Morning Worship 11:00 am

“LIVING INTO LIFE’S ANSWERS – QUESTION BOX SERMON”
Rev. Bruce Southworth

First of all… have patience. I beg you to be patient to all the unsolved problems of your heart and to care for the questions themselves. Do not search for answers to be given; if given, they would be of no use, for you could not live them (another’s answers). For the present, live in the questions, and little by little and almost unconsciously you will enter the answers and live them too. – Rainer Maria Rilke

I always enjoy the challenge and opportunity to weave together and respond to the questions I have received from so many of you. These spiritual, ethical, existential, historical and theological queries are part of the essential dialogue of the shared journey of our spirited community. As always, I won’t be able to address all of them, and if I don’t get to yours and you want to follow up, please be in touch.

See you at Community!

Bruce

CONGREGATIONAL QUARTERLY MEETING June 2 – 1 pm – Assembly Hall

Morning Worship 11:00 am

“LET LOVE GUIDE US”

Religious Education Sunday is a special day. This year we explore the idea of using love as a guiding force to strengthen our faith in action. RE/FM Singers will share hymns and songs with the guidance of our Music Director, Jerry Brown. There will be a solo and a duet by Shawn Jones and Carla Ogden, two of our Religious Education teachers. Our church family will see firsthand how RE/FM impacts the lives of all our children. Join us in celebration of our young people who are learning to live and love our values.

This intergenerational service will be followed by our festive Potluck Party.


Sunday School
Our children begin in the Assembly Hall at 11 a.m.

Fellowship Hour – Assembly Hall – 12:15 p.m.
Please join us after worship.

The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist

Web: Visit our website at www.ccny.org – Visit in person at 40 East 35th Street
Radio: Our services are broadcast weekly over WWRL (1600 AM) every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
TV: in Manhattan on MNN Channel 57 every Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m.
Contact: Call us at (212)-683-4988 or email us at info@ccny.org
Our Mission: TO GROW AS A CARING, JUSTICE-MAKING, ANTI-RACIST, DIVERSE, SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY
**LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

We are pleased to have Kim and Reggie Harris lead our annual Juneteenth celebration. For over two decades, Kim and Reggie have been affiliates of the Kennedy Center Partners in Education program, offering multimedia performances for students and community, professionally-developed curriculum support materials, and in-depth workshops for educators at all grade levels.

Join us in *Songs of Hope and Freedom*, as we commemorate African American freedom, with people of all races, nationalities and religions.

We will come together to acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. It will be a wonderful evening filled with inspiring music, poetry and storytelling.

Join us on June 14th from 6:00-9:00 pm with a dish to share at our Community Potluck and Juneteenth Celebration. All are welcome.

Paz, Esther

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**THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER—June 2**

- **Pulpit Flowers**—In memory of the parents of Don Powell and Ed Dejowski
- **Greeters/Ushers**—Joseph Wagner, Head Usher
  Martha Wagner, Ellen Mandelbaum

**Membership Book**—Ellen Mandelbaum
**Membership Table**—Virginia Brody
**Hospitality**—Helene Summa, Wade Hampton
**Bookstall**—Barb Conkin

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**THOSE WHO ALSO MINISTER—June 9**

- **Pulpit Flowers**—Flowers given in celebration by the Religious Education/Family Ministries
- **Greeters/Ushers**—George Martin, Head Usher
  Laura Breach, Jon Breach

**Membership Book**—Nancy Jennings
**Membership Table**—Louise Brown
**Hospitality**—Russell Branca
**Bookstall**—Andy Mayberry

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY—June 2**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
9:45 am UN Global Affairs
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School
12:15 pm Fellowship Hour
1:00 pm Congregational Quarterly Meeting

**WEDNESDAY—June 5**
6:00 pm Personnel Committee

**THURSDAY—June 6**
6:00 pm Buildings & Grounds

**FRIDAY—June 7**
6:30 pm Antiracism Team

**SUNDAY—June 9**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Membership Cmte.
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School
12:15 pm RE Picnic

**WEDNESDAY—June 12**
6:00 pm Church Council Potluck
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

**SUNDAY—June 16**
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School
12:15 pm Fellowship Hour
1:00 pm Action For Justice Forum
MINISTER’S CORNER – The Joy and Power of Generosity

The joy of being generous is powerful. It makes us feel good. It serves purposes beyond ourselves. It allows us to give something back. It is one good way to help grow one’s soul. Generous people inspire others and help change the world!

