

The Grapevine Newsletter



April 2020

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

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From the Board Chair

Hello all -

In these troubling and often scary times, we need the hope and comfort of our church and church family now more than ever. However, in light of the rapidly spreading Coronavirus, recent executive orders by the Governor of NY, and concern for the most vulnerable among us, the board has decided to suspend in-person services until further notice. However, the Pulpit/Music/Ministry Committee, led by Chris Loss, has worked with our ministers to bring us virtual services!

Every Sunday, our ministers will plan to bring us services via the virtual meeting platform Zoom. A congregation-wide email will go out each week with the Zoom invitation and everyone is encouraged to join with us! We will also continue to have information available via Facebook, and, when possible, videos of sermons will go out to the congregation. If there is anyone who has not shared an email with us who would want to attend virtual services, please contact a board member so that we can add them.

Pastoral care update: Reverend Susan Daiss will be providing “telecomforting” during this time and is available at the following phone numbers: 585.383.1636 (H) and 585.317.0129 (C).

Annual Meeting Update: The annual meeting is suspended at this time, updates to follow.

Next steps: Emails will be forthcoming with Zoom instructions, and board members will be reaching out to congregants to check in, updates will also be posted on Facebook.

In love,
Jessica George

Service Schedule via Zoom – Sunday at 11:00AM

(unless noted otherwise)

** Check each week for an email from PMUC with the Zoom connect information **

April 5	Reverend Susan Frawley
April 12, <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Joint Service with UU Church of Utica</i>	Reverend Lori Staubit
April 19	Susan Daiss
April 26, 10 am	First Unitarian Church of Rochester
May 3	Reverend Lori Staubit

A note from Susan Daiss

Sharing Some Ideas of Inspiration and Online Support

A few thoughts:

As is clear from the services I lead, the natural world, the visual arts and poetry are sources of true sustenance for me. This time of year, for example, I keep a written log of the signs of spring, noting the date of the return of the geese, the first robins, snow drops, etc.

I am also deeply grateful for a number of online sources that I have subscribed to over the years. A few of these are listed below:

The Daily Compass is an online image/message that is connected with the UUA. The link is attached: <http://www.dailycompass.org/>.

For many years, I have also loved Garrison Keillor's The Writer's Almanac. I first learned of Mary Oliver's poetry on this daily podcast! Here's the web address: www.garrisonkeillor.com/radio-categories/twa-2018

From the Starcross Community on the West Coast, the electronic communications are a constant source of wisdom, and again, have directed me to resources that have informed my messages over the years: www.starcross.org

Joys and Concerns

- Jessica George's mother, Lorrie A. Murek-Delaney, passed away at her home on March 12th. A Memorial service was held on March 19th at the church. Our condolences to Jessica, husband Kevin, daughter Harper and family at this sad time. Memorials may be made to the Arc of Orleans, P.A.W.S, or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
- Liz Schaal's father, Francis A. "Frank" Manuel, died on March 22nd. A private family service was held at the West Ridgeway Cemetery due to the COVID19 situation. Memorials may be made to Niagara Hospice. Our thoughts and love are with Liz, husband Mike, and family at this time of sorrow.
- Darrell Dyke is continuing with his ministerial online classes, and we are so proud of his endeavors!
- All of us!! We all have joys and sorrows at this time since the world seemed to change overnight. We are all facing the uncertainty together! We are a church family, and we all care about each other. Every effort will be made to reach out to make sure everyone is doing well, so expect a call in the near future. And if you are struggling with anxiety or just need to talk, please don't hesitate to call Susan Daiss for 'telecomforting'. You are not alone!!



Eye on the Board

The Board of Trustees met via e-mail on March 24. This proved to be a difficult format, but we were able to conduct business over a few days. Our endowment predictably has dropped 26% as of March 21. Total income has also dropped as a result of reduced attendance prior to March 15, and then ending services at the church after that. But a reduction in income and the endowment going down is predictable because of the COVID19 pandemic. We will hang on for the rough ride.

Don Olsowski, Sexton, added titles to the Wayside Pulpit, removed snow and salted the sidewalks, collected the garbage, vacuumed, cleaned the kitchen, cleaned and mopped bathrooms, dusted, set up chairs for meetings and services, watered plants, and purchased needed supplies (such as paper products, light bulbs, and coffee). In addition, he repaired a leaking toilet, stabilized a downspout at ramp with machine screws, re-attached a gutter to the bracket, and purchased and installed a refrigerator thermometer (as was required by the Health Department). Also, Chris Loss purchased additional rodent repellent units for the kitchen as one that we had previously was missing. We received the Health Department certificate of approval to operate food service until 2/28/22.

