

Cobblestone News

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

uucortland.uuism.org

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From the Minister

Greetings All!

The shadows are longer, the days shorter. Leaves of red and orange are falling already. Though it heralds the muteness of winter to come, I love fall most for its crisp air and vibrant colors. It's almost as though the dying leaves are having the last word with a showy swan song, making sure we'll miss their green canopies all the more.

You may already know this but I grew up in Clearwater, Florida, and then lived in the southwest in my young adulthood. I was 40 when I experienced my first northern winter when I moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan. That year we had 150 inches of snow and the most sun I saw that winter was through a hazy mist of clouds and lake-affect snow. A blizzard in late March of that year weighed heavily on my spirit like a nuclear winter might. At that point, I would have given just about anything to feel warm sunshine on my face.

Then it hit me: after all my early years in Florida, complaining about the annual increase in traffic, the longer lines in stores and waits in restaurants from January to March, I was suddenly wearing the shoes of the so-called "snow-bird." I finally understood, concretely, why people winter in Florida. For me to live it in such a completely reversed way made for great insight and a sudden compassion for the people whom I blamed, narrow-mindedly, for my troubles (trivial as they were).

This month, we will be exploring the Second UU Principle of Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations. I feel it's not enough to simply say, yes, I affirm and promote the second principle. That's the cognitive piece of it. The other just-as-important piece is to make our second principle come alive by putting it in action. This may require being in another's shoes in some way. At least we are called to educate ourselves on the lives of those with whom we do not share similar life experiences or whom we do not see very often in our daily lives. That's why I am excited about our upcoming programming and the prospect of hearing personally from those who are in need of our compassion yet are invisible to most of us.

I invite you to a month of actively exploring what it is to affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. May it be so.

Peace and Blessings,
Kathy

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 Vormwold, RE Coordinator

Our religious education class is back in full swing! This month we will begin learning about the first Unitarian Universalist principle, affirming and promoting “the inherent worth and dignity of every person.” The language used in the children’s version of the principle is “we believe each and every person is important.” We will be reading stories highlighting the difference that one person can make in the lives of others. The characters in these stories are rather ordinary (they don’t have any super strengths or extraordinary abilities), but they demonstrate qualities such as speaking up, being themselves, reaching out to others, and being open to new friendships.

The children will be encouraged to pay attention to how they treat others and whether or not they are treating all other people as if they are important. During our classes, they will be asked to give examples of how they have practiced this principle during our week apart. From now until June, for every example the children share about how they have practiced one of our seven principles, they will be able to put a (paper) flame on our (paper) chalice. We will see how big our collective flame can get by the end of June from all the ways the children practice the principles in their daily lives.



A Note From Joyce by Joyce Morgan, BOD president

Hello All

It is October already. I went for a walk today. The blue sky, marbled with clouds, drew my eyes upward. The leaves in the trees are beginning to turn orange and vermillion. Autumn is here. Summer’s flowers are fading, but with the new season, there is much to look forward to.

At the Leadership Retreat in September, Rev. Kathy provided activities and much helpful information. Each of us that attended told about the leaders that have inspired us. What would they do if they were in our place? Rev. Kathy helped us see how we all have strengths we can contribute in accomplishing goals. Members of the board can help each other with their particular strengths and aptitudes. We are all dedicated to the church and the congregation. We also looked at the calendar. Most of the Sunday services are scheduled to the end of the year. The services and Children’s RE will focus on our seven principles. We will also have social justice themes. Another thing important to our congregation is music during our services. And I know you all will agree that Kyle’s piano music is beautiful.

The retreat was very productive. Especially for me because I am the Board’s new President. I still have much to learn, but with Rev. Kathy’s guidance and the Board of Trustees to help me, I am optimistic that this will be a very good year. Until Sunday, Joyce.



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 and families 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/>.

In addition to Unirondack, other Camp and Conference Centers in the region include Rowe, Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Murray Grove. And if you are looking for experiences further from home, there is Unicamp in Canada, DeBennville 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.

The Wayside Pulpit

There is a story of hope, and we are characters in the story.

—Robert R. Walsh

ORGAN CONCERT

Featuring the historic
Morey and Barnes
Organ

This Morey and Barnes organ is one of only two such historic organs remaining, and recognized by the American Organ Historical Society for its superb sound and nearly original condition.



Armand Discenna
Stephen Wilson
Paulette Fry
Lynn Koch

Advance ticket sale at
www.cortlandarts.com
or at The Picture House
Adults \$15; \$25 for two;
Students free. At the
door: \$20 per ticket.

*Includes concert
and dessert.*

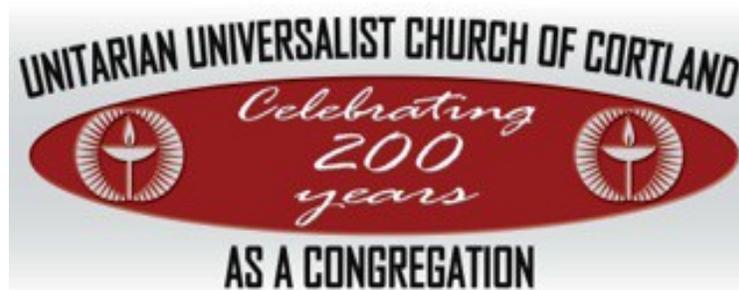
Saturday, October 25, 2014, 7PM
Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland
AKA "Old Cobblestone Church"
Celebrate the Congregation's 200th Year Anniversary!

*Proceeds to sponsors: Cultural Council of Cortland County
and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cortland.*

**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, October 12th - 10:30 am service led by Autumn Pfister.

"Humanity Fatigue"

Sunday, October 19th - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

"Harvesting Justice"

Sunday, October 26th - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

"What's for Dinner?"



There will be a congregational meeting directly after the morning service on Sunday, November 16th. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
