

August  
2008

# Cobblestone News

Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland: 607-753-0020. Web site: <http://www.uucortland.uuism.org/>



## Opening Words

Liberal theology is not for the faint of heart. It points us in a general direction without telling us the specific destination. It refuses to make our commitments for us, but holds us accountable to the commitments we make. . . It invites us to live with ambiguity without giving in to facile compromise; to be open to change without accepting change too casually; to take commitment seriously but not blindly; to be engaged in the culture without succumbing to the culture's values."

*The Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor*

## Chris' Corner

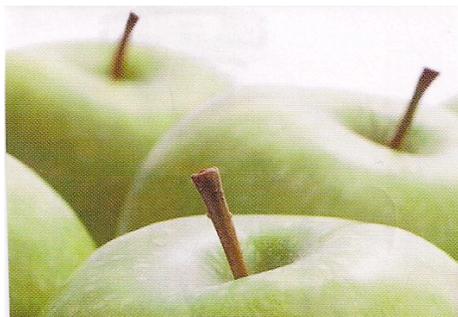
### Welcome Back

This year promises to be an exciting year, one in which we stretch in new directions. For a starter, we are very happy to have quarter-time minister, the Rev. Janet Johnson, providing services twice a month. Our first service will be September 7. She will also offer her guidance to committees and the Board about ways they can be more effective. Jan plans to be at the church as many Sundays as she can to provide a consistent ministerial presence and to get to know the members of our congregation.

There will be two new committees. The first is the Committee of Ministry that will offer feedback to Rev. Johnson as to how well the congregants feel she is serving our church and also, to gain her insights on the workings of the church. The second is the Caring Committee that will keep abreast of member needs and make connections within the congregation with people who can be of assistance.

Finally, to put a more attractive face on the church for the community, there

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## Jan's Column



Hello,

I am Jan Johnson, your new consulting minister. I thought I'd tell you a little about myself by way of an introduction. I received my B.A. degree from Hunter College in New York City and an M.A. degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago. I worked as a school social worker in the Chicago Public Schools for 18 years.

In 1998 I moved to California to attend Starr King School For The Ministry. I received my M. Div. and was ordained in 2002. From 2002 – 2006 I was a minister in association with Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek, CA. During that time I provided clinical services to chemotherapy clinic patients and their families at Kaiser Hospital. I also worked as a spiritual director teaching various contemplative practices

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*Jan's Column, cont'd from p. 1*

to clients and guiding them as they explored ways to find inner peace and harmony and ways to become more fully rooted in the beauty of daily living.

I describe myself as a Theist/Humanist. A Humanist that believes there is a force existing beyond normal reality that can aid and enrich human activity. I also believe that any experience that serves to give both inner peace and a loving regard for others is a religious experience.

I moved to Ithaca, New York, where I have family, after retiring from full time work. I am delighted to be serving the UU Church of Cortland with its rich history and legacy.

Jan



## A Committee Needs YOU

In order for our church to function well, we need well-run, active committees. There are many in our church to choose from. Hopefully, one or more will strike an interest of yours. Descriptions of the committees are posted on a bulletin board on the coffee bar in the social hall. Also, there are signup sheets on a small round table in the social hall for your convenience.

Here are the committee choices and the members so far. Consider adding your name if you haven't already.

**Building and Grounds:** Jim Pelton, Julia Schult, Jean Wittman, Jim Lawson, and Rick Downing.

**Caring Committee:** Elizabeth Fraser

**Children's Religious Education:** Jim Ulrich, Margaret and Rick Downing, Tricia Roiger,

Ellen Ketchum.

**Coffee Hour Coordinators:** Ellen Ketchum, Julie Ganson

**Committee of Ministry:** Kate Coffey, Julia Schult

**Finance and Pledge:** John Ogden

**Fundraising Committee:** Marion Lutz

**Grant writing:** Kim Allen, Julie Ganson

**Membership and Publicity:** John Ogden, Chris Ogden

**Newsletter:** Chris and John Ogden

**Webmaster:** Julia Schult

**Church Directory:** Jim Pelton

**Outdoor Sign Up-daters:** Jim Lawson, Jim Ulrich, Margaret Downing

**Program:** Julie Ganson, Margaret Downing, Julia Schult

**Social Justice:** Heather Beardsley, Jim Lawson, Joyce Morgan

## Helping Others in Our Community

The United Way of Cortland County is sponsoring the Wendy Thibeault Memorial Food and Supplies Drive on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 3 PM. Please drop off any non-perishable items and toilet articles at First Niagara Bank Parking Lot at the ShowMobile, 1 North Main Street or the Homer Methodist Church, 20 Cayuga St. Donations will be distributed among ALL food pantries in Cortland County. Thank you!



### A Life Well Lived

To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of others, to appreciate beauty; to give of one's self, to leave the world a bit better, to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived – that is to have succeeded.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

### Self-acceptance

Have patience with all things but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being.

You're a perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that. Unconditional self-acceptance is the core of a peaceful mind.

-St. Francis de Sales

### 5 Signs You Have Found Balance

1. You remain calm under pressure (mostly).
2. You love what you do.
3. You have your priorities in order.
4. You can laugh.
5. People feed good just being around you.

### REKINDLE YOUR SENSE OF WONDER



Newsletter Editors

Chris and John Ogden

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are plans to have the steeple painted before the end of the year. There are other happenings planned for this year, but what will determine their success are the people who participate in them; that means each one of you. A church is only as strong and vibrant as the people who are in it. I hope you will be one of those persons who will make this a great year!

Chris Ogden,  
Board President



### Program

(Due to the recent appointment of Rev. Janet Johnson as consulting minister, the program is still being developed.)

**Sunday, 8/31 at 10 am.** Painting Party and Clean-up. Please come and help!

**Saturday, 9/6 at 10 am.** Clean-up Day. Please help. If we have 11 people by 11 am, Julia Schult will buy pizza!

**Sunday, 9/7:** 9:30 am – Forum. 10:30 – Service with Rev. Jan Johnson, “Circle Within a Circle: Embracing Community”. *Service will include a Water Ceremony; please bring water from your summer experiences to contribute to the community font.*

**Sunday, 9/14:** 9:30 am – Forum with Julia Schult, “Living with Stress”. 10:30 – Service with Julia Schult, “Coping with Catastrophe - 9/11/2001 and the Kentucky shootings; what we can learn about ourselves”.

**UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF  
CORTLAND**

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

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Cortland, NY 13045-2036



*Congregation active  
since 1813  
Building dedicated  
in 1837*