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...EMERGENCE?

April Worship Services
(Sundays at 10 AM)

April 7 — Trusting Emergence: Recalculating— Led by Minister Emerita Johanna Nichols. Aging and retirement converge in a geography of life with few landmarks. To navigate through this new stage of life, we need some sense of direction. Where do we begin?

April 14 —ISWYDT ("I see what you did there") It's Internet-speak for cleverness. During the Middlebury to Montpelier climate change march Apr. 5-9, Rev. Barnaby will be walking in faith that when the world looks at what we did here, it will see wisdom, courage, and love. Today, he will share his experience with us. Special Meditation on Evolution offered by Prof. Mark Spritzer, chair, Middlebury College Dept. of Biology. And Mud ComUUnion!

April 21 —Emergence and Resurrection —-Sam and Paula Guarnaccia are our visiting speakers, musicians, and readers. Sam is a composer and wrote the music for this mostly music service. Wendell berry, Joanna Macy, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Brian Swimme, Bill McKibben and poet Rainer Maria Rilke gave permission to use their writings in creating the Emergent Universe Oratorio. Paintings by Cameron Davis will be on the wall.

April 28— I Didn’t See That Coming - Evolution, one poet said, "stinks of extinction", but it also shines with emergence. Rev. Barnaby argues that's what makes science compatible with religion.

SAVE THE DATE! MORE INSIDE!

Blue Jeans Sunday, April 28, after worship
Ann Ross Fellowship Hall Dedication, Sat May 11, 2 pm
Rhubarb Festival, Sat. June 1
Annual Meeting, Sun June 9, after worship
Words from Rev. Barnaby:

As I write this on March 24, I am looking out over a deeply snow-covered landscape made all the more beautiful by the strong possibility I won't see the like of it again until next winter. If the forecasts are to be believed, all trace of it may be gone even before you read this. Welcome to April, the month when Nature quits being coy in the presence of the lengthening days and says, “Yes, I would love to dance.”

Looking back over my previous April messages to you, I was struck that I had a similar if less poetic feeling to share five years ago. I said, “This is month when it becomes absolutely clear that Nature is fully committed to renewal and creativity.” I went on to add, “For those of us who are stuck or derailed, the sense that Life all around them is moving ahead can be depressing. That is why there is never a season more suited to our Universalist message that we are all precious pieces of whatever is divine in creation.”

I don't recall what moved me to speak about being “stuck or derailed” at the time. I certainly don't think of CVUUS that way these days. Stretched to the max, perhaps, as we try to figure out how to financially support our expanded operations and finish our capital campaign. More anxious and heartsick, perhaps, about the political landscape nationally and globally. But I see us as ready, the way April is, to invest heavily in Love and Life.

It's fitting that our theme this month is emergence. In everyday language, emergence often refers to expected appearances of the type we associate with spring: familiar buds and blossoms, spring peepers, and, among other things here at CVUUS, some version of our annual Mud CommUUnion. But emergence also has a deeper, more mysterious side – the appearance of complex things never seen or imagined before, things that are more than the sum of their parts. Life, for example, arising out of inert chemicals. I'm looking forward to discerning and sharing with you signs of both types of emergence swirling around us this month at CVUUS.

Blessed by, Rev. Barnaby

Has the time come for CVUUS to start up an Ongoing Virtual Auction?

This could raise money for tables and chairs for downstairs, the sound system, and other unfunded pieces of the capital campaign. Or help close the holes in our proposed operating budget for the coming yea.

Here's the general idea: 1) members and friends who have furniture, marketable artwork, vacation home weekends or other attractive goods and services they are willing to donate for auction would notify our "Auctioneer" 2) Our "Auctioneer" would post information on Vermont Craigslist, the Addison County Facebook market page, or Front Page Forum (or perhaps all three for some items) - the postings would describe the item, the price, availability for inspection, available dates if relevant; pickup or delivery conditions, etc 3) Our "Auctioneer" would make the sale or, after an appropriate time, tell the donor the offering hasn't been sold and therefore is theirs to dispose of in other ways; 4) Our "Auctioneer", if that is desired by the donor, will attempt to arrange for pick-up of the item on a Sunday at CVUUS, or some other time when we have coverage; 5) Our "Auctioneer" will, after a sale, give the donor a record of what the donation sold for that can be used for tax records.

Because the "Auctioneer" job requires a variety of skills and an unknown amount of time, CVUUS would pay an agreed upon percentage of the sales to that person. Thus, in addition to supporting CVUUS, this could be an added source of income for a congregant.

