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...HOPE?

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<tr>
<th>December Worship Services</th>
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<td><strong>Dec 2 - Lighting Hope</strong>—Guest worship leader Patience Stoddard returns to our pulpit to reflect on creating a healthy spiritual community - the hope for a place to be fully our selves and the challenge of learning how to live openly and honestly with others. Join her for <em>How to Have a Compassionate Meeting</em> after worship 11:30-2 pm in Fenn Chapel. Light lunch and childcare provided.</td>
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<td><strong>Dec. 9 – Living in Hope</strong> — Rev. Barnaby explores what we know and suspect about the life-sustaining power of hope.</td>
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<td><strong>Dec. 16 - Losing Hope</strong> —Rev. Barnaby looks at the ways we lose hope and how this holiday season teaches us to respond. (Today's offering will be divided among our part-time employees as a holiday bonus).</td>
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<td><strong>Dec. 23 – Looking for Hope</strong>—“There is more hope somewhere....&quot; one of our hymns claims. Is there any skill involved in finding it?</td>
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DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Bring visiting family, neighbors and friends. Both end with traditional lighting of candles and singing of *Silent Night*.

- **5 pm —No-Rehearsal All-Ages Nativity Pageant!** Join our family-friendly service in which all are welcome to take part in our joyful story with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, angels, animals, wise ones, and stars - flexible depending on who shows up (last year we had 3 Marys, each with a baby Jesus). We provide costumes or bring your own. Or just sit, watch, and sing along with the traditional carols. Holiday Youth Choir will sing and chime bells. Led by Director of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees.

- **7:15 pm —Carol Singing** with CVUUS Choir

- **7:30 pm -- Fake News vs. Good News** — A traditional UU Christmas Service reflecting on the intersection of hope, faith, courage, and compassion led by Rev. Barnaby. Special music: Timothy Cummings and Francois Clemmons. Readings from the Christmas Story and congregation-al carol singing. Donations from Christmas Eve services go to HOPE.
Words from Rev. Barnaby:
I'm writing this just before Thanksgiving following one of my fullest weekend's as your minister. Friday evening, when I'm usually at home for Shabbat with Michele, was devoted to co-leading the White Fragility workshop that drew 35 participants. Saturday, my normal day off, was filled with our Board Retreat. Sunday included our worship service, a rich Congregational Conversation about music at CVUUS, a thought-provoking pastoral hour with a congregant growing out of the White Fragility workshop, and greeting 8 Cuerdas, a group of talented musicians from Burlington who had rented our amazing Sanctuary for a late afternoon concert. (I let them know we would love to have them back as part of worship some day).

By Sunday night, I felt I had repeatedly lived the lesson of that Sunday's sermon: what we need is here. Visit cvuus.org/worship/what-we-hunger-for-is-available. For example, the Board Retreat started with a ritual in which each of us wrote down a gift we believed we had on a card, swapped cards with a partner, and discussed our gifts with them. Partners then recounted each others gifts to the group. As each gift was named, we placed a stone representing it on the table with our chalice in the center of our circle. A true “what we need is here” plus moment! Who we are blessed to be among is here.

Some of us struggle to name our character gifts. I took it easy at the Board retreat, writing down the first thing that came to mind instead of trying to identify what gift I most treasure. I wrote down “confident curiosity.” And it's true – I've always been attracted both to new experiences and re-examining what I've learned from past ones. I usually emerge with energizing sensations and wider horizons. Sometimes I find a “Wow!”

As I look ahead to December, it strikes me that my gift is a form of the Christmas message. The story of the birth of Jesus, child of God and humans, is a story of Creation saying to us, “However you enter the world and however vulnerable you might be, you have a relationship with Love that bends the universe toward compassion, justice, beauty, and eternal life.” May you be curious about your path through that vision of reality; may you be confident that what – and who – you need to embrace the good in it is here. Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

CVUUS Directory Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get the Directory? Pick one up in the sanctuary lobby or contact the Office at 388-8080 or office@cvuus.org to get one. Specify if you’d like to receive the photo version or condensed non-photo version. Those listed in the directory with email addresses get it emailed to them from the Office.

