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...PERSEVERANCE?

February Worship Services
(Sundays at 10 AM)

Feb 3 — From Too Late to Not Yet -- Rev. Barnaby shares an inspiring story about prison and how death can change a dream that won't die.

Feb 10 — The Longest Journey Begins with a Single Step -- So What? -- Rev. Barnaby reflects on how what keeps you going is much harder to get a handle on than what gets you started.

Feb 17 — "There Must Be a God Somewhere"— That's what the old hymn says. Many UU's disagree. Rev. Barnaby figures you could spend a fruitful lifetime working at seeing it both ways.

Feb 24 — Yes! Finding Well-Being in the Land of Despair—Led by Theresa Gleason. Part of my responsibility as a community member is to care for myself. To care for myself is not about stepping away from the world, but to keep discovering what helps me to live with curiosity, compassion, calmness, clarity, confidence, creativity, courage, and connectedness.

CVUUS Contra Dance Perseverance!
Words from Rev. Barnaby:

You won't meet the ten members of an adult religious education class I began teaching in November: Chris, Tracey, Florida James and Illinois James, Tim, David, Ryan, Robert, Felipe, and Zebediah. All of them belong to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship – the UU group for people who can't conveniently get to a regular UU congregation. These ten can't get to any UU church because they are in prisons scattered across the South, Midwest and New England.

The class addresses five fundamental questions. What is the nature of humanity? What is the truth (and how do we know it)? Who or what is in control of the universe, if anything? What happens when we die? What makes life meaningful?

These questions are best explored in a group, but that's not possible in this case. All of our communications are by old-fashioned letters, most of which are hand-written rather than typed. Nor do they have each other's addresses. Recently, I responded to each one personally based on what I had received back so far. I can't share particular exchanges because of our confidentiality rules. But I can say that I was struck at how diverse their spiritual journeys have been and how diverse their current views are.

That diversity reminds me a lot of what I hear from newcomers each time we teach a new UU class at CVUUS. I couldn't generalize about what these incarcerated people, ranging in age from 34 to 74, believe. But there does seem to be a pretty strong consensus that you don't know who you are if you don't persevere in the struggle to get clear what you are responsible for, both in the past and going forward.

Prison challenges you to think about that, but the conditions limit what you can do with your answers. Maybe it's an under-appreciated blessing to be able to seek such understanding in freedom and in a community like our congregation.

We're headed into our shortest month. But it's a time when we will begin intensively planning for what will do with downstairs and what, through our preliminary budget for next year, we will be taking responsibility for. Let's make the most of our freedom!

Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

RAD Love Fellowship Raffle & Fest Follow Up

The 2018-19 Radical Love Giveaway party happened Jan. 13, but it isn't over until we say it's over, right? So here's where we go from here...

1) For anyone who hasn't yet thanked Piper Harrell and Mary Hadley, and everyone who worked with them to get us this far, any time will do (and almost any way);
2) If you offered something, follow through on completing your giveaway (by the way, it's fine to do this with giveaways left over from last year or even auctioned events from previous years -- what is more radical than catching up on belated fellowship rather than simply forgetting about it?). Can’t remember? Ask the Office or Mary.
3) If you won something and aren't going to be able to take advantage of it, re-gift it to someone else in the congregation -- preferably someone who didn't win anything in the raffles -- then let Mary know so we can update our records of who got what.
4) If you had a dinner, outing or something else to offer but didn't get around to doing it, contact Rev. Barnaby -- he will work with you to find a way for you to join the party and brighten the day for congregants who didn't end up getting anything.
4) If you meant to donate to support this unique event, but didn't get around to it, don't hold back now. Through the generosity of those who participated this way, we have received more than $6,000. That's great but well under our first attempt of this, which occurred in Nov. 2017, before the holiday season, rather than after. We would love to close that fundraising gap even though fundraising is not the main purpose of this event.