The March 15 service with Susan Daiss was the last regular service held at the church, and the Memorial Service for Lorrie Murek-Delaney on March 19 was the last special service. From that point until the state-wide quarantine is ended, all services will either be via Zoom or another online format. Members and friends will be asked to please check their e-mails regularly for updates on service offerings.

The Board agreed to postpone the Annual Congregational meeting that had been scheduled for April 26. It will be held in either May or June.

Chris reached out to each of the ministers for their input on offering services online, and they all agreed to offer them via Zoom. They were asked if they can provide a video or text of the online offering for those who cannot access an online forum. There is a way to record a Zoom service, but the best way to send it on video is still in question. But that will be worked on. The Board agreed to acquire their own Pro-Zoom account. It costs around \$15 per month and can accommodate up to 100 people. It also has a lot of helpful features. We will keep to our regular schedule of speakers, except the Easter service will be done jointly with the UU Church of Utica. For the service for April 26 that had been reserved for the Annual Meeting, the Board agreed to offer the First Unitarian service on Zoom at 10:00 am. and we will send them a donation.

Quote from Reverend Libby Moore's March 29th sermon:

"WE ARE ONE ANOTHER'S LIFELINE."

The Board will divide up the members and friends list and will be making calls to make sure that we have reached out to everyone to make sure they are doing well.

Members and friends will be encouraged to continue to make contributions to the church. Sylvia Goodstine suggested that members and friends mail a check (payable to PMUC) to her at 14492 Lakeshore Road, Kent, NY 14477. Checks can also be sent to PMUC at 10 East Park Street, Albion, NY 14411, or PO Box 87.

The June Strawberry festival in Albion has been canceled and the Memorial service for Dick Hoffman for April 19 has also been canceled (and will be rescheduled).



Eye on the Board

(continued)

The Board reviewed the draft of the budget for next year prepared by Alan Nugent. He said there is a lot of uncertainty brewed into the numbers and hopefully we will have more clarity by the Annual Meeting. We may need to take around \$10,000 from the endowment to balance the budget, but it is not advisable to do so at this time as the market will need time to recover. A capital item of drywall/plastering in the amount of \$7,500 is under consideration. Suggestions were made for saving money if we don't recover quickly.

The Board was asked to look at our Emery & Webb insurance since our premiums have gone up. Diana suggested several changes to consider, but the Board decided to keep the policy as is for now.

A Board mini retreat will be planned for the future to review attendance, future programs, scheduling, and etc.

GIVING

As we continue to provide virtual services and pastoral care, your generosity is vital in helping us maintain this important programming. *Please don't forget your offering/pledge to PMUC.*

Donations can be submitted through PayPal on the PMUC website. Go to <https://pullmanmemorial.org/> and scroll down to the "Your Kind Donation" section.



If you would prefer to mail a check, please make it payable to *Pullman Memorial Universalist Church* and mail to the collector, Sylvia Goodstine. 14492 Lakeshore Road, Kent, NY 14477.



Thank you for supporting your PMUC Church Community!

Pullman Plaudits

- Many thanks to Susan Daiss for conducting the memorial service for Jessica George's mom on March 19 at the church. Susan always does a wonderful job! And much appreciation to Rich Della Costa for providing beautiful piano music, and to Monica Beck for singing 'Amazing Grace'. Chris Loss printed the programs, and Don Olsowski cleaned the church. It was a lovely service!
- Don Olsowski has continued to monitor the church, prepare for events, clean, repair, and add items to the Wayside Pulpit. Excellent job, Don!!!
- Susan Daiss, Rev. Libby Moore, Rev. Susan Frawley, and Rev. Lori Staubitz deserve plaudits for working with the Board to have services online with Zoom!! They all sent a note expressing that they were willing to find a way to have services and expressed interest in keeping touch with the congregation! We are so lucky to have talented and caring ministers at PMUC!!



Pullman Plaudits

(continued)

- A big thank you to Chris Loss who did a large portion of the work to make sure that we could have services online. All your hard work is appreciated!
- Erica Wanesci was all prepared to meet with us for the Friday Evening Service on March 20, but alas it had to be canceled due to the pandemic. We will have Erica back for another service in the future!! Thanks to Erica for all the preparations she made for the event!!
- We are missing gathering for services and that includes the lovely flowers that C.W. Lattin always provides, and the yummy snacks that Sylvia Goodstine always brings. And we miss being able to talk to each other after the service. Hopefully, this won't last for much longer.

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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We are a welcoming congregation

