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.

What does it mean to be a people of PURPOSE?

September Worship Services

(Sundays at 10 AM)

Sept. 2 -- Are We Having Fun Yet? -- Paul and Frances Stone recall the hardest work they ever did and Rev. Barnaby explores what makes work fun at our annual picnic worship at Stonewood Farm in Orwell. (Service starts an hour later than normal at 11 am.)

Sept. 9 -- Water Communion Ingathering -- Uplifting stories and songs for all ages as we turn towards autumn and the new church year. Bring water from summer travels or from home to share in the communion bowl, which will be used to water our garden at the end).

Sept. 16 -- The First Purpose— Rev. Barnaby shares two stories, one of creation and one of rebirth, that address the question of why we matter.

Sept. 23 -- TBD

Sept. 30 -- Thoughtful Wishing— Rev. Barnaby describes a promising way to find a sense of purpose in our lives when we feel we are at loose ends.

How would you like be involved?

Pathways to Connection

Sundays

Throughout September, 11:15—11:45
Sanctuary (explore many options!)

- Congregational Life/Connection
- Spiritual Life/Worship
- Social Action/Radical Love
- Resources & Stewardship
- Faith Development/Learning

Thank you Flower Co-op for the beauty you create in and around our sanctuary.
Words from Rev. Barnaby:

In *Growing a Beloved Community*, a short book by Rev. Owen-Towle that your Board read and discussed this past year, you can find a critique of Christian churches in 19th century Denmark by Sören Kierkegaard, a pioneering Danish theologian deeply concerned about the nature of truth. Kierkegaard felt that when it came to church, parishioners thought of God as the director of a play called “Life,” the minister as the lead actor, and of themselves as the audience. In reality, Kierkegaard argued, “the congregants are the actors, God is the audience, and ministers are the prompters, supplying forgotten lines.” (*GaBC*, p.24).

It got me wondering how many of you look to me for “forgotten lines” – things you would instantly recognize as your truth if you heard me saying them. At times, all of us are missing nourishing truths mislaid in the stress of making a living, raising a family, dealing with illness, or caring for loved ones who are suffering. Still worse, we have a generation of political leaders actively trying to make us forget any truth related to UU spiritual values.

Kierkegaard’s vision of the minister’s role felt like an awesome responsibility to me, especially since it made no mention of who was to be my prompter. Fortunately, Rev. Owen-Towle went on to narrow my job description by talking about healthy UU congregations as settings for shared ministry. He included an affirmation that was part of the weekly order of service at his UU congregation in San Diego: “We envision members and friends of First Church as pilgrims traveling on life’s journey together – creating shared ministry through which we can grow our souls in ways truthful to ourselves, caring of others, and sustaining of the planet.”

Our monthly worship themes this year all start with “We are a people of...” The kick-off theme the worship team chose for September is “Purpose.” If our purpose – our aim – is to create shared ministry like that Rev. Owen-Towle describes, then we are in for a great year together at a time when we greatly need just that....

May it be so, Rev. Barnaby
Parker Palmer wrote in his book *To Know as We Are Known: A Spirituality of Education*, “the spiritual traditions offer hope that is hard to find elsewhere, for all of them are ultimately concerned with getting us reconnected. These traditions build on the great truth that beneath the broken surface of our lives there remains – in the words of Thomas Merton – a ‘hidden wholeness.’ *The hope of every wisdom tradition is to recall us to that wholeness in the midst of our torn world, to reweave us into the community.*”

We seek connection. Which is why most of us come to church, right? We come to church, to RE, to CVUUS, to Group Ministry seeking connection. Connection to others here, to others out in the world who need help, connection to our true selves, and maybe connection to something bigger than us. The kids want it – to sit with friends, to know who will be there, to be together. I want it for my own children. Friends - but also this community of adults that sees them, smiles, and says “Hello Callie and Milo.”