A final note...I preached in Montpelier Jan. 27 to repay Rev. Joan Javier-Duval's visit to us when I was on sabbatical. That congregation is still buzzing about the success of their first giveaway party, which they ran in November in place of their auction. They are very, very grateful to CVUUS for creating this model for replacing auctions with an event that distributes fellowship without regard to people's financial status! Let's now create a model of how to follow up throughout the year on the actual event.

Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby
Fellowship Hall Construction Update

The Building More Love Downstairs Project will near the end of construction work this month! It's time to plan in detail our transition from dreaming about our new Ann Ross Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and library/meeting room to using them. I'm pleased to announce that Lise Anderson and Miles Peterle have agreed to lead a Moving In transition team working under the auspices of the Council of Ministries.

Their goals will include: bringing together everyone's best thinking about the wide range of start-up questions we want to address, clarifying our timetables for getting various activities going, and helping us track and coordinate our "to do soon" and "do sometime in the future" lists. Last but not least, they will be encouraging everyone -- now that we have these spaces -- to recall and expand on the innovative ways we imagined using them to build more love.

Lise and Miles will reach out to the congregation via the Council and individual contacts, but don't be shy! If you have something to share about ways we can make our new home exciting, fun, productive, and representative of our values from the get-go, feel free to contact them directly at lisand55@gmail.com or mnpeterle@att.net. Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby Llyn Rice, our “clerk of the works” and blast blogger, reports that Russell Construction and their sub-contractors continue to make steady progress.

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. And in Sanctuary Lobby. As always, gifts of all shapes and sizes are welcomed. Thanks to those who made a building construction loan. For more information: Steve Maier (sbmaier55@gmail.com or 802-238-6699) or please see our website at http://www.cvuus.org/connection/ground-floor/
RE THOUGHTS

These wonderful RE Council members are covering the work of our Dir of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees while she is on sabbatical until the end of this month. Look for her reflections next month!

- DRE Sub every Sunday
- Sunday RE leaders & assistant staffing
- Support for the Nursery
- RE Materials questions & help
- Respond to RE inquiries & emails

CVUUS High School Youth Group thanks you for supporting their pre-contra dance dinner and bake sale. They made well over $400 thanks to your support. All of these funds will be put toward the expenses of our service trip to NYC in June. All who did this two years ago are eager to return. We’ll spend four days in NY working at different organizations that help homeless and hungry New Yorkers. In order to help fund the trip, Youth Group has designed CVUUS T-shirts and tote bags. Please consider pre-ordering one (to help us determine how many to get). They’re going to be fantastic! We are taking orders until February 17. The items will be ready in March. T-shirt will be blue. Tote bag will be blue or canvas with blue ink. Pre-order by sending an email to Gail Borden at gailborden@gmail.com or online (see blast).

Thanks for your support!
The Youth Group

SABBATICAL PERSEVERANCE

Kids for Kids! made peg dolls to send to children who are patients at UVM affiliated Pediatric Clinic for New Americans.

FEBRUARY for Children, Youth and Their Families

FEB 3: RE GROUPS start in worship
OWL 5-6 (Our Whole Lives) 10-11:15 in Fenn
COMING OF AGE 10 am – 12 pm
Mary Johnson Children’s Center basement
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6, Fenn
** SAT., FEB 9: PARENT GROUP 5:30-7:30
Dinner and childcare provided.

FEB 10: RE GROUPS start in worship
OWL 5-6 (Our Whole Lives) 10-11:15 in Fenn
RE COUNCIL 11:45-1:45
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 3:45-6
Make dinner at John Graham Shelter.

FEB 17: RE FUNDAY start in worship
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP TOTE & T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER Final Orders due.

FEB 24: RE GROUPS start in worship
COMING OF AGE 10 am – 12 pm
Mary Johnson Children’s Center basement
FROM THE BOARD  Mary Hadley

As the newness of 2019 wears off a bit, I thought Id\' take this time to write about one of the things your Board has been focusing on recently.

