



March 2018

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

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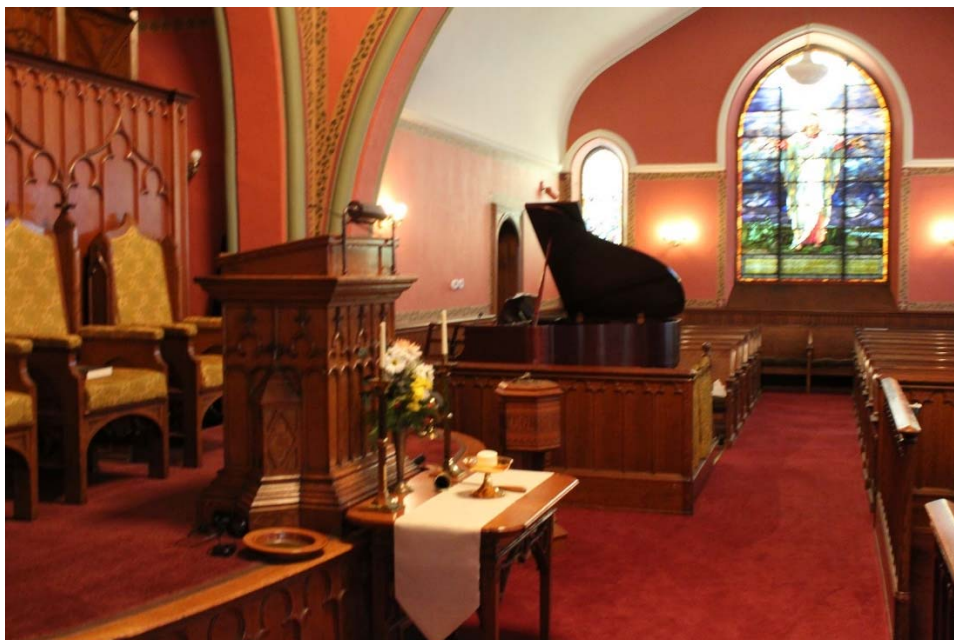
From the Board President – “Our New Baby Grand Piano”

The purchase of our sanctuary’s new (to us) instrument signals our commitment to the future of our church. We are planning and preparing for the next generations of Unitarian Universalist and Seekers. Our faith and our faith’s home is not stagnant; it moves and makes space for transforming, healing and empowering.

Music is a big factor for me in church. A concert has religious impulses and rhythms that help the gathered to transcend the mundane and secular. A piano works better than an organ for many of the hymns, classical works and cultural pieces featured in our service every week. Listening to it, I am struck by how gracefully this well-made and well-regarded piano can be played. Soft notes retain the original intent better when one does not have to pound with such effort as before.

Kudos to everyone who was involved in this project! Rich worked wonders in finding the piano and auditioning it, negotiating a price, then arranging its move. Diana administered the gift fund provided by gracious donors in memory of Ron Beiswenger. Debby found a family in need of a piano and arranged for the old piano to be moved. People will be listening to your gifts for generations. Thank you, all.

Darrell A. Dyke



Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

March 4	Rev. Donald J. Reidell
March 11 (<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>)	Rev. Libby Moore
March 18	Rev. Lori Staubitz
March 25	Susan Daiss
April 1	Rev. Donald J. Reidell



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

Coming Events

Sunday, March 4 – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

Monday, March 5 – 6:00 pm, Potluck Supper with guests from *Lakeshore Mothers and Others Out Front*. *Lakeshore Mothers and Others Out Front* will give a brief overview of their mission. They are working to ensure a livable climate for all children in ways that also nurture healthy children and support healthy communities.

Please bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and fellowship.

Sunday, March 11 - 9:30 am, Finance Meeting/Building & Grounds

Sunday, March 11 - Rev. Libby Moore

Sunday, March 18 – Rev. Lori Staubitz

Wednesday, March 21 – 6:30 pm, Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, March 22 - 7:00 pm, Meditation with John Mosher, Ph.D.

Sunday, March 25 – Susan Daiss

IMPORTANT

Please note: Some of our members and friends have sensitivities to fragrances and strong scents. We ask that you refrain from wearing strongly scented products when attending church so as not to negatively affect the health of those with sensitivities. *Thank you for your cooperation.*

Please Sign-Up to Bring a Snack for Coffee Hour

Sign-up sheet available in the parish hall



Joys and Concerns

Jan 28

Monica Beck – was happy to report that Fiona is now attending college at Fredonia and is doing well. She also wanted to thank Debby Rodrigues for writing a letter of recommendation.

