Our Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Spirituality and the Arts

Summer Worship Services

(Sundays at 10 AM)

July 2—MetaFourth Be with You—Rev. Barnaby leads reflections in song, poetry, images, and prayer on the many symbols we use to express our feelings about our nation.

July 9—Cartooning with a Conscience—Andy Kolovos, Director of Archives and Research, Vermont Folklife Center looks at how telling stories through cartoons serves the needs of Vermont’s immigrant farmworkers.

July 16—Finding a Balance—Artist Patti Sgrecci shares the ups and downs of a life creating art.

July 23—The Spirituality of Dance— with Christal Brown, choreographer, educator, performer, writer, and activist.

July 30—Guinean Culture and Spirituality—West African dancer, drummer, and musician, Seny Daffe shares his personal journey in Islam.

August 6—Space Between: Expressing the Inexpressible—Pianists Tim Guiles and Kate Gridley focus on spirituality, artistic expression, and collaboration, with four hands and two pianos.

August 13—A Lie is the Truth Set in Fear; Music is the Truth Experienced Directly—with Steven Fidler.

August 20—Jazz Service—featuring the music of Duke Ellington, with Chuck Miller (piano), Bear Irwin (trombone), Glendon Ingalls (acoustic bass and trumpet), Nick Aloi (percussion) and special guests Chris Prickitt (banjo) and Bob McKenzie (harmonica).

August 27—Folk Musicians and Theater Makers, the Bengsons—lead worship through story and song.

Rev. Barnaby will lead the summer version of our quarterly CommUUnion downstairs following the Jazz Worship Service. This simple ritual merges Christian and Earth-centered practices to celebrate wisdom inherited from prophets known and unknown about our place in the interconnected web of existence. All are welcome.
A Prayer for Summer

Before I worship at the altar of each long evening,
May I give the too early sunrise its due,
May I not blame the midday for its heat and mugginess,
May I admire the thunderstorm yet fear for those with no shelter.

Before I turn to the work that remains at hand, or arrives,
May I read another poem, or one more chapter of a book,
May I write a length to a distant friend, and chat unrushed with those nearby,
May I humor the dog, scratch the cat, and praise their strict limits on scrutability.

Before I reach my next destination,
May I treat myself to some narrower side roads,
May I linger in the shade of the trees that make canopy their calling,
May I discover places where music pools deep enough for diving.

Before I do battle with the weeds in the garden,
May I pause to open my heart to all that may be growing,
May I prepare my mind to wander beyond horizons,
May I pay my respects to sorrow and pain.

Before summer turns to autumn,
May I reach a seashore, encounter a profound silence, be puzzled;
May I learn more about the ways of forgiveness,
And of Radical Love.

Words from Rev. Barnaby:

Openings for Deeper Connection

“The highest priority is that people of all ages are opened to deeper connection with themselves, others, and the spirit of life.”
(from CVUUS Purpose Statement)

The following CVUUS groups have openings.

Hospitality, two openings
- help solicit food, set things out, and clean up for coffee-hour - contact Neil Chippendale (nchippen-dale@verizon.net) or just show up! fifteen minutes before and after services (not all, can take turns)

Rhubarb Festival 2018, five openings
- held on the Saturday following Memorial Day, the festival raises funds for a local non-profit and CVUUS while celebrating spring and providing fellowship, and needs people to organize 1) Sweets and Savories sales table, 2) used book sale, 3) handmade item raffle, such as a quilt, 4) collecting rhubarb donations, and 5) lead a newly created activity (your choice!)- contact Mary Hadley (hadleyme@juno.com)

Service Auction 2017, two openings
-- held first Sat. evening in Nov with dinner and bid items, raises funds while providing fun opportunities for us to connect with one another, like the Blue Ledge Farm visit - contact Rev Barnaby.
A Great Tradition, Rain or Shine --
Annual Picnic & Worship
Sunday Sept 3, 11 AM
Stonewood Farm, Orwell

In days past, the annual picnic and worship service at Paul and Frances Stone's farm in Orwell was a highlight of the CVUUS year. This year, we once again will celebrate Labor Day Weekend by gathering there Sunday morning, Sept. 3, for an 11 am worship service. The service will be followed by a potluck meal, tours of the farm, music, and other fun activities for the entire family. Rev. Barnaby, the Stones, and the worship team will lead a family-friendly celebration of our connections to each other through our relationships with the land and the food humans produce from it.