Always, but especially with the ongoing political divides and the current government shutdown, finding commonality and connection is critical to helping us all feel better about ourselves and the world around us. For over a year, the top of the Board meeting agendas include the following two items. This Purpose phrase:
The Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society exists to spiritually nourish, challenge, and sustain people of all ages and circumstances, so that they might lead lives of meaning, integrity, and service.

And also this framing phrase: "Does it Matter? Will it Matter?"

As we members of the Board process through various necessary agenda items related to the bigger picture and future of CVUUS, it is helpful for me to keep both of these items in mind - to remember why CVUUS exists and how and why CVUUS matters to me and to all of us.

Connections are what bring me to an organization (either having them or wanting to have them) and connections are what keep me involved and engaged. At CVUUS we EACH have so many ways to connect in big and small ways. We have been spending time at Board meetings and with the Council of Ministries discussing opportunities and examples of connections being lived out.

With the Rad Love Party recently completed, I encourage everyone to build on connection by hosting and participating in the various items that were offered as part of that event. Didn\'t have time to get your potential offering in? Then connect by turning in a yellow card offering it to those who seek you out after service some Sunday. Didn\'t win anything? Then reach out by mentioning some offering that would really make you feel more connected.

If you are interested to start small, there are many items on Sundays before, during, or after a service that I\’d love to connect with you and do. If Sunday is not your thing, there are many other days and ways to connect and be part of this great community.

Does it Matter? Will it Matter? - Yes!
Participate and connect as you are able and we can connect and matter together.

Connecting! Francois Clemmons received an honorary doctorate from Sewanee, University of the South, and gave a concert, accompanied by Kate Gridley. Paul and Frances Stone were with them, and drove Francois home after a brief tour of the South.

Highlights from our Jan 8 Board Meeting:
The Board agreed upon final wording for our covenant, which will be a living document meant to be adapted each year by the Board.
The Board agreed on priorities for the remainder of the year. These included revising the Ends statement, developing a protocol for evaluating the minister and providing some feedback to him this year, begin working on a revised 5-year plan, and continue to consider how our church uses “shared ministry”.
We discussed the concept of shared ministry briefly. The idea seems to emphasize that being part of a UU church means becoming part of a community, and everyone should find ways to “minister” that suit their abilities and passions.

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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.”

Hospitality seeks people to join its efforts in setting up and cleaning up hospitality hour on Sunday mornings. We’ll train and assist you until you are ready to do it on your own. Set up starts about 45 minutes before service and cleanup usually runs 11:45-12:30. Also, when Fellowship Hall opens many minds, hands, and hearts will be needed to imagine, plan for and do the work of moving hospitality there. Contact Elizabeth Golden in interested (598-2388, elizabethgolden@shoreham.net).

Counting Our Collection: Ever wonder what check designs are most common or most interesting at CVUUS? Ever wonder what happens when paperclips, keys, or foreign change end up in the collection basket? Those answers and more await you if you attend Sunday services and don’t mind spending 10 minutes at the conclusion of the service to help count/sort the collection basket contents. Looking for a few additional (occasional or willing to do it regularly) folks to help with this easy and fun, but essential, task in our prudent finance arena. Contact Mary Hadley, CVUUS treasurer, at hadleyme@juno.com for more information or to express interest.

