

The Grapevine Newsletter



September 2013

Published by **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church** Albion, NY

Member of **The Unitarian Universalist Association**

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Visit our Website at pullmanmemorial.org

Minister Musings – by Lee Richards

It's been a great summer with our laid-back salon series, picnic, open houses, strolls and walks. But now we turn our attention to September when things at church really start to ramp up! The calendar on my wall is jammed up with multi-colored Post-It Notes indicating tons of things happening before the end of 2013.

Right off the bat we've got our ice cream social event (9/1) which will be extra special this year as two new members join the church that morning. Water communion follows on 9/8 - our chance to reconnect and share our summer stories. September also starts back up our movie with the minister night (9/18) and book discussion (9/22).

No date has been set yet but an introductory class on Unitarian Universalism will be offered this fall, likely starting in October. November has a special event - a true FUN-draiser - with Bill Lattin offering a storytelling session that will dish up some information "too juicy to print." Learn more about PMUC's history and enjoy a good laugh with Bill on 11/3.

Of course there will be lots of potlucks - both our regular first Mondays and also other special times, such as just before Thanksgiving. Walkies and Strolls are pledged to continue regardless of weather (unless the snow piles up too deep to get together). Several other special events are in the works, too, so keep checking the newsletter or our website for the latest info.

Last year I did a sermon series on creating a spiritual community, looking at the many various aspects of how to be in right relationship with each other and the world. This year I'll be taking a look at the individual self - how our psyches contribute to our happiness or misery - and how church can help us become better individuals while we also become better group members. For example, we'll consider how fear holds us back, the role of memories, the rarely spoken of phenomenon of male depression, the power of sympathy and empathy, and more.

UU minister Jim Magraw says that church is about religious transformation. Your attendance at church changes our spiritual community, just as it also changes you. So come early, and come often, and be part of the great transformation at Pullman Memorial Universalist!

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

Sept. 1	Lee Richards	"Sundae Sunday"
Sept. 8	Lee Richards	Water Communion
Sept. 15	Susan Daiss	"UUs & World Religions"
Sept. 22	Lee Richards	"What would you do if your weren't afraid?"
Sept. 29	Elizabeth Osta	"Once a Catholic"

~ Childcare provided during services ~

Wednesday, Aug. 28 - "Open House" from 9:30 am to noon. Church is open for touring. NOTE: this is the last Wed. open house of the season.

Wednesday, Aug. 28 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ 12:30 pm. Meet at the church. Join other Universalists in going "walk-about." A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Sunday, Sept. 1 - "Sunday Sundae" @ 11 am. Our annual Labor Day weekend service offers a reason to attend church - ICE CREAM! We convene back in the sanctuary for worship at 11 where two new members will join the church today, and Pastor Lee will speak about how PMUC members create a "Heavenly Hash." Then it's a make-your-own ice cream sundae social at noon.

Monday, Sept. 2 – Potluck Supper @ 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy good food and conversation with others.

Sunday, Sept. 8 - "Water Communion" @ 11 am. Everyone is invited to bring a small sample of water that represents their summer, and add it to a communal bowl to symbolically mingle our stories and lives together. Water may be from someplace you traveled, your backyard, or even your own tap. Extra water will be available if you should happen to forget yours.

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

Sunday, Sept 15 – "UUs & World Religions" worship service @ 11 am with Susan Daiss. In 1893, as an integral part of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the city hosted the World's Parliament of Religions, a nearly two-week long exploration of religious practices and traditions. An introduction to this parliament, hosted 120 years ago this month, will begin a series of sermons exploring the influences that world religions have had on Unitarian Universalism, and conversely the leading role that our parent traditions have had on interfaith dialogue for more than a century.

Monday, Sept 16 - 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, Sept. 18 – Movie with the Minister @ 7 pm. "Kumare" explores what it means to be a guru and have a following. Wonderfully funny and yet serious at the same time, it will leave you pondering your own spirituality.

Sunday, Sept. 22 – "What would you do if your weren't afraid?" worship service @ 11 am with Lee Richards. How does fear keep us from being fully engaged with life and limit our imaginations?

