

The Grapevine Newsletter



December 2017

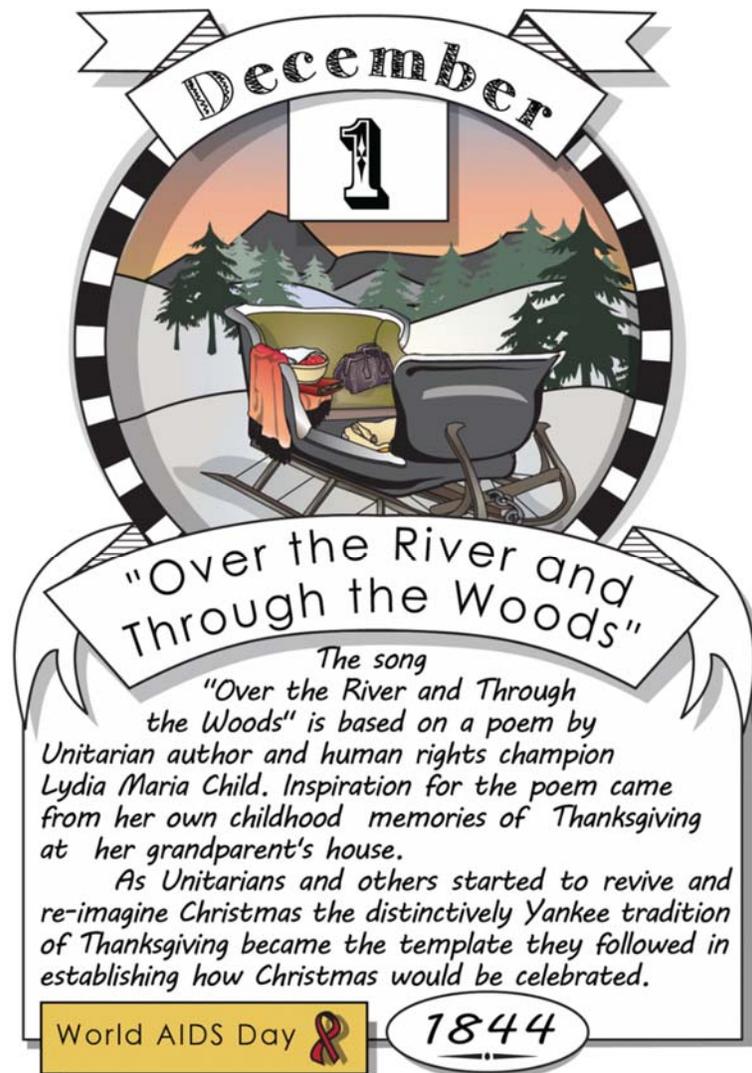
Published by **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church**, Albion, NY
Member of the *Unitarian Universalist Association*

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The UUA has published a series of Unitarian Universalist Advent Calendar graphics, which we will be featuring on our website and Facebook pages throughout the holidays.

Please watch for them and share them on all your social media and emails. They will be linked to UUA and our own PMUC.

Darrell A. Dyke, Board President



by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts



Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

December 3	Rev. Libby Moore
December 10	Rev. Lori Staubitz
December 17	Susan Daiss
December 23 (Saturday), 7 pm <i>Annual Candlelight Service</i>	Susan Daiss
<i>December 24 – No Service</i>	
December 31, Annual Fireside Service	Rich Della Costa

 Assisted listening devices are available for services – available near the lectern

Coming Events

Sunday, December 3 – Rev. Libby Moore

Monday, December 4 – 6:30 pm, Potluck Supper. Join us for good food and fellowship.
Please bring a dish to pass.

Saturday, December 9 – 9:00 am, Workbee. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Diana Dudley with any questions.

Sunday, December 10 - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting/Building & Grounds

Sunday, December 10 - Rev. Lori Staubitz

Thursday, December 14 – 7:00 pm, Meditation with John Mosher, Ph.D.

Sunday, December 17 - 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, December 17 – Susan Daiss -- *To Be Present in the Darkness*: The longed for winter solstice is nearly upon us. Before we welcome the gradual return of light each day, let us pause together to what poet Dylan Thomas once named, "the close and holy darkness."