To keep it simple, we will be asking everyone to bring their own plates, cups, and utensils if possible, as well as something to sit on under the tent. Naturally, we will provide for those who may have trouble helping out in this way, and carpooling for those who need rides.

Watch our website and weekly emails for more information! Meanwhile, make plans to be there and tell all you CVUUS friends they won't want to miss it either. Please contact Rev. Barnaby or the Stones if you have ideas.

Rhubarb Festival Help Roses to…

Rhubarbians have a saying that the festival is about fun, fellowship, and of course, rhubarb! This year the festival raised nearly $4000 ($2000 went towards the CVUUS annual budget, $600 to the senior high youth group towards their service trip to NYC, and the rest to H.O.P.E.). Great big rhubarb stocks of love to everyone who helped and participated before, during, and after this years “mini-festival” including….

...Top Stock Emerita Ann Ross for institutional memory and “grand dame” leadership.

CVUUS Rhubarb Festival “Catalyst” and 2017 Pies, Sweets and Savories coordinator Johanna Nichols along with Pie “consultant” Brett Millier.

...Top Stock Mary Hadley and faithful right hand woman Sheila House for coordinating various volunteers and moving pieces.

...Café leaders Julie and Neil Chippendale for herculean efforts with salad and sandwiches prep & serving.

...Senior High Youth Group members and parents for awesome hostess, “cowboying” and other serving and cleanup (Heidi, Gail, Gabe, Mary C, Peter C, Silas, Donna, Journey, and Will) along with Colleen Brown, Patty Sgrecci and her fabulous cowboy shirt and Clare as café cashier

...Bling shined again with Linda Shubert, Pat Schmitter, and MaryAnn Deverell.
Rhubarb Festival Help Roses to (continued)...

Communicators Nancy Wright, Sheila House, and Laura Asermily.

Plants were expertly staffed by Sylviane Acker, Martha Soderberg, Barbara Karle, and Dinah Smith.

Cashiers and anything else requested: Dorothy Mammen, Ginny Moser, Mary Lou Bright, Ann Webster, Amy Mason, Allison Cutler, Bobbie Andrews.

Face painting was a hit again thanks to Sharon and Wren House.

And new this year, Dick Moore for sharpening knives and more.

My apologies for anyone I’ve missed to mention. Thanks to all who donated time, goods, tables, rhubarb, etc. and for everyone who came out for rhubarb fun! And to Susan Humphrey for photos of the day. Mary Hadley, RF 2017

You’re So Sweet!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sweets and Savories table at the Rhubarb Festival! Heidi Sulis, Pat Schmitter, Martha Soderberg, Dottie Nelson, Ginny Moser, Sylviane Acker, Connie Leach, Lois Kaufman, Ann Brousseau, Bobbie Andrews, the Harrington family, Sue Grigg, Martha Alexander, Marjorie Carsen, Nan Crowell, and someone who made rhubarb turnovers (Tell us who you are-we want the recipe). Did I miss you? Let me know!

Now for the bid Ta Dah! During the pie marathon on Thursday night, our crew made 32 pies in under three hours! Mary Lou Bright, Gail Borden, Sophia Manzi, Bobbie Carnwath, Carol Harden, Margy Young, Anne Christie, Mary Hadley, Ann Ross. On Friday morning, our crew made 19 pies in two hours! Ann Webster, Pat Todd, Ginny Ashenfelter, Carol Harden, Kathryn Schloff. Friday afternoon we finished 17 more pies. And we made 11 mini pies. Faith Comstock, Becky Strum, Dorothy Mammen, Lise Anderson, Steve Maier, Nan Crowell, Sue Rasmussen. We made a total of 79 pies. Sixty pounds of flour, 30 pounds of sugar, a gallon of corn oil, and two large bags of frozen strawberries. People came who had never made a pie and people came who were veteran pie makers. Some people stayed at one “station” mixing filling, mixing dough, rolling dough, filling and sealing the pies – and some people moved around. The clean-up was superb. Did I miss anyone?!