Sunday, Sept. 22 – Book Discussion Group meets at 12:30 pm. Choose any book on the topic/theme of fear or courage and then come and share what you learned with others.

Wednesday, Sept 25 – 4th Wednesday Walkies @ 12:30 pm. Meet at the church. Join other Universalists in going "walk-about." A great way to get some exercise while communing with nature and fellow liberals.

Wednesday, Sept 25 – Newsletter deadline. Please try to get submissions in before this date if possible.

Sunday, Sept. 29 – "Once a Catholic" worship service @ 11 am with Elizabeth Osta.

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 585-454-9450, 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.

JOYS & SORROWS

Dennis Seekins reported it feels good to be “vertical” again, using a walker instead of a wheelchair.

Andrea Rebeck is sad that a 92-year-old friend has gone into hospice and that Andee won’t be able to visit for about a month.

Alan Nugent said he felt like a flatlander when he visited the Berkshire mountains.

Debby Rodriguez visited “The Conjuring” house during her trip to New England.

Sarah Knight’s vacation got off to a bad start with a car accident but was grateful no one was hurt and Geico was generous in covering her totaled car. Jim Knight was thankful that his daughter was uninjured.

Heather Boyd has a cousin who is dying which has reminded her of the importance of family - both blood relations and church family.

Louise Wu Richards was delighted that Chesapeake Oil has decided to let New York gas leases lapse without seeking renewal. She also was happy with the amount of work accomplished during the workbee.

Lee Richards was happy to have the entire Orr family back in church, apparently at the insistence of young Ryan.

Diana Dudley – wished to recognize Antoinette Tuff, the heroic bookkeeper who was able to talk down a 20 year old would-be school shooter in Georgia. The shooter walked into the school armed with an AK-47 with the intentions of going on a rampage similar to what occurred at Newtown. More than 800 students escaped without injury because of Antoinette’s calm discussion with the young man.

Heather Boyd’s cousin sadly died this past week. Despite the sorrowful occasion, Heather said she was able to spend some time with her other cousins and share some stories, which was very meaningful to her. Heather, our hearts are with you!

Sarah Diemer – shared that her ‘really bad’ summer was made a lot better when Pastor Lee showed up with a gift from the congregation. Sarah was just overwhelmed at how generous this congregation was and what a lovely gesture! Sarah...we are glad you are feeling better!!

PULLMAN PLAUDITS

Many thanks to the crew who gave a Saturday morning to their church so it could look better than ever. Lots of elbow grease was contributed by: Darrell, Aiden, Leland, Jim, Betty, Dave, Sherry, Heather, Diana, Louise, and Lee. Thanks also to Bill for hauling away the cuttings afterwards.

Bill Lattin, who opened our church for visitors every Wednesday morning this summer. A number of people took advantage of the opportunity and when he wasn’t giving tours he accomplished a lot of repair work around the building. Many thanks, C.W.!

Kathryn Fernandez Brown for the donation to our lending library of two books on the Bahai’ Faith.

Dr. David Bell for the donation of five copies of his book on Islam, also for our library.

Susan Daiss for the donation of a book "The Same-Sex Legal Kit" written by Carrie Charles Stone (who donated a copy to our book sale).

All of our volunteer presenters and contributors for the summer salon series: Sarah, Betty & Jim Knight; Andee Reebeck; Hunter Dudkiewicz; David Bell; Debby Rodriguez; and Robert Remley.

Science and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov (1919-1992) as quoted on [Brain Pickings](#), writes on another subject: Love.

The soft bonds of love are indifferent to life and death. They hold through time so that yesterday's love is part of today's and the confidence in tomorrow's love is also part of today's. And when one dies, the memory lives in the other, and is warm and breathing. And when both die – I almost believe, rationalist though I am – that somewhere it remains, indestructible and eternal, enriching all of the universe by the mere fact that once it existed.

Pullman Pastor's Blog

by Lee Richards

Seedless watermelon theology, eye-for-an-eye justice (or injustice), religious bathroom graffiti, and patches - these were all topics for the pastor's pen this past month.

