

# Cobblestone News

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

uucortland.uuism.org

May 2014  
Volume 5, Issue 6

## Inside this issue:

From the Min. Con.	2
Children's RE	2
The Wayside Pulpit	2
Care Committee	3
Reminders	3
Stewardship Events	3
Programming	4

## From the Minister

### Connection and Stewardship

When I was an Intern Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, I discovered a copy of a hand-written letter penned by Susan B. Anthony in May of 1892. The letter expressed Anthony's heartfelt connection to her home congregation of some forty years, First Unitarian Church of Rochester. Miss Anthony wrote under the letterhead of the National-American Woman Suffrage Association of which she was President in 1892. History tells of Anthony's tireless work toward gaining women's right to vote – intense work that required extensive travel. In her letter, Anthony reflected on her busyness and what it meant for her to have a place of spiritual renewal in Rochester. She wrote,

*Whenever it was my good fortune to have a Sunday at home during the eighteen years that Newton M. Mann was with us – and what feasts of soul those hours were to my over hurried life – And now for the past three years I owe a debt of gratitude to our present loving minister William C. Gannett – who so perpetually stirs us up to vigorous thought and self-requirement.*

Anthony also expressed appreciation for her “dear, noble true” friends whom she loved to meet every Sunday she was at home. With an eloquent economy of words, Anthony conveyed to her fellow congregants what they and the church meant to her, the strong connection she felt to the community where the words of ministers and deeds of others inspired her in her own life's work. Anthony closed her letter with a bit of a prophetic turn:

*And I hope my coming to you all has been of some little good to you as well as to me....*

Ah yes, Miss Anthony...thanks to you and many others like you through all these years, we are still finding connection and “feasts of soul” when we come to our home congregations on a Sunday morning. When we come to our church-home, we find the same kind of connections that Susan B. Anthony appreciated in her time.

On Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, this year's Stewardship Campaign was announced. During the service, 3x5 cards were handed out for you to have the opportunity to tell us three reasons why you come to church or three things you love about the UU Church of Cortland. Please tell us about the connection you experience when you come to church on a Sunday morning. (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)

On Wednesday, May 7th, at 7:00 p.m. members and friends are invited to Marion Lutz's house for dessert and refreshments. I will be there, too, facilitating a conversation about our shared hopes and dreams for our small but mighty church and what we might be able to achieve by our commitment to those dreams.

Sunday, May 18 is Commitment Sunday which means after the service there will be a catered lunch for all in attendance. This is our opportunity to once again talk about our hopes and dreams for our UU Church of Cortland, and to make our pledges for the 2014-15 church year.

I am so happy to be on this journey with you awesome folks! The possibilities for next year and beyond are exciting to contemplate. Let us break bread together and talk about it...

In faith and love,

Kathy

## Children's Religious Education by Ashley Vormwold, RE Coordinator

This month, the children's religious education class will cover the topic of connection. We will be discussing and reading stories about different kinds of connection, recognizing opportunities for connection, and the benefits of connections. We will also participate in games and activities related to connecting with one another.

To deepen and extend exploration of this subject, consider answering the following questions with your child at home.

1. Who are the people you feel most connected to and why?
2. Are there some things you think all people have in common? If so, what?
3. Do you have friends that you didn't initially feel a connection with? If so, under what circumstances did that change?

The importance of open-mindedness and authenticity in making connections with other people, especially unexpected connections, will be explored. To practice what we are learning about this month, the children will be encouraged to try to connect with someone new during the weeks between our classes. Maybe you could try this too and discuss your experiences with your child!

*The Wayside Pulpit*

**Be careful how you live your life  
for it is the only Gospel others will read.**

—Helder Camara

## Our Care Committee Is Here For You!

If you are a member or friend in need of emotional or spiritual support, or you know of a fellow member or friend in need of support, please contact one of us below:

Kathy Tew Rickey, Minister, 585-789-8494, [k2rickey@gmail.com](mailto:k2rickey@gmail.com)

Kim Allen, [Kallen30@verizon.net](mailto:Kallen30@verizon.net)

Marion Lutz, [marionlutz@mac.com](mailto:marionlutz@mac.com)

**Please also contact us if you or another member of our church community is seriously ill or hospitalized. Please protect your privacy and the privacy of others by contacting Kathy, Kim, or Marion directly; they will maintain your confidentiality.**

### Reminders by Bess Koval

~Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> we will have Rev. Aaron Payson for Sunday service and memorial with plaques for deceased church members. Check with Bernard's Custom Logo and Trophy store at 107 Main St, Cortland, if you plan to have one made. The deadline is May 2.

~ Church Picnic at Little York on Sunday, June 22. More details are on the bulletin board at church.

~Please consider submitting your bio as soon as possible, if you haven't already.

~We are still looking for suggestions for sayings to be put on a church front steps riser.

### *The Future is Now – Yours, Mine, and Ours*

#### Stewardship Events

Sunday, May 4: Turn in your three-things-I-love-about-church cards

Wednesday, May 7: Dessert at Marion Lutz's house – all are invited

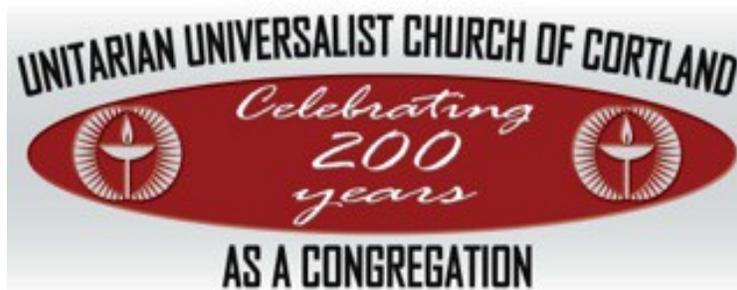
Sunday, May 18: Commitment Sunday – bring your appetite,  
your dreams, and your heart

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**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Cortland**

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

**607-753-0020**



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## Upcoming Programming

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

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30am lay led service with Matt Gretton.

-Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

-12:00pm Sterwarship Campaign Luncheon.

**Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** -10:30 am service with Rev. Aaron Payson.

Rev. Payson is the son of the late Rev. Robert Payson who was the minister at our church during the 1960's. (He was born here in Cortland during his father's call to our church.) As part of our 200 year celebration, he will also be dedicating the new plaques given by families of deceased members.