And thank you to those who made pies at home: Sheila House, Mary Ann Deverell, Patty Sgreci, Barb Karle, Jean Terwilliger, Helen Marsh, Michele Lowy, Martha Soderberg. Total: 29 pies. Johanna Nichols
Welcome New Members!

Our Membership Ministry team enjoyed assisting newcomers along the pathway to membership in CVUUS this spring. The next step in welcoming these newest members is publication of brief biographies in this newsletter. We hope that will help all of us, including those who missed the May 7 service, get to know them better and facilitate the valuable connections we develop with each other in so many ways.

Classes for potential members are offered each spring and fall, as a series of three meetings, open to all, that present Unitarian-Universalist history and values, the organization and history of CVUUS, and sharing of our spiritual journeys. Please speak Rev. Barnaby or anyone on Membership Ministry if you are interested.

Warm blessings from your Membership Ministry, Marjorie Carsen

**Allison Cutler**

Allison moved to Middlebury a year ago and is now living on Weybridge Street 7/10ths of a mile from her daughter, son-in-law and new grandson, Sam

Before moving here, her Vermont connections were already strong; her daughter went to Middlebury College and Allison developed a business selling Vermont products.

She loves all things outdoors- biking, hiking, walking with her dog Winnie, skiing, tennis.

Allison had attended a UU church before moving here. As a new member of CVUUS, she is looking forward to closer UU and wider community ties. A very warm welcome to new member, Allison. Submitted by Mary Louise Bright

**Patty Wright**

Patty grew up on Long Island Sound. She and her family often went to the beach where she learned to love swimming. She also swam in Lake Dunmore when she and her family came to visit in the summers.

Patty first studied fine arts in college but took time off and traveled and lived in several cities in the eastern part of the United States before marrying and having three children. It was then that Patty realized she had care giving skills and decided to go to nursing school. She worked at Addison County Home Health for seventeen years.

Her mother was Catholic but left the church when Patty was in third grade. Patty wanted her own children to learn about all religions, and they attended UU churches when the children were younger.

Patty had been away from church until last November. After the presidential election, she "felt soul sickness" and visited CVUUS and then decided to join. She says her beliefs are most akin to Buddhism. Patty is developing a meditation practice. Since becoming a member, she has served as an usher.

Patty enjoys spending time out of doors. She likes taking her Shih Tzu dog, Charlie, on long walks, and Charlie likes that too! Submitted by Pat Schmitter

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**Gather Your Summer Waters!**

Spring brings our Flower Communion and Fall brings our Ingathering Water Communion where we bring water from our summer travels or favorite watering hole to fill our communal bowl. We look forward to receiving your water for our Ingathering Worship Service, Sunday Sept. 10.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES FAIR**

Sun Sept 17, 11:15 am, Sanctuary

How would you like to be involved in the life of CVUUS?
Becky Strum

CVUUS offers a warm welcome to new member, Becky Strum. Becky formerly lived in northern New Jersey and now makes her home in Weybridge, Vermont. Becky and her husband, Chuck, have two grown children, a son in Los Angeles and a daughter in Oklahoma City.

Becky worked as artistic director of a visual and performing arts high school in Hackensack, New Jersey, where she thoroughly enjoyed working with young people and developing their artistic talents. Both Becky and her husband retired in the recent past and could decide what to do next in their lives.

Chuck’s family had often stayed in camps around Lake St. Catherine’s, an area that he loved. So they were drawn to retire (or partially retire in Chuck’s case) to this part of Vermont. They have now lived here for about a year.

Becky’s young life was shaped by her father’s work, which required many moves throughout the eastern half of the United States. So she has learned to quickly adapt to new surroundings. Perhaps that is why it took her very little time to find a niche in the Middlebury arts scene. Becky came in the summer of 2016 to attend a Dana Yeaton presentation. She has already directed one of the Town Hall Theater’s “pop-up” plays and will direct a play-reading series for Middlebury Actors Workshop beginning in September.

In addition to her interests in theater, Becky also participates in SURJ and the Black Lives Matter Ally group, and she serves on the board of WomenSafe. She describes herself as a “workaholic,” so no doubt she will continue to lead a very busy life.

