from the 1890's to the early 1970's. It makes a wonderful gift, and since it is a one-time-only, limited edition run I recommend you do your Christmas shopping early before they are gone. Books are modestly priced at only \$20 each and are available at the church, in our online store (pullmanmemorial.com), and selected area stores.

Eye on the Board

It's been a busy summer at church. Services were held weekly and attendance has run about 85% of normal, with a subsequent increase in plate collections. Church members attended both the Albion Ministerium's picnic, and also PMUC's annual picnic (this year at Bullard Park). The church building was used for two weddings.

The Buildings and Grounds committee is seeking estimates and vetting roofers. The finance committee has examined our endowment investments and is putting together a proposal for congregational vote - a special meeting is scheduled for Sept. 30 immediately following the church service.

Board liaisons have been assigned to committees: Buildings and Grounds - Dennis Seekins; Children's Church - Jim Knight; Finance - Diana Dudley, Pulpit - Rich Della Costa; Fundraising - Beth Allen. Diana will also be our board rep to GUSSTO for this year. If you have any suggestions, concerns, or just wish to volunteer, please see the appropriate person named.

A recognition dinner for 35 years of service is planned for Sunday, October 7th. The catered meal will be held in the social hall to appreciate Rev. Don Reidell's lengthy dedication to our congregation.

Complete minutes are available upon request.

[According to the Baltimore Sun](#), at a hearing on Maryland's proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit gay marriage, Jamie Raskin, professor of law at American University, was requested to testify. At the end of his testimony, Republican senator Nancy Jacobs said, "As I read Biblical principles, marriage was intended, ordained, and started by God. That is my belief." Raskin replied, **"People place their hand on the Bible and swear to uphold the Constitution; they don't put their hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible."**