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.

Looking Back and Ahead

June Worship Services

(Sundays at 10 AM)

**June 2 — Bumblebee Congregations**—Rev. Barnaby reflects on how CVUUS can fly when common wisdom says we can’t. **Please bring a flower for our communal bouquet! Welcome new members!**

**June 9 — Brilliant Ideas**—Rev. Barnaby found scores of them from a range of "big thinkers" collected all in one science-oriented book. He's interested in what you think was left out. **Followed by our Annual Meeting.**

**June 16—Traveling Together**—The Choir will repeat 11 of the anthems they sang from Sept to May. It is an uplifting and entirely musical service. Come listen to the choir, and think about, “where is my place in the choir?” Maybe as singer, maybe as listener, maybe as strong supporter...

**June 23 — The Power of Language**—Our Spirituality and the Arts summer worship series begins with this service led by guest Weybridge teen Narges Anzali.

**June 30 — Protest Art**—Our Spirituality and the Arts summer worship series continues.

**Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 9, 11:30 am**

This is our sacred time for business and policy decisions rooted in the UU fifth principle affirming “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations...” All members are encouraged to attend. Non-member friends are not entitled to vote but are welcome to observe and ask questions. Childcare and light snacks provided. Members (and friends on our email list) got the agenda & documents electronically.
Words from Rev. Barnaby:

I was hesitant when your Board and Council of Ministries members asked me to contribute to this annual report. In this report, you are saying to each other and to the future, “Here's what our congregation did during – and with – the precious 12 months from last year’s annual meeting through this year's gathering.” Part of me felt that the single strongest statement I could make affirming that this is your congregation, not mine even though I am your called spiritual leader and, under our governance system, acting chief executive, would be to keep my voice out of this.

But because I serve you, I will honor this request in two ways. First, some advice about perspective:

Your annual report will be incomplete. Enjoy it for what it is above all else – a declaration that CVUUS accomplished a lot of things that matter to those who participated and will matter to those who come after us. This is only the second year the congregation has done this kind of report. You are still getting the hang of it. Inevitably, many reasons for gratitude, celebration, and honesty about challenges encountered will get cursory treatment or no mention at all. Moreover, a year is a long time and you are a diverse group. Even the most fabulous annual report will fail to do you justice as history.

Second, let me write something in the spirit of a chalice lighting for this report. Whenever we kindle a chalice flame, we head into a potent spiritual space where words, silence, matter, and energy are inseparable. One thing I have done is to bring the words of Rev. Theodore Parker, a boundary-breaking 19th-century Unitarian minister, into our worship in a revised form that I have often asked you to say along with me as a chalice lighting:

Let us have a congregation for the whole person:
truth for the mind,
good works for the hands,
love for the heart,
and, for the soul, faith in the Spirit of Life which, like lightning in the clouds, shines brightest when elsewhere it is the most dark.

You have answered this prayer in countless ways in the past year. May you find them recorded in this report. Where you don’t find them, may you recall them anyway as you read what you do find.

I am more grateful than ever that you called me to be your minister in April of 2012. You continued in the past year to challenge and invite me to grow with you. You indulged my experiments and came up with some of your own. You comforted me in times of loss and let me comfort you. You took my efforts to offer guidance seriously without substituting them for your own responsibility to decide for yourself what you believe and what you want for CVUUS. I was excited about our future together in that joyful moment when you called me. I am just as excited about our shared ministry going forward from today.

Blessings be, Rev. Barnaby
Rhubarb Festival History

Before 2010 CVUUS members Johanna Nichols and Ann Ross had discussed in passing the fun of hosting a Rhubarb Festival for the Middlebury community. By early 2010 Ann organized a small group of members who planned an event for the Saturday between college graduation and college reunion weekends. At that time CVUUS had a new sanctuary but not much in the way of kitchen space, just a coffee preparation area in the new building and a small, house-size kitchen in the nearby administrative space, known as Fenn House. The planning group brainstormed activities that our membership could manage in those spaces, and the first festival debuted on June 5th of that year.

The production of rhubarb-based foods has been the unifying element of the event. Always pies, lots of pies. In 2018 about 100 pies were sold as well as other rhubarb treats. At some festivals, there was coffee and pie on offer. That developed into a café lunch with homemade sandwiches, salads, & desserts plus a beverage.