Our annual pledge drive is underway, and abiding thanks to all who have made your pledge commitment for our 2013-14 fiscal year, either by email or postal mail. Also, please thank George Duckett and Theresa Bowman for their leadership again this year.

Often in our thinking about giving, many people think of two figures: an easier, lower one, and then a second number that mentally, psychologically, and spiritually is a stretch (although often not much of a financial stretch). Please do think about what this special spiritual home means in your life and what a difference we make in the world together. Then, if you can, stretch, perhaps even stretch a lot. It’s good exercise!!

Reaching the greater generosity of which we are so abundantly capable as a congregation is a challenge for us. In doing so, we shall more faithfully advance our audacious vision to grow with diversity and to build the Beloved Community.

Please consider Community’s importance in your life. Study the Fair Share pledge guidelines. Stretch as best you can! Make your pledge today, giving until it feels good!

With thanks, Bruce

We are a Church of the Free Spirit
Above the steps as we enter our front entrance

Our Aim is to make a free and fearless church; seeking truth wherever it may be found, we are eager for an interpretation of religion in harmony with modern knowledge that satisfies spiritual cravings without doing injustice to intellectual common sense.

We hold that religion is one of the primal, persistent native instincts of the human mind, and that one of the best definitions of religion is "to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God."

We hold that the best unifying force in church life is common service instead of common belief; that we may not believe alike, but can love alike; that a church is not merely a place to get something for oneself, but a place to do something for others.

We believe in positive religious convictions, but insist that no church or person has the right or ability to frame a statement of belief fitted to other minds; that the custom of making a creed the gateway to fellowship is an injustice to thinking minds and at variance with growing intellectual freedom.

We hold that everything has its religious and ethical side; that the distinction between sacred and secular is misleading and untrue; that the whole world is sacred.

We believe in the indestructibility of moral and spiritual forces and seek to ally ourselves with them.
"WHAT DOES SPIRITUAL GROWTH MEAN, IF ANYTHING?"

SERMON BRIEF – SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2013

“The winds of God’s grace/Life’s grace are always blowing, and we have to raise our sails.” Ramakrishna

... The Spiritual Life? Pursue, attend to, embrace, and honor all actions that start with the letter C. For example, Centering, Curiosity, Caring, Community, Cosmos, Creativity, Context. (That is, “be here now”; know where you are and why.)

You know: things like Compassion, Conviviality, Caresses, Compunction, Collegiality and Connection. And let’s not forget Character and Choice.... And Consciousness and Conscience – both mindfulness and the moral center.

Let’s also add Kindness, Laughter and Love (because there are some things that help us to grow our souls that do not begin with the letter C). And gratitude.

All things that begin with the letter C, except the ones that you already know damage your soul: things like Cruelty, Cockiness, Callousness, and Consumerism... probably a few others, but you know in your heart the ones that don’t work....

Balancing... Letting go of expectations or attachments that harm... Welcoming the calm soul of all things... Embracing the gift of Life... Choosing to center... Spiritual Growth adds Clarity. Another “C” word!

The clarity, which Father Daniel Berrigan reported for himself some years ago, is a model.

“I work in a cancer hospital in New York. I go periodically to the Pentagon, break the law, and am shunted into court and into jail. I honor Paul’s admonition: ‘Be not conformed to this world.’ I like to translate the words in my own way. ‘Try to be as marginal as possible to madness.’”

... When I think of those who show Spirit, live with Spirit, who are centered, even radiant, the fruits of the spirit abound: “... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-3)

Perhaps, most of all a profound goodness....

Rev. Bruce Southworth

http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/1791/42813WHATDOESSPIRITUALGROWTHMEAN.pdf