How do I get my picture into or updated in the Directory? Email your photo to office@cvuus.org. Have one taken at Worship by Kate Gridley or a friend to email to us.

Do I have to be a member to be in the Directory? No. While all members are listed, we also like to list any friends who are actively attending our services or involved in our endeavors, religious exploration classes or many ministries. UU members have their first name boldfaced. See Rev. Barnaby or Marjorie Carsen if you're interested in becoming an official member. Classes to orient you are offered each fall and spring.

How do I update my contact info? Contact the Office at 388-8080 or office@cvuus.org to change your address, phone or add or change your email address or cell phone number.

Need a name tag? Check the racks where they have been organized alphabetically. If not there, check with a greeter to see if it is elsewhere or needs to be made for you. Pick your style—pin, magnet or string.
RE THOUGHTS  “CHANGING THE NARRATIVE”

The theme of this year’s LREDA (organization of UU Directors of Religious Exploration) Fall Conference was “Changing the Narrative” – which basically means **decentering whiteness in Unitarian Universalism**. Working at being a religious community that supports ALL of our members, friends and visitors. We met as one big group of 200 or so, went to smaller workshops, and met daily in caucus groups of white people or People of Color to discuss and share our personal experiences with Unitarian Universalism. We read about challenging tendencies that White Supremacist Culture can have (worship of the written word, perfectionism, either/or thinking, sense of urgency, individualism – Jones & Okun 2001) and ways to combat those tendencies (creation is done in community, decenter whiteness, both/and thinking, expectation of mistakes, embrace discomfort, collaboration – Jones, Okun, Rivera). Very interesting. I have handouts, if anyone is interested.

We heard inspiring testimony and history from Takiyah Nur Amin, Content Manager of BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism). I’ll be sharing a video of her speaking.

**What else did we explore?**

- “Family Ministry” vs RE for kids of by themselves
- Tools, resources and support for parents
- Radical inclusivity – assume everyone is in the room
- Being mindful of cultural appropriation
- Building sense of belonging and community – relationship-building over content
- Working from the edge of our comfort zone
- Not all stories are equally valuable in the project of liberation
- Practice an ethic of RISK over an ethic of CONTROL – be bold!
- Saying no in the service of yes (going deep with a social justice cause rather than broad with many)
- Justice work – going beyond education and service – partnering with impacted community grassroots organizations, including spiritual practice in the work, protesting
- Curating joy!

~ Poppy, your Director of Religious Exploration

**CHRISTMAS EVE 5 pm Service Monday, Dec 24 BELL CHOIR IS BACK!**

Youth Holiday Choir sings 2 songs led by Poppy: *Peace, Salaam, Shalom* and *Life’s What You Make It*. Easy to learn and sing! **One rehearsal** right after RE on Dec. 23, one more quick one at 4:15 on Christmas Eve, before the Pageant. **BELL CHOIR** will be led by Kate Gridley. Kate will teach any child — age five and up — who wishes to quickly learn how to play the bells (it’s easy). No experience necessary. The bells are color coded and everyone can play their “color” at the right time! **Rehearsals are after Sunday services each of the Sundays in December:** 12/2: 11:45, 12/9: 11:45 (COA kids at noon), 12/16: 11:30 in Fenn Chapel, and 12/23: in the sanctuary after the Youth Choir rehearsal. Kids can play in the bell choir, and sing in the choir, and be in the pageant! Let Kate know if your child is interested (*kmgridley@gmail.com*).