Partly due to her peripatetic youth, Becky has been exposed to many faiths. She has been a Unitarian in the past, so she was comfortable exploring CVUUS after moving to Weybridge. She values the umbrella under which all can worship and support one another in their faith journeys. She now “comes for the community” at CVUUS, as do many of our members.

So while she comes for our existing community, Becky also contributes her energy and talents as a new member who strengthens the fiber of the CVUUS community. We’re glad you’re here, Becky! Submitted by Sheila House

Caitlin Gildrien

Nothing speaks better for Caitlin than her testimony poem delivered in our May 28 worship service. Submitted by Marjorie Carsen

O, Congregation
by Caitlin Gildrien

O, congregation of sensible shoes.
O, buttoned plaid shirts, men in neat beards,
O, matriarchs with your practical Judy Dench hair,
O, church parking lot of Prius and Volt. We are trying. We hung Black Lives Matter over the door, and that’s not nothing. Nobody is saying it’s nothing. What they’re saying is, “Keep going.”

Or maybe, “What next?”
If we call it Social Justice,
what next? If we call it Radical Love.
If we call it Anti-Racism.
If we call it Covenant.
If we can say that whatever we’ve done so far, it may not be nothing, but it is also not enough.

Myself, I would not know how to go to an AME church.
I would not know where to sit or what to wear or how to sing.

I’m sure I would be welcome, but I am not sure that I would make it so far as to find out. And you, o congregation who actually sings Kum-ba-yah? Whatever you call light, we must shine it. Whatever you call faith, tell it to get ready, and get ready to lean into it. Lean forward into the fear, the unease: Your growing edge.

And ye shall know the fruit is ripe when the thorns prick your tender skin. And it’s okay to hate it when it makes you bleed, o friends, o sweet earnest friends. But let us hate it together, and let us keep going.

Let us keep going.
FROM THE BOARD

How two years fly by! At the annual meeting two years ago, when my term as president began, the congregation approved a new long range plan to set the vision for how we want CVUUS to be in 2020, and approved proceeding with further planning and a capital campaign for the ground floor project. At this year's annual meeting we approved full development of architectural designs for the ground floor, clarified the math and language in last year's 1.5% raises for staff, and strengthened our membership policies after a year-long conversation.

In the last two years the congregation has solidified the Council of Ministries and leadership team as an important coordinator for the day to day functioning of the congregation, given significant financial resources to important causes in Middlebury and around the world, begun monthly conversations about how we want to worship and be in the community together, raised a significant sum of money to build out our vision of the ground floor, supported Rev. Barnaby in gaining final fellowship as a minister (celebrated at GA last week), brought new workshops and training through the Growing Edge Fund, and new energy towards social action in our community and beyond.

I am continually inspired by the love you show as a congregation for each other, and for the wider community. I see that love in our thoughtful communications at monthly congregational conversations, in our sharing of talents through the service auction, Sunday sermons and testimonials, and through our increased activism in the community.

I look forward to seeing how the congregation can build on that love as Mike Greenwood and Laurie Borden lead us forward as co-presidents for the next two years. With Gratitude, Jean Terwilliger

Summer Greetings from Your Membership Ministry

Summer greetings from your Membership Ministry, with hopes for health and joy in the next two months. I'm still feeling inspired and motivated by my experience at GA, where the best of the wider UU community was constantly demonstrated. Given recent crises in UUA and the state of the world, it was wonderful to learn about and experience ways to go forward and continue with a healing process, and to find new paths to greater inclusiveness and justice-seeking. I hope some of you have checked out what may be available on the UUA website.

What is particularly relevant to the work of Membership, is the clear emphasis on welcoming and connecting with people from many groups, and expressing our values and principles clearly, for the sake of those who would gladly embrace them and our community. One clear and consistent message is that we need to risk moving outside our comfort zones, but with mutual support as we do so. There is much of value to CVUUS in what came out of this GA.

