

Cobblestone News

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

uucortland.uuism.org

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From the Minister

A Reflection on the Passages of Life

With my father's illness and death, the last six months have been eventful. Yet as I sit here on this breezy almost-summer day, it all seems to have gone by at a fast-forward pace, leaving so much in the way of life passages and their attendant emotions still to be processed. That is why I look forward to a few months at a slower pace to work my gardens and let Life sink in.

Perhaps it's this hurry-up, multitasking world of ours which is the cause of spiritual angst. Spiritual healing requires its own time yet we're often compelled to "get on with our lives", such as resuming responsibilities at home or work, returning to roles such as parent or employee, and generally keeping pace with a Chrono-driven life – the life of time and externalities of which the soul knows little.

The soul knows time only in terms of passages: birth, coming of age, living, loving, dying, death. Birth brings in a new light; death creates a void; coming of age brings pain and struggle; loving brings joy and sorrow; and our living forms the font of who we are at our depths. Lived experience is the measure of our souls and if we don't take the time to grieve, to welcome new life, to grow emotionally, to learn love and pain – if we don't take the time to let Life sink in, we remain incomplete at our depths and our emotional and spiritual life remains dis-eased.

My hope is that we can all find a bit of Kairos time for ourselves – time out of time, that is, to let ourselves heal. I hope we can find a sacred space in which to let ourselves be washed over by the pain as well as the joy of life and radically accept all experiences, whether good or bad, as formational to the soul, to the font of who we are, truly and deeply.

Trust the process; rather than being scarred, the whole of you will be at peace, at ease when, like all things, this too shall pass.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev Kathy

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As Unitarian Universalists

we promote and affirm:

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

4th Principle: A free and reasonable search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large;

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Children's Religious Education by Ashley Vormwald, RE Coordinator

The month of May brought the children's religious education class to the 6th UU principle. The children's version of this is "we believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world." Our discussions and activities explored what a peaceful, fair, and free world might look like and how it could be achieved. We looked at actions that we can take to contribute to peacefulness and fairness within our everyday lives, in the greater community, and the world at large. Responding to conflict in peaceful ways, standing up for what is right, and being open and accepting of differences are some of the ideas we explored.



A Note From Joyce by Joyce Morgan, Board President

Hello All

This is the last newsletter for the church year and June will mark the end of my first year as President. I have enjoyed writing to the congregation each month. I have tried to let you know what we are doing on the board and a little about my social justice endeavors. Also, about my observations on the seasons. We had a long cold winter, but summer will be here before we know it – time for barbeques and swimming with the kids.

I want to tell you about some church business. At the end of March, I attended District Assembly. It was a conference in Niagara Falls for the St. Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville Districts. I heard some inspiring speakers. I joined some Ministers and church leaders at lunch who were interested in the concept of partnering. I also attended a workshop on this subject. I learned a little about the different models. We are a small church and would partner with one larger. Some ideas from the workshop were sharing sermons and RE curriculum, engaging in joint social events or joint social action activities.

As you probably recall, we talked about the idea of partnering with another church at our congregational meeting in March. With the grant we received for audio visual equipment it seems a very real possibility. Rev. Kathy, Marion Lutz, and I will be attending a mini conference on partnering along with members of other churches in our district in June. We will tell you what we learned at our annual meeting on Sunday, June 21 after the service. I hope all can attend.

Until Sunday, Joyce.

The Wayside Pulpit

**What lies behind you and what lies before you
are tiny matters compared to what lies within you.**

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

dream deep
contemplate
on frigid water
of an ancient well

on the surface lie
sun and shadow
until ripples form
with a single drop

raindrops fall
like words that sting
tears shatter
the stillness

ripples turn to pieces
a tympani splatters
an intense storm
beats downward

rhythms swell
and wane
calm returns
hope and pain fade

by Joyce Morgan

**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Cortland**

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Upcoming Programming

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

Sun, June 14 10:30am: Worship service with the Berendts.

Sun, June 21 10:30am: Worship service with Rev. Kathy.
-Annual Meeting following service.

Sun, June 28 10:30am: Worship Service with Rev. Kathy.
- Annual Picnic at Little York Park following service.