In the past there were various sales and activities. Perhaps the most energetic was called “Kiss the Kid.” Various members names were attached to voting boxes where everyone could drop in their choice for the individual who would cuddle up to a Blue Ledge Farm baby goat and, hopefully, get a kiss. The “vote” was money, so the winner was the person who had collected the most dollars in their box. While this was fun for many folks, a few felt that we were frightening the “kids.” So congregational energy was turned elsewhere the following year.

In 2013 RF included a “Father’s Finds” area, where shoppers could hopefully purchase a Father’s Day gift. The festival also offered a quilt raffle and children’s gently used toys and games. Four activities that continued through the years, in addition to the abovementioned food sales, are the sales of plants, used books, used jewelry and scarves, and provision of all-day musical entertainment. In 2014 the group also offered homemade aprons, which decorated the CVUUS sanctuary in spectacular fashion and then went home with the buyers.

Each year since 2013 we’ve held a festival similar to these, one year with a professional puppet show for children. This year, 2019, will be our first festival with a finished lower level in the building. Last year the lower level was accessible, but the lighting was dim. This year both the upstairs and downstairs of the Sanctuary will be brightly lit and welcoming to all. It takes a village of Unitarians to create a community Rhubarb Festival. We hope that it will continue as a tradition for many years to come. Submitted by Sheila House.
2019-2020 Worship Themes
The UU Seven Principles

The Worship Team and Rev. Barnaby have selected the UU Seven Principles as the source of our monthly themes starting in September. We will focus on the first principle affirming the worth and dignity of every individual in October, we will progress month-by-month to the seventh principle affirming that we are part of an interdependent web of being in April. We will look at the history of UU principles in September and proposals for future changes in May.

These same monthly themes will also be addressed in the Religious Exploration program next year. Small group ministries will be invited to consider the principles as the basis for their monthly discussions as well, although each group will continue to make its own choices in this regard.

Rev. Barnaby anticipates paying particular attention to how the principles may speak differently to congregants depending on their age, and to our relationship with Mother Earth.

BOOK AND ART SALE CONTINUES!
The Rhubarb Festival's Book and Art Sale continues beyond the Festival Day. We will be selling the remaining books and art on the following three Sundays: June 2, 9, and 16th, in the Fellowship Hall Blue Room, following services and after the Annual Meeting. Come see what you might have missed!!

OPENINGS FOR DEEPER CONNECTIONS
Here are groups looking for people right now.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION COUNCIL
helps plan and implement RE programs - meets once a month—contact Tracey Harrington 4.mt.mice@gmail.com

DONATION MINISTRY
chooses share-the-plate donees - meets three times a year— contact Barb Karle whippoorwill2392@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM
working to expand where and how music happens - meets monthly for two hours coffee house in fall! contact —Carol Harden charden@utk.edu

FLOWER CO-OP
makes our sanctuary more beautiful with flowers - get on schedule —contact Dinah Smith dinah.smith@med.uvm.edu or Marnie Wood middmam@yahoo.com

LANDSCAPING
makes our outside look amazing - many ways to help —contact Sue Rasmussen llamasue2@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY
helps set-up, serve, and clean-up for coffee hour - sign up—contact Elizabeth Cultrara elizabeth.cultrara@gmail.com

“PEANUT FREE” Environment
There’s a child in our congregation with a life threatening allergy. No peanuts or foods with peanuts in them into any of our buildings. Just peanuts. Other nuts are fine. Thank you!
JUNE for Children, Youth and Their Families

SUBJECT TO CHANGE: check weekly email blast

The RE Council runs the Summer RE program, even when Poppy is not on vacation. Martha Alexander is the person to contact if you want to lead or assist. // There will be a DRE Sub every Sunday in the summer, even if you see Poppy at church in worship. You can check the RE bulletin boards for this and upcoming activities.

JUNE 2: MULTIGENERATIONAL SERVICE - FLOWER COMMUNION – for all ages Kids stay in service entire time. Come for this uniquely UU annual celebration of beauty and diversity (invited to bring a flower or two to exchange – we will have plenty).

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 3:45-6 make dinner at John Graham Shelter. Followed by YSOP TRIP PLANNING MEETING 6:15-7:15?

