



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

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## May We Hear the Melody of Life

By Joseph Cleveland

May we hear the melody of Life and find ourselves singing harmony.  
May we be open to the dissonances in the Song of the Land and Its People,  
that we might be part of the World’s urging toward Justice, Peace, and Love.  
May we feel in our bones the rhythms of Life and the Land,  
and find ourselves dancing.

(Retrieved 5/27/18 from UUA, <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/benediction/may-we-hear-melody-life>)

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### Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless otherwise noted)

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June 3	Rev. Donald J. Reidell
June 10	Rev. Lori Staubitz
June 17	Susan Daiss
June 24, <i>Annual Cobblestone Service in Childs, NY</i>	Rev. Libby Moore
July 1, <i>Annual Patriotic Service in Childs, NY</i>	Susan Frawley



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

## Coming Events

**Sunday, June 3** – Rev. Donald J. Reidell

**Monday, June 4** – 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.

**Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9** – *2018 Strawberry Festival*: We will be open for tours and selling refreshments. Volunteers and refreshment donations are needed. See page 4 for more information.

**Sunday, June 10** – 10:00 am, Finance Meeting/Buildings & Grounds Committee



## Coming Events *continued*

**Sunday, June 10** – Rev. Lori Staubitz

**Sunday, June 17** – Susan Daiss

**Wednesday, June 20** – 6:30 pm, Board of Trustees Meeting

**Sunday, June 24** – Rev. Libby Moore

*Annual Cobblestone Service in Childs, NY*

Please bring a snack.

Donation goes to the Cobblestone Society

**Thursday, June 28** - 7:00 pm, Meditation with John Mosher, Ph.D.

**Sunday, July 1** – Susan Frawley

*Annual Patriotic Service in Childs, NY*

Please bring a snack.

Donation goes to the Cobblestone Society

\*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, April 29

Julie Andrews - is pleased to report that her son has a new job!! Congratulations Billy!

Sara Phillips - has a joy to be back in church and back in the area, but a sorrow that the weather has been so bad! Welcome back, Sara...you've been missed!

Chris Capurso - her joy was to have her grandchildren here to witness her husband Al receive his award!! What a lovely family you have, Al and Chris!

Sunday, May 6

Diana Dudley wished Chris Loss a Happy Birthday (which was the 4th of May).

Chris Loss - thanked everyone for the well wishes, and thanked Jessica George for the wonderful book discussion held today. 'Just Mercy' by Bryan Stevenson was a great selection!

## Joys and Concerns *continued*

Sunday, May 13

Diana Dudley - was excited to have her son Eric (from San Diego), grandson Kevin (from Saratoga Springs), and niece Hillary at church today to start off her Mother's Day celebration. And her son Mark was at her house tilling the soil.

Jim Hobbs - was glad to have received a call from his daughter in Paris letting him know that she is ok. She wasn't around for the terrorist knife attack yesterday. We are happy to hear that she wasn't near that terrible event!

Sylvia Goodstine - attended the Orleans County Office of the Aging Spring Jubilee program on May 10th and was surprised and pleased to see that our own Pat Cammarata was one of three people honored for many years of service to the community! Great job, Pat!!

Debby Rodrigues - was so happy to report that Riyad Qadour, who had been able to secure a job in the Medina area, was honored for being the most productive person. We all know that he is such a hard worker! Debby credited Diana Dudley for helping to point out that the job was available. But Diana gave the credit to Debby for all that she does on an ongoing basis for this lovely family. They had already visited that job site three times, but Diana encouraged them to try one more time and this time, Riyad was hired!!

Chris Loss - reported that the Nancy and Ron OneSong concert yesterday at the church was fantastic! Nancy and Ron entertained an enthusiastic crowd for two and a half hours! Pie was sold during the event, and \$85 went to the Qadour family. Many thanks to Debby Rodrigues for orchestrating the event.

Susan Daiss - wanted to honor her mother (who has passed), and said it was not always easy. There are many among us who have had complicated relationships with their mothers, and Mother's Day can be a day that is not especially easy to deal with.

Sunday, May 20

Chris Loss - was pleased to attend the wedding of cousin Sara Phillip's daughter yesterday at Artisan Works in Rochester. Samantha married Steve Halewski, and it was just beautiful! Both Samantha and Sara looked lovely!