Please send your thoughts, questions, and/or indication of willingness to be a part of something like this to Rev. Barnaby (revbarnaby@cvuus.org) and Mary Hadley, treasurer and chair of the Finance Ministry Team (hadleyme@juno.com)
Ann Ross Fellowship Hall Opens!

1) How are decisions being made regarding the use of downstairs spaces? For now, it varies depending on the space and the use. More specific policies will emerge once it becomes apparent where the congregation’s energy and needs are. The one constant: if you want to reserve a space for a date and time, consult the CVUUS calendar (www.cvuus.org/blog/events/) and if you find no conflict, call the office to double-check availability. (Just like reservations for Fenn or the Sanctuary.)

2) Who do I talk to if I have an idea for downstairs displays, activities, items I can lend or donate that might be useful, or potential funding sources for the big ticket items we still need (tables and chairs, sound system, etc.)? Kitchen – Revell Allen (lallenr@comcast.net); Displays (including revisions to upstairs now that we have downstairs) – Catie Raishart (Catherine.raishart@gmail.com) or Lois Alberts (388-4010); Blue Room (Meeting room, future Library) -- Artley Wolfson (awolfson@middlebury.edu) and Poppy. Activities – head of the relevant ministry team, i.e. worship, music, landscaping, caring network, etc.; anything to do with children – Poppy Rees or the RE Council; New Funding Sources -- Steve Maier (sbmaier55@gmail.com); Lighting and general esthetics – Kate Gridley (kmgridley@gmail.com); Landscaping outside – Sue Rasmussen (llamasue2@gmail.com). There are multiple people you can talk to in some of these cases so this list is not exhaustive and will be evolving. You can always ask Rev. Barnaby for suggestions, too.

3) Is there a place to get an overview of what’s going on in terms of downstairs uses and needs? Yes, Lise Anderson and Miles Peterle are serving as information coordinators for the roll-out. For information on where to see their online documents tracking questions, suggestions, and anticipated developments, contact Lise at lisand55@gmail.com

Ann Ross Fellowship Hall Dedication
Sat. May 11, 2 pm

New and longtime congregants enjoyed a lovely canvass kick off party in our new space last month.
THOUGHTS

SABBATICAL SEEDS

I’m happily back from my 2-month Sabbatical! I missed you. Thank you SO much for giving me this time to do some church things I don’t normally have time for and to get some mental space for renewal.

Some things I brought back:
- ideas (RE, music, worship, inclusivity, technology, church design...) from 3 very different Unitarian Universalist worship services in Montreal, Woodstock VT, and Sanctuary Boston
- easy-to-sing songs that we can use in RE, Worship, marches, and elsewhere. I especially recommend the Justice Choir Songbook, vol. 1. The mission of the Justice Choir is to “further social and environmental justice movements by engaging communities in singing together.” How great is that? I wonder if we might want to start a chapter in Addison County?
- I recommend the book Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America - it’s in the church library
- a lightness about this work that I haven’t felt in a long time. It’s just as important to me but, for as long as it lasts, it feels more spacious
- a renewed sense of purpose and passion about CVUUS and our work here. When I said that I missed you, I meant it. I hadn’t realized how much I am constantly fed by my time with all of you. Not coming to this church for 2 months was hard. But it was good to get some perspective and I was glad to miss you, if that makes sense.
- deep gratitude for the RE Council, Laura and everyone who stepped in to keep the RE program running smoothly. I got the luxury of returning to things running very smoothly which all Directors of RE definitely do NOT have. I’m happy to share more with anyone that wants to listen or has questions. Just ask!

APRIL for Children, Youth and Their Families

APR 7: RE GROUPS (pre-school to grade 4) start in worship
OWL 5-6 (Our Whole Lives) 10-11:30 later end time! Start/stay in Fenn Chapel
COMING OF AGE 10 am – 12 pm Mary Johnson Children’s Center basement
RE COUNCIL 11:45-1:45
** SAT., APRIL 13: PARENT GROUP 5:30-7:30 Dinner and childcare provided.

