

# The Grapevine Newsletter



February 2026

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

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(Retrieved 1/24/26, Creative Commons)

Service Schedule at PMUC – Sunday at 11:00AM (unless otherwise noted)	
<i>Zoom available for most in-person services.</i>	
February 1, <i>Welcome Back!</i>	Susan Daiss, MDiv.
February 8	Rev. Susan Frawley
February 15	Christi Colman
<b>February 20, Friday Evening, 6:30 pm (Potluck at 6 pm)</b>	Movie night
<b>February 22, No Service</b>	<b>No Service on Sunday</b>
March 1	Julie Taylor



## From the Board Chair

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I wanted to take a moment to address the world that we are living in as the new year dawns. As the days begin to get longer, we, as people of faith and conscience, greet the returning sun at a time of great stress and upheaval. It seems that every moment brings us a new concern for ourselves, for our neighbors, our community, and the world. As people of an active faith— a faith that demands action of us, however small— we are called to respond to what we see and live the values that we speak. During unprecedented times this call is louder than ever, yet how to respond feels more difficult than we may have ever imagined.

As we watch the world unfold around us it can feel like ours is a faith of contradictions with unclear instructions. How do we meet a senseless and violent moment in love? When we talk about affirming the worth and dignity of all people, does that also mean the people that would cause us and our communities harm? What does the intersection of loving kindness and defending ourselves and our principles look like? Where in this world can we build beloved community founded on compassion and justice?

This is the beautiful difficulty of Unitarian Universalism— we don't get the luxury of simply sending thoughts and prayers. We hold to a faith that upholds “deeds not creeds”, and that belief and good intentions alone, when divorced from action, do not ultimately lead to change. Personally, I often find this frustrating, and I yearn for a comfortable faith wherein I am called to reading and quiet meditation only in order to do my part during troubled times. But ours is not a faith of warmth and comfort, it is a faith of doing and of discomfiture in the service of creating a better, more loving world. Ultimately, I wouldn't have it any other way, no matter my momentary frustrations.

Ours is also a forgiving faith. A faith that doesn't require perfection or grand gestures. We don't have to perform great acts to act greatly. Each time we affirm, out loud and to others, that what we're seeing is wrong, we act out of our faith. Every time we help our neighbors, regardless of how different they may be from us, we act out of our faith. When we contribute to causes in line with our principles, we act out of faith.

But I know that these moments we're witnessing feel like they call for more. As a congregation, we'll be asked to be involved more fully, to be more active in living our principles, and to do that most UU of actions: show up. As my personal favorite UU said, shortly before the trip that would lead to her murder at the hands of the KKK, “It's everybody's fight now”. Our church email inbox and post office box have been receiving requests for us to show up, both individually and as a congregation. These requests will be passed on to all of you for your consideration. The church will assist those that would like to participate however it can and will continue to highlight opportunities for action through announcements before services, the newsletter, the website, and our Facebook page.

The silver lining of unprecedented times is that the options for action also feel endless. There is always a part to be played for those able and willing to do so. To be the helpers that Mr. Rogers talked about when he told children to “look for the helpers” during dark times. Currently, we have a request for involvement from an immigration rights organization, looking for individuals who would want to provide individual ministry to those being detained in the federal detention facility in Batavia. If you are interested, or have other ideas of how our church can be of additional help to our community, please reach out to Jessica

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From the Board Chair *continued*

Finally, it should be noted that as I write this, we are celebrating having survived the ten darkest weeks of the year. The sun is back and the days will continue to get longer as winter turns to spring, and the frozen earth comes back to life. Proof that life endures and the world continues, even if it's still cold and we're still anticipating a storm.

In love,

*Jessica*

## Coming Events

**Sunday, February 1** – 11:00 am, Susan Daiss, MDiv.

**Friday, February 6** – 7:00 pm, Board of Trustees meeting (Zoom)

**Sunday, February 8** – 11:00 am, Reverend Susan Frawley

**Sunday, February 15** – 11:00 am, Christi Colman

**Friday Evening *Potluck Supper*, February 20** – 6:00 pm, Please bring a dish to pass and join us for good food and fellowship.

**Friday Evening Movie Night, February 20** - 6:30 pm, (*Zoom Not Available*). We will be watching the documentary, *Join or Die*, which centers on America's civic unraveling through the journey of scientist Robert Putnam, whose research on the decline in American community lights a path out of our democracy's present crisis. (*Retrieved 1/19/26, IMDB*)

## \*GIVING\*

Donations can be submitted through PayPal on the PMUC website. Go to <https://www.pullmanuu.org/give> or <https://pullmanmemorial.org/> and scroll down to the “Your Kind Donation” section.

There will also be a collection plate available should you attend services in person.