SAT., JUNE 8: YOUTH GROUP preps enchiladas?
PARENT GROUP PICNIC at Branbury State Park 4-7 pm See Tracey Harrington

SUMMER RE STARTS - Kids start in service, then leave for special all-ages activity

JUNE 9: ACTIVITY TBD with TBD - Dir. of Religious Exploration (DRE) Sub is Kas Singh
Followed by our entertaining and informative ANNUAL MEETING. CHILDCARE provided. Light refreshments. Families encouraged to come and have your voice heard!

YOUTH GROUP enchilada fundraiser for NYC service trip at Annual Meeting

JUNE 16: ACTIVITY TBD with TBD - DRE Sub is TBD
- OR - kids can stay for the entire “Choir Favorites” service which is mostly singing
RE Council 11:45-1:45 interested in joining? Talk to Poppy, Jess Rouse, Natali West, Tracey Harrington or Catie Raishart

JUNE 23: ACTIVITY TBD with TBD - DRE Sub is TBD
YOUTH GROUP (noon?) leaves for NYC SERVICE TRIP – back Friday, June 28

JUNE 30: CAPTURE THE FLAG with Milo Rees – DRE Sub is TBD

Religious Exploration Roses to…OUR RE LEADERS: Martha Alexander and Jay Harrington for Spirit Play; Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Gerry Loney, and Will Porter for Spirit of Adventure; Jess Rouse and Abi Sessions for sUper plays; Michele Lowy and Ted Scheu for OWL 5-6; Piper Harrell, for Coming of Age; and Gail Cason and Heidi Sulis for Youth Group….Allie Izzard, and Joanna Colwell for assisting Coming of Age; Chris Hammond for sUper plays help…Jason Duquette-Hoffman for chaperoning the Coming of Age trip to Boston…Jackie Derse, Nursery Caretaker, and Journey LaRose, Nursery Assistant, for the incredible love and dedication they bring to our youngest children….Mary Hadley, Peter Orzech, Kas Singh, (and Wren Colwell? Livia Bernhardt? Mary Conlon?) for subbing in Nursery….RE COUNCIL members: Tracey Harrington (Co-Head), Jess Rouse (Co-Head), Martha Alexander, Molly Andres, Catie Raishart, Kas Singh, and Natali West – for being RE Greeters, DRE subbing, assisting with groups, and doing so many helpful and loving things – especially for running RE during Poppy’s Sabbatical!!…Bobbi Loney for Just Say Yes! The Annual Kid Service – and for being a sounding-board, brain-stormer, helper and assistant to many of Poppy’s RE ideas…Parents and grand-parents who assisted in RE: Jess Danyow, Bobbi Loney, Mary Lou Bright, Ian Ross, Roxanne Ross, Colleen Brown, Doug Richards, Alisa Breau, Amy Mason, Penelope Markle, Caitlin Gildrien, Nita Hanson, Claire Tebbs, Julia Chant, and Wendy Moore…People who assisted in RE and didn’t have kids in the program: Kate Gridley, Mary Hadley, Sydney Singh, Peter Orzech…Tracey Harrington and Martha Alexander for organizing the upcoming Summer RE program…Gail Borden and Heidi Sulis for chaperoning the upcoming Youth Group service trip to NYC and anyone else we may have forgotten who helped in some way! I’m sure there were many!
JOIN US IN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION IN 2019-2020!

Infant-3 years  
**NURSERY**

*Journey LaRose*  
*Need 1 more Staff, adult & high school Subs*

Our Nursery is staffed by a paid experienced childcare supervisor and a high school assistant. Unstructured play in a safe and nurturing environment next to the Sanctuary. Changing table and chair for nursing. Children move up to next group by the time they are four years old.

PreK-K  
**THE RAINBOW CONNECTION**

*Natali West, Ken Levine*  
*Need 1 more Leader, 3+ Assistants*

An introduction to the 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles, the values that unite us as Unitarian Universalists. Picture books, activities, crafts, songs and games will help our children appreciate and act on these UU values in their own lives. Each Principle will have a few Sunday sessions.

Grades 1-4  
**UNDERCOVER KINDNESS AGENTS**

*Catie Raishart, Gerry Loney*  
*Need 1 more Leader, 3+ Assistants*

In a Secret Agent setting (codes, disguises, and missions), we will do anonymous acts of kindness reflecting our UU Principles for people in our congregation, community or the world. Make, do, write, create – while building community, learning about empathy and social justice, and having fun.