Saturday, December 23 – Annual Candlelight Service with Susan Daiss, 7 pm
To celebrate this season that is cherished in many traditions, please join us for an evening listening to music by Ron & Nancy OneSong (<http://onesongcountry.com/>) and Al Capurso, to seasonal stories from diverse peoples and cultures, and join in the congregational singing of familiar Christmas Carols.

**** No Service on Sunday, December 24 ****

Sunday, December 31 – Annual Fireside Service with Rich Della Costa

Please Sign-Up to Bring a Snack for Coffee Hour

Sign-up sheet available in the parish hall



Joys and Concerns

-Al Capurso attended a ceremony honoring Rho Mitchell for receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor. Rho joined the Service at age 16 and became a fighter pilot. He worked tirelessly for the community. It was an honor that Rho definitely deserved. Chris Loss remembered him organizing the Legion Band here in Albion for many years.

-Mark Crosby attended a conference on climate change and came away with hope! New York is among three other states leading the fight to clean energy. So even though the current Administration dismisses climate change, the fight is not lost.

-Darrell Dyke attended a conference at the World Life Institute on nuclear issues. He said we seem to brag that our nuclear capabilities can destroy civilizations, but they are slowly destroying the planet with poisons that seep out. So even if they are not used, they are harming us!

-Chris Loss came in last Friday and organized the Minister's Study so that it can be used by the ministers for prep or for counseling. There is a lot of work yet to do regarding organizing the documents. We will need plastic bins and hanging files.

-C.W. Lattin said a few words in honor of Rev. Donald J Reidell's 40th year with PMUC. He said that Don has been nurturing and encouraged him to seek a position on the District Board. His services have been superb and elegant, without the need to resort to gimmicks. His presence has provided us with solid, reliable, and excellent service for all of these years. He recalled a trip that was taken one time with Don, Dan Budd, Jean Bistoff and C.W. They had been to a conference where Kenneth Patten was the main speaker. Dan didn't agree with anything that speaker Patten had said, but C.W. and Jean did. It was quite a trip!

-Chris Loss was pleased that the last Potluck supper with speaker Eric Wanecski was such a success! Around thirteen people attended, and it was a great time! Erica did a great job talking about Tuberculosis hospitals from the turn of the century to the late 1960s.

-Dennis Seekins was ecstatic on election day...everyone knows why.

-Monica stated that it was a joy for her that her friend, Frank Snapp, was here visiting from California!

-Jessica George had a joy that it was about a year ago that she first came to the church, primarily to thank everyone for the support with her agency, and she was so warmly welcomed and invited to the Thanksgiving dinner. It was then that she decided that she had found a new church home!! And everyone is very glad she is here!!

-Mark Crosby also wanted to thank the congregation for being so welcoming to him. His previous church was important to him and allowed him to pursue his spiritual journey, and that continues here! Mark we are glad you are here as well!

-Rev. Lori Staubitiz asked that we all hold Ron in our hearts. And we always will. Ron will be so much missed. He was such a good friend to us and cared so deeply for this church.



The Annual Candlelight Service will be held on Saturday, December 23 at 7:00 PM. Susan Daiss will be in the pulpit. Ron & Nancy OneSong and Al Capurso will provide the music. Please plan on attending to get a dose of holiday spirit! You are also invited to bring cookies or a snack to share!! Happy Holidays to you and your family!!

Joys and Concerns continued

-Tobin Carson was happy to have her mother, Michelle, at church today. Michelle is a Hurricane Maria survivor. It took a long time to find out if she was even alive, and then it took a long time to navigate the compromised terrain and get her out. They are thankful for the friends who helped her out. Michelle said she's happy to be here in this beautiful church with her family.

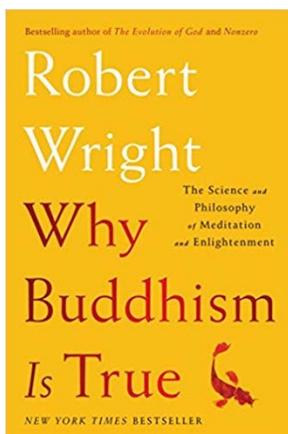
-Debby Rodrigues said it is a real joy seeing her friends, Ron and Nancy, here today!