**Look for chances to connect.** There are many small ways we can do this: saying hello, using someone’s name (wear your nametag!), a chat during Coffee Hour with someone we don’t know very well, sitting somewhere we don’t usually sit. Try to bring your kids to RE enough, so that they are known and know others there. Tell me if you have any idea for an event or gathering that would feed our connections to each other. Capture-the-Flag? BBQ? Sunday Sundaes?

Let’s work toward making the “hidden wholeness” a vibrant visible one ~

~ Poppy, your Director of Religious Exploration

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**SEPT RE SCHEDULE**

**SEPT 2:** ANNUAL PICNIC & WORSHIP 11 am – Stonewood Farm in Orwell. Kids start in Worship then leave for tour of farm animals (goat, cows, turkeys, & more) with Paul Stone. Potluck after.

**SEPT 9:** MULTIGEN SERVICE: INGATHERING/WATER COMMUNION! Kids stay in service! Bring in water from travels or from favorite ponds or lakes, the ocean, your backyard pool, a garden hose, or even your own kitchen sink. (No RE)

**RE LEADERS & ASSISTANTS ORIENTATION LUNCH 11:30-1:30** Important gathering for RE leaders. Assistants welcome. Tell Poppy ASAP if you want an evite, so that she knows numbers for food and info packets.

**SEPT 16:** RE STARTS with ALL-AGES KIDS FOR KIDS Start in worship. Getting ready for CROP Hunger Walk All-ages kids social justice group that works to help other kids. This month: CROP Hunger Walk prep (Sept 30).

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP STARTS 4-6 pm (COMING OF AGE Orientation Dinner date/time TBD – maybe this week)**

**SEPT 23:** RE GROUPS (pre-school to grade 6) START Start in worship. Coming of Age kids can assist in groups (ask Poppy) or attend Worship.

**SEPT 30:** RE GROUPS Start in worship.

**COMING OF AGE STARTS 10-12** Next door at Mary Johnson Children’s Center basement

**CROP WALK 12:45 – CVUUS is walking and raising money to fight hunger! Please walk! YOUTH GROUP & COA will have groups walking.**

For more information, contact Director of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees re@cvuus.org or anyone on our RE Council Tracey Harrington and Jess Rouse (co-chairs), Kas Singh, Natali West, Martha Alexander, and welcoming Molly Andres, Catie Raishart
How Would You Like to Stand for Radical Love?

*Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.* from Rabbi Tarfon (2nd century)

**Migrant Support:** Do you wish to understand and assist our migrant farmworkers? Addison Allies (formally the Addison County Migrants Ally Group) will check-in **Sat., Oct. 20, 9-11 am** in Fenn to share experiences in an interesting “speed dating” fashion. Prep for the Mexican Consulate Visit at CVUUS on **Sat. Dec. 8 (9-3)** will resume. More at cvuus.org.

**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. Contact Abi Sessions if you wish to be added to their listserve to stay posted on ways to help.

**LGBTQ:** Attend Pride Parade in Burl on Sept 8 with fellow CVUUSers. Contact Jordan Young for more.

**Addison County 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 am at the Middlebury Cross St rotary/new park. Bring signs as you see fit. They will also be there **Sat. Sept 8** which is **Rise for Climate, an international day of action** convened by 350.org. Also, consider this upcoming opportunity.

**Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL) Fall Conference, Sat. Oct 13** (10-4) at United Methodist Church (899 Dorset St South Burl). A **Just Economy to Achieve Climate Goals** Keynote speaker: George Lakey, author of **Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right and How We Can, Too**.

**Community Conversation: Opioids, Treatment & Recovery:** Sun. Sept. 30, 4 pm, Congregational Church of Middlebury. Panel facilitated by Emily Joselson and Andy Nagy-Benson.

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**September Greetings from Membership Ministry**

A warm welcome back from summer journeys, whether nearby or far away, including adventures of the spirit, mind and body.

