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.

Coming to Grips with the Gaps & Imbalances

May Worship Services
(Sundays at 10 AM)

May 6—Good News and Good News—
Rev. Barnaby asks what’s lost and gained when radical love is in short supply. We will also recognize our new members.

May 13—Love the Hell Out of this World—When the culture around us doesn’t encourage us to be our best selves, how do we model the kind of world we want to live in? Guest leader Matt Meyer will reflect on the good and bad of middle school, the time he picked the very best costume for a high-stakes 5th grade costume party, and how we find the skills for beloved community. Matt will also offer a drumming workshop that afternoon at 1 pm (the perfect Mother’s Day activity!). Matt is a musician and community organizer who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has studied drumming abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America.

May 20—Awaken the Soul! Religious Exploration (RE) Appreciation Sunday - "The great end in religious instruction is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life." - William Ellery Channing, Join us as we awaken our souls and explore the spiritual act of teaching.

May 27—I Love(d) a Parade—Rev. Barnaby looks at the fine line between honoring warriors and fostering war. Who is missing from our memorial Day parades and what does it matter?

SAVE THE DATE! MORE INSIDE!

Blue Jeans Sunday, May 6 (rescheduled!)
Right after the service come over to the Fenn House to help with a variety of maintenance jobs, including cleaning, painting, weeding, and organizing. Something for everyone! Some jobs can be done by kids, too. Bring your tools or borrow ours. Lunch will be provided.

Rhubarb Festival, Sat. June 2, 10 am -2 pm
Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 3, 11:30 am
(follows our Flower Communion Worship Service)
Words from Rev. Barnaby:
I’ve finally figured out the perfect answer for the question “How did your sabbatical go?” It’s “We’ll see.”

The great thing about the sabbatical was not the restorative aspect, although I did feel much better physically after getting a break from my usual routine. It was that so much was set in motion that might never have emerged otherwise. And now I see clearly that how my sabbatical went is something I can’t find out on my own.

Let me share here just one specific example. I began during sabbatical to explore what it means for CVUUS that society as a whole is going to get considerably grayer (or whiter or balder) in the coming years. Bodies will weaken and minds may slow, but we will also be swimming in life experience and desire to use time wisely. We’ll need to rethink how to do worship and everything else that goes on here while the Baby Boom generation moves from late middle age into senior citizen status and then true old age.

Creating thriving multi-generational congregations has always been a challenge. But sustaining a truly multi-generational spiritual home will become uniquely difficult in the next few decades as Baby Boomers tilt the demographic scales. Finishing our downstairs project will help. Our vision for the space opens up many more fellowship possibilities and ways of engaging the wider community. But that’s just one step.

I recently mentioned this new concern of mine to Rev. Charles Stephens, a retired UU minister who is a mentor. He recommended that I read What Are Old People For? (How Elders Will Save the World) by Dr. William Thomas (VanderWyk & Burnham, 2004). Laurie Borden found a copy for me to borrow in the Hospice Volunteer Services library. It’s blowing away many of my pre-conceptions about what is possible.

Over time, my sabbatical-inspired engagement with this topic will be shared with you in ways that invite your engagement. As to the specifics, we’ll see them together.

Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

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

CVUUS Council of Ministries is composed of some CVUUS committee chairs and others. Its focus is on communications and connections within the congregation and between the congregation and minister, and it serves as a supportive and creative sounding board. We leave each meeting filled with gratitude. We meet 2nd Sunday of each month 3:30-5:30 pm in Fenn. Contact Steve Maier.

Flower Co-op Glorious Spring! The Flower Co-op shares flowers and seasonal pieces each Sunday as a spiritual practice and to support your worship experience. We love to do this, and we could use your help. There are several possibilities. You could create the entire bouquet. Or you could let someone visit your garden for discrete flower and shrub branch cutting. Contact our group co-chairs: Marnie Wood & Dinah Smith.

Hospitality The after service coffee hour needs helping hands! Some of the jobs are: preparing coffee and tea water urns, setting out sweeteners, napkins, cups, silverware, and composting bin, filling dishes with coffee cakes and other offerings people bring in, circulating with the sign-up clip-board to find bakers for future weeks, and cleaning up afterwards. If you’d like to lend your helping hands just show up twenty minutes early to church or stick around afterwards to help clean up. You will get thanked by the smiles of those who appreciate this wonderful service, which is everyone!

Ushers Ushers are essential to making CVUUS an inviting and welcoming place. They distribute hymnals and orders of service, collect the offering, and do an attendance count. They arrive at 9:30. You may volunteer to usher a little or a lot, whatever best suits your schedule. Contact Mike Greenwood.