APR 14: CVUUS CREPE BREAKFAST! 8:30 am, Fundraiser for Coming of Age Boston Trip
*last* RE GROUPS (pre-school to grade 4) start in worship
*last* OWL 5-6 (Our Whole Lives) 10-11:30 later end time! Start/stay in Fenn Chapel COMING OF AGE after breakfast – 12 pm Mary Johnson basement
** SAT., APR 20: 2ND NIGHT COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER AT HAVURAH 5:30 56 N. Pleasant Street. We’re invited to Havurah’s Seder this year. Pam Berenbaum is the CVUUS contact. A potluck Passover meal, matzah, songs, stories, kids activities, more matzah. $8/person ($32 max per family)
APR 21: EASTERSPRING FUNDAY start in worship, then to multi-age activities with Poppy

APR 14: CVUUS CREPE BREAKFAST! 8:30 am, Fundraiser for Coming of Age Boston Trip
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APR 21: EASTERSPRING FUNDAY start in worship, then to multi-age activities with Poppy
** FRI-SUN., APR 26-28: COMING OF AGE TRIP TO BOSTON

APR 28: RE FUNDAY Start in Worship. All-ages group with special activity TBD.
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 3-5 at Homeward Bound

Contact Director of Religious Exploration, Poppy Rees, for more information: re@cvuus.org

The Great UU Bake Off!
Sunday, April 14, 11:30 am—1 pm
A fundraiser for the youth group’s service trip to the Youth Services Opportunity Project in NYC in June
Bakers: $7 to enter-sweet or savory entries
Tasters $10 to taste and vote-all congregants are encouraged and invited to attend – we need you! Winners will receive the coveted “golden spoon award!” Sign up asap as spaces are limited to 20 participants! Deadline to enter is April 3. Spaces are limited to 20 participants so email Journey LaRose at: journeylarose@gmail.com to sign up asap!
Social Action Updates

Women’s Small Group Ministry Service Project Seeks Donations

We’re putting together Care Bags for homeless people and those seeking refuge from abuse, and seek the following travel sized items, which we will assemble at our meetings. We have put a special box in the sanctuary foyer for you to place these items. Thank you! If you have questions, ask Elizabeth Golden.

- gallon-size storage bag
- lip balm
- wet wipes
- tissue packet
- chemical hand-warmer packet
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb
- soap
- shampoo
- Deodorant
- gloves
- trail mix
- granola bar
- crackers
- Bandages
- mouthwash
- socks
- rain poncho
- tampons/pads
- pre-paid bus tokens or passes
- gift card for a grocery store
- tylenol packet

You would like CVUUS to support: Jason Duquette-Hoffman (chair), Parker (Monty) Montgomery, Ashleigh Hickey, Barbara Karle, Chris Murphy, or Rev. Barnaby. March’s collection raised appreciated funds for The Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development was $970. 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 April 9 and 30. 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 Alan Moore alanwmoore1947@gmail.com, Barbara Merz or Revell Allen.

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. Talk with Thurs UU Team leaders Mary Conlon & Mike Greenwood. Please contact Erica Marks emarks@agewellvt.org or 662-5249 or visit agewellvt.org/giving-back.

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!
FROM THE BOARD  Rise and Shine!  Laurie Borden

My mom awakened me in the morning with this phrase hundreds (if not thousands!) of times over the course of my childhood. Her cheerful voice often stirred me into action – but sometimes I pulled the blankets over my head in hopes of ignoring her request. These days the alarm is the sound that stirs my slumbers and I can guarantee I am more often of the mind to ignore it then to spring into action. Until I remember, there is a whole new day ahead of me – full of possibility. My epiphany as I grow older is – it doesn’t matter if it all comes out right by the end of the day. But it does matter that we try. It matters if we start with our intentions for the highest good, to make things right, to intentionally be Unitarian Universalist.

I will be ending my term on the CVUUS Board in June. I have learned so much over the past six years – about our staff (incredible and invaluable), our minister (tireless and devoted), policy governance (puzzling yet grounding) and our congregation (colorful and inspirational). I can’t imagine not being a part of this faith tradition, this congregation, this beating heart that dares to make a difference, this moment in time when possibilities abound. I can honestly say that while Board work is not my passion, I decided to rise to the occasion when asked to consider serving. I don’t regret one moment of my tenure – the debates, the challenges, the sadness just as much as the connections, accomplishments and the joy – all have deepened my commitment to CVUUS. All I truly know is that we – CVUUS – NEEDS to be here. We exist to honor one another in all our differences and all our glories. I am filled with gratitude to be on this spiritual journey with you. All I ask of you is to Rise and Shine, so that you might awake to the gifts within yourself and all those around you.