In our summer services (when you are not traveling, caring for visitors, or seeking spiritual nurturance in Nature), I hope you will have some fine conversations with visitors and new members, remember to wear a name tag, and smile with true hospitality. Feel free to invite friends to services that could be appealing to them (as listed in this newsletter and the weekly blast). Blessings, Marjorie

A bouquet of roses to: ...Mitch Kramer for painting and repairing the Fenn deck...Jessica Danyow for sharing her testimony...Steve Maier, Karl Lindholm, Kate Gridley and Sylviane Acker for helping with Francois’ concert...Win Colwell for graphic design help...those stepping into leadership including Mary Hadley on our Board, Martha Alexander on RE Council, and John Barstow on LDC.
SUMMER RE PROGRAM for Children and Youth

SUBJECT TO CHANGE: check weekly email blast

Kids start in service, then leave for special all-age activity

JULY 2: HAVE A MAPPY DAY with Carol Harden and Piper Harrell — DRE sub is Natali West

JULY 9: COOKING/BAKING with Natali West and Ginny Ashenfelter — DRE Sub is Martha Alexander

JULY 16: "Playing with poetry in a poetry play" with Ted Scheu and Mike Greenwood — DRE Sub is Kas Singh

JULY 23: YOGA with Colleen Brown and Piper Harrell — DRE Sub is Brett Millier

JULY 30: ROCKETS with Gerry Loney and Martha Alexander — DRE Sub is Natali West

AUG 6: MUSIC with Connie Leach & Chris Prickitt and Ginny Ashenfelter — DRE Sub is Natali West

AUG 13: LESSONS FROM A RESCUE DOG with Pam Berenbaum and Jay Harrington— DRE Sub is Tracey

AUG 20: ORIGAMI with Mark Spritzer and Johanna Nichols — DRE Sub is Kas Singh

AUG 27: BEADING with Heidi Sulis and TBD — DRE Sub is Brett Millier

SEPT 3: ** no RE ** ANNUAL PICNIC and WORSHIP SERVICE — Paul & Frances Stone’s Farm in Orwell

SEPT 10: MULTI-GEN Ingathering/Water Communion

RE LEADER & ASSISTANT ORIENTATION LUNCH 11:45-1:45  Fenn Chapel

SEPT 17: RE Starts!

RE Council runs the Summer RE program. Brett Millier is the person to contact (millierb@gmail.com) with any questions, even if you see Poppy at church. If you need RE help, contact Brett or someone on RE Council serving with her: Kas Singh (chair), Natali West, Tracey Harrington, Heidi Sulis, Jessica Rouse, and Martha Alexander). Thanks so much to all helping with summer RE.

Cool online family resources for summer! Check them out! — Love, Poppy

UU Parenting - Pinterest Activities, book lists, traditions, quotes, link for all ages from Michelle Richards. I have one too Poppy’s UU Pinterest board

UUA Faith Development in Families website - UUA curricula, links, blogs, newsletters

Call and Response blog - to dialogue and reflection on UU faith development, can subscribe to newsletter, by UUA Faith Development Office

Parents as Spiritual Guides 6-week UUA curriculum for to support ideas for behaviors and rituals at home

UU Parenting email list and UU Parenting Facebook group for connecting with other UU parents

Family Quest youtube channel - many videos, part of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (online international UU congregation) Quest for Meaning - Family Quest (online international UU congregation).

UUA World Family pages pull-out section of UU World magazine, stories, activities, parent reflections

UU Parenting - UU World blog - UU World magazine Parent Further website - comprehensive resources for families, with research, articles, webinars, and more, not UU-specific

How about some APPS for your phone? UUA Illuminations app Quest for Meaning app
Social Action Updates

Summer “Share the Plate” Donees

July Donee: writing inside VT

In a voiced community, we all flourish. -Terry Tempest Williams
Since 2010, writing inside VT has forged trusting, pro-social relationships with more than 350 of Vermont’s incarcerated women. Their weekly writing circles at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, South Burlington, VT, provide a safe, structured, supportive space for women to write toward growth and self-change regardless of education or writing ability. The program also creates a community of trust for women inmates by modeling healthy interpersonal boundaries, equality of voice, respectful listening, compassion, positive feedback practices, and confidentiality. Research shows that expressive creative activity boosts self-esteem and wellness, and pushes self-awareness into new territories. Many of these imprisoned women experience the validation of their words and insights for the first time ever.

As of October 2016, writing inside VT is a program of the South Burlington Community Justice Center. It shares ‘our’ women’s writings, artwork and lives with the wider world via the writing inside VT blog; the Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform website; published quarterly anthologies; and through reading events at the prison facility each spring and fall. See more at writinginsidevt.com.