Rhubarb Festival: Feel like winter is just getting into high gear? Perhaps it is, but the 10th annual Rhubarb Festival is just around the corner. Slated for Saturday, June 1st, it promises to be exciting as a milestone year using the new Ground Floor. Many hands make light work! so we’re looking for folks new and old, old and young (and the rest of us who feel somewhere in between) to help carry out this special event. Traditional focus areas include rhubarb pies (and variations on that theme), books, luncheon, plants, “bling” and scarves, and kids’ stuff. Behind the scenes activities like soliciting and picking up donations, creating the poster design, poster distribution, advertising, pie and sweets baking, and more are other ways to help while connecting with each other. Day of the event activities include setup, cleanup, selling, cashier, and food service “cowboys” (of all genders). I am willing to be the overall “Top Stalk” again this year, but am looking for an apprentice to shadow me this year in hopes of being willing to take a more active leadership role in the future. Volunteers, inquirers, seekers - contact Mary Hadley at hadleyme@juno.com (and if you just have ideas about potential do’s and don’ts - those are also most welcome)

Landscape Committee Have a green thumb, just like to play in the dirt, or want to use your creative mind for landscape design? The landscape committee is looking for new people to help carry out our mission to make the outside of CVUUS look good. And when the ground floor opens up there will be the added entrance to CVUUS to make welcoming too. Interested? Contact Sue Rasmussen at llamasue2@gmail.com

Night Sky Wonders for Feb 2019

This month the familiar constellation “Orion the Hunter” takes center stage, standing directly south in the evening sky. Above Orion is the open star cluster called “The Hyades,” part of the constellation “Taurus the Bull.” The bright, giant red star, Aldebaran, appears to be part of the Hyades, but really is not part of that star cluster. Our Moon will be in the Hyades cluster on the 13th of the month. Draw a line through the belt of Orion and extend it down and to the left. You’ll come to the star Sirius, the brightest star in our skies. Sirius is 25 times as bright as our Sun when placed at a comparable distance. There’s only one planet visible in the evening sky, that being Mars. You’ll see the red planet in the southwest. Saturn, Venus, and Jupiter are morning objects. Look for them low in the southeast about 45 minutes before dawn. The Moon will visit Jupiter on the 27th of the month. Here’s wishing you clear skies. If you have any questions contact AstroAl at astromanvt@gmvnt.net or (758-2221).
**Social Action Updates**

**Feb “Share the Plate” Donees**

**UUA Affiliates**

**Feb 3  The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith** Black Lives of UU (BLUU) campaign addresses our history of upholding white supremacy. Together, we can collectively work to dismantle it and amend a long-broken promise to the Black Lives within our Association. BLUU [online packet of worship and Religious Education resources (PDF)] was sourced, lovingly and courageously, by black UU religious professionals, to whom we are deeply grateful. We are asked to use the resources and donate to BLUU.

**Feb 10  No More Deaths** is a humanitarian organization based in southern Arizona. It began in 2004 in the form of a coalition of community and faith groups, dedicated to stop the deaths of migrants in the desert and to achieving the enactment of a set of Faith-Based Principles for Immigration Reform. Since 2008 it has been an official ministry of the UU Church of Tucson. One of their projects is hiking remote corridors in the desert and leaving water, food, socks, blankets, and other supplies as well as providing emergency first-aid treatment to individuals in distress.

**Feb 24 UURise** is driven by the belief that it is a moral issue to improve conditions for and treatment of immigrants & refugees. Since 2007, this organization strives to empower immigrants and refugees in the U.S. by offering direct legal services, particularly to those with few resources to obtain these services.

**Feb 17 Church of Larger Fellowship** Wherever you are in the world, wherever your truth takes you on your spiritual journey, the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is there to keep you connected with Unitarian Universalism (UU). Our 3,500 online members, with their children, live all over the world. What brings us together is the desire to connect, seek, share and grow within Unitarian Universalism. Look for *The Quest* in our lobby or visit [questformeaning.org](http://questformeaning.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. January’s collection raised $868.96 for Outright VT. 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 Feb 5. 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. 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. Please contact Erica Marks emarks@agewellvt.org or 662-5249 or visit agewellvt.org/giving-back. Talk with Thurs UU Team leaders Mary Conlon & Mike Greenwood.

**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!
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, Feb. 2, 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.