Active Hope: Inspiration & Courage for Times of Turmoil and Opportunity,  Sat. April 13, 9 am, Sanctuary

Join Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network and Middlebury Area Clergy Association for a highly interactive climate change workshop based on Joanna Macy’s book Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in without Going Crazy. The work that reconnects’ purpose is to help us experience our connections with each other and with self-healing powers of the creative, emergent Universe, so that we each may be nourished and motivated to play our unique parts in creating sustainable culture. In these times of divisiveness, othering, and calls for resistance, let us energize to envision and co-create what we know to be a better role for humanity in the web of life. Led by Middlebury College’s Marc Lapin and Kristen Andrews. Chose from two options: half day (9 am – 12:30 pm) or full day (9 am – 4 pm). BYO lunch. $10 suggested donation. Open to anyone, including those who have taken the workshop already. To register, contact Heidi Willis redsprings@myfairpoint.net 352-4327.
Save the Dates!

Spring New UU Classes
Friday, Apr. 26 and Friday, May 3, 6:30 - 8 pm, and after worship on Sunday, May 5.
These classes are open to everyone who is considering joining CVUUS as a member this spring or in the future. Meet other newcomers and learn what beliefs UU's embrace, how CVUUS is organized and financed, opportunities to participate, our relationship to the wider UU movement, and the highlights of a history summed up as 2000 years of heresy.
Questions: contact Rev. Barnaby or Marjorie Carsen.

Let's Eat Together (LET)
Let's Eat Out--but we don't have to eat out anymore as we can eat in our new Fellowship Hall! We are changing the name to Let's Eat Together (LET). Our first get together will be on Wed, April 24, at noon. Please bring your own lunch and the Caring Network will provide drinks. We have the room reserved until 1:30 to allow us time to wash glasses and cups, etc. We can discuss how lunch will be provided in the future. Everyone is invited to join us. If you like to share lunch with friends, be sure to attend.
Please RSVP to Laura at 388-8080 or Dale at 989-7660 by April 21 (Easter) so we will know how many tables, glasses, etc. to have available.

Blue Jeans Sunday
April 28, noon
Join us after service!
Bring your tools or borrow ours.
Lunch provided. Rain date the following Sunday May 5.
Facilities Team and Gerry Loney will coordinate following tasks:
⇒ Paint blue board as needed.
⇒ Weed gravel, grounds as needed.
⇒ Wash windows in Sanctuary and Fenn House.
⇒ Clean siding with soap and water.
⇒ Deep clean/scour plastic table and assure CVUUS is written on table.
⇒ Organize storage areas.
⇒ Repair shed doors. Deep clean lobby tiles/

Finance Update
Your CVUUS Finance Committee is hard at work reviewing the current year expenditures as well as framing up the budget proposal for 2019-2020 (which the congregation will vote on at the annual meeting on June 9.) As shared in the Annual Canvass mailing, we proposed a 5% increase in pledge amounts to cover ongoing expenses plus expected increases mainly due to the ground floor and UUA’s assessment of our congregation with regards to salary recommendations. Based on what we’ve heard from the Annual Canvass team on pledges so far, we are in the familiar position of a gap between the initial budget for expenses and our expected income – currently looking to be a shortfall of about 10% or $30,000. We will present a balanced budget to the congregation, so as often has occurred in the past, we’ll look to close this gap by reducing or eliminating budget items, asking for one-time donations to reach the budget goal, and requesting everyone to review their pledge commitments.

We know that many people do not enjoy talking about money and we also realize that paying for utilities and salaries is not as glamorous as new kitchen supplies or sound systems for the ground floor. But, a sufficient operating budget is essential to the ongoing success of CVUUS and we greatly appreciate everyone’s participation and contributions. Questions? Comments? Ideas? Please reach out to any member of the finance committee. -Mary Hadley, CVUUS Treasurer (hadleyme@juno.com)
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.”

The Flower Co-op shares seasonal arrangements every Sunday as a spiritual practice and to support everyone’s worship experience. We love to do this, and invite you to create one or more by signing up for a Sunday over the next few months. Arrangements may be small, large, or in-between and you may use a CVUUS container or your own. Perhaps a family would like to create something. It’s a wonderful opportunity for children to contribute to their CVUUS community. They might tuck a small animal or figure in, or include small drawings. Creativity is welcome!

Contact Marnie Wood middmam@yahoo.com or Dinah Smith. Dinah.smith@med.uvm.edu

Hospitality seeks people to help set up and/or clean up hospitality hour Sunday mornings. To set-up, arrive at CVUUS at 9 am to start coffee percolating and set up a nice display of food prior to Sunday service. Clean-up usually takes about 45 minutes, depending on how many hands are doing it. Training provided. Choose the dates you’d like to help. Advance sign up is appreciated so we know we have coverage. Thank you! Call 598-2388 or email me: elizabethgolden@shoreham.net.

