

The Grapevine Newsletter



March 2020

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

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Service Schedule – Sunday at 11:00AM (unless otherwise noted)	
March 1	Reverend Lori Staubitz
March 8, <i>Daylight Saving Time Starts</i>	Reverend Susan Frawley
March 15	Susan Daiss
<i>March 20, Friday Evening, 7:00 pm</i>	Erica Wanecski
March 22, No Service	No Service on Sunday
March 29	Reverend Libby Moore
April 5	Reverend Susan Frawley



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

Coming Events

Sunday, March 1 – Reverend Lori Staubitz

Monday, March 2 – 6:00 pm, Potluck Supper. Please bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and fellowship.

Thursday, March 5 – 6:30 pm, Meditation with Bill Vosteen

Sunday, March 8 – (*Daylight Saving Time Starts*), 9:15 am, Book Discussion led by Liz Schaal
(See page 2 for more information)

Sunday, March 8 – (*Daylight Saving Time Starts*), Reverend Susan Frawley

Sunday, March 15 – Susan Daiss

Friday Evening, March 21 - 7:00 pm – Erica Wanecski will be discussing “Rights for Mental Health Treatment”.

Please note: No Service on Sunday, March 22.

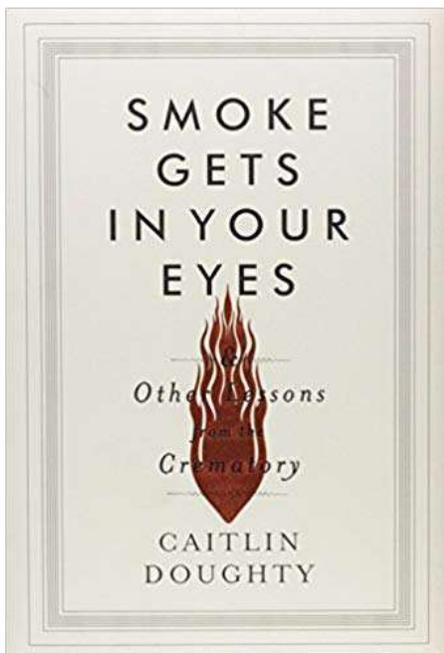


Joys and Concerns

- Gerald Lombardi has had a stroke in Florida in late January. And while he's recovering well, reading has been a bit more difficult. He has opted to stay in Florida rather than return in the spring. Here's hoping that he has a full recovery soon!
- Rich and Eileen Della Costa have been spending a few weeks in Florida to visit their daughter and grandchildren. And prior to them leaving for Florida, Rich was featured at an Art Show in Pittsford. Rich has displayed his art works in various venues prior to this as well. If you get a chance, do check out his work! And we hope that they are having a wonderful time.
- Monica Beck and David Purdy spent a few weeks in Florida in St. Petersburg, taking in the beach, the lovely scenery, and the beautiful birds! Monica said it was a lovely time!
- Chris Loss's grandson, Carson, was in the spelling bee at the Albion Middle School on January 31st and made it most of the way through! He did very well! Great job Carson!
- Darrell Dyke was proud to announce that his son, Aiden, has plans to get married!! This is wonderful news!! Congratulations to the whole family!

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 Join Us For The Next Book Discussion

Sunday, March 8th at 9:15 am

(Please remember the time change)

Liz Schaal will be leading the book discussion. The book for the discussion is *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the Crematory* by Caitlin Doughty. Please note, this book contains details in regards to preparation of the dead. The topic may not be suitable for everyone.

"Morbid and illuminating" (*Entertainment Weekly*)—a young mortician goes behind the scenes of her curious profession.

"Caitlin Doughty is a mortician, activist, and funeral industry rabble-rouser. In 2011 she founded the death acceptance collective The Order of the Good Death, which has spawned the death positive movement." (Retrieved 12/28/19, <http://www.caitlindoughty.com/>)

You do not have to have read the book to attend the discussion. Please join us!

**** PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ****

The 126th Annual Congregational Meeting, 11 am – 1 pm, April 26th

- 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.
- *The meeting will be held in lieu of a regular church service at 11 am. Lunch will be provided.*
- Your attendance is very important because business cannot be conducted unless there is a quorum of 15 voting members present!

Eye on the Board

The Board of Trustees met on February 18th. The Board reviewed the Treasurer and Finance reports. Income for January was down and reflected a lower attendance. There has been some volatility in the Vanguard funds but they have increased by almost \$8,000 over the year. The endowment continues to do well.