Wednesday, Feb 13, If Beale Street Could Talk, 1, 4, 7 and 8:30 pm, Marquis Theater. Showing Up for Racial Justice invites you to this film following a young African-American woman who, with her family's support, seeks to clear the name of her wrongly charged lover and prove his innocence before the birth of their child. Based on novel by James Baldwin. $10 free will donation supports SURJ.

Sunday, Feb 17, Congregational Conversation: Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy, 11:15 AM, Sanctuary. Delegates at the 2018 General Assembly in Kansas City, MO, selected "Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy" to be the 2018-2022 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations to take a topic of concern and engage, reflect, learn, respond, comment, and take action—each in their own way. The Issue: Racism is fundamental to U.S. social systems. White supremacy within our culture operates economically, institutionally, politically, and culturally, to shape or limit people’s chances “to be seen” as inherently worthy or to be treated with dignity. White supremacy operates intersectionally when it is interwoven with other forms of oppression. It intersects with issues of class and income, gender, age, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religion, ability, and more.

From the UUA: Topics for Congregational Study

- How are people socialized into various overlapping supremacy systems, creating a white dominated hetero patriarchy that serves the interests of US corporatism?
- How do different racial and economic strategies get applied to different racial groups, often disguised in coded language that pretends to be colorblind while having racialized impacts?
- How can we, as UUs, build transformative relationships of trust and accountability across race lines?

Through reflection and action, we will engage in courageous conversations that will help us to understand the complexity of racism and expose our other “isms.”

Monday, Feb. 18, MLK Remembrance, 12-2 pm, Grace Congregational Church. This is the rescheduled NAACP-sponsored Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Rutland that was snowed out on Monday Jan. 21. Same game plan for CVUUS: we show up as supportive allies of the Rutland Region NAACP, with those of us who can bringing bread, salad or desserts for the luncheon portion of the event, and we will also be making a financial donation to help compensate the speakers. If you can add to the money we already have in hand for that donation, please contact Rev. Barnaby. We will see who is attending and arrange car-pools the week before the event. Contact Rev. Barnaby or Caitlin Gildrien for more.

Friday, Feb 22, Addison Allies Social. About 15 migrant farmworkers come out with Addison Allies volunteers to American Flatbread on Jan 25. People came from Shoreham, Bristol, New Haven and Cornwall. Everyone knew at least 3 people each there, so there was plenty to talk about and new people to meet. Once the pizza was served, we saw skeptical hands reach out for their first slice, but smiles soon followed as the delicious pizza was eaten. Then we went to 2 Brothers and met two more workers. Dancing started, and after a slow, shy start, everyone really started to relax and have a great time. One of the best parts was when someone would request a style of music and the DJ would respond, enticing people out onto the floor. Everyone looks forward to doing it again. It happens the last Friday of the month. Watch the Blast for reminders. Follow the wider work on behalf of our migrant friends at cvuus.org/news.

Choir Notes

Mid Winter, here we are! Looking for warmth? Find it in worship and community at CVUUS. The choir will be singing three times in February, as usual. We have *Forever We’ll Carry the Flame* by Deb Cosart for Feb. 3, the first for our month of exploring being a “People of Perseverance.” Feb. 10 we’ll bring another of Jason Shelton’s set of 8 songs for the UU calendar year, *I Choose You*, a wonderful flowing piece of peace and hope. I think it will become a wedding favorite. And, Feb. 24 (no choir Feb. 17) we sing *Up to the Mountain* in tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. This had been planned for our Jan 20 service which was cancelled due to severe weather.

The CVUUS choir welcomes all singers. Even if you think you should only sing in the shower, we can help you sing out! Choir includes a singing “lesson” for the first 15 minutes, and we all learn how to be better singers and find our voices. We practice Wednesdays from 5:45-7:15 every week, and sing at services 3x a month with 9 am rehearsals on those Sundays.

Hope to see you at choir! Just let me know you’re coming and we’ll have a folder for you. We have music set up for the rest of the semester, so come now and sing through June!