Our team of greeters contribute to the welcoming atmosphere at CVUUS, with the recent addition of our RE kids who are choosing to greet alongside our adult volunteers. You don't have to know everyone to serve as a greeter, but if you wish to get acquainted with more of us, I highly recommend that you sign up with me for an occasional Sunday morning. And we all should try to remember our name tags, whether we are newer to CVUUS or old timers.

Our fall New UU classes will be scheduled for October, usually three interesting informal sessions, that are for anyone curious about the history of our denomination and of this congregation, as well as for those who are considering membership. Please speak to Rev. Barnaby or myself if you are in these categories or have related questions. You may also let the office know you are interested. And we may be in touch with you if you have recently started attending services with us. The timing of classes has frequently been on a Monday or Thursday evening, and/or after a Sunday AM service, so we hope we can offer times that work with you-- let us know your needs.

And surely you may consider CVUUS your spiritual home, as it suits your values and needs, whatever your readiness to become a member at this time.

Warm blessings,

Marjorie Carsen, for Membership Ministry

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**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. Thank you so much for your pledges.
Ground Floor Construction
Just Around the Corner!!
And Fundraising Update

Construction drawings and sub-contractor bids are being finalized, and permit applications submitted. The “basement” has been cleaned out – books sorted and stored, music files moved, things thrown away – it is now ready to be transformed into the “Ground Floor.” And the elevator has even been ordered because there is a long lead time for its delivery. It is looking like construction will begin by the middle or end of September. THANK YOU ALL!!

Once construction starts, use of the sanctuary building will be restricted during normal working hours, 7 am to 4 pm Monday – Friday.

On the fundraising side of things, we have received 20 extra gifts since May as part of the OWLL (Our Whole Lower Level) Campaign, amounting to almost $121,000. CVUUS has also received $10,000 from Bob Kellogg’s estate, $6,000 of which has been credited to the Ground Floor account. Among other things, this means that we met our $18,000 kitchen challenge match, raising a total of $36,000 for equipment (stove, oven, refrigerator, dishwasher, etc.), cabinets, counters, and sinks. Including 3 bequests (Fenn, Swift, Kellogg), the total raised so far for the Ground Floor is $850,000. WOW!

Despite this incredible generosity, there are still several items NOT funded so far. These include audio or visual equipment for the Ground Floor, heat pump/ air conditioners for either floor, library shelving/ desk/ other furniture, built-in benches, and outdoor landscape and gardens besides the entry walk.

If you are interested in contributing to help raise these funds, please fill out a gift form, which is available here: http://www.cvuus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pledge-Form-OWLL-final-push-final.pdf. And in Sanctuary Lobby. As always, gifts of all shapes and sizes are welcomed. They can be new or one-time gifts, increases to previously pledged amounts, or extensions of current pledges (for a fourth year, for example).

For more information:

Project generally: Steve Maier (sbmaier55@gmail.com or 802-238-6699) or please see our website at http://www.cvuus.org/connection/ground-floor/

Ground Floor design or construction: Jean Terwilliger (jean@jeanterwilliger.com or 802-989-7249) or Llyn Rice (llynrice@gmail.com or 802-443-8028)

Kitchen: Kate Gridley (kmgridley@gmail.com or 802-989-1928) or Alan Moore (alanwmoore1947@gmail.com or 865-335-2028)
Charter House Community Lunch Team Calling all cooks, servers, and people interested in a great opportunity to serve our greater Middlebury community. Consider joining the Charter House community lunch team for CVUUS! Your involvement can be what works best for you. Maybe be on a call list for preparing a dish occasionally, or making sandwiches on site for the take-out lunches, or serving, or helping with cleanup. We do this every third Tuesday from 10 am – 1 pm. You can come for part of this time for a specific job if that works for you. The best part of this is you can join our guests for a healthy lunch and enjoy the connections you can make. You will come to know that you receive at least as much as you give. It feels great! Contact Sue Grigg at suegrigg2@gmail.com.