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

350VT Next Steps Climate Solutions Walk Kick–Off, Friday April 5, 10 am, Middlebury

Town Green Join any part of the April 5-9 march from Middlebury to Montpelier. It is hoped that many will join the kick off as well as the finish with a mass action at Montpelier’s Statehouse at 1 pm to call for a ban on fossil fuel infrastructure. Rev. Barnaby will walk from Middlebury to Bristol. Each day will offer unique opportunities for activism, reflection, and community-building; each day will have a focus connected to place and to healing our world and ourselves.

Night Sky Wonders for April 2019

April, the month of showers, may hopefully give us a chance to get out and see some night shy wonders. Look to the west on April 8th and 9th to see the Moon, the Pleiades, Mars and the giant star Aldebaran grouped together. Both Mars and Aldebaran are reddish looking, but you’ll find Aldebaran on the left and Mars on the right. Yes, the star is brighter than the planet. This group will set in the late evening, so try to get out around 9:00 p.m. and look low in the west.

If you’re a morning person, you’ll find the Moon snuggling up to Jupiter on the 23rd and up to Saturn on the 25th. Another morning treat is the Lyrid meteor shower peaking on the 22nd. The bright Moon will interfere with this shower, so only the brighter meteors will be visible. Look east to observe this. There’s only one planet visible in the evening sky, that being Mars. All the other planets are morning objects. Mars sits alone on one side of the Sun, with all the other planets on the opposite side of our star. Here’s wishing you clear skies. If you have any questions contact AstroAl at astromanvt@gmavt.net.

Al Boudreau “Astroman”
Choir Notes

Spring! Yes, indeed, it’s April and I am guessing that Spring will have sprung by the time this newsletter is mailed. I have faith in the Sun and the Moon and the Planets…

April is a wonderful month for music with the choir at CVUUS. Our theme for April is Emergence, so you can see how seamlessly our choral music intertwines with the themes, sermons and congregational music of all the services. **April 7** starts off with a bang with Jason Shelton’s composition, *Primavera* with text by Marta I. Valentín. The lyrics contain the idea of “kin-dom” as offered by Ada Maria Isasi-Díaz. It is a tango/ChaCha with percussion (percussionist Doug Wilhelm will be there for this service which is led by our own Reverend Emeritus, Johanna Nichols) and a spoken text (John Barstow will lend his sophisticated voice to this). Then on **April 14** (Christian Palm Sunday, just before Jewish Passover) we are singing (arranged by and Channeling our own DivaMan Francois Clemmons) *Ah Wanna Be Ready*. We are also going over to East View after lunch (choir will have a nosh in the Ann Ross Hall) to sing for our choir mate, Roger Comstock whose birthday was April 12. **April 21** is Christian Easter, and 22 is Earth Day, so our music on April 21 is all about the *Emergent Oratorio* by Sam Guarnaccia with the choir participating by adding an Easter Anthem from the African American Spiritual tradition, *De Angel Roll De Stone Away* arranged by Peter Amidon. The choir isn’t singing on April 28, but it is the Bach Sunday in Middlebury, so there will be some music from that direction certainly.

As always, we welcome new choir singers at any time of the year. In May we start to gear up for our final Sunday, in June, where we choose 8-9 anthems from the year and put together an all choral service led by the choir. And we plan a pot luck meal as well, fun, fun, fun! That said, music in May is quite approachable so we can spend time polishing our chosen anthems from Sept-May. Therefore, it’s easy to drop into the choir at this time and get to sing some of our best music from the year. We practice on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:15., and on Sunday mornings at 9-9:40 when we have an anthem (3 times a month). Ask your choir friends, they’ll tell you how fun and collegial the choir is and how we’d love to have you raise your voices with ours! I am a Teaching Conductor, so there are many opportunities for singers to improve and learn. YAY! Blessings, Lucy

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*A bouquet of roses to:*

... **Bill Sessions** for leading the *Immigrants: They Are Us, We Are Them* worship service (listen to it and other past worship services at cvuus.org/worship).

...all who provided testimonies during our worship services last month including **Neil Chippendale, Fernanda Clemmons, Kate Gridley** (as Jan Vilcek) and their voices as performers including **Francois Clemmons** and **Chris Prickett** and **Connie Leach**.

