



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

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From the Board President

Dear friends,

Imbolc, Spring, Vernal Equinox, Lent, Easter- All words we use to acknowledge the tilting of the planet back toward the radiant source of Earth's energy and the enlivening of soil and seed. In other times and places, celebrations and ritual were considered important to remind the Sun that it was time to return. The Winter stores from the past Autumn were nearly depleted, and the "hunger-gap" had crept back into people's lives as the new crops could not be planted quite yet. Even after we came to understand the astrophysics that brought back that brilliant warmth, folks would still gather and celebrate its return. Perhaps the Sun didn't need to be cajoled into action, but rather it should be met with gratitude and joy.

Lent, as we know it, derives from the Old English word, "Lencten," and marked the *lengthening* of daylight. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (also St. Valentine's Day in 2018), for forty days we reflect and anticipate the occasion of Easter (also April Fool's Day this year) and the rebirth and renewal of Earth. We didn't need to spend forty days in the wilderness, but perhaps we have spent some time reflecting on the youth and a newly-sprouted spirit in our midst. Ash Wednesday, 2018, may be remembered as the Valentine's Day young loves were torn apart in Florida- As I write this, I pray that the Sun will illuminate some of our past foolishness and fears and warm the fertile soil of our land and the many lands of our neighbors. The Sun will return, regardless. May it be met with joy and thankfulness for the chance to renew ourselves and our souls.

In Peace and with Love,
Darrell A. Dyke

Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

April 1	Rev. Donald J. Reidell
April 8	Susan Frawley
April 15	Rev. Lori Staubitz
April 22	Susan Daiss
April 29	Darrell Dyke
May 6	Rev. Libby Moore



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

Coming Events

Sunday, April 1 – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

Monday, April 2 – 6:00 pm, Potluck Supper. The *Long Strange Trip* video series continues. Please bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and fellowship.

Sunday, April 8 – Susan Frawley

Thursday, April 12 - 7:00 pm, Meditation with John Mosher, Ph.D.

Sunday, April 15 – Rev. Lori Staubitz

Sunday, April 15 – 9:00 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, April 22 – Susan Daiss

Following the service: *124th Annual Congregational Meeting*. Please plan to attend.

Sunday, April 29 – Darrell Dyke

Come congratulate Al Capurso as the recipient of this year's PMUC Humanitarian Award.

(* There will not be a Finance/Building & Grounds Meeting in the month of April.)

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.*

Joys and Concerns

Sunday, Feb 25

-It was a great joy to hear Max Goldhirsch, Susan Frawley's son, sing "Awake My Soul"! What an incredible voice!

-The congregation sang Happy Birthday to a very special young lady...Aesha!

-Darrell Dyke asked the group to keep his family in mind since one of their beloved cats will soon be crossing the Rainbow bridge. This is a very hard time for the family, as many of us have been through it.

-Dave Purdy had a joy that he went with Monica Beck out to California to be there for his daughter's induction into the Woman's Bar Association. It is so good to see her doing so well. They were also able to see Monica's friend, Frank. However, Monica said she is also glad to be home again!

Joys and Concerns continued

Sunday, March 4

-Debby Rodrigues is meeting with her family in Terrytown this coming Saturday and will be going to see Andy Borowitz, a popular satirist. Enjoy!

-Mark Crosby announced that Al Capurso's health is better now! He had a brief stay in the hospital recently to have a heart procedure done, and he came out of it just fine! That is great news to all of us!

-Chris Loss commented that it is great to see Don Reidell back in the pulpit. We have missed him for these few months!

Sunday, March 11

-Libby Moore had a joy that her daughter Ann, her granddaughter Sophie, and grandson Masial visited today!! What a lovely family!!

-Diana Dudley was glad that her son, Eric, was here with her today. It is always nice to see him come out to visit!

-Jessica George witnessed her neighbor being served a warrant recently...but police came with two armored vehicles, assault weapons, etc. It was scary for the neighborhood. And only a woman and child were home because the man being arrested was already in custody. Chris Loss mentioned that the book group had read 'The Rise of the Military Cop' a while ago, which outlined the perils of the militarization of the police force. Joyce Riley said that it would be nice if we could see officers walking the streets and be known by the public.

-Mark Crosby said it was a joy for his group 'Mothers Out Front' to come out to the Potluck recently. Mark brought his sister, Susan, and a young man named Jeremy. Mark said Jeremy told him that he wouldn't mind attending here, that he enjoyed everyone.

-Diana Dudley reminded everyone that C.W. brought the lovely floral arrangement for today (and every Sunday) and turns up the heat each Sunday. This is much appreciated.

-It was nice to welcome guests, Barb and Gerald Johnson, today!

Sunday, March 18

-Darrell Dyke - his son, Aiden, was detained for walking out on the student walk-out day, and he was put in suspension. He was offered a way out, but refused to take it on principal. Aiden showed the courage of conviction that defines a person with high integrity. Good show, Aiden!