-Ken Capurso was very sad to report that a neighbor of his, Donald Brett, passed away.

-Diana Dudley has a sorrow that the father of her children, Lute Robinson, had a stroke in Oswego and then a neo blastoma was discovered. His sons have come out to see him, and a grandson is coming out. This is a very difficult time for Diana and family.

Next Book Discussion – January 28, 2018

The next book discussion will be January 28, 2018. The book to be discussed is *Why Buddhism is True: The Science and Philosophy of Meditation and Enlightenment* by Robert Wright. Bonnie Beiswenger will lead the group.



In Why Buddhism is True, Wright leads readers on a journey through psychology, philosophy, and a great many silent retreats to show how and why meditation can serve as the foundation for a spiritual life in a secular age. At once excitingly ambitious and wittily accessible, this is the first book to combine evolutionary psychology with cutting-edge neuroscience to defend the radical claims at the heart of Buddhist philosophy. With bracing honesty and fierce wisdom, it will persuade you not just that Buddhism is true—which is to say, a way out of our delusion—but that it can ultimately save us from ourselves, as individuals and as a species.

(Retrieved 10/26/17, Amazon)

* The book is available for loan via the NIOGA and Monroe County library systems. (You can also join the discussion if you have not read the book.)

Eye on the Board

- The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, November 15. It was noted sadly that Ron Beiswenger, former member and a friend of the church, passed away on October 29th and will be very much missed.
- A motion was made to contract with Country Contracting to do work on the South roof when they have an opening (and pending a congregational vote). They will also be asked what can be done to protect the roof for the winter, and if they can add the repair of the leak over the Sanctuary to a revised contract that will be drawn up in January. A report has been made to Emery & Webb regarding damage done to the roof back during the wind storm in March, and several quotes will also be provided. A motion was also made to hire a part-time custodian for two hours of work weekly (including snow removal).

Eye on the Board continued

- A motion was made to discontinue Christmas bonuses, but shut-ins will receive a gift. And the Candlelight Service is being planned.
- A six-part video series, to be shown at Potluck suppers, will begin in January and following that a Building Your Own Theology series will begin in the summer.
- The AED unit will be donated to David Gates.
- A Fragrance-Free Sanctuary was discussed, but it was determined that it would be too difficult to implement. There are enough empty spaces to go to if someone's perfume is offensive to another member. We already make an effort to use natural or green cleaning products where possible.

Share the Pulpit Continues

If you would like to volunteer to be a worship associate and read the welcome/announcement message, chalice lighting words, and other elements of our worship, please contact Chris Loss (closs1626@gmail.com) or Darrell Dyke (darrell.dyke2@gmail.com).



PMUC Annual Thanksgiving Dinner 2017



For So the Children Come

For so the children come
And so they have been coming.
Always in the same way they come—
Born of the seed of man and woman.
No angels herald their beginnings
No prophets predict their future courses
No wise men see a star to show
where to find the babe that will save humankind
Yet each night a child is born is a holy night.
Fathers and mothers—sitting beside their children's cribs—
feel glory in the sight of a new life beginning.
They ask, "Where and how will this new life end?
Or will it ever end?"
Each night a child is born is a holy night—
A time for singing,
A time for wondering,
A time for worshipping.
By Sophia Lyon Fahs

(Retrieved from <https://www.uua.org/offices/people/sophia-lyon-fahs> 11/27/17)

Pullman Plaudits

-Ron Beiswenger sadly passed on October 29 doing what he so often did here...quietly helping out at the church. We will miss his gentle nature, wit and wisdom. He tackled some of the hardest jobs here such as removing a dining room full of plaster coated books and finding a solution for coverage for the Christ the Consoler window after it was damaged by the wind. He was clearing shrubbery from behind the church when he passed. He always did what he could. And foremost, he was a wonderful husband and father. Thank you Ron for caring about this church and being such a good man. We will miss you very much!