If you would prefer to mail a check, please make it payable to *Pullman Memorial Universalist Church* and mail to *PMUC, PO Box 87, Albion, NY 14411*

*Thank you for supporting your PMUC Community!*





**\*SAVE THE DATE\***

The 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
11 am to 1 pm

**Zoom Info**

For Sunday Services when available (11 am) through July 5th --

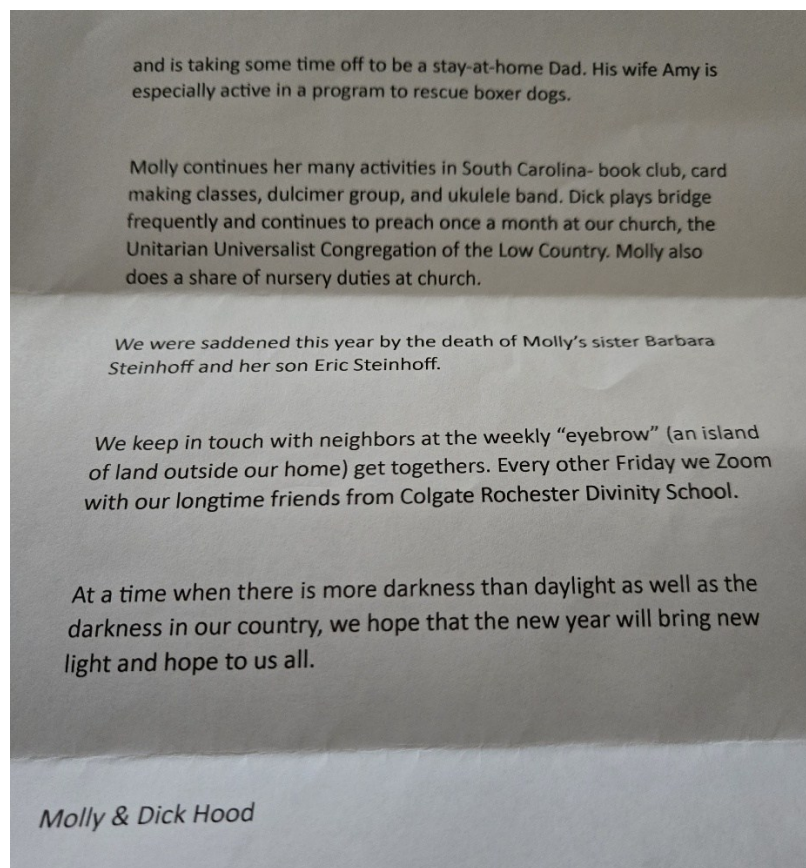
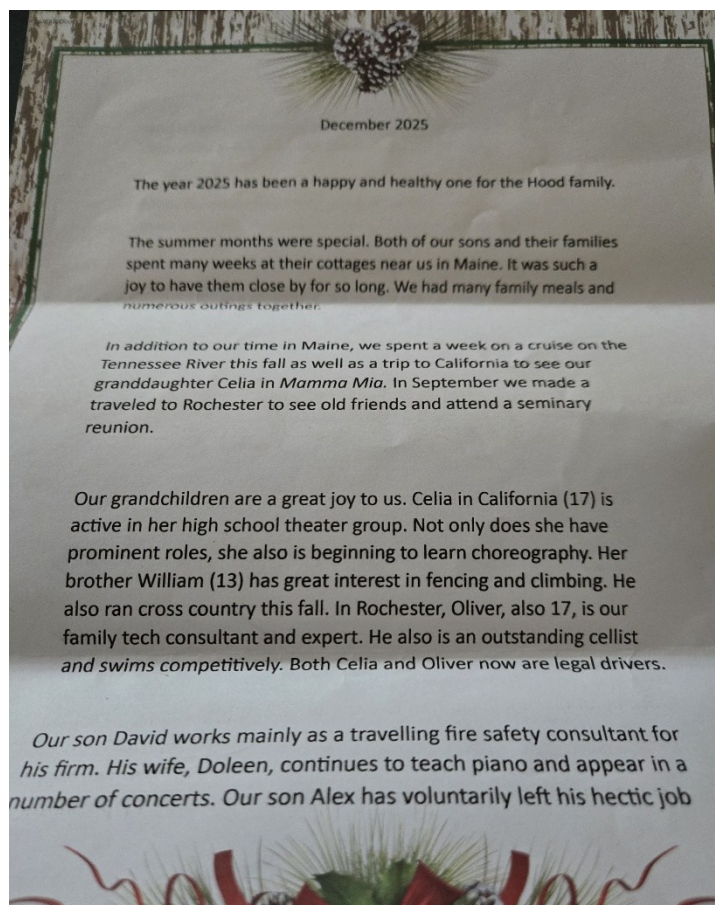
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85491639628?pwd=pR46WUnDxJnmW8uLLHjrybGTL4fuq0.1>

Meeting ID: 854 9163 9628  
Passcode: 775048

**Christi Colman at the pulpit (12/7)**



## Holiday letter from Emeritus Reverend Dick Hood and his wife Molly:



**Pullman Memorial Universalist Church**

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*We are a welcoming congregation*

