

Cobblestone News

Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland, 3 S. Church Street, Cortland, NY, 13045

uucortland.uuism.org

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From the Minister

Our worship theme for February is Commitment. When considering what it means to be a people of commitment, it might be useful to consider the following questions:

What are our commitments or what are we committed to in terms of our time, money, and passion?

Do those commitments, at least in part, reflect our spiritual values?

Do they lead us to the change we want to see in the world?

Do they lead us to live out our values?

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On February 2, I will tell the story of the scores of Unitarian Universalist ministers who, in 1965, responded to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's call to clergy of all faiths to come to Selma, Alabama, to participate in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery in the name of freedom and equality. Cortland's own Bob Payson was among those who responded in love, commitment, and action to the injustices suffered by people of color in the South. It was a risky venture which required courage – indeed one UU minister, James Reeb was attacked and later died of his injuries. It took a high level of commitment to go to Selma. Would I have gone? I don't know – I would have needed a strong sense of call to overcome the fear I certainly would have felt at the prospect of going to Selma.

As of this writing, I plan to challenge myself by going to Raleigh, North Carolina on February 8th to join my UU colleagues and thousands of others at the Mass Moral March. This rally will promote a moral agenda in North Carolina where voting rights have been eroded by new laws restricting voting rights. The moral agenda also calls for an end to the disparities inherent in the criminal justice system, encourages economic sustainability to alleviate poverty, and calls for a well-supported public education system.

North Carolina is not my backyard but the issues presented are of concern to me as I am committed to justice, freedom, and equality for all. I heed the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." I'll let you know how it goes.

Standing on the Side of Love

Thirty Days of Love: January 18 through February 16

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Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Standing on the Side of Love campaign is an interfaith public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. In the past several years, Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) has organized and taken public stands on LGBTQ, immigration, and religious freedom issues. In rallies from Phoenix, Arizona to Capitol Hill, SSL campaigners have become known as "the Love people" and are easily recognized by the campaigns bright yellow t-shirts, hats, and banners. You can see examples if you go to <http://standingonthesideoflove.org>.

When I travel to Raleigh, I will be wearing my bright yellow t-shirt and hat. Meanwhile, I hope that we can find ways to be of service in the Cortland community and perhaps stand under our own SSL banner. If you have ideas or know of social justice issues in the community, please contact Joyce Morgan, Marion Lutz, or me, Kathy Tew Rickey. Blessings.

Children's Religious Education by Ashley Vormwold, RE Coordinator

This month we will be exploring topics related to the theme of commitment. The children will be encouraged to think about areas in their lives that are important to them and identify goals they may have for themselves, learning about what it means to be committed to something. We will look at examples of perseverance and see how we can apply perseverance to our goals. We will also spend time focusing on courage and discover ways to develop our courage. As usual, the lessons will be designed to engage children at various levels, ages 5 and up.

UU101 Orientation presented by Kathy Tew Rickey

If you are new to Unitarian Universalism and to our church this is for you! I invite you to join me for a discussion of the origins of our faith tradition and the origins of this congregation which has been in existence 200 years. I'll touch on the basics of our beliefs and spiritual values. There will also be opportunity to share your religious/spiritual journeys and how you came to Unitarian Universalism.

I will present the orientation at two different times so that you might find one or the other convenient: the first will be **Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 12:30 pm**. I will repeat the orientation on **Sunday, February 23, 2014, at 6:00 pm** following the potluck dinner. For your convenience, both sessions will include supervised children's activities.

Newcomers please join us! All are welcome to attend!

The Wayside Pulpit

"Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human." —James Luther Adams

Instances of Love by Lynn Olcott

“And now abideth faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:3

Instances of love are everywhere. So are instances of unhappiness, betrayal and despair. The trick is how we look at the world. Sometimes I need to work very hard and employ x-ray goggles to see love, and other times I see it

right off the bat. I watch news shots of war on television. I see love in the torn expressions of the mourners. When a friend hurts me, I have to see beyond what happened and let my love for my friend fill and heal the gouge.

The other day I was walking behind an old couple. They were arguing angrily. Yet, whenever the terrain became uneven or one seemed to waiver, they reached out to steady one another. *This is love.*

Sharing strength when things are hard is love. The sorrow of losing someone is love. A parent visiting a child in prison is love. A parent calmly teaching a child how to behave in a store is love. Love is everywhere.

God, teach me to see love wherever I look. Amen

A Note From Marion

Hi Folks,

With this cold spell, the wonderful sunshine has been a welcome sight and a gift to warm our souls! We need some coffee hour volunteers in February, March and the rest of our church year. If you need help or want to share coffee hour let me know. See you on Sunday,

Stay warm!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

**CALL THE CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 9AM – 2PM AT
753-5077 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

Program eligibility:

Single taxpayers with no dependents must earn less than \$30,000 per year.

Married couples or single taxpayers with dependents must earn less than \$52,000 per year.

Some returns may be out of the scope of this program.

Appointments available at the following locations on specific dates from January 31-April 15. Please call 753-5077 for more information:

- Access to Independence
- Cincinnatus Rural Services
- YWCA
- Marathon High School
- United Presbyterian Church

Please bring social security cards, last year's tax return, all 2013 tax statements, and picture ID for taxpayers.



Summer Camp for UU Youth and Families

by Dan Gottfried, Executive Director of Camp Unirondack

Registration for UU summer camp experiences for our youth and families is under way. Sessions fill quickly at many of the UU Camp and Conference Centers and now is the time to register to avoid waiting lists.

Many youth from the region attend Unirondack, a UU Camp and Conference Center in the forever-wild Adirondacks in upstate New York. The camp provides an opportunity for children and families to live our UU values in a creative, accepting, and nurturing community outside the doors of our congregation. For more information about Unirondack, and to register for summer camp or weekend programs, visit their website at <http://www.unirondack.org>.

Other Camp and Conference Centers in the region include Rowe, Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Murray Grove. In addition, for folks looking for experiences further from home, there is DeBenneville Pines in California, U-Bar-U in Texas, Unistar in Minnesota, and The Mountain in North Carolina.

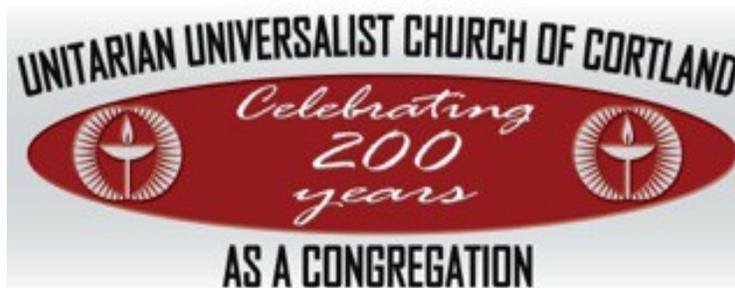
Many of the centers have year-round programs. All provide an opportunity for personal growth, fellowship and community.



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Cortland**

**3 S. Church St
Cortland, NY 13045**

607-753-0020



Upcoming Programming

Join us for Social Hour downstairs after all 10:30am services.

Sunday, Feb. 2nd - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

Sunday, Feb. 9th - 10:30am service with Paul Griffen.

- 12:30pm UU101 Orientation.

Sunday, Feb. 16th - 10:30am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

Sunday, Feb. 23rd - 3-4pm meditation with Joe Pullman followed by Family Night Supper at 4:30. Bring a dish to pass and your table service.

- 6pm UU101 Orientation.



LOST!!!

Please help!

iPhone 5 with many precious photos on it.

Last seen during Social Hour on January 12th.

Please call Julie Ganson at 756-2919 with any information.