Blessings, Lucy Tenenbaum, Choir Director

Music Ministry Team

Lucy Tenenbaum, Kate Gridley, Poppy Rees, Chuck Miller, Shannon LaRose, Carol Harding, YOU?! Meets Feb 20, 3:45 pm, Fenn Chapel

Please help us create a culture of respect for the music corner of our worship space. If you want to play the drums or piano, please get permission from a member of the Music Team first, and please help us keep unsupervised kids at a safe distance.

Thank you and we look forward to making more music together!

Love: Take It to a New Level Party

Pledge Sunday March 3, 11:15 am

We’ll celebrate the start of our new canvas campaign with a Pledge Sunday Service on March 3, followed immediately after by a fun, family friendly, luncheon party in our new space on the lower level. We’ll share food, music, dance, skits and hear from our friends what CVUUS means to them. All ages are invited to participate in the entertainment program.

This year, we’ll conduct the canvass by mailing all the pledge information and materials to each home in February. We invite you to think about your pledge and bring the completed pledge card with you to Pledge Sunday in March. Or, if you prefer a visit, let us know and a member of our canvass team will schedule a visit with you.

The Canvass Team will have a table in the foyer after service beginning Sunday, Feb. 3rd to answer any questions you might have, request a home visit, give us your pledge if you can't be there on March 3rd, or sign up to be part of the entertainment. Come to the first party in our new space!

Julie and Neil Chippendale, Canvass co-chairs chippendalejulia@gmail.com or nchippendale@verizon.net
Small Group Ministry: Doors Still Open

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 are underway:

**Women’s Group** meets following the Sunday service, over lunch at noon, the first Sunday of month in Sanctuary Meeting Room. Next one will be Feb 3. Topics selected collectively by participants. Contact **Elizabeth Golden** (elizabethgolden@shoreham.net) to join.

**Parents Group** meets 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, Feb 9. Childcare, dinner (mac n cheese) and drinks provided by our amazing Date Night Out volunteers. RSVP preferred. Contact **Tracey Harrington**, 4.mt.mice@gmail.com.

**Writers’ Group** meets third Monday of the month, except over summer. Next one Feb 18, 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).

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 refocus). 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.


**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.

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 or Barb Karle during her absence this month.
NNED SPRING ASSEMBLY APRIL 5TH & 6TH
NURTURING CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS!

With *Nurturing Connections* as our underlying theme, we invite you to the NNED 2019 Spring Assembly and Annual Meeting Friday evening April 5th and Saturday April 6th at the UU Church of Concord, NH.

UU’s in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont tell us it’s a priority to sustain and strengthen our congregational collaborations. Come find out how we’ll do that!

Support, counsel, coaching, consultations, workshops, webinars, cluster gatherings, and retreats are resources congrgations can access now through our UU New England Region (NER).

Come meet your NER staffers and gather samples of the harvested wisdom, practices, and learning materials available to you for growing healthy and vibrant UUism in our home churches. You’ll meet leaders from other congregations and discover how together we plan to forge supportive relationships.

**Our Spring Assembly offers these highlights:**

- Acclaimed musician Reggie Harris will be in concert Friday night AND lend his musical talents to Saturday worship
- Rev. Jodi Hayashida of First Universalist Church of Auburn, Maine, will offer worship Saturday morning
- Carey McDonald, Executive Vice President of the UUA, and Jessica York, Director of Congregation Life, will be our keynote speakers Saturday morning to help us explore our covenantal connections
- Join a breakout group to further connections with other congregations or to deepen your understanding of racism, and privilege in ways that are accountable to communities of color.

We’ll have books from the UUA’s InSpirit Bookstore, and feature tables and information from the Ferry Beach and Star Island conference centers, our state advocacy networks, the Moral Movement, and the Family Promise program. Come feed your spirit and challenge your soul!

