

Cobblestone News

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

uucortland.uuism.org

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From the Minister

I hope your summer has been fun-filled and playful. I write from the shore of Lake Michigan where a dear friend of many years is hosting me. We played golf today and lollygagged on the beach – ahhh – trying to soak in the last days of the season.

But even as I write, I feel excited about our coming church year. I look forward to our first service together on September 7 – remember to bring your water or your story of play – and I look forward to delving into the work of the church which promises to be exciting and fruitful. Marion Lutz, Julie Ganson, and I have already been working on great ideas for worship, adult education, and social justice programming. This year, we're following our Religious Education Coordinator, Ashley Vormwald's lead in studying our Seven Principles. The principles will constitute our monthly worship themes. And because the Principles are part of our mission statement, I propose that we engage a congregational covenant to uphold, affirm, and try our best to live out our mission as both congregants and congregation.

The new members of the Board of Trustees have met over the summer and are already hard at work and capably led by our president, Joyce Morgan. On Saturday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Board of Trustees will engage a leadership retreat at the Beard Building to plan and prioritize the goals we set for the year in June. ALL MEMBERS of the congregation are invited to participate. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to me: k2rickey@gmail.com.

Finally, I look forward to being in the pulpit three Sundays per month and spending a little more time with you all in church and in Cortland.

See you on the 7th!

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

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. I'm looking forward to being back at church and engaging in religious exploration with the children once again.

This year, the theme of the religion education classes will be "Exploring Our Faith: The Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles." In addition to using stories and games to explore the unifying beliefs of Unitarian Universalists, we will frequently be using the arts as a way to facilitate each child's own spiritual understanding of the themes that are presented to them. There will also be an emphasis on putting our faith into action by practicing the principles in our daily lives.

We will begin our religious education classes on the second Sunday service in September (September 14th), as our first service back will be the water communion, which will include the children.

For more information, please see the Religious Education and Childcare brochure, which will be available at our Sunday services in September. This brochure will contain a form to be filled out for each child who will be participating in religious education or childcare. (continued on page 3)



A Note From Joyce by Joyce Morgan, BOD president

Hello – This is my first letter to the congregation as President of the Board. I am honored and thankful that you have confidence in me. Please know that I will do my very best.

I hope that everyone had a good summer. It is September and time to start another church year. I am looking forward to Kathy's meaningful and inspiring sermons. We will have some interesting guest speakers this year also.

I'd like you to know that on the board one of our priorities is keeping our beautiful church in shape. We are planning to start the process on much needed repairs to the bell tower very soon. I would also like to tell everyone in our church family that I want to be there for all of you any way I can. Please don't hesitate to email me anytime. My email address is: joyce_morgan123@yahoo.com.

Until Sunday. Joyce.

(Children's RE continued from page 2)

Religious Education and Childcare: What We Offer

Who?

We offer religious education for school-age children and childcare for younger children.

When?

All children start out in the sanctuary with the adults for about the first 20 minutes of the service. When the service leader announces the Story for All Ages, the children are invited to come up front and sit with the story teller. After the story, the congregation sings "Go Now in Peace" as the children go downstairs with the religious education teacher and childcare provider. Parents are welcome to join their children at anytime and children are also welcome to stay for the service.

Religious education classes take place on all Sundays, EXCEPT the fourth Sunday of the month when the children are encouraged to participate in the service, which will have an intergenerational focus. There will be childcare available downstairs for younger children, or for other children who may need it.

What?

Downstairs, the toddlers and preschool-age children will be invited to play in our play space with a childcare provider. The school-age children will participate in a lesson with the religious education teacher. The lessons explore a variety of spiritual themes that complement the Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

How?

Please complete the 2014-2015 Children's Religious Education and Childcare Enrollment Form and submit it to the religious education coordinator. This form is attached to the Religious Education and Childcare brochure, which will be available at our Sunday services in September.

A parent or guardian must always be present in the church when their children are attending religious education class or participating in childcare. Children must be signed out of religious education/childcare by an adult they came with, immediately following the worship service.

Childcare Volunteers Sought

We are currently seeking regular volunteers to supervise young children in our play area and, as needed, to assist children in the religious education class. We would welcome volunteers interested in serving for the entire church year or as part of a rotation of several volunteers.

Please contact Ashley Vormwald (acompag1@hotmail.com) if you are interested in helping or know someone who may be interested. Thank you!

The Wayside Pulpit

All serious daring starts from within.