-Diana Dudley was saddened by the deaths of Stephen Hawking and Louise Slaughter. Both of these people were shining lights in this world!

-Joyce Riley reminded everyone to please go out and vote...it is your right and privilege as a citizen. And Chris Loss added a reminder that Joyce is running for Albion Mayor!

**Please Sign-Up to Bring a Snack
for Coffee Hour**

- Sign-up sheet available in the parish hall



Joys and Concerns continued

-Diana Dudley used to organize a group outside the church to protest the sale of the nursing home, and then time went on and the signs changed to reflect the circumstances of the times. She feels that it is right to get the group together again to join with the Parkland students and go back out to protest on March 24th. Anyone wishing to join her is welcome! And Darrell purchased some ready-made signs, if you need one! Way to go, Diana!

-Rev. Lori Staubitz said there is a courage and risk when you run for office. She has been asked to step up and do just that!

-Rich Della Costa wanted to report back from Florida! There are too many people, too much traffic, it is too warm...and so on. He did get to spend time with his two beautiful granddaughters and that is wonderful, but out there it is all about entertainment and stress. Back here, it feels like a stable environment, and he appreciates it. Glad to have you back, Rich!!

-Jessica George was excited to announce that she has received a promotion at work!! She is the new Prison Education and Outreach Specialist! Congratulations Jessica!!

Sunday, March 25

-Chris Loss wanted to mention that we are so proud of Joyce Riley for running for Mayor and working so hard...she only lost by 39 votes and that is amazing!

-Diana Dudley has set up a plastic box in the church for donations to our Syrian family and this has been approved by the Board. The donations will go directly to Debby Rodrigues to help with her efforts to assist this family. Debby said that Ron and Nancy OneSong are constantly backing her up in her efforts, but so much is needed. So please consider donating to help this family get back on their feet!

-Debby Rodrigues is so grateful to Diana who helped find Riyad a job recently. He is a hard worker and very much wanted an opportunity. Diana pointed out that she knew of an opening, and they went back and lo and behold, he did get the job. And it is within walking distance of his house.

-Mark Crosby wanted to thank Diana for her protest activity. He watched the young people march on Saturday and was amazed by their incredible speeches. How embarrassing for the older ones that it is children who had to lead on this effort to stem gun violence. We have been put to shame. Chris Loss added that she is reminded of the biblical phrase "and a little child shall lead them."

-Debby Rodrigues - it was a big joy for her that she brought the children to hear a concert with Nancy and Ron OneSong and watched how much they enjoyed listening. The older folks were silent and stoic, but the kids were swaying and dancing and having fun.

-Darrell Dyke has had eight teens at his house playing video games and hanging out. It has been fun to have them around!

Save the Date – Ron & Nancy OneSong (5/12/18)

Ron and Nancy OneSong will be our musical guests performing on Saturday, May 12th from 2:00 pm till 4:00 pm. Please join us for this free musical event!



The 124th Annual Congregational Meeting – Please Attend

Please join us for the *124th Annual Congregational Meeting* on **Sunday, April 22nd** following the regular church service! Your attendance is very important because business cannot be conducted unless there is a quorum of 15 voting members present! Every year this meeting is held to address the congregation and report on the progress of the year, vote on Board members and officers for the coming year, and give the congregation a chance to have a voice and add their input. As always, lunch will be served. You are important, and your input is needed! We are counting on you!
See you on the 22nd!

Eye on the Board

Report from Board President, Darrel Dyke

April showers will bring May flowers, but when the rains abate and the fields dry enough for the farmers to get out on them to plant seed, our roofing contractors will begin work replacing the sorely-needed roofing over the South side of Pullman. Heartfelt thanks to the dedicated Building and Grounds Committee and to everyone who participated in moving this project forward. This hasn't been easy, as nobody wants to make a wrong decision, that's as natural and right as rain.

Have you always wanted to be a part of the Board of Trustees at Pullman Memorial? We have openings, and I encourage your participation, action and guidance of our church. Simply let your interest be known and the nominating committee will take it from there. Thanks.

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Earth Day this year, right after church services on April 22nd- with lunch being served.

- Members- please plan on being there, as a quorum of 15 is needed to proceed with the planning of our next fiscal year.
- Officers and committee chairs: **please send me your Annual Board Reports by the April 8th deadline.** We will be sending out the reports prior to the annual meeting so that everyone has a chance to read each report *before* attending the meeting- to keep the meeting a little briefer by our not having to read each one aloud.

Support PMUC and the Planet



Just a reminder – We have a bin for refundable cans/bottles and one for aluminum. *Both our church and the environment benefit!!*

- The bins are located in the vestibule at the ramp entrance.
- Please be sure the aluminum is clean and labels are removed.
- Please do not crush the aluminum.