*Registration opens January 24th* – look for emailed info and Facebook updates, check with your church office for details, or contact NNED Administrator Ann-Marie at NNEDAdmin@comcast.net.
Greetings from Membership Ministry

Our Congregational Conversation about Hospitality allowed us more time to think about how we welcome newcomers, old friends, and visitors—what works, and what we can do better. Keeping in mind how our worship and gathering environments will be changing when the Ground Floor is completed this Spring will be helpful.

For now, we want to address some practical aspects of Hospitality, but also encourage thinking and sharing about how UU principles are expressed in how we provide a welcome on Sunday mornings and in other gatherings.

It would be helpful to have a variety of perspectives about the following questions, from new members, old timers, etc. Feedback in any form is welcome!

*What do you believe are some reasons for new visitors to want to return here again (and again!)?*
*How can we reinforce and expand these factors?*

*What could help newcomers to experience CVUUS as an appealing spiritual home?*

*What skills would you personally wish to cultivate in order to be part of a culture of welcoming and hospitality at CVUUS? How can we enhance our "coffee hour" as an opportunity for developing connections?*

*How can we do better in providing an atmosphere of welcome— for families, youth, elders, and visitors of diverse backgrounds—to foster connections with our community?*

As Spring approaches, we will be planning for New Member welcoming and orientation, so be on the lookout for information about this if you are considering membership. Also, feel free to discuss any questions with Rev. Barnaby or myself in the meantime. We appreciate the many pathways that have brought members to our doors, and hope that what UU offers to you is in line with a spiritual home that matches your aspirations, needs, and values. Warm blessings for a challenging season, Marjorie Carsen

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A bouquet of roses to:

*…Dale Birdsell, Ian Ross, Bobbie Carnwath and Liz Marino* for supporting the Habitat for Humanity Alternative Gift Giving effort. Thanks to all who contributed. We raised $1,286.

*…Piper Harrell* for her many contributions, leading Livin’ on a Prayer worship, the RAD Love Fest, COA.

*…Mary Hadley* for her herculean effort compiling the RAD Love “who won what” and “here’s what you won” lists again.

*…Shannon LaRose* for leading the CVUUS Contra Dance and band, *Rob Hopkins* for calling the dance and all who contributed and attended.

*…Elizabeth Golden and Marjorie Carsen* for organizing a discussion on deeper ways to connect with one another before and after worship and *Elizabeth Cultrara* for joining Hospitality.

*…Barb Karle* for watching over the library for the next couple of months while Artley is away.

*…Our stalwart snow and ice removers led by Karl Lindholm: Bob House, Ron Hallman, Alan Moore and new to our team Richard Hopkins and Gayle Muenchow.*

*…Scott Barkdoll* and all helping with lower level related carpentry projects including our new name tag rack, kitchen cabinets and shed doors.

*…Jess Danyow* for coordinating the Guest at Your Table-fundraiser. We raised $189 for UUSC.

*…Thanks to Barbara Merz, Sheila House and Laura Fergusen* for office help during Laura’s vacation.

*…Bob House* for driving in frigid weather to South Burlington on a Sat. night to pick up a part for our heating system that we needed for an emergency repair. Without Bob, we would have had no heat in Sanctuary or Fenn.

*…Lise Anderson and Miles Peterle* for agreeing to lead a temporary team effort to consider all of our needs as we move into our new downstairs facilities this spring.

*…Chris Murphy’s son, Liam,* for helping Kate Gridley and Shannon LaRose set up the drums.

*…Kathryn Schloff, Alan Moore, Abi Sessions, Ethan Spritzer* (for fine piano playing) and all who contributed to the Community Supper (200+ meals).
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.

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

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.

Severe Weather Cancellation

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. 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. *Thanks for remembering to use our mats and shoe trays to protect our beautiful sanctuary floor from mud, grit, and sticky ice melt.*

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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Worship – Ann Webster

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
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