Religious Exploration (RE) Council supports RE Director Poppy Rees’ planning and implementation of programs and recruitment of teachers and assistants. Help with fall RE leaders/assistants orientation brunch, the Christmas Pageant, and May RE Appreciation. Rotate greeting and directing families at start of worship services. Contact Kas Singh.
Ground Floor Project Update

The Ground Floor Design Team has been hard at work since the February congregational meeting and is now poised and pleased to present a revised budget that maintains core project elements AND reduces total costs by almost 10% -- see table below for details. The net result is that the gap between projected income and expenses has been reduced by about $85,000 to a new total of $88,315. As before, this number does not include estimates for kitchen equipment, counters, cabinets, fixtures, etc.

We’re also excited to announce that project construction will begin in September and last for 3-4 months. Between now and then, we will conduct a final fundraising push that will provide both a broad invitation to participate and a focused effort on people who express a desire to help. Look for more information soon from the Capital Campaign Team. If you have any questions or would like to help us reach our goal, please contact any member of the Team: Ellen Flight, Kate Gridley, Steve Maier, Brett Millier, Alan Moore, Ted Scheu, or Rev. Barnaby.

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<th>ITEM</th>
<th>Amount - February</th>
<th>Revised Amount - April</th>
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<td>Cabinets, counters, fixtures, sinks, etc.</td>
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<td>20,000</td>
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Congregational Conversation on Safe Congregation (Following worship service in the Sanctuary May 20, 11:30-12:30)

Join us after worship service each third Sunday of the month Sept through May for a conversation about a topic of interest to congregants. This month we will explore what it means to be a safe congregation. It is impossible to make a congregation 100% safe; however, there are steps that we can take to make our congregation safer while still creating a supportive space for learning, growth, and challenge as well as actively working for the inclusion and safety of all people. Look at how UUA guides us at https://www.uua.org/safe. It contains resources for us to prevent and address violence, abuse, harassment, inappropriate behavior, and other threats to safety. Sample policies and suggestions there can help us take steps towards creating a safer congregation that lives our faith and values. It can help us with building security and staffing measures. We’ll assist our Safe Congregation Team (Alan Moore, Will Porter, Mike Greenwood, Poppy Rees) in reviewing and updating our Safe Congregation Policy and assessing recent recommendations from Middlebury Police Chief Hanley in a walk-through he conducted. Childcare will be provided.

Contact Alan Moore with your ideas for future conversations. See more about their format as well as previous topics at http://www.cvuus.org/blog/congregational-conversations/.
RE THOUGHTS

DON’T LET GREAT BE THE ENEMY OF GOOD

Our Radical Love theme for May is “coming to grips with the gaps and imbalances.” It’s about coming to grips with them, rather than eliminating them, because that is what life is, right? We will always have gaps and imbalances. There isn’t enough time to do everything, even if we had the ability, money, strength, etc. We can’t do it all. As we age, this becomes more and more evident. There are things we won’t ever do. There is stuff we don’t know how to fix. There are problems much bigger than one person.

The good news is that we don’t have to fix everything on our own. Or be good at it all. This is why we have each other and what being in community is about. We don’t have to be great at everything. And striving for this can be overwhelming and slow us down. “Don’t let the great be the enemy of the good.” Better to get enough done well, than only get a few things done amazingly, if there is a lot to do. And there is. And sometimes striving for greatness can make us cling to something and not let others get involved in it.

I see this in action at CVUUS. So much of what we do here is better when many people and voices take part. The RE program is stronger when the leaders shape what’s happening, and when the kids speak up, and it’s not just created by me. Worship is stronger when we get to hear from many people, not just a few. One person’s gap is another person’s strength. If I step back from something that isn’t really my thing, it might create space for someone else. Sometimes we need to step up, other times we need to step back. Now, there are times when all of us need to step up – the work to be done belongs to everyone and needs us all to take part. Dismantling white supremacist culture in our country is an example. This one needs us all, even if we’re not that good at it. Big changes need big groups to step up. But exactly what we do and how we do it...there are different parts for different people. So what is your part? What do YOU have to offer to our community that is YOUR thing, your strength, the thing YOU love to work on? And what might you hand to someone else, so that we are doing this together, in community?

~ Poppy, your Director of Religious Exploration

MAY for Children and Youth

MAY 6: SPIRIT PLAY, HARRY & UU start in worship, then to groups
NEIGHBORING FAITHS – FIELD TRIP to First UU Society of Burlington
BLUE JEAN SUNDAY after service – kids encouraged to come, lunch.
YOUTH GROUP – MAKE DINNER AT JOHN GRAHAM SHELTER 3:45-6

MAY 13: * LAST TIME THESE GROUPS MEET! *
SPIRIT PLAY, HARRY & UU start in worship, then to groups
NEIGHBORING FAITHS
YOUTH GROUP? Last Youth Group meeting date/activity TBD

MAY 20: AWAKEN YOUR SOUL! RE APPRECIATION SERVICE All kids start in service, leave in the middle to make presents, and return to share them with RE leaders and assistants. Led by Poppy Rees, Director of Religious Exploration.