Our “5th Sunday” and August donee will be other arts-related donees to reflect the summer’s worship focus. June’s collection raised $763 for Playing for Change.

Thank you for your generosity!

Kids for Kids met Sunday, June 11 to make toys for the cats and dogs at Homeward Bound. Our next event will be CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, October 1st. Have a great summer! And look for times you can spread radical love to other kids!

GLEANING
A CVUUS Green Sanctuary
Environmental Justice Project

Plant and glean at local farms, and process fresh produce, to donate to H.O.P.E. Local gleaning opportunities are organized by The VT Gleaning Collective, an initiative of Salvation Farms, a network of professionally organized community-based gleaning programs.

There are a few ways you can get notices and participate. One way is through the Weekly Blast. Another is by getting notices directly by registering at http://salvationfarms.org/getinvolved.html. You can take home some gleaned items if there’s enough.

Lily Bradburn (pictured above) coordinates gleaning for HOPE and also works in the MNFC deli. You can ask her more. Contact her at 388-3608 ext.225 or email: lbradburn@hope-vt.org.

She needs help with
- In-field harvesting of surplus produce
- Collecting unsold produce at Midd Farmers' Market
- Delivering produce to HOPE’s food shelf
- Processing produce for winter use

Gleans are usually 1 1/2 - 2 hrs. Please feel free to stay for whatever amount of time works for you.

Donate items to HOPE and WomenSafe!

Look for HOPE shopping cart to donate food and the WomenSafe heart-wrapped box in our sanctuary lobby near the welcome table.

WomenSafe seeks toiletries, tampax, dolls, Pampers, towels, stuffed animals, gift cards to laundromats, restaurants, hair salons, etc. Thanks

Clean out your closets and raise funds for CVUUS!

Bring your used clothing to Neat Repeats and give them the CVUUS account number (108) or Buy Again Alley and give them account number (504). It’s easy way to raise funds for the CVUUS budget and Youth Group while also helping people who are in need of reasonably priced, good clothing. Donations are tax-deductible.

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How Would You Like to Stand for Justice?

Black Lives Matter Ally Group: CVUUS Black Lives Matter Ally Group organized last fall and is led by Piper Harrell and Judith Lashof. They’re focusing on understanding and responding to the African American experience of racism, on white privilege and on institutional racism in coordination with other local justice groups such as Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). They encourage you to:

2. Watch 13th documentary (online) about racism in the criminal justice system since the passage of the 13th Amendment to Constitution and *I Am Not Your Negro* (Alex Baldwin).
3. Review the Class & Race Workshop materials online at cvuus.org.
4. Read *The New Jim Crow* and discuss it over the summer on Mon, June 19, July 17 and Aug 22, 5:30 pm in Fenn Chapel. To get directly involved in action, visit BLM online (cvuus.org/justice/black-lives-matter-ally-group or on Facebook).

Migrant Support: Do you wish to understand and assist our migrant farmworkers? The Addison County Migrants Ally Group invites you to their next check-in Wed, July 19, 4:30 pm in Fenn to coordinate other ally trainings, migrant help, such as with grocery shopping, future speaker events, and screenings of related documentaries. Catch up on all this at cvuus.org/news.

Refugee Resettlement Support: Middlebury Area Refugee Resettlement Committee supports the VT Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP) and Rutland Welcomes in meeting the needs of recent refugees from Chittenden & Rutland Counties. The third Syrian family has arrived in Rutland and more are expected this summer. Contact Abi Sessions if you wish to be added to their listserv to stay posted on ways to help.

Addison County ICAN (Interfaith Climate Action Network): ICAN meets the third Thurs of each month at 8:30 am, at Weybridge Congregational Church. All welcome. Join the Standing for the Earth Vigil the first Saturday of each month from 10:30-11:30 am at the Middlebury Town Green (fountain). All welcome. Bring signs as you see fit.

Habitat for Humanity: Bob House seeks volunteers on Wednesdays and Saturdays to help build the next home in Cornwall. Visit cvuus.org/justice for the many ways that we participate in advancing justice through action and monthly donations and cvuus.org/news for updates.

Have You Discovered CVUUS LIBRARY yet?