—Eudora Welty

Social Justice and Adult RE by Julia Ganson

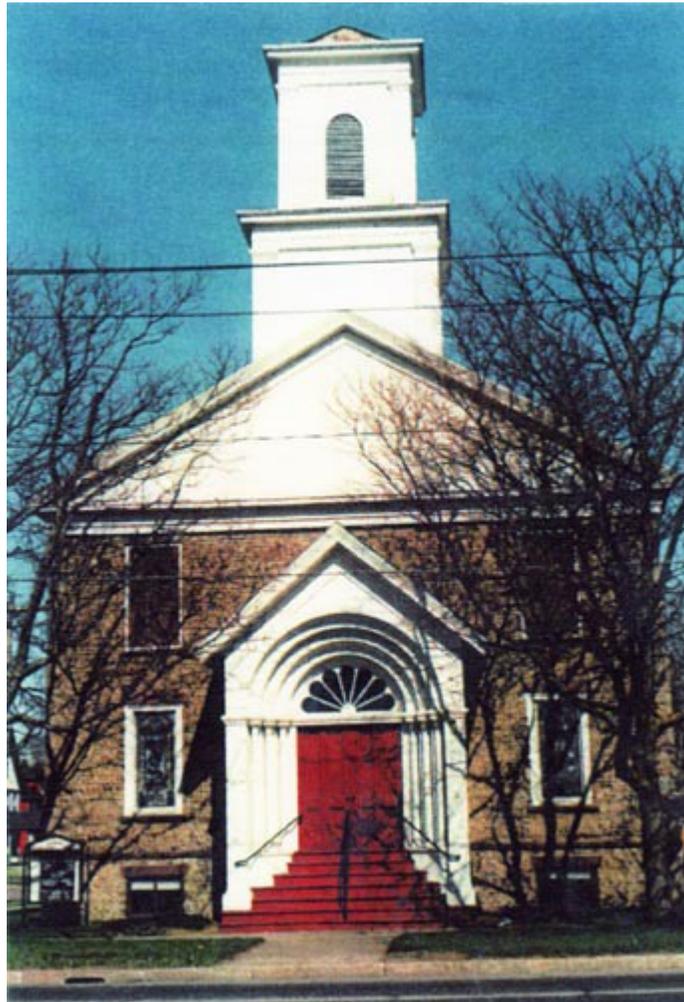
Hello Everyone! After some years of heading the Programming Committee and working on Sunday services, I am now working with Kathy and Marion to focus specifically on Adult Religious Education and Social Justice events and activities for the 2014-15 church year.

We would like to align this facet of our programs with the monthly Sunday service themes. Each month Kathy will highlight one of our seven UU principles, and we will identify ways that our congregation can further explore and celebrate these through adult RE and either existing community social justice projects or activities we develop ourselves.

For adult RE, we are going to concentrate on forming groups of folks interested in discussing a common reading or film series for a limited number of meetings, probably 4-6 in number. We have started exploring some options for social justice community work coming up this fall, including the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 26 and a Lime Hollow Trail Maintenance afternoon on Sunday, September 28th.

Especially good are opportunities that allow for intergenerational participation. If you have other ideas or requests for us, please email me at jgganson@syr.edu or call me at 756-2919.

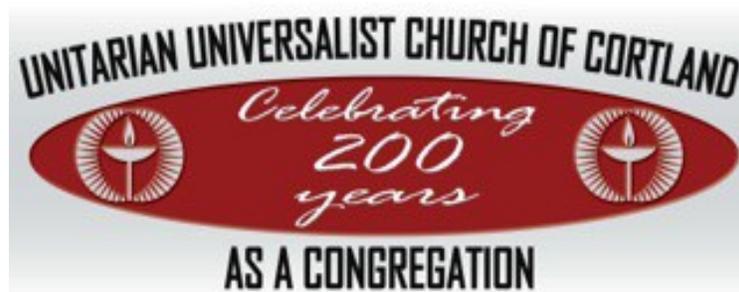
Julia Ganson



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Cortland**

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Upcoming Programming

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

Sunday, Sept. 7th - 10:30 am service with Kathey Tew Rickey.

In-gathering and Water Ceremony

Sunday, Sept. 14th - 10:30 am service with Pulpit Guest Paul Griffon.

Sunday, Sept. 21st - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

"Living Out the Seven Principles"

Sunday, Sept. 28th - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

"Harvesting Justice"