**5th Annual CHRISTMAS EVE NO-REHEARSAL PAGEANT - want to help?**

There are things to do on Sunday Dec. 23 after the service (set up barn/manger/hay, move chairs & furniture, decorate Narrator music stands, assemble Orders of Service, etc.) and things to do during the Pageant (hold microphones for the few lines that kids have, help with costuming, play music, read something...) It's very fun! Talk to Poppy if interested.
DECEMBER for Children, Youth and Their Families

ALL MONTH:  GUEST AT YOUR TABLE collection – take a box home for your table, write a check, donate some change, buy an ornament for your home or the CVUUS tree – many ways to support the UUSC’s social justice programs – this year’s focus is “Justice Across Borders” and the Central American migration trail. Kids will be selling homemade ornaments in the foyer.

** SAT., DEC 1:  YOUTH GROUP  sleep outside at John Graham Shelter Fundraiser Sleep-out

DEC 2:  > BRING IN AN ORNAMENT < FOR OUR HOLIDAY TREE! Or put a name on a Memory Ribbon. We’ll put them on during today’s Time for All Ages. And then ornaments can be added at any time, by anybody—

- RE GROUPS (pre-school to grade 6) start in worship
  - COMING OF AGE  10 am – 12 pm Mary Johnson Children’s Center basement
  - RE COUNCIL 11:45-2:45 (1 hour longer than normal due to upcoming DRE Sabbatical)

DEC 9:  GRADERS 5-6 OWL PARENT & CHILD ORIENTATION  10 am – 12:30 pm
- SPIRIT PLAY & SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE (SUUPER PLAYS GO TO OWL!) start in worship
- COMING OF AGE  10 am – 12 pm Mary Johnson Children’s Center basement
- YOUTH GROUP – MAKE DINNER AT JOHN GRAHAM SHELTER  3:45-6

DEC 16:  SUUPER PLAYS go to Fenn Chapel at 10 to prepare to do SOLSTICE PLAY FOR Time for All Ages in TODAY’S SERVICE!

- SPIRIT PLAY & SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE start in worship
- YOUTH GROUP  4-6

DEC 23:  RE SOLSTICE FUNDAY start in main service, then out for all-ages Solstice activities

- ** HOLIDAY YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL for Pageant 11:15-12 **

Monday DEC 24  5 pm:  5th Annual No-Rehearsal All Ages Nativity Pageant!
All visitors welcome to take part! Family-friendly service. Come be part of our joyful story with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, angels, animals, wise ones, and stars - flexible depending on who shows up (last year we had 3 Marys, each with a baby Jesus). We provide costumes or bring your own. Or just sit, watch, and sing along with the traditional carols. Holiday Youth Choir will sing and there will be a youth bell choir. Ends with candle lighting and “Silent Night.” Led by Director of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees.
SECOND SERVICE 7:30 pm - led by Rev. Barnaby

DEC 30:  RE FUNDAY  Start in Worship. All-ages group with special activity TBD.

For more information, contact Director of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees re@cvuus.org
RAD Love Fellowship Raffle & Fest

Let's get this party started! The Rad Love Fellowship Raffle & Fest is January 13th this year. Last year was the first year for this party and it is a great idea that came about in lieu of an annual auction for fundraising. This really is about our congregation gifting the most valuable thing of all....themselves, their time, their creations, their talents, their love. Please visit the RAD Love table in the sanctuary every Sunday or speak to one of our roaming RAD Love Ambassadors to sign up for donated prizes, get some advice on possible gifts to donate, donate money to fill the fundraising hole left by spreading RAD Love among our congregation, and receive your raffle tickets. If you have any questions please contact Piper Harrell, piperbharrell@gmail.com.

RAD Love Fellowship Raffle Rules and Regulations

How to Enter Raffle: Every Adult gets 10 tickets for FREE. Sign up for tickets at the RAD Love table in the sanctuary. Drop tickets in prize boxes between Nov 25 and Jan 13.

How to Donate Prizes: Donate prizes between now and Jan 6. Submit prize description to roaming RAD Love Ambassadors on Sundays. OR email prize description to: piperbharrell@gmail.com. Optional: Bring in special container for raffle tickets (otherwise we will donate one).

Not Sure What to Give? See RAD Love table for options or speak with a RAD Love Ambassador for ideas around RADical giving/donating a RAD gift to social justice issues (poverty, hunger, Migrant Justice, Black Lives Matter, etc.)