RE Council meeting 11:45-1:45

MAY 27: RE FUN DAY start in worship, then to all-ages activities TBD.

For more information, contact Poppy Rees, Director of Religious Exploration re@cvuus.org
How Would You Like to Stand for Radical Love?

Wednesday, May 2, Little Boxes, 4 and 7 pm, Marquis Theater. This last film in our 2017/2018 series wraps it all up by re-asking the question "What happens when suburbia is irrevocably transformed by the growing racial polyphony of the American middle class?" Written by Annie Howell, and directed by Rob Meyer, “Little Boxes” begins with a family of 3 in the multiracial utopia of Brooklyn, as they pack up to move to small-town Rome, Washington. This is the sixth film to be shown in Showing Up for Racial Justice’s Seeing Color/Seeking Justice Film Series. Each film is shown free of charge, but filmgoers are encouraged to donate if possible. Funds raised at the screening of Little Boxes will benefit the African American Policy Forum, as well as support Middlebury SURJ.

Saturday, May 5, Standing for the Earth Vigil, 10:30 am, Middlebury Cross St Bridge (note new location). Hosted by Addison County Interfaith Climate Action every first Saturday of the month. The vigil occurs every Saturday morning but seeks extra attendance on first Saturdays.

Sunday, May 6, Community Conversation: Can We Talk About Guns?, 4 pm, Congregational Church of Middlebury. Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson and Emily Joselson welcome Dr. James Davis (Professor of Ethics and Christian Studies, Middlebury College), Eden Neary (Law Enforcement Officer), Theo Wells-Spackman (Middlebury Union High School sophomore); and Mary Welford (Vermont attorney). In the wake of recent school shootings, and Governor Scott’s recent signing of "sweeping gun control legislation," the panelists will explore why it is both so difficult, and so very important, for us to speak civilly together about guns and gun control. This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

Sunday, May 20, Active Hope: An Afternoon to Reconnect & Recharge, 1:30-4 pm, Spirit in Nature Sacred Circle (Goshen Rd, Ripton) We will join around the fire beneath the pines to engage in Work That Reconnects practices to express gratitude, honoring our pain for the world, seeing with new eyes, and going forth. After winter’s challenges and a cold spring, let’s celebrate in nature’s beauty and re-hearten our resolve to take part in building the new story of life-sustaining society.

Psychiatrist Lise van Susteren writes that we live in a time of “pre-traumatic stress disorder” and the antidote to this condition is “empowering action.” We invite you to come together in community to empower each other so we may continue our many important efforts of personal and societal change. BRING: Chairs, Beverage and a snack if desired, Small percussion if you’d like. CARPOOLING RENDEZVOUS: Meet at Hannaford’s Parking Lot behind McDonalds at 1 pm if you’d like to carpool. RAIN VENUE: EastView Community Room in the event of any rain or drizzle coming down. Open to those new to the work or reviewing it.

Addison Allies (formerly Migrant Ally Group) continues to serve the needs of our farmworkers. Volunteers helped transport workers to an assembly at Middlebury College last month hosted by Migrant Justice to check in on legal issues, working conditions and plan social activities, such at soccer games. Contact vciambra@gmail.com to get involved. Catch up at cvuus.org/news.

Hunger Council of Addison County needs a CVUUS representative. Contact office@cvuus.org if interested. Meets Tues. May 8, 3:30 pm, CSAC (Catamount Park).

Where do I park? Our lot will be very busy this spring. Fortunately, we may park at MUHS and next door at Mary Johnson or carpool if we need to drive. Please inform guests ahead of time about our options so that we maintain good relations with our Duane Court and Water St neighbors. We are not supposed to park along Duane or Water St or along soft banks of our lot where ruts can form. We will be installing “No Parking” signs along Duane this Sunday. A safety vest hangs in the coat area for those who patrol parking for large events.
Social Action Updates

May “Share the Plate” Donee

In recognition that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, our Share the Plate recipient is **Pathways Vermont**. Its mission is to transform the lives of people experiencing mental health and other life challenges by supporting self-directed roads to recovery and wellness in an atmosphere of dignity, respect, choice, and hope. They advocate for the rights of people to live without stigma and discrimination and promote civil rights, community integration, health care, affordable housing, and employment for all.