Meals on Wheels provides so much more than a nutritious meal. The moment you knock on that door, you make a connection. It might be a quick hello or a conversation, but the impact lasts a lifetime. Not just for those receiving the meal, but for you, too. We need your help. Time commitment is based on your availability—it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (weekdays only). Delivery is typically from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We are in particular shortage of volunteers in Middlebury, Bristol, and Vergennes. For more information, please contact Erica Marks emarks@agewellvt.org or 802-662-5249 or visit agewellvt.org/giving-back. Talk with Thurs UU Team leaders Mary Conlon & Mike Greenwood.

Library Links Library web page found under Learning menu at cvuus.org.

Library catalog: http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/signin?libraryname=CVUUS%20LIBRARY. Also accessible from the library web page. If you’re purchasing books or media for CVUUS, make sure to check our catalog first to avoid unnecessary duplications!

Library materials selection policy: http://www.cvuus.org/members/policies-procedures/library-materials-selection-policy. Found under the Members>Policies, Procedures, Covenants menu of the CVUUS web site, this policy includes notes about selecting books and media, receiving gift material, and weeding (discarding) library holdings.

Library wishlist: https://www.librarything.com/catalog/CVUUS/wishlist

Charter House Community Lunch Team

Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment, a UUA Skinner House publication. This year’s UUA “common read.” Library call number: 261.8

Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities, also a UUA Skinner House publication. The CVUUS Board will be reading it this year. Library call number: 253.39132 UPC

For other recently-added titles, see our online public access catalog (OPAC), via the library catalog link below.


Library web page found under Learning menu at cvuus.org.

Library catalog: http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/signin?libraryname=CVUUS%20LIBRARY. Also accessible from the library web page. If you’re purchasing books or media for CVUUS, make sure to check our catalog first to avoid unnecessary duplications!

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Library wishlist: https://www.librarything.com/catalog/CVUUS/wishlist
Social Action Updates

September “Share the Plate” Donee
WATER.ORG

One of the major barriers to safe water and sanitation is affordable financing. Water.org addresses this barrier head-on through access to small, easily repayable loans. Every repaid loan creates a new opportunity for another family. By supporting Water.org, you are part of a solution that reaches more people. This makes your donation go further. So far, they have reached more than 13 million people in 13 countries. For more than 25 years, they’ve been providing families with hope, health and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. For more, see https://water.org/ or speak with Jason Duquette-Hoffman, whose family traveled to Peru last winter and witnessed firsthand the challenges and importance of access to clean water in developing economies. In a region where it can take hours, and expensive fuel, to boil water, and where plastic bottles are becoming a national crisis, they experienced just a tiny fraction of the challenges faced by folks who live where clean water doesn't run from a tap. Water.org helps families and communities build clean water infrastructure at the smallest levels through affordable microfinance.

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. July’s collection raised $672 for ACTR and August’s collection raised $712 for Rock the Vote. Thank you for your generosity!

41st Annual Addison County CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018, Middlebury Town Green, 12:30 pm photo, 1 pm, 2.5 mile walk

First, a shout-out to everyone who walked last year or sponsored our CVUUS walkers!! Our county raised $27,800, making us #6 in New England, and a BIG part of that is thanks to you!! 25% of funds raised stayed right here in Addison County to help local programs addressing hunger. The remaining 75% helped combat hunger around the world through disaster relief, sustainable economic development and refugee assistance.

*** There will be a table in the CVUUS foyer starting September 9th for people to sign up as walkers or to donate to support walkers, or get information about doing so online. Last year we had an amazing turnout! It’s a wonderful opportunity to teach our kids through example about community service, to give them an opportunity to give while being embraced by our beloved CVUUS family, and to help people here and around the world. Questions? Ask Bobbi Loney bobbiloney@gmail.com ***

KIDS for KIDS
We’ll be meeting Sunday, September 16th, to do fun activities to support the 2018 Addison County CROP Hunger Walk (September 30th), including, for those who want to, walking barefoot in paint on a banner! All sizes and shaped feet are welcomed and needed! We will start in Worship and leave from there. Questions? Ask Bobbi Loney at 388-6025 or bobbiloney@gmail.com.