Grades 5-6  
**NEIGHBORING FAITHS**

*Mary Hadley, Jess Rouse*  
*Need 1-2 more Leaders, 2-3 Assistants*

Explore the faith traditions of Unitarian Universalism, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Christian Evangelicalism, Black Church Traditions, and Quakers. Discussions, videos, and games explore the values that the faiths share but with an emphasis on their uniqueness. Most faith units include learning, a field trip or virtual visit (mosque, temple, synagogue, churches, and more), followed by reflection. Most field trips are on Sundays but some are on other days.

Grades 7-8  
**OWL 7-8 (OUR WHOLE LIVES SEXUALITY EDUCATION)**

*Joanna Colwell, Shannon LaRose*  
**OWL participation requires attending the Orientation**

13 Sessions including Sexuality and Values, Gender Identity and Expression, Sexual Orientation, Healthy Relationships, Social Media, Bullying, Consent Education, Safer Sex, Pregnancy, Communicating about Sexuality, and Self Care. Sundays 10-12:30, 2x/month.

Grades 9-12  
**YOUTH GROUP**

*Need 1-2 Advisors*

Our program for youth has a flexible format to respond to the needs and interests of the group. The youth, with the guidance of their Advisors, will determine the shape & focus of their meetings & activities for the year. The group aims to include these six aspects of youth programming: youth leadership development, worship, social justice/action, fellowship & fun, and learning. Youth are encouraged to participate in congregational activities and are encouraged to be part of Worship services. Time TBA (4-6 pm?), 2-3 Sundays/month.

All Ages  
**KIDS FOR KIDS**

*Might need Leader? Need 3+ Assistants*

Kids doing social justice and community service for other kids. Projects include *CROP Walk to End Hunger*, making & selling holiday ornaments as a *UUSC Guest at Your Table* fundraiser, and more.

And…RE Fundays, the Great Kid Service, Worship, Summer RE and more!
June “Share the Plate” Donee
ReTribe

The share the plate donee for June is ReTribe. At www.retribe.org you will learn about their 80 acre property (NorthernShire) in Underhill, Vermont (previous home of the Maple Leaf Treatment Center) and all the activities ReTribe provides and has planned. While they have camps and events for a wide range of ages, they have a special passion for teens and offer several coming of age and adventure game camp opportunities. ReTribe provides scholarships to children and teens for their summer and school year programs. For more specifics, speak with Peter Orzech, who recommended ReTribe, about the value he places on the experiences he’s had.

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. May’s collection raised appreciated funds for Vermont Legal aid and was $980. Thank you!

The Donations Committee has endeavored this year to find balance among the interests and ideas raised by the congregation, responding to emerging issues, aligning with the worship themes and diversifying our donee constituency. We meet periodically to set out the donee schedule for several months at once, which is both useful for its efficiency and constraining as new issues come up over the course of time. We have developed an online form for submitting suggestions to the committee that we hope can be deployed on the website and make it easy for folks to get ideas to us! Jason will be looking to transition out of his role in this committee as he participates more in the work of Worship ministry. We would appreciate any new members who wish to join this work!

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. 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, 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 to 11:30 am. Talk with Thurs UU Team leaders Mary Conlon & Mike Greenwood. Contact 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                Mark Spritzer

As the Chair of the Biology Department at Middlebury College, I get the honor of handing out diplomas to the graduating Biology majors this weekend. This is an opportunity to reflect on new beginnings and the great potential that each of these graduating seniors possess to go forth and do some good in a world that is in serious need of good works. Perhaps one of these graduates will find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease or Diabetes? Or perhaps develop new conservation strategies to mitigate the impact of the current climate crisis and mass extinction event? One piece of advice that graduating students are often given is that they should “break out of their comfort zone”. This advice was given by several congregants to the two graduating high school seniors that recently participated in the church’s bridging ceremony. They were encouraged to try new things, meet new people, and experience new cultures. Embracing diversity is certainly one of the tenants of Unitarian Universalism, and one’s life is enriched by new experiences.