Programs include:

- **Housing First** which asserts that housing is a basic human right and provides a model for supporting individuals with long histories of homelessness and multiple disabilities, access and maintain permanent housing through long-term mental health services and psychosocial support.

— **Vermont Support Line**, a 24/7 telephone service for all with immediate access to confidential support

— **The Wellness Co-op (TWC)**, a community center offers a welcoming, supportive place to be and resources such as: peer-led support groups, holistic wellness resources, & employment support.

— **Soteria** is a residence for Vermonters experiencing an early mental health crisis. It offers a safe, non-judgmental environment along with as intensive, person-centered support.

-- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** is a homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing service for veterans who have recently become or are at imminent risk of homelessness. In addition to housing support, the program provides short-term case management and financial assistance to veterans and their families to establish a financially sustainable housing situation. To learn more about this agency, please visit [http://www.pathwaysvermont.org/](http://www.pathwaysvermont.org/)

Please speak with anyone on Donation Ministry to suggest an organization you would like CVUUS to support: Jason Duquette-Hoffman (chair), Parker (Monty) Montgomery, Ashleigh Hickey, Barbara Karle, Chris Murphy, or Rev. Barnaby. April’s collection raised $873.11 for **Common Good VT** and $229 for **John Graham Shelter** on our “5th Sunday.”

Thank you for your generosity!

**Kids for Kids**

Kids for Kids met Sun., April 22 for Earth Day related activities like making “seed bombs.”

Visit [cvuus.org/justice](http://cvuus.org/justice) for the many ways that CVUUS advances justice through action and monthly donations and [cvuus.org/news](http://cvuus.org/news) for latest news and more about events listed previous page.

**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.

**Donate items to HOPE and WomenSafe!** Look for **HOPE** shopping cart to donate food. Prefer smaller sizes to jumbo ones. See **Mary Ann Deverell** with questions. Also look for the **WomenSafe** heart-wrapped box in our sanctuary lobby near the welcome table. Always in need of self-care items but currently their biggest need is for both men’s and women’s deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste! See **Dottie Nelson** with questions.
FROM THE BOARD  Mary Conlon

Did you know there’s a UUA Stewardship Sermon Award? Established in 1984, the Stewardship Sermon Award is granted annually in recognition of a sermon that best explores and promotes the financial support of our Unitarian Universalist faith. In the process of gathering information to draft this year’s budget, I discovered the 2017 winning sermon written by Rev. Bill Neely.

In it, Rev. Neely describes taking the city bus as a youngster to go to the mall on weekends and always carefully saving his bus fare to come home in a special pocket so he wouldn’t spend it accidentally. He describes his horror of getting on the bus to go home one day and discovering his special pocket was empty. As he pats his pockets frantically hoping for a miracle, he lets the long line of passengers enter the bus ahead of him. As he prepares to get off the bus to begin a long walk home, a man boards the bus, sees the predicament, and “with a simple ‘I got you,’” he puts the fare in the box.

Rev. Neely goes on to describe stewardship as our way of saying, “We got you. Your fare has been paid by those who’ve come before. Come on board, sit down, and take a rest. You, the stranger, you, the sad, you, the fearful, you, who feels alone; your fare has been paid by people of faith who’ve built these walls and built these ministries and built this faith of hope and love. … So come here and know love. Come here and know hope. Come here and know that you are not alone.”

As I write this column, we have just finished the annual canvass and a congregational conversation to discuss how to present a balanced budget to the congregation in June. Through the canvass visits and the meeting to discuss finances on April 15, I am reminded again how inspiring it is to meet with fellow members/friends and talk about what we appreciate at CVUUS.

Whether you most value Sunday services or the RE programs or special evening events or choir, it is our being together that Rev. Neely describes so beautifully – “… Here, in this house, you’ll be surrounded by people committed not to reflecting the profanities of this world, but to transforming them into moments of beauty and goodness.”

Why Not Me?
The CVUUS Board is looking for two new members to join us as Jean Terwilliger's term ends in June and Mary Conlon announced she is ending her term. The congregation will officially vote on the nominations for this new member at our Annual Meeting. If you would like to be considered for this position please let us know. We are continuously looking for people who want to serve, so even if not this year, perhaps next year might be your time!

Mike and Laurie

April Board Meeting Highlights

1) We reviewed Section 2.0 from the Policy Governance manual, which involves “executive constraint.” We considered whether or not it was necessary for the minister to have a separate annual report on this section as it is redundant with many other reports.

2) Barnaby provided a summary of the results of the canvas campaign, indicating that we will have a budget shortfall. This led to scheduling a congregational meeting to discuss finances on April 15.