Our church library has two mini "branches"— the children’s collection in Fenn House chapel and the adult collection in the sanctuary meeting room—plus a library area on the ground floor. These collections feature materials on a wide range of UU-themed topics, including books published by UUA’s own Skinner House and Beacon Press, and books by UU authors. CVUUS Library resources are available for all CVUUSers to use.

Need Help? If you have questions, suggestions, need help locating a book, or would like to volunteer, contact Artley Wolfson (awolfson@middlebury.edu, 989-7081). Discovered Beacon Press reading lists yet? Visit beaconpress.org for this month’s readings.

Your summer reading options abound!
Hello Choir and CVUUS friends of the choir (that’s most of you, right?!). We have ended the Sept-June choir season with a big BANG with the Choir Favorites yearly service June 18. Thanks to all who participated, attended, lent a hand, and otherwise helped make the service work (like Laura in the office). Kudos to you all. Priscilla Brenser really stepped up to the microphone (literally, that is, she really did) to sing the solo in the reprise of Cool of Day. Other soloists were Ann Webster, and Neil Chippendale who sang, and played clarinet. As the choir director, I can only say it warms my heart to see and hear the musical growth among the choir members, in ability and in self-confidence. Yay to all of you!! Especially, we are only as good as our accompanists, Kate Gridley and Chuck Miller, who add so much to all of our rehearsals and worship services.

Over the summer the choir takes a well-earned hiatus, to re-assemble on Sept. 6, two days after Labor Day. We will be singing on Sunday, Sept 10 for Ingathering and Water Communion. Listen for a Sacred Water Anthem from the Lakota Sioux struggle for their land at Standing Rock. The choir will be stepping out of their comfort zone, and sing part of the song in the native Lakota language.

You too could step out of your comfort zone and join the choir. We don’t bite! We’re your friends, neighbors, and family, and we lift our voices 3 Sundays a month and every Wednesday, Sept. 6-June 13 or 20. We sing for Christmas Eve. We have a pot luck at the beginning of the fall season, and two more at the beginning and end of the spring season. We are a party-down group. ;-)

Our fall potluck will be on Sept. 13, the second rehearsal of the choir season. Our tradition is to gather for a shared meal (in the UU style, nothing assigned, true pot luck) at 5:30 pm, eat and visit for an hour, then go to the piano in the Sanctuary and sing through as much of the fall’s music as we can touch upon. And get the next Sunday’s anthem ready, too. I like to work 4 weeks ahead so we’re always ready for our Sunday music, but are also flexible to move it around as necessary.

The CVUUS Choir is a welcoming group of friendly singers of all skill levels. All singers are welcome, from young to old, high to low; your voice can enhance the choir! You too could sing with the choir and enjoy the company as well as the inner parts of the music! We can arrange for daycare at the 5:45-7 pm Wednesday rehearsals. Please ask me if that would allow you to attend! We would also offer child care on Sunday mornings, when we rehearse from 9-9:45 on Sundays the choir is singing.

Hope to see you in September. Please email me before the first rehearsal and I’ll be sure you have a folder waiting for you.  Blessed Be, Lucy Tenenbaum, Choir Director
CVUUS Sangha Space  What is the CVUUS Meditation Group?

Many of us are struggling with how to respond to what is going on in the world, and seek a path that both leads to justice and reflects compassion. Meditation can be a very valuable tool in that struggle. It teaches us how to just “be” in ourselves, released from the noise and distraction of our minds and the world. From that place it is possible to feel more grounded, to intentionally formulate the “right action” for us to take, and to act with integrity. We hope more will join us as we seek a path that will lead us forward with compassion and wisdom. So, whether you are interested in meditation from a Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, mindfulness or other perspective, you are welcome. No prior meditation experience required.

We meet every Sunday evening at the CVUUS Fenn House at 7 PM. We sit silently for 20 minutes, walk in silence for 15 minutes, sit in silence for 15 minutes more, and then engage in conversation about our meditation practices or discuss questions for the final 10 minutes. If you have any questions about the CVUUS Meditation Group, call Colleen at 989-9974 or Van at 388-2142. CVUUS Buddhists are delighted to welcome Drupon Thinley Ningpo Rinpochë (pictured) back to VT this summer for his session Medicine Buddha & Vajrayogini: Teachings & Empowerment, July 28 - Aug 1 at Burlington's Main St Landing. For more details and to register, visit www.teachingsvt.org

Night Sky Wonders for July

Saturn and Jupiter shine brightly in our evening sky this month. Around 11:00 pm you’ll see Saturn directly south, and Jupiter in the southwest. Earth is pulling away from Jupiter at 67,000 mph making the distance to the Gas-Giant 512 million miles. The distance to Saturn is a mere 856 million miles.