On a personal level, I can remember breaking out of my comfort zone in dramatic ways during different points in my life. After receiving a degree in zoology at the University of Montana, I moved to Florida to attend graduate school and study monkeys in the tropical rainforests of South America. My research with the monkeys was fairly short-lived, but the dramatic cultural changes I experienced during four years of living in Florida changed me forever. Notably, I lived for three years with a roommate from Uganda, who had a substantially different perspective on life than my own fairly sheltered experience at a Montana native. Pursuing a career in academics, I moved across the country three more times, and two of those big moves were with my wife Natali, whom I met in Ohio. We arrived in Middlebury in 2006 so that I could take a job at the College. We had never heard of Middlebury before I applied for a job here, so moving to Vermont definitely pushed us out of our comfort zone. But, we’ve made a happy life here, and it is now difficult to imagine moving to live somewhere else. My enthusiasm for big moves had definitely dissipated with age.

Breaking out of one’s comfort zone certainly does not require a graduation or other major life changes. CVUUS facilitates many ways for congregants to try new things and gain meaningful new experiences. As an introvert, I find it challenging just to engage in idle chit-chat with people after each service during coffee hour, but I have found it rewarding to do so, getting to know some very interesting people over the years. Becoming a church board member pushed me out of my comfort zone, and I have enjoyed the experience. Meetings can sometimes be tedious, but making decisions for an organization whose mission I believe in has been quite rewarding. As another example, the mud communion that we regularly have in the spring has always made me feel uncomfortable. I was raised in a conservative Lutheran church, and communion was always a sacred experience. I’ve rejected my Christian faith, but indoctrination is hard to shake. I mentioned this to a church member sitting near me at the last mud communion, and she recommended that I “break out of my comfort zone.” My 7-year-old daughter loved smearing the mud all over her hands, so I think I’m gradually learning to embrace her enthusiasm. Finally, I recently showed Barnaby an idea that I had for a guided meditation that I could lead at the church “someday”. He liked the idea, it developed rapidly, and I was speaking in front of the church about a month after I showed Barnaby the idea! Although I teach in front of a class regularly as part of my job, getting up in front of the church made me quite nervous. But, I enjoyed sharing with the congregation my understanding of biological evolution, and it was a great way for me to consider how my rationalistic understanding of the universe might have a spiritual component. So, I’d encourage everyone to break out of their comfort zones this summer: go somewhere new, try something new, or just say hello to someone you wouldn’t normally talk to. I’m sure that the experience will be worthwhile.
June Membership Greetings

June is such a special month at CVUUS—our fabulous Rhubarb Festival, the lovely traditional Flower Communion, our important Annual Meeting (members can vote!), the Choir Favorites service of music on Fathers’ Day, and other opportunities for fellowship, social action, and spiritual inspiration.

Best of all, for those of us supporting the Membership Ministry in a variety of ways, our congregation will be welcoming at least a dozen new members on June 2nd. We are blessed to have these individuals join our community, with their stories and ideas and talents adding enrichment to us all. I urge you to get to know them better, and to share your own beliefs, experiences, and perspectives.

2019--2020 Goals:

A. Increasing the number of greeters, and enhancing their skills and confidence in providing welcoming encounters with newcomers and regulars.

B. Providing a greater variety of options for newcomers to learn about our faith, and for all congregants to enhance our welcome to a wider diversity of visitors and potential members. The belief that hospitality can be a spiritual practice can be more widely expressed (and not just for extroverts).

C. Ongoing adaptation to having our ground floor Fellowship Hall, working with other teams, including Hospitality, Ushers, Library, and Safety Teams.

Marjorie Carsen, For Membership Ministry

Board Meeting Highlights from May

Two changes to the bylaws will be proposed at the annual meeting: 1) “If there is any conflict of interest for the VP, the Board shall select a different Board member to serve on the nominating committee”, and 2) regarding voting eligibility, a line will be added: “Notwithstanding this provision, the voters at the annual meeting can upon a motion of the Board permit people who have signed the membership book after taking the Spring UU class that year to vote.”

The majority of the meeting was taken up by a detailed discussion of the annual budget shortfall. It was eventually decided that we will propose a reasonable budget that includes cost-of-living raises for all staff, but with small cuts in many other areas. To create a balanced budget, the Board will propose to spend some of the reserve funds, with the acknowledgment that these are unusual circumstances.