Debby Rodrigues - admits to being addicted to watching Meghan and Harry's royal wedding in London. The music before they took their vows was 'Stand By Me'...just golden. Rich Della Costa, who also took interest in the nuptials, said it is so positive that Meghan Markle (who is part African-American) has been so warmly received in England. And Meghan's African-American mother was also received well. This is real progress.

Alan Nugent - is back from Florida and said it is a pleasure to be here! It's good to see friends and familiar faces! Since he has been back, he has been visiting a lifelong friend at Buffalo General, who is recovering from vascular surgery, so he has been busy. So glad to see you back, Alan...and hope that your friend recovers soon!



## Joys and Concerns *continued*

Darrell Dyke - said it was an emotional time in their household when his son, Leyland, received his first paycheck. We celebrate firsts!!

Note - 'Come Sunday' has been recommended by Rev. Libby Moore as a Netflix program worth watching! Susan Daiss said 'The Soul of An Octopus' by Sy Montgomery is a book worth reading!

May 27

Mark Crosby - is relieved that his brother, who has been in the hospital, is getting better. He would appreciate prayers and good thoughts for his continued recovery! Also, the weather has been nice and Mark has decided it's time for a road trip to Potsdam in his RV! Good luck Mark and have fun!

Diana Dudley celebrated another rotation around the Sun today...Happy Birthday to an amazing woman! The congregation sang to her and Alan Nugent brought a cake!

Tobin Carson was excited that she had the pleasure of taking an adorable two-year-old boy to a Thomas the Train event. He was so excited to ride in the train! Theo and his mother, Jessica, visited in church today!



### **Albion Strawberry Festival – Friday and Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**

PMUC will be open during the festival for tours. We will also be selling coffee and donuts, water, tea, lemonade, and popcorn.

***Volunteers are Needed! A sign-up sheet will be available at the church.***

Help is needed both Friday and Saturday from 8 am – 4 pm.

Selling donuts and coffee: 8 am - 11 am both days

Selling popcorn: 11 am – 1 pm Saturday only during the parade

Selling cold drinks and watching the church: 11 am – 4 pm both days

***Donations of water, lemonade, and iced tea will be accepted.***

## **Book Discussion Reflections**

by Jessica George

The May book discussion on *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Bryan Stevenson) was exciting and thought provoking. Through beautifully written narrative, Stevenson takes us through his 30+ years in searching for criminal justice reform, death penalty abolition, and true justice for those among us who are often considered least deserving. Stevenson focuses heavily on the themes of justice, compassion, and mercy throughout the book. This brought up questions about the nature of these virtues: Does mercy need to be deserved? Is it even possible to be unworthy of compassion? What about the people that have committed horrible crimes and hurt others in countless and unspeakable ways?



## **Book Discussion Reflections *continued***

The discussion turned to our personal experiences with crime and punishment—the group was diverse and we were able to share viewpoints from the survivors of crime, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform advocates. Does the concept of “just mercy” mean we stop being tough on crime? Can we still ensure that people are held accountable for their actions while also living up to our highest principles and values? Stevenson states that he’s seen the survivors of horrifying crimes “pressured... to recycle their pain and anguish and give it back to the offenders we prosecute... we’ve allowed our victimization to justify the victimization of others”. Does that heal the wounds the crime opened? How do we reckon with the thought that our criminal justice system creates more victims?

Chris Loss noted the connection between the pride of lynching in the south—the remembrance of which is another of Mr. Stevenson’s projects-- and the themes of the book. Stevenson states that “the beauty of just mercy is that it belongs to those who are most undeserving” -- our compassion is required to be given not only to the victims of misguided and often cruel justice, but also to those implementing that justice. We must not only love and have compassion for the broken soul being lynched, but also for the lynch-mob, because they are broken, too. But, the question then becomes: how do we manage that?

Stevenson offers no easy answers, but I find the below passage to be helpful when we think not only of the difficulty of finding compassion for those who have committed unspeakable acts, but also when we consider our UU principles-- especially those that speak to the inherent worth of all humans and our call to compassion and justice:

“We are all broken by something.... Our shared brokenness [connects] us... [it] is also the source of our common humanity, the basis for our shared search for comfort, meaning, and healing. Our shared vulnerability and imperfection nurtures and sustains our capacity for compassion.

We have a choice. We can embrace our humanness, which means embracing our broken natures and the compassion that remains our best hope for healing. Or we can deny our brokenness, forswear compassion, and, as a result, deny our own humanity.”