Visit cvuus.org/justice for the many ways that CVUUS advances justice through action and monthly donations and cvuus.org/news for latest news.
Between devouring too many creemes and attending numerous outdoor town sponsored musical events, I have been thinking a lot about courage and what it takes to be courageous. My reflection and questioning around courage is prompted by several summer tragedies in my family – several deaths and families being upended and rerouted – requiring me to spend more time than I usually do (or would prefer to do) with several family members. Living in, around and with some family members can be hard work. Disengagement is often easier than dialog. It is in times when disengagement is my likely response, I try to remember that dialogue is actually connective healing work. It is at its best deep listening to understand and learn from the other. It is not always easy. And dialog isn’t about being right, or convincing someone of a point. Dialog is foremost about listening. So with humble confidence I listen and I find myself amazed, sometimes stunned, by how similar we are despite the outward appearance of being so disparate from each other. I am reminded in situations like these to be courageous and speak from the heart and trust its wisdom laying aside all the advice, the judgment and the blame that can happen all too quickly when a family is in crisis.

2018 Annual Meeting Highlights
Congregants:
Elected Doug Richards and Kas Singh to a 3 year term to the governing Board
Approved a 2018-2019 fiscal year budget of $317,491.00 which included a 2.5% pay increase for all of our employees except the sexton who is new to his position.

July 17 and August 14 Board Meeting Highlights
Agreed to enter an agreement with Acorn Energy’s AES2@ solar project for $10,000.
See below for more about why.

CVUUS Goes Solar!

On August 14 the CVUUS Board voted to invest in Acorn Energy Coop’s AES2 community solar project, whose 612 photovoltaic panels will feed 150 kilowatts peak power into the electric grid. CVUUS is eligible to invest in this project through our membership in the Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN). Each investor will receive credits against their electric bills for energy produced by their share of AES2’s solar panels. Our investment is limited to $10,000, which buys us 17 panels, with peak capacity of nearly 6 kilowatts.

Here’s why investment in AES2 is good for CVUUS:
* It furthers our commitment to the UUA’s seventh principle (respect for the interdependent web of existence). Reducing dependence on environmentally damaging energy sources puts our energy money where our principled mouth is. Although Green Mountain Power has one of the “greenest” energy mixes, it still includes about 24% fossil-fueled electricity.
* It furthers our commitment to the UUA’s second principle (justice, equity, and compassion). We will contribute an additional 10% “mission fee” to help ICAN purchase solar panels for a low-income advocacy organization.
* It makes economic sense: Acorn expects an annual return of 9.36%, paid as electric-bill credits. That translates to about $1000 per year, or some 25% of our annual electricity cost. That 9.36% is a lot more than we earn with money in banks or most other investment vehicles.

If all goes as planned, AES2 should start producing power this fall.

Rich Wolfson
Fall Auction or Radical Love Giveaway Party?

Which kind of gathering to build fellowship and raise funds would you prefer for early November at CVUUS? An evening where everyone is invited to bid on donated items, services, and fellowship opportunities like unusual meals in peoples’ homes or group outings? Or an all-ages after-church event like we invented last year to give away such donations in random drawings by our children. With this approach, how much money you have is generally irrelevant, no matter how much you want what is being offered.

In the Giveaway Party case, we raised funds to replace the auction portion of our budget by asking everyone to give a donation equivalent to four percent of their annual pledge, whether or not they came to the Party. We learned a lot last year about what to do but no decision was made to do it again.

So...now comes the big question: who wants to lead the organization and coordination of one or the other of these events? Contact Rev. Barnaby asap. The sooner we start planning, the more fun we can bake into the experience.