You’ll find the Moon near Jupiter on the 1st and just above Saturn on the 6th of the month. On July 5th the Moon will be just to the right of Saturn and the bright red-giant star Antares below the Moon.

Venus still appears in our morning sky, best seen an hour before sunrise. Mid-month it will be to the left of the red-giant star Aldebaran in the constellation of Taurus the Bull. The thin crescent Moon will be next to Venus on the 20th.

Planet Earth reaches aphelion (its farthest point from the Sun) on the 3rd, being some 94 million miles from the Sun. Since our average distance from our star is 93 million miles, this isn’t much of a variation from the average. We are always closer to the Sun in the winter.

Here’s wishing you (and me) clear skies. If you have astronomy questions, or would like to visit the observatory, drop me an e-mail at astro-manvt@gmavt.net.

Seeking Hosts Thank you to the families who joined the UU’re Home bed and breakfast program which began in the fall of 2015. Brett Millier and Karl Lindholm, Ginny & Tom Moser, Carol Harden & Alan Moore, Sylviane Acker, Robin and Ted Scheu, and Abi & Bill Sessions can share their experiences. Most of our reservations come from the family of a first year UU Middlebury College student.

There are ways to boost our requests and consequently our revenue. One is to list our program in the office at the college that helps students find housing for family members for college events, which we’ve done. We can all recommend the program to local friends and neighbors who don’t have room to house all of their guests. One benefit to volunteering to be a host in our B & B program is access to the national UU’re Home directory.

The rates are $50 per person per night; $60 per person with breakfast included. Reservations may be made by contacting the coordinator. If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact coordinator Johanna Nichols, 802-349-9436 or send an e-mail: nichols.johanna@gmail.com.
**CVUUS Seasons of Life Fund**

Our Seasons of Life Fund is a way to share your joy or concern with the CVUUS community. Members and friends can commemorate personal milestones and passages through financial gifts to CVUUS that provide extra money for us to fulfill our mission statement. The names of the donors and the occasions of the gifts are noted in our monthly newsletter. There is no minimum amount and the size of your donation will not be made public. Please consider the Seasons of Life Fund the next time you—or someone you know—want to honor a birthday, marriage, retirement, anniversary, death, or achievement of any sort.

**Pastoral Care**

CVUUS is blessed with many wise and well-trained individuals beyond Rev. Barnaby capable of providing temporary counseling support to members and friends in various kinds of distress. Such individuals -- Sue Grigg, Laurie Borden, and Marjorie Carsen -- make up our Pastoral Care Team. Their contact information is in the Directory.

Our Caring Network provides support, such as calls, visits, meals, and rides, to those in need. Please contact Linda Shubert (458-3365 or jlishu68@gmail.com) or Ginny Moser (989-7586 or tvmoser117@gmail.com) for assistance.

We thank all the faithful folk who have participated in our efforts to support our members - providing lots of meals and myriad rides to doctor's offices, doing errands and paying visits. We encourage members of the congregation to call on us. We have an extensive network of willing helpers standing by.

Visit [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) to learn about the wider work of UUA and our affiliates. Visit [www.cvuus.org](http://www.cvuus.org) to explore our happenings and most current calendar.
Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

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CVUUS Board of Trustees
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CVUUS Leaders
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Donation Ministry — Jason Duquette-Hoffman
Facilities – Bob House
Ground Floor Project —Steve Maier
Hospitality – Elizabeth Golden-Pidgeon (summer)
Library & Information Resources – Artley Wolfson
Membership Ministry—Marjorie Carsen
Pastoral Care —Sue Grigg and Laurie Borden
Religious Exploration Council – Kas Singh
Right Relations—John Barstow, Anne Christie, Joanna Colwell
Small Group Ministry — Doug Richards
Worship – Ann Webster (Interim)

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