### **PMUC Committee Members Needed**

The following committees are open to new members:

Finance  
Buildings and Grounds  
Pulpit/Music/Ministry  
Shut-Ins  
Fundraising  
Membership

Interested in participating? Contact Chris Loss at [closs1626@gmail.com](mailto:closs1626@gmail.com) for further information

## A challenge from our congregation to yours

Dear UU Friends,

My name is Susan Pond and I am Treasurer for the First Universalist Church of Southold, NY. I am writing to ask your congregation to participate in a simple challenge.

In March of 2015 our church, the First Universalist Church of Southold, NY, burned to the ground. At 178 years old, it was the longest-standing UU church on Long Island. (Please read our story at <https://www.gofundme.com/rebuildfirstuni> )

For the past three years, we have been working with the Southold Historic Preservation Commission, the town board, and various consultants to design a building that honors both our place in the village's historic district, and our UU heritage and values. Finally, there is light at the end of the tunnel! We hope to break ground this fall. But the cost of modernizing is beyond our insurance funds and we need your help.

We are writing to every UU congregation throughout the country – all 1,035 of you – to challenge you to raise \$1 from each of your members to donate to our Rebuilding Fund. The UUA's statistics show that there are nearly 155,000 UUs registered in over 1,000 UU congregations in the US. If every UU across the country gives just \$1 to the Fund, we will be a long way toward our goal of \$500,000.

We hope that you will share our story with your congregation, and ask them to accept this challenge. With your help, we will be able to reopen our doors and once again serve our community as a welcoming place for liberal thought and social action in our modernized, accessible and efficient new building.

Donations may be made through our GoFundMe campaign:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/rebuildfirstuni>

or mailed directly to the church:

First Universalist Church  
P.O. Box 221  
Southold, NY 11971  
Attn: Building Fund

Thank you for your support

With gratitude,  
Susan Pond, Treasurer  
[SoutholdUU@optonline.net](mailto:SoutholdUU@optonline.net)  
631-765-3494

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## 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 ([clloss1626@gmail.com](mailto:clloss1626@gmail.com)) or Darrell Dyke ([darrell.dyke2@gmail.com](mailto:darrell.dyke2@gmail.com)).



## Eye on the Board

- At the Board of Trustees Meeting on May 27th, Darrell Dyke was elected for another term as Board Chairman. Jessica George was officially welcomed to the Board!
- The online Congregational vote to approve votes from the Annual Meeting carried. The Annual Meeting is now official.
- Work on the roof is expected to begin on June 18th! Larry Marling was approved to remove large items from the basement, and more work may follow. And part-time custodian, Don Olsowski, was given the ok to work 4 extra hours per month without Board approval as he has been mowing our lawn (when Richard Nenni is not available) and doing other projects.
- Emma Fox, one of eight candidates, was chosen as our scholarship winner for this year.
- The WNY Board Development Conference, for Board members and clergy from all over WNY, will be held at our church on October 6.

## 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.

## Pullman Plaudits

Al Capurso - received the Humanitarian Award on Sunday, April 29. Al's family was present and so was Tom Rivers from the Orleans Hub (which generated a nice article!). Al said he was promised that if he provided music during the service that he wouldn't have to give a speech, and he played several wonderful songs! Darrell Dyke presented him with the much deserved award! Al dedicated a song to Darrell entitled 'The Tale of Molly Malone', in honor of Darrell's trip to Ireland, where he had happened upon a statue of Molly Malone!

Pat Cammarata - was honored on May 10th at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds by the Office of the Aging for her service to the community. Pat worked as a licensed master social worker in children's mental health. She volunteers with Catholic Charities Friendly Phones Program, and has been a trustee on the Swan Library Board of Trustees, and a member of the Albion Historic Preservation Commission. She was nominated for the award by Catholic Charities. What a wonderful honor, Pat!



## **Pullman Plaudits *continued***

Diana Dudley and Don Oslowski - are to be thanked for setting up tables for the Mother's Day concert on May 12th. The room looked lovely. And Don also helped Nancy and Ron OneSong set up their equipment. Also thanks to Monica Beck, Eileen DellaCosta, Chris Loss, and Sylvia Goodstine for helping to sell the pies. Chris Loss also made the coffee. Thanks to Darrell Dyke for introducing the musical duo and passing a hat for their contributions. Thanks to everyone who donated pies! Debby Rodrigues had suggested the concert and was able to secure this in-demand musical act for the church.