How do we raise money during the RAD Love Fest? In order to fill the hole that the RADical Love party leaves in the annual fundraising, we are asking for you to give 4% of your annual pledge. Did you know that this 4% is less than most would give at a traditional auction?! Please give by sending a check with a donation slip to: RAD Love Fest 2019 CVUUS 2 Duane Ct, Middlebury VT 05753. Envelopes available at RAD Love table. If you are unsure of your annual donation and/or what 4% would be, please see our RAD Love Finance Ambassador Dorothy Mammen.

Visit cvuus.org/justice (and next pages!) for the many ways that CVUUS participates in advancing justice through action and monthly donations.

HELP US DECORATE OUR TREE! Buy an ornament made by KIDS for KIDS in support of UUSC's Guest at Your Table and hang it on the tree Dec. 2 during the Time for All Ages. After that, ornaments can be added at any time, by anybody. Or write a name of a loved one on a Memory Ribbon and tie that one to our tree. Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the Unitarian Universalists Service Committee (UUSC)’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Everyone is encouraged to pick up a GAYT box, brochure, and giving envelope at the ornament table. Boxes are due back at the sanctuary by Christmas Eve. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the “guests” in Guest at Your Table. 2018-2019 Theme: Justice Across Borders. More at uusc.org.
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)

Saturday, Dec. 1, Standing for the Earth Vigil, 10:30-11 am. Middlebury Cross St Bridge. Hosted by Addison County Interfaith Climate Action every first Saturday of the month.

Saturday, Dec. 1, Homelessness Support. Join Abi Sessions and CVUUS Youth Group for the 5th annual sleep-out at the Marble Works Park to raise funds for the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter. Pick a prime spot near us, spend some time around the bonfires overlooking the falls, then sleep on the side of love. Can’t sleep out? Join a Homelessness Vigil preceding the camp-out 4:30 pm at Middlebury Town Green followed by Soup & Bread supper at St Stephens about 5 pm. You can contribute online at the Youth Group page: https://www.classy.org/team/143317 or at Abi Sessions’ page https://www.classy.org/fundraiser/1114967.

Sunday, Dec. 2, I’m a Good Person. Isn’t that Enough? 1-3 pm, Congregational Church of Middlebury. Join a community conversation on white privilege with Debby Irving, author of Waking Up White, for those who want to extend the conversation we had on White Fragility last month or for those who missed it and want to explore this important work. More on page 8.

Saturday, Dec. 8, Mexican Consulate Visit, 9 am - 3 pm. The Mexican Consulate in Boston returns to CVUUS for a day of providing services and legal advice to Addison County farmworkers. We help provide lunch and winter clothing donations. See further work of Addison Allies at cvuus.org. 1. Sign up to bring some food. See Lise Anderson. 2. Sign up to volunteer, either to set up on Friday afternoon, to greet and assist on Saturday, or to help with clean-up Saturday afternoon. Spanish capability is great but English speakers can also help, as long as you know how to smile. 3. Warm outdoor clothing is needed. Only Men's size M and S. Work hats, pants, long sleeve shirts, heavy duty hoodies (especially popular), boots, thermal wear. Also soccer gear would be appreciated (shoes, socks, balls, shin guards) Drop off in our lobby on Sundays or Fri 12/7, 4-6 pm.

Sunday, Dec 3 and 10, Habitat for Humanity, 11:15 am will hold an Alternative Gift Fair after worship. You’ll be able to purchase parts of the next Habitat houses. Habitat will give you a card for your friends or relatives saying that, in their honor, you have donated a bundle of roofing shingles, or wallboard, or nails, etc. Gifts will be priced so that children also will be able to participate in building next Habitat houses.