The Power of We

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year’s General Assembly June 19-23 we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Follow us online to work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith. Visit uua.org/ga for more about how to do this.
Choir Notes

Greetings and Salutations CVUUS friends and choir family. June will be upon us soon, and as we bask in the wonderful warmth of the Vermont summer (or chill in the coolth of the Vermont summer, as may be...) the CVUUS choir still has a few great weeks of music to share with you.

June 2 we are singing I Have a Million Nightingales, a spirited round that came from a workshop between Israeli and Palestinian youth. Our choir singers really enjoy the uplifting melody and repetition of “Singing, Freedom, Freedom, Freedom…”

June 9 we take you to the Appalachian Mountains for a round that celebrates the green hills, the smell of the woods, the love we all have for nature and her bounty. Rest easy in her earthen cloak, beneath the old oak, where love is forever.

June 16 the choir finishes the “regular season” with our long-anticipated and much-loved service called “choir favorites,” this year it’s Traveling Together. The choir chose 11 pieces that they loved and sang through the year, and we are singing them with and for the congregation. It’s a greatly anticipated service for the choir. Two of the pieces chosen are congregational, so you folks will get to be a vital part of the choir!! Don’t miss this end of the choir season, going out with a big bang! Doug Wilhelm will add percussion to the mix.

Over the summer I spend a lot of time finding and choosing new music for the choir for the 2019-2020 season. I am going to the AUUMM (new name for UU Musician’s Network, it’s now Association of UU Music Ministries. We decided we are much more than a Network!) Conference in Denver, and will surely come home with lots of new ideas.

See you in June, then again in September with great music for the worship at CVUUS.

Blessings, Lucy

Music Ministry Team Shannon LaRose, Lucy Tenenbaum, Kate Gridley, Poppy Rees, Priscilla Bremser, Carol Harding, Richard Hopkins, YOU?! Reconvenes late summer to plan for 2019-2020.

Where do I park? Our lot will be very busy this spring. Fortunately, we may park at MUHS. We were once prohibited from using the MUHS lot during school hours but have been given permission to use the rear end as space permits. On Sundays we can use the Mary Johnson lot next door. We may use the Mary Johnson lot at other times provided it does not conflict with school days when they are in session, evening or Saturday conferences they are conducting, or mowing or plowing services. We will not be allowed to park at Mary Johnson for the Rhubarb Festival since they have a concurring conference. They will rope off their lot. Please inform guests ahead of time about our parking options so that we maintain good relations with our Duane Court and Water St neighbors. We are not supposed to park along Duane or Water St or along soft banks of our lot where ruts can form. A safety vest hangs in the coat area for those who patrol parking for large events. And consider other transportation options: walk, bike, bus, carpool. Consult map in Fellowship Hall for possibilities.
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. They’ve been making care kits for those who find themselves homeless as a service project and continue to welcome your donations of travel-sized toiletries. See April newsletter for complete list. Next one will be **June 16**. Topics selected collectively by participants. Contact **Elizabeth Golden** (elizabethgolden@shoreham.net) to join.

**Parents Group** meets Second Saturday each month, 5:30-7:30pm, except over summer. 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. 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 We’ll conclude this year with a family picnic on **Sat June 8 at Branbury State Park 4-7 pm**. All welcome.

**Writers’ Group** meets third Monday of the month, except over summer. Next one **Sept 16, 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 formed to share the joys and challenges of retirement meeting the **2nd Monday of month at 7 pm**, in Blue Room. Next one is **June 10**. **Readiness** (how will I know when I’m ready? **Emotional well-being** (who am I now?) **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?) Questions? Contact **Dinah Smith** Dinah.Smith@med.uvm.edu or Faith Lowell FLowell@together.net.

**Queer community at CVUUS?** A new CVUUS group addressing the needs and interests of LGBTQIA+ and questioning folks is forming. Jordan Young or Elizabeth Cultrara (elizabeth.cultrara@gmail.com) can provide more info.

**Let’s Eat Together (LET)**
The Caring Network welcomes you to lunch on the **fourth Wednesday of every month at 12 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. CVUUS had a tradition of monthly lunches called Let’s Eat Out and revived a version of it using our wonderful new Fellowship Hall. The idea is to bring your own lunch while the Caring Network provides drinks and seating. Let your hosts Dale Birdsall 989-7660 and Ginny Moser know of your interest in joining the next one which will be **Wed June 26 at noon**. Join Caring Network “FUUDIES” prior to lunch at 10 am in our new lower level kitchen to prepare meals for later distribution to those in need.