Darrell Dyke - presided as Board Chairman over the Annual Congregational Meeting on April 22nd. It was a surprise to the congregation, but the meeting was held in the newly renovated dining room! Thanks to Diana Dudley and Don Olsowski for preparing the room, which looked wonderful! And the meeting ran smoothly, although a quorum fell short by two people! A lunch of pizza, salad, brownies, cake, caramel corn, soda, iced tea, etc. was very nice! A subsequent congregational online vote did pass, making the meeting legal!! Many thanks to all who attended and brought food!

Welcome new Board member Jessica George! And Chris Loss has agreed to be the Church Secretary! Congratulations to Darrell Dyke, who has been elected as Board Chairman for another year! Many thanks to all who do the hard work that makes this church so special!

Mark Crosby - joined the church on Sunday, April 22nd! Welcome to the PMUC family Mark!! He will receive a new member gift bag!

Jessica George - did a wonderful job with the book discussion on May 6, reviewing 'Just Mercy' by Bryan Stevenson. The book highlighted the many prison injustices that Mr. Stevenson observed and dealt with.

Darrell Dyke - continued the video series and discussion on 'The Long, Strange Trip' at the Potluck supper on May 7th. Twelve people attended, and there was a lot of great food (as always) and especially engaging discussion! Many thanks to all who attended!

Rev. Bob LaVallee - made his debut in the pulpit on May 13 and proved a very welcome addition! Welcome Bob!

Don Olsowski - has been doing a fantastic job as part-time custodian. He has kept the church looking clean, has caught potential problems, polished the dining room floor, cleared away snow, and has mowed the lawn.

Alan Nugent - never truly leaves the church when he goes to Florida during the winter months since he creates reports about the status of our Endowment all year, and assists Diana Dudley with the Treasurer's Report as well. Alan also prepared the budget for this year!

Sylvia Goodstine - has been preparing wonderful goodies for the coffee hour every Sunday!! She is a gifted baker and cook!!

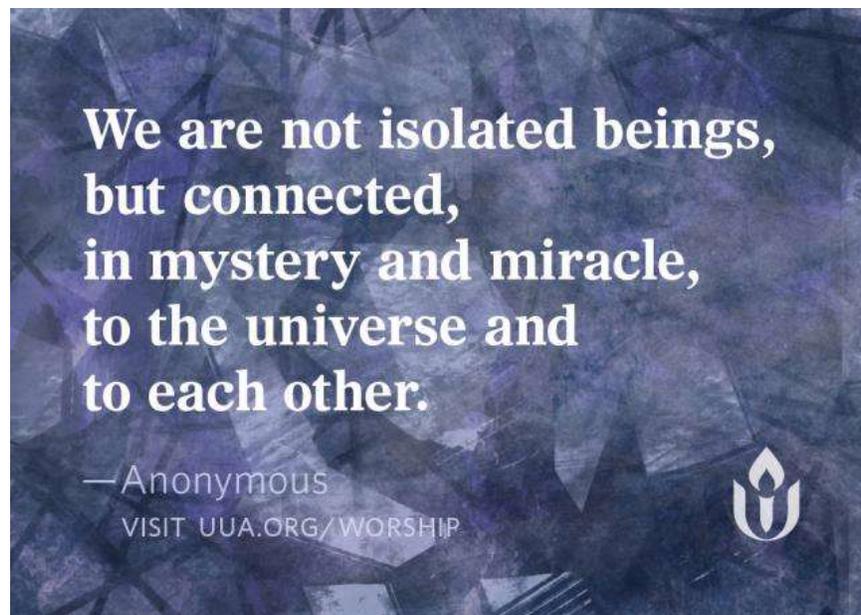
The Meditation group met again on May 10th with six people in attendance. John Mosher, PhD does a superlative job leading the meditation!



## **Pullman Plaudits *continued***

Diana Dudley had the piano in the dining room tuned at her own expense! If we schedule a musical program there at some point, we will have a workable piano! Thanks Diana for your incredible generosity!

Tobin Carson treated the congregation to a sermon on 'Accepting Death, Embracing Life' today. She talked about her experiences with patients facing death, and received applause from the congregation. Tobin agreed to step in since Reverend and Doctor Don Algeo was unable to make it. Wonderful job, Tobin!



(Image by Ellen Rockett, Retrieved 5/27/18 from UUA,  
<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/image/mystery-miracle>)

### **Pullman Memorial Universalist Church**

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*We are a welcoming congregation*