Joyce Riley – said it's good to see the Qadour family here, and the laughter of their beautiful children!

Jessica George – is glad that they have identified systems in prison for sexual abuse and have found a receptive ear regarding working to make services for these victims easier to obtain. This is a breakthrough!

Chris Loss – enjoyed the book discussion Bonnie Beiswenger hosted today on 'Buddhism is True' by Robert Wright. What we learned was that we all need to meditate! It may be the only way that humans can overcome the indoctrination of society and our impulses that served our ancient ancestors, but fail us now. In other words, truth is not available to us without the focus of meditation.

Diana Dudley – received a note from the Church of the Larger Fellowship, which has a membership of over 800 people. They have a prison ministry and are asking for support. . . are in need of pen-pals and donations. For more information, see Diana.

Debby Rodrigues – attended the Woman's March with her friend, Reggie, at Seneca Falls. It gives her hope that four and a half million people came out all across the country. Thanks to Debby, Reggie, and Jessica for going out to protest!!

Chris Loss – wanted to remind everyone that a GoFundMe account has been set up for Leon Sidari, the 4-year-old grandson of attorney Nathan Lyman, who died of the flu on Christmas day. The family set up this account with the goal of raising \$100,000 to help sick Children at Christmas. They have already raised around \$67,000. The main message the family would like to relay is that everyone please get a flu shot! Don't put it off or think it won't be effective.

Darrell Dyke - Leyland came home to help install a new tub and shower in the bathroom, and hang out with dad. His help was much appreciated.

Feb 11

Diana Dudley – sad to hear that Sara Burroughs passed away. Sara was a long time member of this church, and will be very much missed. She had fallen, was sent to Strong, and then was at the Villages to recuperate. But sadly she went downhill. Dick Hoffman said our church wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Sara's ancestor, who contacted George Pullman and asked him to build the church. The family is very private, and there will be no funeral, but the church is open to them if they want. The family has asked that donations be made to this church.

Monica Beck – will be traveling to California to see David Purdy's daughter, and Monica's friend, Frank (who has visited here).

Tobin Carson – had a terrible scare at the hospital. She was running to Maternity for a code, thinking the worst. And instead of finding a patient in distress, she was able to deliver a beautiful baby girl. The code had been in error.



Joys and Concerns (continued)

Mark Crosby – went to Florida to buy a car, but found a Motor Home instead. He and his brother had quite an adventure getting down there, and even blew a tire! He will be taking that RV on some interesting adventures!

Joyce Riley – two weeks ago, she was nominated to run for Mayor in the Village of Albion. Please keep her in your prayers as she embarks on this journey!

Feb 18

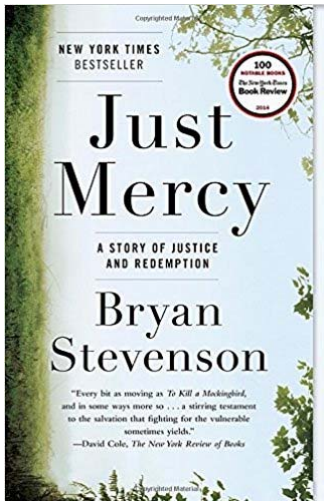
Debby Rodrigues – had a joy that makes her heart sing . . . the students in Parkland Florida are standing up to politicians regarding gun legislation. They are articulate, intelligent, and committed. Go patriots!!

Dick Hoffman – said, regarding the school shooting in Florida, that the answer regarding stopping the violence may not be guns, but mental health services. And mental health and VA benefits have had benefit cuts.

Chris Loss – is disgusted . . . enough is enough. Enough kids have died, and it keeps happening and nothing is ever done! People can hunt and have guns for protection, but there really is no reason for anyone to have an assault weapon. It is time to ban the sale of them!

Darrell Dyke – we need to address guns, budget cuts, and the NRA! He worries for his boys and the anger out there. And just a reminder that mental illness touches most families. Mental illness should not be used as an excuse to do nothing when the safety of our kids is at stake.

Next Book Discussion – May (Date to be Announced)



The next book discussion will be in May. The book to be discussed is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Jessica George will lead the group.

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. (Retrieved 2/26/18, Amazon)

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

Save the Date – The 124th Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the *124th Annual Congregational Meeting* on **Sunday, April 22nd** following the regular church service!

SPECIAL NOTICE

Please note this will be under consideration for vote at the next annual meeting.