**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.
A bouquet of roses to:

... Doug Richards for leading Small Group Ministry and all who led monthly groups including Bobbi Loney (the longstanding and open Wed night group), Dinah Smith and Faith Lowell (the new Retirement Group), Elizabeth Golden (the reinstated Women’s Group), and Tracey Harrington (the new Parent Group).

...The Caring Network cooks for making a freezer-load of soups to deliver to folks in need.

...Catie Raishart, Lois Alberts, and Kate Gridley for organizing our billboard rollout in the Ann Ross Fellowship Hall

...Donna LaRose for overseeing acquisition of safety mats for the new kitchen.

...Alan Moore, Will Porter, Donna LaRose, and Mike Greenwood for introducing the Safety Volunteer concept to our Sunday Morning greeting scene.

...Kate Gridley for organizing this past year's childcare and food support for the Saturday night parents' group convened by Tracey Harrington.

...David Durgin for working with Rev. Barnaby on gaining town approval on our new sign, which he is in the process of building.

...Barb Karle for stepping up to lead the Donations Ministry Team.

...Doug Richards, Mary Hadley, Ann Webster and Mary Conlon, with a late boost from Jean Terwilliger for developing a broad new plan for monitoring the annual performance of our professional and lay ministries.

...Marjorie Carsen for helping Rev. Barnaby shepherd our largest New UU group ever toward membership.

...Gerry Loney for leading Blue Jeans Sunday with help from our hard-working Facilities Team and others who pitched in on Memorial Day Weekend.

...Our steadfast Sunday worship greeters Lois Alberts, Pat Schmitter, Mary Ann Deverell, Marnie Wood and Sheila House.

...All those who through one-time gifts or pledge increases have helped us to substantially narrow the funding shortfall for our proposed budget for the year starting July 1.

...our devoted Board Co-Chairs Laurie Borden and Mike Greenwood for the June 9, 2019 Annual Meeting preparations. Join us after service!

Dear members and friends in the CVUUS community, This note is to express how appreciative I am to be honored by the naming of the Ann Ross Fellowship Hall. The May 11th celebration was a joyful occasion for me. I will be glad when regular use of the space brings us naturally to an easy abbreviated version of its name. In the meantime, I'll see you there! Ann Ross
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, Marjorie Carsen and Jordan Young lead this.

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](http://www.uua.org) to learn about the wider work of UUA and our affiliates. Visit [www.cvuus.org](http://www.cvuus.org) to explore our happenings and most current calendar.

### 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).

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### 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. Before we all go into summer mode, please check to make sure that you’ve returned CVUUS library books that may be overdue. There are no fines for overdue books but lost or badly damaged books must be paid for. Thanks!

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

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### Pastoral Care
Ian Ross 6/16  
Gregory Goldsmith 6/16  
Sydney Singh 6/17  
JP Rees 6/20  
Dale Birdsall 6/21  
Elizabeth Mason 6/25  
Charlie Grigg 6/26  
Cindi Gillen 6/28  
Nathaniel Hutner 6/30

Kerri Duquette-Hoffman 6/3  
Carol Kulczyk 6/3  
Steven Fidler 6/4  
Roland McGlashan 6/4  
Will Earle 6/6  
Natali West 6/7  
Gabriel Cason 6/12  
Walter Deverell 6/14  
Paul Seward 6/14  
Marnie Wood 6/15  

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Visit [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) to learn about the wider work of UUA and our affiliates. Visit [www.cvuus.org](http://www.cvuus.org) to explore our happenings and most current calendar.
CVUUS Board of Trustees
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Laurie Borden – Co-President
Mary Hadley—Treasurer
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Kas Singh
Doug Richards

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Green Sanctuary—Elizabeth Golden
Ground Floor Project —Steve Maier
Hospitality – Elizabeth Cultrara
Library & Information Resources – Artley Wolfson
Membership Ministry—Marjorie Carsen
Pastoral Care —Sue Grigg, Laurie Borden, Jordan Young
Religious Exploration Council – Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse
Small Group Ministry — Doug Richards
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
Office Manager– Laura Asermily (office@cvuus.org)
Sexton—Keith Rickerby