3) Mary Conlon announced that she will be ending her term on the board this summer rather than starting a second term. This means there will be two Board vacancies for next year. The Nominating Committee has already contacted one person interested in serving on the Board and will now begin contacting other potential board members.

Mark Spritzer

Who do I talk to about my Annual Pledge? Inquiries regarding your Pledge go to our bookkeeper Heather Seeley who is in the office on Mondays. Call 388-8080 when she’s in or email fm@cvuus.org to contact her anytime. Statements went out in April. If anything doesn’t match your records, just contact us. Thank you so much for your pledges.
More Doors into Small Group Ministry

Following a stimulating and informative Congregational Conversation this past January, the Small Group Ministry (SGM) Steering Committee has been at work considering the input we received from those in attendance, and others with whom we’ve been conversing since that time.

In an attempt to create more doors into Small Group Ministry, while preserving the value of the existing model of small group ministry that has worked so well for the dozens of folks who have been participating in small groups for a decade and a half, we are hoping to offer at least three different “ways in” to participation in small groups during the 2018-19 church year.

The first door will be the one we currently have available: groups of 8-10 members who meet monthly with the opportunity for thoughtful sharing on a session topic prepared in advance. During the 2017-18 church year, four small groups have been meeting and following this model—two on weekday evenings (Wednesday and Thursday), one on a weekday afternoon, and one on a Saturday morning. Members of each of these groups will be able to continue with this model in the coming year should they choose to do so, and others will have a chance to join these groups should they be interested in doing so. (Contact Doug Richards at drichard@keuka.edu or the CVUUS office at office@cvuus.org if you are interested).

In addition, we hope to offer folks the chance to participate in Small Group Ministry in other ways during the coming church year. One option would be a chance to participate in regular Small Group Sundays (eg. “First Sunday SGM”), after-church sessions devoted to a scheduled topic (in some cases perhaps the sermon topic for that week). This option is in the early stages of planning, but if you are interested in such an option, Bobbi Loney has agreed to help initiate planning for this version of SGM if there is sufficient interest. For some, this might be an opportunity to “test out” the small group model of spiritual sharing.

Another door into Small Group Ministry next year could be a set of interest-focused groups. Some options that have been suggested recently include a men’s group, a parents group, a 21 Questions group (derived from a January sermon by Kate Braestrup) and a poetry-reading group, but the possibilities are almost endless. The first step in getting such a group going would be to identify a “point-person” who would be willing to facilitate a start-up process. Groups would be asked to follow Small Group Ministry practices and principles during their sessions. Though the group might begin with a commitment to participate in a set number of sessions, the opportunity to continue these meetings beyond the original set number could be offered to members of the group. (Contact Doug Richards at drichard@keuka.edu or the CVUUS office at office@cvuus.org if you are interested).

The SGM Steering Committee will be continuing our planning over the next couple months, and we’ll be offering further information and sign-up opportunities. In the meantime, if you think you might be interested in participating in small group ministry in one or more of these formats during the coming year, you can get in touch with Doug Richards or other members of the SGM Steering Committee (Dinah Smith, Martha Fulda, Marjorie Carson, Karl Lindholm) or the CVUUS office (office@cvuus.org) for further information or conversation. And stay tuned!

Kansas City, MO… jazz, barbecue food, the Negro League Baseball Museum and the 2018 UUA General Assembly, June 21-25!

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of UUA. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through our democratic process. Anyone may attend but you have the opportunity to represent CVUUS at General Assembly as one of our voting delegates. We are allowed to send 4 “official” delegates in addition to our minister. Financial scholarships are available. Interested? Contact Laurie Borden, Margy Levine Young and/or Mike Greenwood by May 1, 2018. Can’t attend this GA? How about a future GA?

Rhubarb Festival 2018  Sat., June 2, 10 am to 2 pm

CVUUS will open its doors to the community for Rhubarb Festival 2018. The festival planners count on the many contributions of our members and friends to create this event.

**Pies:** These are always the hallmark of the Festival, and will be front and center again this year. We need a lead to recruit pie makers and bakers and organize “pie bees” over two evenings at Fenn House. Rhubarb pies will be priced at $18 and strawberry rhubarb at $20.

**Lunch:** Julie and Neil Chippendale, along Youth Group and others, will run a Café featuring sandwich and salad, drink, and dessert for $10 per person. The café opens at 10:30 AM.