The Board of Trustees has made a motion to change *Article V – Meetings of the Congregation (Section 1, d)*. The change put forth for a congregational vote will be to change the quorum number of members for the annual meeting from 15 to 12 members “with at least four (4) of those members being members of the Board of Trustees”. This change is to better reflect the current active membership.

Current wording: Fifteen (15) voting members with at least four (4) of those members being members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. (Rev. 4/1/1979)

Suggested change in red and italics: *Twelve (12)* voting members with at least four (4) of those members being members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

* 2018 PMUC Pledges *

The 2017 budget year for PMUC ends 3/31/18. *It is time to submit your pledge form for the 2018 budget year.* Please help us continue to provide a liberal sanctuary to you and other members and friends of the PMUC Congregation. A pledge form is included with this newsletter or can be picked up at PMUC in the parish hall. Your stewardship is greatly appreciated.

Book Synopsis – 1/28/18 Book Discussion

Why Buddhism is True: The Science and Philosophy of Meditation and Enlightenment
by Robert Wright

At the January book discussion, Bonnie Beiswenger explained that author Robert Wright was actually not promoting Buddhism as a religion but the meditative practice, as that was his focus. He admits to having failed at meditation many times, but found that once he could establish a regular routine, there were many benefits. Ultimately, he wrote the book because regular meditative practice may be the saving grace of humanity. As humans, we still follow the programming that allowed our ancestors to survive, to gain food and land, seeing ourselves as more important than others, as separate and special. It allowed us to survive but didn't lead to happiness or peace. And much of what we believe is influenced by flawed ideas.

If we meditate regularly for several lifetimes, we still won't likely achieve enlightenment. However, regular meditation can lead to moments of truth about the world, moments of truth about your feelings and emotions, wisdom of clarity and a calm mind, moments of moral truth, and help during a crisis. And you are on a path to enlightenment. Meditation might make the big difference in your life. But this only happens with a regular routine of meditation. He hopes to encourage everyone to make it part of their lives. (*Synopsis provided by Chris Loss.*)

Many thanks to Bonnie for suggesting this book and for hosting the discussion.



Share the Pulpit Continues

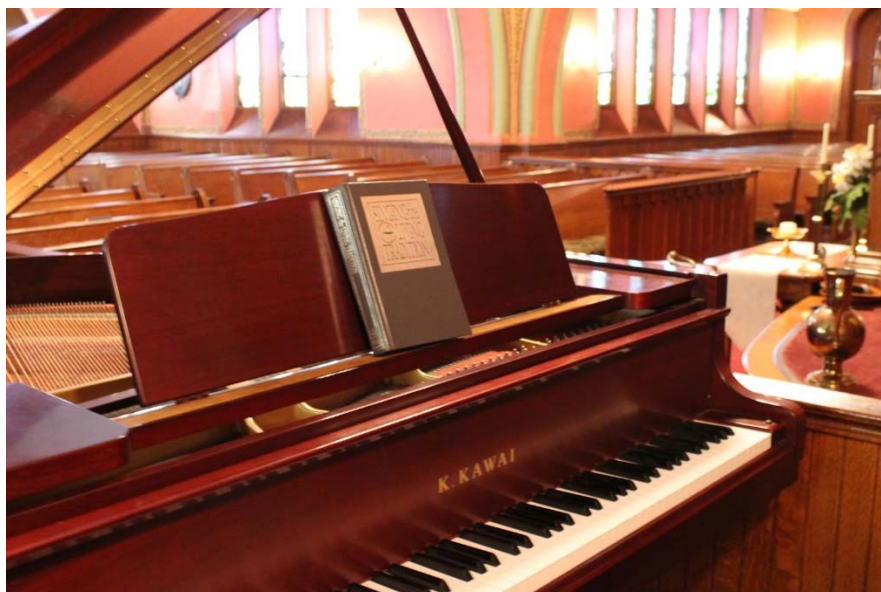
If you would like to volunteer to be a worship associate and read the welcome/announcement message, chalice lighting words, and other elements of our worship, please contact Chris Loss (closs1626@gmail.com) or Darrell Dyke (darrell.dyke2@gmail.com).