Save the Date -- Next Book Discussion (5/6/18)

The next book discussion will be held on May 6th at 9:30 am. The book to be discussed is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Jessica George will lead the group.

* The book is available for loan via the NIOGA (e-format, audio, and print) and Monroe County library systems. However, feel free to join the discussion even if you have not read the book.

Kawai Piano at Pullman

by Rich Della Costa

Those of you who have been attending services over the past couple of months will have noticed the replacement of our old baby grand with an updated and good quality piano. The decision to replace our piano was not taken lightly and was a result of many discussions with our regular tuner, John O'Connor, and our organists/keyboard performers, Bonnie Beiswenger, Diana Dudley and myself. We also had estimates from John and other piano repair experts on a rehab of the old piano. The average estimate was \$2000 to \$5000, depending on the extent of the repairs. Ultimately, the warped sounding board made other repairs irrelevant and John O'Connor strongly recommended that we not undertake the extensive work needed.

I then went on a search for a used piano, finding the Kawai from a music student who was in need of cash and currently attending Houghton College as an organ major. The Larry Fine Piano Book, the 'bible' of used pianos, highly recommended the Kawai, comparing it favorably to Yamaha baby grands in many respects. I did visit a number of homes where pianos were either for sale or were listed as available for free if we paid for the cost of moving. In most cases, they were no improvement on our existing piano. I also recommended that we not sell our old piano, as the prospects were minimal, and I felt that full disclosure to any prospective buyer would have to be made regarding the sounding board and other repairs needed.



I would like to acknowledge the \$1500 donations that were given for the piano purchase in remembrance of Ron Beiswenger. If you would like to have more details on the search, please feel free to call me or inquire at service.

* 2018 PMUC Pledges *

The 2017 budget year for PMUC has now ended (3/31/18). *If you have not yet submitted your pledge form for the 2018 budget year, please do so now.* Contact Sylvia Goodstine if you would like pledge envelopes. Your stewardship is greatly appreciated.



Pullman Plaudits

- Monica Beck and Diana Dudley paid tribute to the memory of Jean Bistoff on February 25th by performing the song "Jean". Chris Loss thanked them for thoughtfully remembering her mom. Jean was a tireless worker at this church for most of her life, and even when dementia robbed her of so many precious memories, the mention of this church brought a smile to her face. Jean was a Board Chairman, worked in the Sunday school, and basically did most jobs here. Jean and Chris sat side by side for some 50 years. Jean has been gone now for 6 years, but her imprint is everywhere in this church. Thanks again Monica and Diana for being such good friends!

-Worship associates this month included Bonnie Beiswenger and Darrell Dyke.

-Sylvia Goodstine provided most of the coffee hour goodies this month! And it was all delicious! Thanks Sylvia!

-Joyce Riley is to be commended for working hard on her campaign for Mayor of Albion. She almost won, and she will for sure next time!

-Mark Crosby brought his sister, Susan, and friend Jeremy out to talk about their group 'Mothers Out Front' at the Potluck supper on Monday, March 5th. They work to make the environment better for their children and grandchildren. It was a great discussion and they had a lot of information on windmills, solar energy, etc. Joyce Riley, Bonnie Beiswenger, Debby Rodrigues, David Purdy, Monica Beck, Sylvia Goodstine, Diana Dudley, and Chris Loss were there. The food was incredible!!

-Kudos to the Building and Grounds committee and especially Diana Dudley, for finalizing plans to repair the south roof with Country Contracting. The plan was approved by the Board of Trustees and a quorum of members.

-Darrell Dyke - has purchased some posters that can be used for protesting. These posters describe what UU's believe, basically! Thanks Darrell!

-The new baby grand piano has been a hit, with such an incredible sound! Rich Della Costa, Diana Dudley, and Bonnie Beiswenger have all been receiving applause during the services for the beautiful pieces they have selected!

-Don Okslowski has been doing a fantastic job keeping the church looking great and keeping the snow cleared out!

-Sylvia Goodstine has sent out thank-you letters to all who donated in honor of Sara Burroughs.

-Al Capurso was set to receive his Humanitarian Award Sunday, March 4 but it was postponed due to health concerns. However, Al is feeling better and the event will now be held on April 29th.

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).

جيرانا المسلمين

We♥our Muslim neighbors

People have been asking about making additional monetary contributions to the Qadour family (formerly from Syria). If you wish to make a monetary contribution, please place your donation in the labeled plastic donation box in the Parrish Hall. All contributions will be forward to the Qadour family.

“The tragedy of life is often not in our failure, but rather in our complacency; not in our doing too much, but rather in our doing too little; not in our living above our ability, but rather in our living below our capacities.” — **Benjamin E. Mays**

(Quote provided by Diana Dudley)

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We are a welcoming congregation