Wednesday, Dec. 12, The Hate U Give, 4 and 7 pm at Marquis. Next in the Seeing Color/ Seeking Justice Racial identities/Justice movie series hosted by Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). Based on New York Times bestseller by Angie Thomas, the film switches between two worlds (the poor, mostly black, neighborhood where she lives and the rich, mostly white, prep school she attends). The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when the main character, Starr, witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Suggested donation is $10.

Sunday, Dec 16, Remembering Victims of Gun Violence, 11:30 pm—Communities all across the country will be holding memorials this month because December 14th is the 6th anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. This year we will light candles for them and others, and say the names of those killed at Marjorie Stoneham Douglas High School in Florida last February. We will hear passages from the book Glimmer of Hope, How Tragedy Sparked a Movement, written by survivors and read by our Coming of Age kids, who went to the Burlington UU church in October to hear three of them speak. This will be followed by other sharings, and conversation about where to go next after Governor Scott’s signing of gun safety bills last May. Please invite anyone not part of our congregation who you feel would like to attend. Talk to Bobbi Loney (bobbiloney@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to help.
December “Share the Plate” Donee
Charter House Coalition

While most of us do not notice them, over 100 of our fellow citizens have been living in tents, cars, under bridges, and under decks this past summer. With cold weather, getting by each day becomes increasingly difficult. Thanks to volunteers, our community provides safe haven, food and other basic needs for 5 families and up to 40 individuals from early Sept through April 16. This program is possible because every winter several hundred individuals from Addison County contribute over 12,000 hours of volunteer time, donate hundreds of pounds of clothing and food, prepare 23,000 free meals, and pay for most of the cost of operating and maintaining our building.

There are many ways you can help:
- volunteer to staff Charter House during the day for 2 – 3 hour shifts or overnight (you can sleep)
- help with food prep for the dinner meal or breakfast
- donate prepared meals, bread/rolls, fruit/deserts
- donate adult size winter clothing especially socks, boots, gloves, sweat suits, underwear, warm coats
- make a contribution (Charter House Coalition, 27 North Pleasant Street, Middlebury, VT 05753)

Contact Samantha Kachmar (mskachmar@gmavt.net) or Doug Sinclair (jdsinclair@ripton-coop.net; 989-9746) if you have questions or would like to discuss any aspects of Charter House. You can also connect with us at www.charterhousecoalition.org, facebook.com/charterhousecoalition

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. November’s collection raised $1200 for Vermont Food Bank. Thank you!

Charter House Community Lunch Team  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 and next on Dec 4. 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. Contact Sue Grigg 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. 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. 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.

Helen Porter seeks our help with holiday gifts for residents. Dorothy Mammen has a list of gift suggestions for specific residents at worship on Nov 25 and Dec 2. Gifts -- wrapped and with the identifying number of the recipient but no identification of the giver -- may be brought to CVUUS Dec 2 and Dec 9 or anytime you are accessing our sanctuary before Dec 14. They can be put under our tree.

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!
On Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, will be doing the first of a two-part workshop on white privilege. The title of the first one is *I’m A Good Person, Isn’t that Enough?* The workshop will be 1-3 pm at Congregation Church of Middlebury. A second workshop, on January 27, 3 – 5 pm, entitled *Leveling the Playing Field: Interrupting Patterns of Privilege* is a follow up to the first to dig deeper. As Debby Irving says on her website: “Racism taps into our deepest fears and longings. Understanding how it works is the key to breaking down barriers that interfere with best intentions. Using historical and media images, Debby examines how she used her white-skewed belief system to interpret the world around her,” and how she “spent decades silently reaffirming harmful, archaic racial patterns instead of questioning the racial disparities and tensions she could see and feel. This workshop is designed to support white people in making the paradigm shift from ‘fixing’ and ‘helping’ those believed to be inferior, to focusing on internalized white superiority and its role in perpetuating racism at the individual, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural levels. This presentation includes pauses for reflection, dialog, and Q&A.”