The Minister's Musings column appears on the first page of the monthly newsletter. In between, I invite you to check out my explorations and ramblings on the weblog. 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

SPECIAL >>>> No access to the internet but want to read my weekly musings? Subscribe to receive a paper copy by postal mail once a month. Send your name and address to: Lee Richards, 31 Ravenwood Ave, Rochester, NY 14619. This service is offered free of charge as a means for staying connected and promoting Unitarian Universalist thought.

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.

Childcare Available During Services

Kasandra Connor is now available to provide childcare for Sunday morning services. Kasandra is finishing a program in education at Genesee Community College.

Eye on the Board

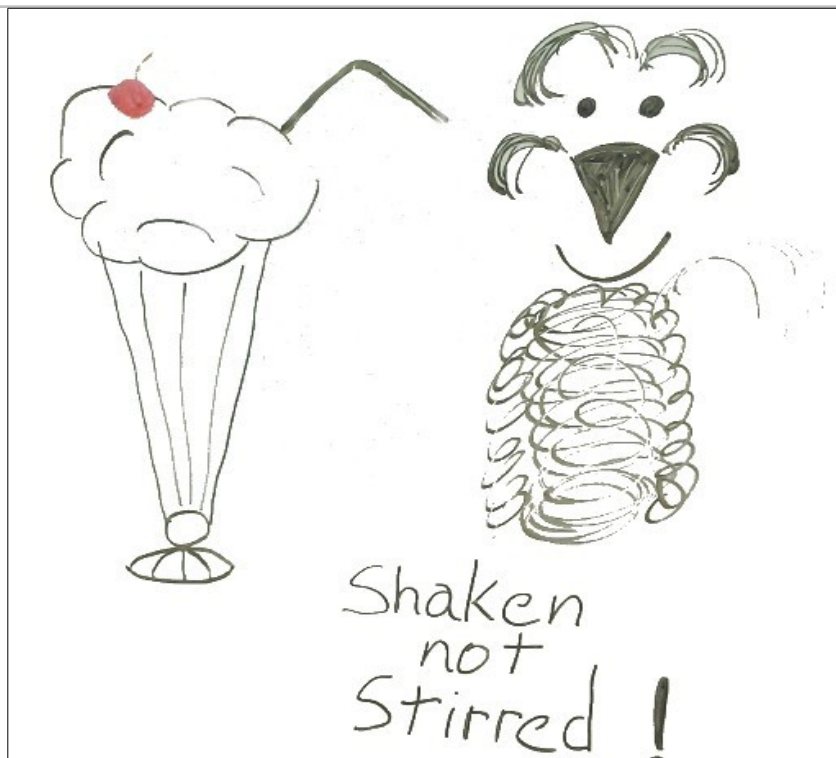
Pastor Lee had a suggestion from Karen Watt to offer an early morning worship service at PMUC on October 20th for people attending the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event at Watt Farm. The brief ecumenical service at 7 am would be followed by coffee and pastries, allowing time for people to get to the farm by 8 am for registration. Lee also reported he will take vacation time from Sept. 30 to Oct. 12, but still be available for emergencies.

The Pullman Memorial Humanitarian Award will be presented in a special service on Oct. 13th. Bill Lattin will do a storytelling session on Nov. 3rd at 7 pm also as a fundraiser. Betty Knight continues working on organizing a wine tasting fundraiser for next spring.

Buildings and Grounds will replace the antiquated water heater which is close to rusting through. Bill Lattin will work with the plumber and hopefully a donated inline heater can be used. Bill also pointed out the need for keeping fire doors shut in the church when not in use. He emphasized that **the last person leaving the building** must check and close the doors between the sanctuary and social hall, at the top of the stairs from the kitchen into the parlor, and the door going from the parlor to the upper RE room. Closed doors will minimize the damage if a fire should break out.

Treasurer Andee Rebeck continues to nail down details of the job while computerizing our records. She pointed out a need to have our insurance coverage reviewed and the board is requesting that any member with some experience in insurance matters step up to offer advice. Rich Della Costa will review our organ tuning contract, and Craig Smith will look for a reliable copy machine for the office.

- Complete minutes are available upon request.



Willie the dog gets excited for ice cream Sundae Sunday.

by David Hagmier

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