Where did the summer go? Remembering the 2018 Rhubarb Festival...

Earlier this summer, on June 2nd, CVUUS held our 9th Annual Rhubarb Festival. Through diligent efforts and terrific sales people we brought in $4889 in gross income for the event. After reimbursing expenses (including the entertaining “old time” puppet show) and providing money to the CVUUS general fundraising budget line, we were able to give $1700 to HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to make RF’18 a success (including workers, buyers, and bakers) with a special shout out to Elizabeth Golden who led the always popular book sale component (and whom I inexplicably left out of thank you’s in the last newsletter. -my apologies)

There is always interest and need for fun-raising, fund-raising, so if you have ideas for celebrating our 10th Rhubarb Festival next year, please let me know.—

Thanks to everyone for ongoing support!

—Top Stalk, Mary Hadley

A bouquet of roses to:

...Francois Clemmons, Caitlin Gildrien, Laurie Borden, and Poppy Rees for sharing their moving experiences with spirituality and the arts in our summer worship services.

...the 17-18 Religious Exploration Council - Brett Millier, Natali West, Martha Alexander, Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse, Kas Singh, and Heidi Sulis for being DRE Subs, subbing in the Nursery and coordinating/leading/assisting the entire Summer RE program so that Poppy can get vacation time and attend full worship services.

...our fabulous summer RE leaders Bobbi Loney, Colleen Brown, Ted Scheu, Gerry Loney, Amy Mason, Shannon LaRose, JP Rees, Mark Spritzer, Will Porter, Kas Singh, Rev. Barnaby and Martha Alexander

...our wonderful summer RE assistants Jay Harrington, Sydney Singh, Doug Richards, Laurie Borden Priscilla Bremser, Donna LaRose, Piper Harrell, Mary Hadley

...Bob House for coordinating summer facilities projects, especially the drainage project and clearing the lower level along with Mitch Kramer, Alan Moore, Paul Stone and others.

...Artley Wolfson for her herculean effort in packing and inventorying the lower level, especially the library and music.

...Rich Wolfson for researching the potential investment in the ACORN Solar 2 Project and assisting Artley and others with clearing the lower level.

...Elizabeth Golden-Pidgeon for coordinating summer hospitality, doing extra gatekeeping and cohosting an informing Zero Waste Workshop with ACSWMD.

...Dinah Smith for coordinating summer flower arrangements for our worship and memorial services and weeding our grounds along with Sue Grigg.

Laura Ferguson, Martha Fulda and Brian Mason for joining the office support team along with steadfast Sheila House and Barbara Merz.
Doors Open to Small Group Ministry

Throughout the summer, members of the Small Group Steering Team have been chatting with congregation members at a weekly Small Group Ministry information and sign-up table following the Sunday worship service. If you were one of the folks who provided us with input or expressed an interest by placing your name on the interest/sign up sheet, you can expect a follow-up contact from the steering committee soon as small group sessions get underway this fall. As a result of our conversations, the Small Group Steering Committee is pleased to announce a new set of options for participation in small groups during the 2018-19 church year.

Continuing monthly Covenant Groups—with openings for new members. Each of the four small groups that met last year plans to continue meeting during the upcoming year. These meet monthly as follows:

- **Wednesday evening** 7:15-9 pm in the Fenn House chapel (currently the second Wed.)
- **Thursday evening** 7-9 pm at participants’ homes
- **Thursday afternoon** 2-4 pm at participants’ homes
- **Saturday morning** 9-11 am in the Fenn House chapel

Depending on the level of interest, a new monthly covenant group might also be formed. If you think you may be interested, contact Doug Richards (drichards@keuka.edu) or the Office (office@cvuus.org). In addition, the Wed evening group (which meets from 7:15-9 pm) invites “drop-in” participants who would like to “test out” the small group model of spiritual sharing. For more info on this group, contact Bobbi Loney.