If anyone feels the need for any “debriefing” to explore feelings or questions that come up in the first workshop, Renee Wells, Director of Education for Equity and Inclusion at Middlebury College, and Chris Kirby, Ilsley Librarian, have scheduled the following sessions to be held at Ilsley Public Library (wholly voluntary!!): 12/3 (10:30 am), 12/4 (4 pm & 6 pm), 12/5 (1:30 pm). Emily Joselson

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**Fellowship Hall Construction Update**

Llyn Rice, our “clerk of the works” and blast blogger, reports that Russell Construction and their sub-contractors continue to make steady progress. Now that the walls have been framed, there are fewer dramatic changes in how the job seems to be progressing. Be assured, though, that there is plenty going on. The current work mostly includes installing utilities such as wiring, plumbing, heating and ventilation equipment which are hidden in the walls or above the ceiling. Here, the electricians have installed circuit boxes which will house power receptacles for the kitchen and the meeting room/library. One on-going piece of carpentry has been continuing work on the main stair case. With the new stairs in place, it was safe to invite those who were attending Sunday’s service to come down and take a look at the progress. Jean Terwilliger reviewed with the group how the finished project would look and answered questions.

If you are interested in contributing to help raise 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](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. 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/](http://www.cvuus.org/connection/ground-floor/)
Small Group Ministry: Doors Still Open

Continuing monthly Covenant Groups. Each of the four small groups that met last year continue to meet monthly:
- **Saturday morning** 9-11 am in the Fenn House chapel (third Sat each month, except Nov)
- **Wednesday evening** 7:30-9 pm in the Fenn House chapel (second Wed each month)
- **Thursday evening** 7-9 pm at participants’ homes (first Thurs each month)
- **Thursday afternoon** 2-4 pm at participants’ homes

Each group has space available for a few new members. 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 at drichard@keuka.edu. In addition, the Wednesday evening group invites “drop in” participants who would like to “test out” the small group model of spiritual sharing. For more information about this option, contact Bobbi Loney (bobbiloney@gmail.com)

“Affinity” or interest-focused groups. These groups are underway:

**Women’s Group** to meet monthly at noon, following the Sunday service, over lunch, with childcare provided the first Sunday of month in Sanctuary Meeting Room. Note that next one will be Dec 9 since the sanctuary is so busy Dec 2. Topics will be selected collectively by participants. Contact Elizabeth Golden (elizabethgolden@shoreham.net) to join.

**Men’s Group** to meet monthly, date to be determined by those interested. Contact Doug Richards if interested in leading or joining this group.

**Parents Group** to meet Second Saturday each month, 5:30-7:30pm. Childcare provided in Fenn while parents meet in Sanctuary. 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 next gathering will be Sat., Dec 8. Childcare, dinner (mac n cheese) and drinks provided by our amazing Date Night Out volunteers. RSVP preferred but not required. Contact Tracey Harrington, 4.mt.mice@gmail.com

**Transition to Retirement Group** to meet monthly, date to be determined by those interested. Contact Dinah Smith (dinah.smith@uvm.edu or 353-1704) or Faith Lowell (flowell@together.net or 388-3056)

These groups follow Small Group Ministry practices (see cvuus.org). Other possible affinity groups might consist of a limited number of sessions (with an opportunity to extend or re-focus). If you have an idea of your own for an affinity group, contact Doug Richards or any member of the steering committee (Dinah Smith, Bobbi Loney, Marjorie Carsen, Karl Lindholm)—or perhaps chat with Rev. Barnaby.

**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.


**Writers’ Group** CVUUS

Writers’ Group meets third Monday of the month. Next one is Dec. 17, 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).
Greetings to all you CVUUS choir friends and fans and family! We are bringing choral music to the services on Dec. 2, 9 and 23, as well as Christmas Eve.

Dec. 2 we will sing from the Gray Hymnal, a wonderful forward-looking piece called People Look East that is arranged for choir. The tune is a personal favorite of mine. I’m so glad to see the text in the UU Hymnal is more contemporary than the liturgical text I grew up with. Reusing old hymn tunes can be moving to the spirit, as long as the words are updated!!