... **Neil and Julie Chippendale** and all who planned the wonderful *Love: Take It to a New Level* canvass kick-off party, including **Elizabeth Golden, Alan Moore, Becky Strum, Karl Lindholm, Richard Hopkins, Men’s Glee Club, The Rug Cutters, Dorothy Mammen, Priscilla Bremser** and all who turned in pledges. You can still mail them to the Office.
Small Group Ministry: Doors Still Open

Women's Group meets following the Sunday service, over lunch at noon, usually the first Sunday of month in Sanctuary Meeting Room. Note next one will be April 7. 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., April 13. 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 April 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).

Are you retired or planning to take that leap soon? There’s a new group at CVUUS forming to share the joys and challenges of retirement. Topics our group could explore:

- Readiness (how will I know when I'm ready?)
- Emotional well-being (who am I now?)
- Spiritual well-being (where do I find meaning in my life without a regular job?)
- Practical considerations (how do I find structure in my new life?)
- Social well-being (how do I find new connections and maintain old ones tied to my former work?)

Let us know of your interest this month ASAP, as the group is ready to start. Dinah Smith Dinah.Smith@med.uvm.edu or (802) 353-1704; Faith Lowell FLowell@together.net or (802) 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 refocus). If you have an idea, contact Doug Richards, Dinah Smith, Bobbi Loney, Marjorie Carsen, Karl Lindholm or 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.

THE POWER OF WE

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year’s theme is about collective power, “The Power of We,” as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity.

Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

Visit uua.org/ga for
- Programming Information
- Registration and Housing
- Financial Aid Information
- Volunteer Opportunities
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.

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CVUUS April Newsletter

Rhubarb Festival 2019 Sat., June 1, 10 am to 2 pm

CVUUS will open its doors to the community for our 10th Rhubarb Festival. The festival planners count on the many contributions of our members and friends to create this event.

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

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

**Books and Art:** With the ground floor space completed and available, this year we will ramp up selling children’s and adult used books. We are particularly seeking donations of books on spirituality, nature, the environment, justice issues, natural health, history, gardening, biography, mystery, poetry, recent notable novels, art, and illustrated children’s books. Please place your donations in the “Book Sale” box available in the ground floor space starting in mid-April. To maximize success, we will not be accepting any reference books, computer guides, business, magazines, music books, nor any books in poor condition. Hardcover and oversized books will be priced at $2 and paperbacks at $1 each. We are seeking a couple of people to help sort the books on the prior three Sunday afternoons. New this year will be some art sales as well. More details to come. To volunteer to sort or if you have a question about suitable books, please contact Elizabeth at 802-598-2388 or elizabethgolden@shoreham.net.

**Bling:** We plan to again be collecting and selling jewelry, scarves and ties and are looking for some new and additional “bling folks” to help.

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

**No entry fee.** Proceeds will be split between CVUUS and a local charity. Previous festivals have raised thousands of dollars for HOPE and additional income for our Youth Group and our general operating budget.

**Please consider helping to prepare for our next Rhubarb Festival.** Contact Mary Hadley (hadleyme@juno.com or (802)377-2270). We need people to organize the 1) pie leader, 2) sweets and savories sales table, 3) sort books for the used book sale, 4) organize a handmade item raffle, such as a quilt, 5) collect rhubarb donations, and 6) lead a newly created activity (your choice!). You need attend only 2-3 meetings over the year.

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I tell you now, Rhubarb, the pie of kings,
On its virtues the ecstatic choir swings,
Oh its miracles,
Quite empirical,
Its holy essence exhumes lost souls to sing. 

Ate the whole pie not believing in sin,
And if she could she’d do it again,
Die for rhubarb pie,
Never ask why,
With demand of my stomach I comply.

Paul Stone 2015
CVUUS is blessed with many wise and well-trained individuals providing support to members and friends in various kinds of distress. Laurie Borden, Sue Grigg and Marjorie Carsen lead this. Rev. Barnaby will be out of the office April 3-6 at various events.

Pastoral Care

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).

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 a 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 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.
Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

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Mary Hadley – Treasurer
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Facilities — Bob House
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Green Sanctuary — Elizabeth Golden
Ground Floor Project — Steve Maier
Hospitality — Elizabeth Golden
Library & Information Resources — Artley Wolfson
Membership Ministry — Marjorie Carsen
Pastoral Care — Sue Grigg and Laurie Borden
Religious Exploration Council — Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse
Small Group Ministry — Doug Richards
Worship — Ann Webster

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Choir Director — Lucy Tenenbaum (lucytunes@me.com)
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