**Books:** Last year we focused collection on children’s books. This year, we will be selling select children’s and adult used books. We are particularly seeking donations of books on spirituality, nature, the environment, justice issues, natural health, history, gardening, biography, mystery, poetry, recent notable novels, art, and illustrated children’s books. Please place your donations in the “Book Sale” box in the foyer. Due to the limited space available in the sanctuary, we will not be accepting any reference books, computer guides, psychology, self help, business, magazines, romance novels, Reader’s Digest, Disney, music books, DVDs, nor any books in poor condition. Hardcover and oversized books will be priced at $2 and paperbacks at $1 each. We are seeking a couple of people to help sort the books on the prior three Sunday afternoons. To volunteer to sort or if you have a question about suitable books, please contact Elizabeth at 802-598-2388 or elizabethgolden@shoreham.net. Thank you!

**Bling:** The "Bling Sisters" (Pat Schmitter, Mary Ann Deverell, and Linda Shubert) will again be collecting and selling jewelry, scarves and ties.

**Sweets and savories, plants** for your garden, and live **music** and **activities for children** have been features of past festivals and will likely happen again.

**No entry fee.** Profits support a local charity. Rhubarb Festival 2016 raised about $3000 for HOPE. RF 2017 raised $600 for our Youth Group and $1500 for HOPE.

New this Year! Puppet Show and Special Pie Auction

Modern Times Theater (husband and wife team Justin Lander and Rose Friedmont) will perform a puppet show between 11-12, out on the front lawn, weather permitting. Immediately following that they will host a special pie auction. Come prepared to bid on some unique pies. For more, see moderntimestheater.com

Please consider helping to prepare for our next Rhubarb Festival. Contact Mary Hadley (hadleyme@juno.com or (802)377-2270). We need people to organize the 1) pie leader, 2) sweets and savories sales table, 3) sort books for the used book sale, 4) organize a handmade item raffle, such as a quilt, 5) collect rhubarb donations, and 6) lead a newly created activity (your choice!). You need attend only 2-3 meetings over the year. Enjoy the people, the food, the fun, and help raise funds for a local social service group and for CVUUS. It’s a great way to celebrate our community and the season of Spring!

Our **2017 Annual Meeting** will be **Sunday, June 3** following the annual **Flower Communion worship service.** This is our sacred time to make business and policy decisions needed to keep CVUUS vital. All members are asked and encouraged to attend. All non-member friends are invited and welcome to observe and ask questions but not to vote. Childcare and light snacks provided. Members (and friends on our email list) will receive the agenda and important documents.
CHOIR NOTES

One of the things the Choir provides on the three Sundays a month we sing is often an alternate view on our topic. In May we’re Coming to Grips with the Gaps and Imbalances we find on our road to Radical Love.

On May 6 the choir sings Gate of Sweet Nectar which is a Buddhist Invocation set to music by Krishna Das, and arranged by Peter Amidon. “Calling out to hungry hearts, every where through endless time, you who wander, you who thirst, I offer you this bodhi mind….your joy and your sorrow, I make it mine.” When we’re reeling from life’s unbalanced blasts, sometimes comfort is the right way to deal with it all. Relax and find your center.

May 13 is Mother’s Day. This year our celebration is a service by Matt Meyer, worship leader from Boston and drummer extraordinaire. The choir anthem is from the UU Musician’s Network conference I went to last summer where I met Matt and encouraged our Worship Team to find a time for him in our calendar. The piece, Connected, composed by Brian Tate, expresses the concept that because we are all made of molecular material, we are really all the same. “I am, you are me, that’s what I said…It seems like I’m over here, and you’re over there, but there is something between us that’s lighter than air…I am you, you are me, that’s a fact, subatomically…” The song is a joyous celebration of communality.

May 20 the Choir Anthem’s text is from Emily Dickinson, music by Mary Alice Amidon, If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking. Do you see the theme among the choir anthems? Nurture through music and community, that’s how we try to come to Grip. Let us sing you warmth and love.

Blessings,
Lucy

FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC!

Thanks to all who agreed to help with these upcoming events in our sanctuary. Gatekeepers are in italics.

“The American Songbag, Plus” Ladies Night Out Concert, Sat. May 5, 7 pm. Folk music, popular music from the 1940s and 50s, and some other special “plusses” like Jolene by Dolly Parton and Silvy by Huddy Ledbetter (known as Lead Belly,) arr. with body percussion by Moira Smiley. Accompanied by Lisa Knickerbocker Sears on piano, Glendon Ingalls on Bass Viol, and Mary Barron on Fiddle, the group of 18 women can make a real statement with choral music. Many individuals in the group are stepping up to take solo parts in several of the songs. Gwyneth Walker’s music is represented, as is true every spring, with How Can I Keep From Singing? and this year, Careless Love in an unforgettable arrangement. There will be a trio of women singing Andrews Sisters style music, and a special entr’acte with Jonathan Pendragon, Magician Extraordinaire! (Lucy thanks Carol Harden, Elizabeth Golden-Pidgeon)

MCMC Song Fest, Sat. May 19, 7:30 pm Song Fest (Carol Harden) MCMC will be back in June with other events.