Dec. 9 we will celebrate Hanukah with Hanerot Halalu, a very popular tune and words used in synagogues to celebrate the lighting of the Hanukah candles. It’s a fun look back at the Klezmer style music that was popular in the secular Jewish tradition. The translation is “We kindle these lights [to commemorate] the saving acts, miracles and wonders which You have performed for our forefathers, in those days at this time, through Your holy priests. Throughout the eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to make use of them, but only to look at them, in order to offer thanks and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, for Your wonders and for Your salvations.”

Dec. 23 we will bring a new Jason Shelton piece to life to celebrate the Winter Solstice. From a collection of 8 anthems for the church year, new for 2018, designed with the small(er) church choir in mind (or the large choir looking for accessible, beautiful music that doesn’t take much time to prepare), they are Soprano, Alto, Baritone voicing with piano, and thematically aligned to help you sing the church year [all year around. Our wonderful tenors may feel a bit left out of this voicing, but we try to feature them in other pieces so as not to hurt feelings. (That’s a funny joke, since our tenors are so incredibly well adjusted!) Jason says about Dark of Winter – “I have always loved the text and Shelley’s original hymn tune as well. For a choral setting, I wanted to play with elongated phrases that really allowed for a sense of “comfort and caress.” [He tries to] utilize a rich, dark, warm sound throughout, and [to] really play with the dynamic swells to make each phrase have as much life as possible. The Author – Shelley Jackson Denham (1950-2013) was a UU music director, singer, composer, and poet, and was for many years a visionary leader at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. Her original setting of Dark of Winter is #55 in Singing the Living Tradition.

"Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me. 
Let my thoughts go where they will; ease my mind profoundly. 
And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal. 
Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me.

Christmas EVE is special at CVUUS! The Children’s service, at 5, is not to be missed if you have young folks in your family, or are young at heart yourself. Poppy leads a great uplifting service with wonderful youth participation. There will be a pre-late service sing-along with Neil Chippen-dale and Tracey Harrington playing clarinet and flute with Chuck at the piano, offering some favorite carols that won’t be in the service itself. Come at 7:15 to join in this pleasant opening to the service. Starting at 7:30, the Choir will help lead the service with two anthems, Mary Lightfoot’s arrangement of Dona Nobis Pacem (Give us Peace) and a Jazzy arrangement by Kirby Shaw of The Carol of the Bells. We’ll see you again in 2019!!  

Blessings. Lucy
December Greetings from Membership Ministry

As we pass beyond the Thanksgiving holiday season, we can try to sustain, as the choir sang awhile ago, that "Amazing Gratitude".

On our individual, yet shared, spiritual pathways, some have been exploring what it means to be a Unitarian-Universalist, including participation in Rev. Barnaby’s New UU course. I am very grateful to the individuals who became members of CVUUS recently, as well as to those who are showing up and getting involved here, as they give thoughtful consideration as to when or whether to sign the membership book at a future time. It is a core value for us to provide a welcome that reflects the principle of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We all can put this principle into action, but special thanks goes to our devoted greeters, ushers, and hospitality providers. These folks serve with warmth and cheer, and would likely appreciate having newer volunteers join them (also a way to get to know more of the congregation, as well as providing valued service).

I encourage you all to get to know any newer folks, especially our newest members: Catie Raishart, Seth Gibson, Thelma Stoudt, Gayle Muenchow and Richard Hopkins.

Snow Cancellation Possibilities

It is impossible to predict all of the winter weather conditions that might warrant the closing of CVUUS. This is especially true for services on Sunday morning when no one would want us to be closed. In an effort to provide an approach that might enable members and friends to anticipate what to expect, the following guidelines are being offered: 1) In the event of a major snow storm on a Saturday night/Sunday morning, check the office voicemail (802-388-8080) and our website www.cvuus.org 2) Don’t take any unnecessary chances. If you feel that there is significant reason to question your safety while traveling on the streets, stay home. 3) If an ice storm is in progress, stay home.