-Many thanks to everyone who helped to have a wonderful 'Celebration of Life' service for Ron Beiswenger on November 2nd. Susan Daiss led the service, Rich Della Costa provided music, and Darrell Dyke set up equipment to play a special song. Chris Loss created the programs, C.W. Lattin cleaned and set up, and Chris Loss and Diana Dudley also helped set up. Sylvia Goodstine and Julie Andrews cleaned up following the service. A cheese tray was ordered by the church. Also thanks to



Pullman Plaudits continued

Pat Cammarata for donating the tray. Many hands make light work. Thanks to others who brought food. Many have reached out to Bonnie at this sad time. It should be noted that so many wonderful things were said about Ron during the service.

-Thanks to Darrell Dyke for obtaining the plaques (one to hang in the dining room and one for Don to take home) for Rev. Don Reidell's 40th year celebration, Chris Loss for bringing the cake, and C.W. Lattin for saying a few words in honor of Don. Darrell also spoke and presented the plaques. Thanks to everyone who donated snacks! It was a wonderful occasion in celebration of a man who has lent his talents for so many years to this grateful church! Also note that Dennis Seekins also gave Don a special gift.



Darrell Dyke and the Reverend Don Reidell

-Don has given us 40 years of absolute excellence! From the very beginning he was polished, witty, and warm. His sermons have given us insight into his faith journey and inspired us to have our own path, and has challenged us to do better as people and as a church. He has provided thoughtful discourse on a wide array of topics. We were so lucky to have come across you 40 years ago! Here's to 40 more years!

-Erica Wanecski did a wonderful job with her presentation on Tuberculosis hospitals at the Potluck on November 6th. What a great evening with 13 people in attendance, lots of food, and engaging conversation!

-The Meditation group met again on November 9th. Many thanks to Diana Dudley and Chris Loss for setting up. And thanks, of course, to John Mosher Ph.D. for sharing his expertise. New faces appear each time.

-Plaudits to Diana Dudley, Sylvia Goodstine, Julie Andrews, and Judy Wenrich for working on 27 formerly caned bentwood chairs to restore them to usefulness! They stained, applied several finishes and glued plywood circles to the seat frames. Also, the backs and legs of the chairs were cleaned, polished, and screws tightened. These chairs will see many more years of life now. Great job ladies!



Pullman Plaudits continued

-Darrell Dyke and Monica Back served as Worship Associates in November, and thanks to musicians Bonnie Beiswenger, Al Capurso, Rich Della Costa, and Diana Dudley for providing special music!

-Goodies for the coffee hour this month were provided by Sylvia Goodstine, Liz Schaal, and Chris Loss.

-C.W. Lattin has replaced missing moulding on a door to the Sanctuary, in addition to the many other things he has done! And he has decorated beautifully for the holidays as only he can do!

- The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19th was a tremendous success, with around 40 in attendance! Susan Daiss offered a toast with cups of cider and small oatmeal muffins. Darrell Dyke and Tobin Carson brought two delicious turkeys! And thanks to all the fantastic cooks who brought so much incredible good. A special thanks to Debby Rodrigues for bringing the Qadour family to the celebration with their adorable children! Mr. Qadour gave a special Muslim blessing. Two interpreters accompanied them. What a special celebration! Everyone helped out! And it should be noted that a crew including Diana Dudley, Debby Rodrigues, Rich Della Costa, Sylvia Goodstine, Chris Loss, and Darrell Dyke with son Aiden came to set up the Saturday before!

-A very special welcome to our new custodian, Don Olsowski! He will be here several hours weekly! He also finished removing brush from behind the church.

-It should be recognized that while Rich Della Costa had taken a short break from playing the piano and organ, he is now back playing, and he sounds amazing! So wonderful to have you back doing what you love, Rich!



“Each of us has lived through some devastation, some loneliness, some weather superstorm or spiritual superstorm. When we look at each other we must say, I understand. I understand how you feel because I have been there myself. We must support each other because each of us is more alike than we are unlike.”

— Maya Angelou

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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We are a welcoming congregation