A new door into Small Group Ministry this year will be a set of “affinity” or interest-focused groups. Planning for three of these groups is now underway:

- **Women’s Group** to meet monthly at noon, following the Sunday service, over lunch. Topics will be selected collectively by the participants. Organized by Elizabeth Golden. Please contact her to join.

- **Small Group Ministry for Parents** to meet Second Saturday each month, 5:30-7:30pm. Childcare provided. Parents with children through middle school age are invited to get together and develop deeper connections by sharing their thoughts and beliefs around our monthly CVUUS themes within the small group ministry model. Our first gathering will be **Saturday, October 9th**. Dinner and drinks provided. RSVP preferred but not required. Contact Tracey Harrington, 4.mt.mice@gmail.com

- **Transition to Retirement group** to meet monthly at a time to be determined, being organized by Dinah Smith and Faith Lowell (contact Dinah or Faith or the church office at office@cvuus.org if interested)

Other possible affinity groups might consist of a limited number of sessions (with an opportunity to extend or refocus). Among those that have been proposed are a “Let’s chat about death” group (proposed by Laurie Borden), a bimonthly reading group about “decentering whiteness” proposed by Margy Levine Young, and a “Spiritual Journey” group (proposed by Scott Smith) If any of these ideas interest you, or if you have an idea of your own for an affinity group, contact the proposers above or Doug Richards.

Finally, yet another wrinkle on “affinity” groups that has emerged consists of regular congregational task-groups taking on a small group inflection as a means of deepening the connections between those engaged in a common task. For example, the Hospitality folks might consider a monthly or quarterly gathering in which they (and others who are interested) share and reflect on the spiritual dimensions of hospitality, perhaps with a brief common reading or simply a few questions to consider. Similarly, members of the Flower Coop or Landscaping groups might gather to consider the spirituality of flowers or of landscaping. We hope that each of the task-oriented groups in the church will consider deepening their spiritual connections through formal or informal gatherings that draw on the principles and practices of Small Group Ministry. For more information or assistance with this idea, contact Doug Richards or any member of the steering committee (Dinah Smith, Bobbi Loney, Marjorie Carsen, Karl Lindholm)—or perhaps chat with Rev. Barnaby about it next time you see him. *Blessed be!*
Choir Notes

Greetings to CVUUS choir friends and family, Summer is passing, September is nigh, Choir starts Sept. 5, come one come all to sing!

Our first rehearsal is Wed. Sept. 5, starting at 5:45-7:15, our regular rehearsal. We will learn our first Sunday’s piece, a traditional Hebrew tune arranged by Stan Hill and adapted for SATB by Eric Howe. Hebrew text says, May Michael (angel) be at my right hand, Gabriel at my left, before me Uriel, behind me Raphael, and above my head, the Divine Presence.” We greet the fall, nod our heads at the beginning of the High Holy Days, and welcome all of the congregation back to the choir season!

Our second rehearsal on Sept. 12 will start with our bi-annual PotLuck! We still start at 5:45, but will party until 6:45, then hold our choir rehearsal until 8. Please consider singing with the choir this season. You will make friends, learn better singing technique, and enhance our worship experience!

Then, we turn to two weeks celebrating the Vincent Siliman Congregational Song Contest from the UUMN conference in Portland Oregon this summer. Sept. 16 we’ll introduce the Sally Rogers song, “We Will Build This House” arr. by Serenity Fisher and Susan Conant. Harmony is not written in, so we will be improvising.

Sept. 23 Poppy will lead the congregation and choir in “Stonecatcher,” the winner of the 2018 Siliman Hymn Competition by Carol Caouette! I sang the song, liked it so much (thinking of Poppy the whole time) that I voted for it. Most of the participating musicians also voted for it! We will teach it to the congregation, I’m sure you’ll love learning it, and we will bring it back often! Accompaniment is…right, STONES!!