The work of welcoming: Our regular CVUUS snow shoveliners welcome your help to pitch in if needed, please let Karl know at lindholm@middlebury.edu Let's keep CVUUS safe and accessible. Thanks!

Thanks for remembering to use our mats and shoe trays to protect our beautiful sanctuary floor from mud, grit, and sticky ice melt.
A bouquet of roses to:

...Piper Harrell for stepping up to coordinate the RAD Love Raffle and Fest and all the RAD Love Ambassadors “playing” with her.

...Dorothy Mammen for also stepping up — coordinating the gift drive for the residents of Helen Porter nursing home, being the RAD Love Financial Ambassador, being willing to help with shoveling.

...Alan Moore for his ubiquitous help—with Lise Anderson in covering the Mexican Consulate Visit. Kathryn Schloff in coordinating the community supper CVUUS will host at Congregational Church of Middlebury on Fri. Jan 11 (save the date!) and Karl Lindholm with shoveling.

...Bobbie Carnwath and Jack Carter for getting the holiday tree and inside wreath again and Marnie Wood and Dinah Smith and all the Flower Co-op folks for making our sanctuary beautiful for the holiday.

...Abi Sessions for her continued support of refugee resettlement in Rutland and homelessness along with our Kids for Kids and Youth Group.

...Bobbi Loney for reporting that Addison County CROP Hunger Walk had another banner year, raising $26,665! A joyful and grateful THANK YOU to everyone at CVUUS who walked and supported our walkers in record numbers!

...Elizabeth Golden for extra(ordinary) gatekeeping.

...Joanna Colwell and Kathy Comstock for facilitating our White Fragility conversation along with Rev. Barnaby.

Night Sky Wonders for Dec

December brings the Winter Solstice at 5:23 pm on the 21st. Now days will start getting longer and become progressively longer as winter and spring proceed.

A big feature of December is the Geminid meteor shower which peaks on the 14th. It’s a long-duration shower, so you might see a number of “shooting stars” the day before or the day after. Look northeast around 7:00 pm or later.

As you may recall, I like describing the position of the planets on an imaginary clock in our solar system. In December Mercury will be a “morning star” changing position rapidly. It moves from the Sun blocking it to its maximum height on the 15th. Venus moves form 12 to 10 o’clock, making it also a morning feature. Earth moves from a 12:30 to 11:30 position. We are leaving Mars behind now. It’s at our 2:00 o’clock position making it an evening feature. The Moon will be directly below Mars on the 14th. Saturn and Jupiter are at a 6:00 and 6:30 positions, hence blocked by the Sun. Uranus and Neptune are at 2:00 and 3:00 o’clock positions.

Here’s wishing you (and me) clear skies. If you have astronomy questions drop me an e-mail at astromanvt@gmavt.net

NURTURE Your Spirit. Help HEAL Our World. Unitarian Universalists

Have You Discovered CVUUS LIBRARY yet?

Check out the children’s book collection in Fenn House chapel and our adult library collection in the sanctuary meeting room. Feel free to borrow any of these books! Please return books out for more than 3 months so others may read them.

If you’re an Amazon shopper, start your shopping at Amazon Smile, https://smile.amazon.com/, designating Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society as the beneficiary. Your Amazon shopping will help CVUUS Library.

For more information about our library, see CVUUS web site’s library page under the Learning tab: http://www.cvuus.org/learning/library/. Library volunteers are always welcome! Contact Artley Wolfson, awolfson@middlebury.edu, 989-7081.
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.

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 Ginny Moser for a substantial gift in honor of Tom Moser.

Planned Giving: For help including CVUUS in your will or trust, contact John Berninghausen (349-7080 or berningh@middlebury.edu).

Pastoral Care

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.

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 Nita Hanson (boostasha@aol.com or 802-345-0489).

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.
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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CVUUS Board of Trustees
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Religious Exploration Council – Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse
Right Relations—John Barstow, Anne Christie, Joanna Colwell
Small Group Ministry — Doug Richards
Worship – Ann Webster

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