Eye on the Board

The Board of Trustees met on February 18, 2018:

- Per the Treasurer, due to the market correction, the Vanguard funds in the endowment lost about 6% as of February 10th.
- Building and Grounds members met with Country Contracting on 1/24/18 to discuss a new quote and a possible timeline for roof repairs. In addition, Joe Baker was hired to do much needed masonry work in the Gift Shop.
- Pulpit/Music/Ministry: The meditation group continues to be well attended. The committee met to discuss current speakers, and they believe things are going well though they would like to have a few “Chautauqua” style talks bringing in some local guests in the future.
- For the RE Committee, the video series, “Long Strange Trip”, continues at the April potluck.
- Darrell spoke with Al Capurso regarding being our Humanitarian Award recipient, and he currently cannot make our scheduled date due to medical issues. We will be postponing the award for now.
- A quick review of the members list was done. At the next meeting, a more thorough review will be done to review for inactive members and needed follow up. A discussion was also held regarding our membership numbers and the by-law that requires a quorum at the Annual Meeting to be 15 voting members. A vote was taken to change the number of members needed from 15 to 12. This suggested by-law change will be voted on at the next annual meeting.
- Ideas for fundraising including a yard sale at the Strawberry Festival were discussed. The 2018 pledge form will be included in the March newsletter.

More Photos of the New (to us) Piano:





Don't worry about saving these songs!
And if one of our instruments breaks,
It doesn't matter.

*We have fallen into place
Where everything is music.*

The Strumming and the flute notes
Rise into the atmosphere,
And even if the whole world's harp
Should burn up, there will still be
Hidden instruments playing.

*So the candle flickers and goes out.
We have a piece of flint, and a spark.*

Rumi, From a translation by Coleman Barks

(Retrieved from Poet Seers 2/24/28)

<https://www.poetseers.org/spiritual-and-devotional-poets/contemp/rumibarks/4-2/index.html>

Pullman Plaudits

Bonnie Beiswenger – did a wonderful job leading the book discussion on 'Buddhism is True' by Robert Wright on January 28. Rich Della Costa, Darrell Dyke, Diana Dudley, and Chris Loss attended.

Rich Della Costa – found a wonderful Kawai 2011 baby grand piano that we have purchased from a private seller. The piano is beautiful, in great shape, and the cost was only \$5,000. And Debby Rodrigues came to the rescue when there was a dilemma regarding what to do with the old piano. She found a new home for it with a former student, and it was removed at their expense. The Ron Beiswenger Memorial Fund helped pay for the piano and moving costs. What an amazing event for this church!! Truly, we couldn't have found a better deal.



Pullman Plaudits (continued)

Debby Rodrigues – for her continuing work with the Quadour family! She has done so much to assist them, and she brings them to church. When she asked Riyad and Zureieh if they were concerned about coming here, the dad said “one God”! Her humanity is truly inspiring!

Sylvia Goodstine – sent out tax information letters to the congregation. Many thanks, Sylvia!

Sylvia Goodstine, Diana Dudley, Monica Beck, Riyad Quadour, Chris Loss, and Debby Rodrigues provided yummy treats for coffee hour this past month, especially Sylvia!!

Don Olsowski has done a tremendous job keeping the church clean, checking on things, clearing out snow...he's amazing!!

John Mosher PhD, was here on February 8 for the Meditation group. We had 11 people, and sat around the fireside! Thanks to Chris Loss for setting up, and thanks to Diana Dudley for turning up the heat.

Monica Beck, Darrell Dyke, and Debby Rodrigues served as Worship associates this past month.

Many thanks to all who participated at the Potluck supper on February 5th! It was a great time! Darrell Dyke with Aiden and Jennifer, Diana Dudley, Debby Rodrigues, Sylvia Goodstine, Rich Della Costa, Jessica George, Harlan and Julie McGrath, and Chris Loss were there! And Darrell Dyke began the series on 'The Long, Strange Trip' with a video and discussion following the dinner.

Diana Dudley – arranged for Joe Baker to come out and do masonry work in the gift shop. It was falling in and a mess in there. He will also be able to take care of some of the ice formations at the front door. Diana and C.W. Lattin also met with Country Contracting, and they anticipate doing work on the roof in the spring, pending a congregational vote.

Diana Dudley, Sylvia Goodstine, and Chris Loss took all of the items out of the gift shop so work could be done in there. And Diana packed much of it into boxes.

On February 11, Diana Dudley played the first official piece on the new piano and was applauded! Great job, Diana! The following week, Bonnie Beiswenger was also applauded for a beautiful piece she played.

Al Capurso was to be honored with our Humanitarian Award in March, but due to health issues, this event will be postponed to a later date. Cards, letters and calls will be appreciated!

Sylvia Goodstine made a special treat on February 18 in honor of Purim, a Jewish Festival of Joy. She made Hammtashen cookies, triangular shaped treats filled with jellies...yum!!

Diana Dudley – plans to start a protest group back up on Sunday afternoons! Please see her if you would like to join in!

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We are a welcoming congregation