The Board discussed the Memorial for Dick Hoffman in April and plans for the 126th Annual Congregational Meeting on April 26th. Notices have gone up, and the Nominating Committee has been activated. We will follow the same format as last year and have the meeting from 11:00 – 1:00 with no regular church service. Paper copies of reports will be limited since overhead visuals will be just as effective. The Strawberry Festival will also be similar to last year, with booths at the church and music.

Don Olsowski replaced a part in the toilet in the Groom's Room since it was leaking. And he continues to do excellent work at the church. We had a health inspection in the kitchen recently and a few minor issues were found but nothing major.

The Pulpit Schedule is all set for March, and Erica Wanecski will be here for the Friday Evening Service on March 20th, and she plans to talk about rights for mental health treatment. The Meditation Group will meet on Thursday, March 5, which is a week early because Bill Vosteen will be out of town the rest of the month. And we have a book discussion group on March 8 with Liz Schaal. We will talk about 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the Crematory' by Caitlin Doughty.

Attendance was talked about and will be addressed at the next Mini Retreat. And the format of our services in the summer and in the winter will be brought up for discussion at the Annual Meeting.

Jessica had a discussion with Renee Ruchotzke (our Representative from the Central East Region) regarding how things are going at the church, and Renee was pleased with the ideas that we have come up with. She said we could reach out to the community more and add a religious education component to some of our programs. The Board talked about ways to add a program to our Potluck Suppers.

*** PMUC Pledges ***

The budget year for PMUC ends 3/31/2020. Please remember to honor your pledge. Contact Sylvia Goodstine (mgoodstine@yahoo.com) if you need a current balance.



Pullman Plaudits

-Thanks to all who attended the Potluck supper on February 3rd. Not only did we enjoy great food and conversation, but we also watched a movie, 'Big Fish'!

-The Meditation group with Bill Vosteen has been going strong! Thanks to all who have been attending. If you want a relaxing meditation experience, please come and check it out!!

-Jessica George's Friday Evening Service, with the viewing of the film '13th' was an amazing presentation! The ending of slavery only set in motion a myriad of ways to further enslave African Americans and keep them from voting and participating in America in the ways that white America has enjoyed. This is a must see film!! Jessica did a great job engaging the group in discussion!

-Our Sexton, Don Olsowski, was able to locate a leak in the Groom's Room bathroom and fix the toilet. We couldn't have a better Sexton than Don!!

-Chris Loss worked on our UUA certification and had it done before the February 3rd deadline! Thank you for all your hard work Chris!

-Many thanks to all who helped with our Underwear Drive!! There were many contributions that will be sent to a local school district where they will be on hand as needed!!

Central East Region Announcement

Seaway Gathering: Sources of Hope will be held April 17-18, 2020 in Syracuse, NY. The keynote speaker is Rev. Megan Visser, speaking on Building Safety in the Body. This event includes the Gould Lecture on Friday evening and workshops and a keynote presentation. Registration opens mid-February. All are welcome! <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/2020-cer-seaway-gathering>

Small Ways to Support PMUC . . .

- Be a worship associate for a service: volunteers are needed to read the welcome/announcement message, chalice lighting words, and other elements of our worship. You will not be graded on this! Give it a try. Contact Chris Loss (closs1626@gmail.com) for more information.
- Sign up to bring a snack for coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall.
- [PMUC's Facebook page](#) is updated frequently by Jessica George with content that is not only church related but with issues and events concerning our values. *Follow us, like us, and share content!*
- Donate refundable cans or bottles to PMUC. *Both our church and the environment benefit!!*



An Invitation to Attend (4/11/20) -- Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst

Kristina Church, Intern Minister, of the UU Church of Amherst sent the following information regarding an upcoming event:

On April 11th we will be hosting a screening of the film, *The Condor and The Eagle*, as part of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth's effort to bring a wider viewership of this important film, and to raise funds for the filmmakers and other indigenous partners in climate justice efforts.

Tentative Schedule:

4PM -- Keynote speaker or workshop on indigenous culture and responses to climate change

5-6:30PM -- Community dinner

7PM -- Film screening (90 minutes)

8:30-9PM -- Discussion

Here is a link to the trailer of The Condor and the Eagle:

<https://vimeo.com/359405536>

More information will be forthcoming.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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We are a welcoming congregation