OCM Meet the Singers, Sun. May 20, 5 pm (Martha Soderberg, John Barstow, Kate Gridley, Carol Harden) The Opera Company of Middlebury has assembled an extraordinary cast of talented professionals for this season’s production of Previn’s A Streetcar Named Desire. Enjoy the singers perform their favorite arias.
May Greetings from Your Membership Ministry

This month we will welcome new members into CVUUS during a brief ceremony on May 6th in the Sunday morning service. There are some potential new members already participating in the "New UU Class" last month. If you have been unable to attend a class, and are considering membership, please contact me (marjcarsen@gmail.com) or Rev. Barnaby through the office.

There are also many who have become involved in our congregation and who have previously learned about our faith, at CVUUS or elsewhere, who most likely are eligible to join now. We may be in touch with you and would welcome your questions about membership.

And whether you are a founding or long-term member, a frequent visitor, or someone new to our community, we offer all a warm welcome and opportunities to make connections here that support your spiritual pathway. We all have something to offer, and we all share needs for acceptance, respect, love, and recognition. May you find these within our walls.

Warm blessings,
Marjorie Carsen, Membership Ministry

CVUUS Sangha & Meditation

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 have a brief conversation about our meditation practices or discuss questions for the final 10 minutes.

All are welcome, regardless of level of experience (or lack of experience) with meditation and regardless of faith tradition. If you have any questions, call Colleen at 989-9974 or Van at 388-2142. The CVUUS webpage has good information also.

Night Sky Wonders for May

Giant Jupiter is the main attraction in the evening sky since it rises as the Sun sets. On the 8th it reaches opposition, meaning that Earth is exactly between the Sun and Jupiter. On the 26th and 27th the Moon will be next to Jupiter. The gas-giant planet is five times further from the Sun than we are, and it completes a circle of the Sun every 12 Earth years.

Meanwhile Venus continues to be an early-evening attraction. Look low in the West-Northwest after sunset. Saturn, on the other hand is a late arrival. It rises in the east around midnight as May begins and around 10:00 pm as the month ends. Early risers will see Moon close to Saturn on May 4th and 5th.

This month our Big Dipper will appear upside down in the North, with the North Star and the Little Dipper below it. The constellation Cassiopeia will be at its lowest point in the Northern sky, looking like the letter “W”. Follow the curvature of the Big Dipper’s handle to “arc over to Arcturus” high in the sky. That star is a red “supergiant.”

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

Writers’ Group

CVUUS Writers’ Group meets third Monday of the month. Next one is May 21, 3 PM, in the Fenn House chapel. All welcome. Bring something to read (with a few copies): fiction, nonfiction, poems. Questions? Contact Nancy Wright (nancymeanswright@gmail.com).
Right Relation in a Time of Countrywide Communication Combat

With national political “discourse” hitting new lows each week, and Twitter barrages being a preferred approach to communicating everything from national policy to cabinet firings to petty personal attacks, it is a fine time to remind ourselves of CVUUS’s Communications Covenant. Here is our covenant’s preamble:

“Are my words true? Are my words necessary? Are my words kind? If not, let me hold my speech.”
—Sufi proverb: “The Three Gates of Speech”

I have tried to make those three questions a personal mantra, with limited success. As national discourse is reduced to verbal combat, it’s awfully easy to slide along thinking I’m doing OK—in comparison—when in fact my own conversations with others, even with myself, are falling short of the Sufi proverb’s principles. Frequently, I find my communications are tinged with anger and frustration.

Here is CVUUS’s covenant:

We, the members of Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, covenant with each other and affirm our spiritual commitment to practice wise, truthful, and kind speech in all aspects of congregational life.

It goes on:

Committed to Unitarian Universalist principles, we worship, learn, celebrate, mourn, and play together, creating an ever-changing congregation based on shared ministry.

In shared ministry, words are the primary means by which we express our faith, our ideas, our intentions, and our commitment to each other. Words have the power to heal or to harm, to clarify or to confuse, to facilitate or to obstruct.

The well being of CVUUS, its members, and its friends depends on the way we speak our thoughts and share information. Ultimately, the way we communicate is as critical as what we decide.

The CVUUS Communications Covenant then offers Queries for Self Reflection, and more. Go to http://www.cvuus.org/members/policies-procedures/communications-covenant/ on our website to read and reflect on the entire covenant.