The choir sings 3 Sundays a month. The membership is always open. Please join us! This fall marks my 4th year as your choir director, and great things are happening with music with a new Music Ministry Team. Music is alive and well at CVUUS, won’t you be a part of it?!

Blessings Lucy

Music Ministry Team
Lucy Tenenbaum, Kate Gridley, Poppy Rees, Chuck Miller, Amy Mason, Shannon LaRose, Carol Harding, YOU?!

FILLED WITH MUSIC, TALKS & CELEBRATION OF LIFE!

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

...Spiritual Day (Al-Anon), Sat. Sept 8, 9am –3 pm, Sanctuary. Laura Asermily

...Patty Sgrecci Celebration of Life, Sun. Oct 14, 1 pm, Sanctuary. Need people.

...Green Mountain Club Long Trail Hike Talk: Mike De Bonis, Thur. Oct 18, 7 pm, Sanctuary. Alan Moore, Allison Cutler

...Addison Allies “Speed Sharing,” Sat. Oct 20, 9 am, Fenn. Lise Anderson

...Living with Dying: A Conversation with Joshin Byrnes and Sasha Pilkington, Tues Oct 30, 7 pm, Sanctuary. Need people.

...David Roth Concert, Sun. Nov 4, 4 pm, Sanctuary. Need people.

...Ladies Night Out Concert, Sat. Nov 10, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary. Need people.

...Mexican Consulate Visit, Sat. Dec 8, 9 am-3 pm, Sanctuary. Need people.
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.

Donate items to Neat Repeats, Buy Again Alley, HOPE and WomenSafe!

Drop off used clothing to Neat Repeats and give them account #108 or Buy Again and give them #504. 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! See Dottie Nelson with questions. Thanks!

Writers’ Group

CVUUS Writers’ Group meets third Monday of the month. It doesn’t meet over the summer and will miss Sept. due to fact that Nancy will be in Norway. Next one is Oct. 15, 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).

Night Sky Wonders for Sept

We usher in Autumn on the 22nd at 9:54 p.m. At that moment the northern and southern hemispheres of planet Earth will be equally illuminated. Days will continue to get shorter this month, which pleases us astronomers.

We continue to have beautiful planets to gaze at this month with our Moon helping us identify them. On the 13th and 14th a thin crescent Moon will join Jupiter in the southwest, followed on the 16th and 17th with it visiting Saturn (almost directly south), and then the Moon will snuggle up to Mars on the 19th. Mars continues to have a global dust storm, although it appears to be gradually decreasing.

The constellation “Sagittarius” is directly south in the early evening, just below Saturn. Often called the “teapot,” the area just above the spout in Sagittarius is the center of our Milky Way galaxy. This galaxy of ours is 100,000 lightyears in diameter, and we are located some 26,000 lightyears from the center.

If you’d like to learn a bit more about our fabulous Moon, I’ll be making a presentation at the Orwell library on Sept 25 at 6:30 p.m.

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 astromanvt@gmavt

GLEANING

A CVUUS Green Sanctuary Environmental Justice Project

Plant and glean at local farms and community gardens and process fresh produce to donate to H.O.P.E. and Charter House. You can take home some gleaned items if there’s enough. Lily Bradburn (pictured above) coordinates glean for HOPE. Contact her at 388-3608 ext.225 or email: lbradburn@hope-vt.org to help. Or help Charter House with their community garden at Porter Hospital next to Midd DogPark on Saturday mornings Gleans are usually 1 1/2- 2 hrs. Please feel free to stay for whatever amount of time works for you.

Al Boudreau
“Astroman”
CVUUS is blessed with many wise and well-trained individuals providing support to members and friends in various kinds of distress. Sue Grigg, Laurie Borden and Marjorie Carsen lead our team. See Directory for contact info.

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. Thanks to the Lashof family for a generous gift in memory of Judith Lashof and from friends of Barbara Engel in her memory.

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