

The Grapevine Newsletter



May 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 and Happy May!

What a season it's been! I am so incredibly proud to be the chairperson of the board for this congregation! As a small congregation, it was entirely possible that the challenges the world is facing would have been too much for us to weather, but instead we pulled together and remembered that "church" is not a physical structure— it is indeed the feeling of community that we carry inside of us.

I'd also like to extend a HUGE thank you to all of you— I know that it has been stressful and there have been technical difficulties, but our Zoom services have been well attended and wonderful. Also, big thank yous to our ministers who brave the technology learning curves to continue to bring us messages of hope, love, and interconnectedness during this time when they are so badly needed— I know that our services have been my light in the dark on many occasions.

And, of course, a big thank you to our board who continues to look ahead even through these uncertain times. We are looking forward to integrating our newly learned technology into our traditional church in order to expand access to our friends for whom attending traditional services is difficult or impossible. We are also looking forward to welcoming everyone back, and continuing to keep Pullman a center of progressive values in our county. Also, be on the lookout for fundraisers— the uncertainty around the world and in the market is affecting everyone's pocketbooks, ours included— so now is the time to make that donation you've been considering!

I am looking forward to the coming summer season at Pullman, whatever it brings! Be safe, stay home if you can, flatten the curve, and hold each other 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 **

May 3	Reverend Lori Staubit
May 10, <i>Mother's Day</i>	Susan Daiss
May 17	Reverend Susan Frawley
May 24	Annual Congregational Meeting
May 29, <i>Friday Evening Service, 7 pm</i>	Reverend Lori Staubit
May 31	No Service

**** NEW DATE ****

The 126th Annual Congregational Meeting, 11 am – 1 pm, May 24th
Please plan to attend via Zoom!

- 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.
- *Due to the pandemic, the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.*
- Your attendance is very important because business cannot be conducted unless there is a quorum of 15 voting members present! *An email will be sent out shortly, please RSVP if you plan to attend. (No email needed if you cannot make it.)*

SPECIAL NOTICE

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

Proposed By-Law Change to *Article IV – Membership*

CURRENT WORDING -- Section 6 – Removal:

The Board of Trustees, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present at a regular meeting, may terminate the membership of a person. A person may be removed of membership for failure to respond to two consecutive attempts, made by the Board of Trustees, to determine membership status. Attempts by the Board of Trustees must be made by first class mail (return receipt), not less than six nor more than twelve months apart. However, membership in another religious organization shall constitute automatic termination of membership in this Church. Also, a member's participation on an active and/or regular basis either in the organization of a Unitarian Universalist Association Fellowship and/or Society, not under this Church's sponsorship, or in any religious sect or religious organization shall constitute automatic termination of membership in this Church. (If we sponsor a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and/or Society, the term of the sponsorship and the terms of membership in our church will be determined by contract and approved by the congregation). (Rev. 2/18/07)

PROPOSED CHANGE -- Section 6 – Removal:

The Board of Trustees, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those present at a regular meeting, may terminate the membership of a person. A person may be removed of membership for failure to respond to two consecutive attempts, made by the Board of Trustees, to determine membership status. Attempts by the Board of Trustees must be made by first class mail (return receipt), not less than six nor more than twelve months apart. **However, membership in another religious organization shall constitute automatic termination of membership in this Church. Also, a member's participation on an active and/or regular basis either in the organization of a Unitarian Universalist Association Fellowship and/or Society, not under this Church's sponsorship, or in any religious sect or religious organization shall constitute automatic termination of membership in this Church. (If we sponsor a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and/or Society, the term of the sponsorship and the terms of membership in our church will be determined by contract and approved by the congregation). (Rev. 2/18/07).**

The section highlighted in red shall be removed from the by-laws. (Rev. 4/26/20)



Pastoral Care Available

Just a reminder, Susan Daiss is available for “telecomforting” and is available at the following phone numbers: 585.383.1636 (H) and 585.317.0129 (C). Thank you Susan!

May 29th, Friday Evening Service

Reverend Lori Staubitz will be leading the May Friday Evening Service with the topic, “Source of Human Good”. The service which starts at 7 pm will be longer than the normal 60-minute service. The topic will continue with the June and July Friday Evening Services (6/19 and 7/10).

Eye on the Board

The board met virtually on 4/28/20.

- With the uncertainty of not knowing when we can return to church, it was decided to hold the Annual Meeting via Zoom. The meeting will be Sunday, May 24th at 11 am. An email RSVP will go out to see if we will have enough members attend for a voting quorum. The main topics for the meeting will be the budget, bylaw changes, and nominating board/committee members.
- Jessica George has arranged for PMUC to have its own Zoom account.
- Our sexton, Don Olsowski, continues to maintain the church including doing some small plaster repairs. Panek, which started the window sill repairs last fall, will return to begin the much needed work again shortly.
- Diana Dudley will be stepping down as Treasurer after the Annual Meeting. We are grateful for all the hard work she has done.
- Donations and offerings are down. Per Alan, the funds in the checking account are also getting low. A motion was made and approved to take \$5000 out of the endowment to replenish the checking account to pay bills. The amount will be included in the budget for the Annual Meeting. Also discussed, were ideas for several small fundraisers.
- The nominating committee needs to finalize its recommendations for the Annual Meeting.
- The pulpit is all set for the month of May. We are hoping to begin potlucks again in the fall and possibly include the “Building Your Own Theology” course.
- Due to the pandemic, the memorial for Dick Hoffman did not take place this spring. We hope to move the service to the fall.
- Chris, Rich, and Sylvia did “check-ins” this past month by making phone calls to some of our members and friends.

Virtual Meditation every Thursday at 7 pm

Bill Vosteen has virtual meditation sessions every Thursday at 7 pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Chris Loss via email (closs1626@gmail.com) for Zoom information.



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.*

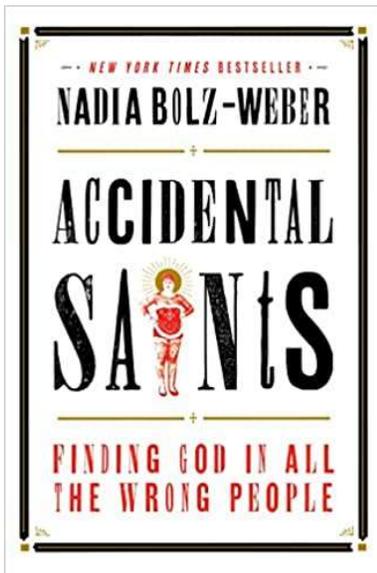
Donations can be submitted through PayPal on the PMUC website. Go to <https://pullmanmemorial.org/> and scroll down to the "Your Kind Donation" section.

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 Community!

NEXT BOOK FOR DISCUSSION



Jessica George will be leading the next book discussion. The date has yet to be determined, but you can start reading now.

In *Accidental Saints*, *New York Times* best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls “a religious but not-so-spiritual life.” Tattooed, angry and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people—a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious Bishop and a gun-toting member of the NRA.

As she lives and worships alongside these “accidental saints,” Nadia is swept into first-hand encounters with grace—a gift that feels to her less like being wrapped in a warm blanket and more like being hit with a blunt instrument. But by this grace, people are transformed in ways they couldn't have been on their own.

Told in Nadia's trademark confessional style, *Accidental Saints* is the stunning next work from one of today's most important religious voices. (Retrieved 4/30/20, Amazon)

*** This book is available in E-book format via the NIOGA system (Hoopla) and in E-book and audio formats in the Monroe County Library Systems.**

Pullman Memorial Universalist Church

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We are a welcoming congregation