Amidst the din of the news—the combat of recrimination—it might calm and reassure you, reminding you that ours is a community that aims to do better, that aims to practice right relation between our world and ourselves. John Barstow, Right Relations Team

A bouquet of roses to:

…Ann Webster and the Worship Team for coordination of worship during Rev. Barnaby’s sabbatical and Mike Greenwood, Steve Maier and Margy Young for their leadership on so many tasks.

…..Marjorie Carsen for organizing the New UU classes as well as another wonderful Seder, along with great help from others.

…Piper Harrell & Nita Hanson for being in the Nursery at the last minute and with a lot of extra kids.

…Gail Borden and Heidi Sulis for organizing our amazing Youth Group, who led our April 29 service to tell the story of their year of service at John Graham Shelter.

… Mitch Kramer for directing our sound system coverage and parking signage.

…Francois Clemmons, Chris Prickett, Connie Leach, Paul Seward and Chuck Miller who contributed special music to our April worship services and Zora Duquette-Hoffman for sharing her testimony on lobbying for gun legislation.
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. We appreciate Rev. Barnaby’s donation in honor of his mother Michal Feder.

Planned Giving: For help remembering us in your will or trust, contact John Berninghausen at 349-7080 berningh@middlebury.edu.

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. Sue Grigg, Laurie Borden and Marjorie Carsen lead our team. Their contact info is in the Directory.

Our Caring Network provides support, such as calls, visits, meals, and rides, to those in need. 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 the congregation to call on us. We have an extensive network of willing helpers standing by that we can call or email on your behalf. You can also let us know if you’d like to join this network. Contact Ginny Moser (tvmoser117@gmail.com or 802-989-7586.)

Visit www.uua.org to learn about the wider work of UUA and our affiliates. Visit www.cvuus.org to explore our happenings and most current calendar.

B Porter 5/1
Kirsten Scheu 5/1
Luke Jackson 5/5
Esra Anzali 5/7
Elizabeth Golden-Pidgeon 5/8
Mitch Kramer 5/10
Poppy Rees 5/10
Vera Flight 5/11
Tony Drapelick 5/12
Bob House 5/12
Mike Greenwood 5/13
Al Boudreau 5/14

Lyn Rice 5/16
Zora Duquette-Hoffman 5/18
Lynn Lugrinbuhl 5/18
Bobbi Loney 5/19
Amy McGlashen 5/19
Barbara Ganley 5/20
Annan Duquette-Hoffman 5/21
Jamie Scheu 5/23
Peter Lindholm 5/26
Mary Harrington 5/29
Marjorie Carsen 5/31
Ann Webster 5/31

Pledge /Budget Update: We, the Board of Trustees, the Leadership Team and the Finance Team have adjusted the proposed budget based on input from the congregation, our minister and the Finance team. Unfortunately, we currently have a gap of approximately $7,000 between pledges received and our minimal operating budget pledge goal for July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019. In addition, some additional projected expenses have arisen since the preliminary budget was drafted. So, we are seeking additional pledges and one-time gifts totaling $20,000. If you can help, please notify this year’s canvass treasurer, Dorothy Mammen at dorothy.mammen@gmail.com or at 349.9670. We would like to receive additional pledges or one-time gifts by May 10th so we can finalize the budget and present to you a balanced budget at our Annual Meeting, June 3rd. If you have some creative ideas we have not mentioned you’d like to offer to close the gap, don’t hesitate to let us know.

Thanking you in advance.
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989-7197 (home)
Email: revbarnaby@cvuus.org

CVUUS Board of Trustees
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Laurie Borden – Co-President
Mary Conlon– Treasurer
Mark Spritzer—Clerk
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Donna LaRose
Jean Terwilliger
Mary Hadley

CVUUS Leaders
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Communications — Margy Young
Council of Ministries: Steve Maier, Margy Young
Donation Ministry — Jason Duquette-Hoffman
Facilities – Bob House
Ground Floor Project— Steve Maier, Brett Millier
Hospitality – Sylviane Acker, Julie Chippendale
Library & Information Resources – Artley Wolfson
Membership Ministry—Marjorie Carsen
Pastoral Care —Sue Grigg and Laurie Borden
Radical Love—Piper Harrell, Steve Maier
Religious Exploration Council – Kas Singh
Right Relations—John Barstow, Anne Christie, Joanna Colwell
Small Group Ministry — Doug Richards
Worship – Ann Webster (Interim)

Staff
Accompanists – Kate Gridley and Chuck Miller
Bookkeeper – Heather Seeley (fm@cvuus.org)
Choir Director – Lucy Tenenbaum (lucytunes@me.com)
Dir of Religious Exploration – Poppy Rees (re@cvuus.org)
Nursery Care Provider: Jackie Derse
Office Manager– Laura Asermily (office@cvuus.org)