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 ...FREEDOM?

May Worship Services
(Sundays at 10 AM)

May 5 — Coming of Age Service—Piper Harrell & Joanna Colwell lead our seventh and eighth grade Coming of Age group in sharing their reflections of the past year. Join us after service for a whirlwind tour of UU history.

May 12 —Freedom of Worship for Atheists—Rev. Barnaby reflects on why atheists, sometimes called "the loyal opposition", often know more about the Bible that people who claim it as the "word of God", and why so many UU's are proud atheists who join our faith community.

May 19—Religious Exploration Appreciation & Bridging Ceremony —Poppy Rees, Dir. of Religious Exploration leads us in honoring Silas Conlon and Peter Orzech who are bridging from high school to their futures. We’ll also recognize those who assisted in RE this past year.


SAVE THE DATE! MORE INSIDE!

Blue Jeans Sunday (rescheduled!)

Rain predictions and conflict with important other post-service conversations in April and May led us to postpone this communal pizza lunch and spring cleaning party for all ages. Watch for make-up date.

Ann Ross Fellowship Hall Dedication, Sat. May 11, 2 pm
Rhubarb Festival, Sat. June 1
Annual Meeting, Sun. June 9, after worship
Choir Favorites Worship Service, Sun. June 16

Spirituality & the Arts Summer Worship begins June 23
Words from Rev. Barnaby:

We are coming up as I write this on the one-year anniversary of my mother’s death. The week began with the sudden, unexpected passing while Michele and I were not with her of our beloved dog, Lyra. Still, looking out from my personal grieving, I see in every direction trees gearing up to leaf out.

We as a congregation are facing the largest gap in our time together between your initial pledges for the coming year and our preliminary budget goals, which were very modest to begin with. We are stumbling toward budget cuts that should be a cause for grief. And yet the congregation is expanding joyfully into our beautiful new fellowship hall and kitchen, and bustling with new activities. Our New UU class is shaping up to be the largest – and youngest average age – since you called me. Looking beyond everything that worries me about CVUUS, I see cause for faith and hope. And the trees are gearing up to leaf out.

We as a nation are mired in political crisis, fear, and draining antagonisms. We are too timid and complacent to face up to our greatest challenges. And yet, looking up from all that invites me to despair, I see exciting new alliances being formed and young people stepping up to innovate and lead where we elders have faltered. And the trees are gearing up to move from budding and flowering into leafing out.

As mud season reminded us, spring is not for the faint of heart. But I invite you to embrace the closing words of Instructions on Not Giving Up by Ada Limón:

“...the leaves come. Patient, plodding, a green skin growing over whatever winter did to us, a return to the strange idea of continuous living despite the mess of us, the hurt, the empty. Fine then, I’ll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I’ll take it all.”

Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

Fellowship Hall to be dedicated to Ann Ross!

Thanks to Ellen Flight who is coordinating the grand dedication of our new Fellowship Hall to longtime CVUUS member and hospitality provider Ann Ross, after whom it is named. You’re invited to a tea party on **Sat May 11, 2-4 pm**. Thanks to those bringing card tables, tea sandwiches, bite-sized savory treats, tiny cookies or drinks or helping with set up or clean up. We wanted as many people as possible to help make this a true community celebration to honor Ann and ourselves.

**FIRE DRILL during worship this month (hint, hint)**

In case of the need to evacuate, please remain calm and listen for the Minister, Worship Associate or, if downstairs, an Usher, to shout the command to exit the facilities. Leave quickly in order to facilitate the Fire Department’s access. We gather across Charles St in Martha Soderberg’s yard. If snow, ice or frigid weather make it difficult for us to gather there, we will get as many folks as possible into Martha’s home at 107 Water Sr. (the house with the deck at the northwest edge of the big lawn). Please do not leave for home until all are present and accounted for, and do not try to return to the Sanctuary or Fenn House to try to collect objects left behind or locate missing people until your name has been recorded and the Fire Department has said it is safe. Parents especially are asked NOT to depart with their children without notifying the RE leaders.

Parents with children in the Nursery are asked to exit the Sanctuary building through the Nursery if it is safe to do so, in order to assist the nursery staff in safely evacuating all children, and proceed through the parking lot and over to Martha's along Duane Court.

RE leaders of groups meeting in Fenn House: Gather children hand-in-hand and exit the building through the nearest safe exit. Please take the daily attendance sheet, so we can assure all children are accounted for and all family members find one another. When parents and children have been reunited, the RE leader(s) may leave children in their parents’ care, noting the child’s departure with their parent on their attendance sheet.

If you are in the Ann Ross Fellowship Hall or anywhere else downstairs below the Sanctuary, exit from either door on the wall facing the High School. Do not go back upstairs! Keep the doors to upstairs closed!

Those with Mobility Issues: An usher or other appropriate person(s) will assist those in the Sanctuary with mobility issues out the front door to the furthest corner of the patio area. If you are downstairs with someone who has mobility issues, please help them out the double door and over to the Charles Road Passenger Drop Off cutaway. From the patio or that spot, all people with mobility issues can be easily identified by emergency personnel and assisted in further exiting. Those whose mobility issues may slow down the evacuation and their helpers should wait until others are out -- it will be safer for everyone, including them. The Minister and Worship Associate will be last to leave the Sanctuary Building and will make a final sweep of all rooms, ensuring no one is left before closing all doors.
RE THOUGHTS

COMING OF AGE

The UU Coming of Age service is THIS COMING SUNDAY and it is one of the most moving things we do with our UU kids, in my opinion. It’s the closest we get to a Bar Mitzvah – a chance to honor and celebrate our Middle School youth as they step up to an older role in our congregation. At CVUUS, as at many UU churches, after Coming of Age, youth may formally “join” the church and become official members which allows them to vote on ministers, budgets and other important church issues.

I just spent the weekend in Boston with many of the Coming of Age kids. It was great. What a funny, kind, thoughtful group they are. We learned, we played, we ate snacks. Some highlights:

- the carved quotes in the Walden Woods reflection circle: “Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other’s eyes for an instant?” - Thoreau
- sleeping in the futuristic bed “pods” at First Parish in Cambridge
- sharing our experiences with race, class and privilege at the UU Urban Ministry workshop along with another UU Coming of Age group
- petting stingrays, watching seals, and impromptu public dance performances at the New England Aquarium
- the Great Roxbury Duck Battle of 1826 (very tragic)
- a very competitive elimination game of Spoons (not sure who won?)
- singing in the car the whole way back from Boston. I literally mean the WHOLE WAY BACK

I hope to see most of you on Sunday, celebrating our Coming of Age youth! Poppy Rees

MAY for Children, Youth and Their Families

**SAT., MAY 6, 4-8 pm:** COMING OF AGE REHEARSAL for service the next day – pizza!

MAY 5: COMING OF AGE SERVICE multigen COA kids (grades 7-8) run the service. Grades 1 and up kids stay in service the whole time. Younger kids invited to stay or leave after the Time for All Ages and go to the Nursery (which might get a bit crowded). Fidgets, coloring materials, stuffies, books available.

RE COUNCIL Interested in joining? Talk to Poppy, Tracey, or Jess Rouse

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 3:45-6 make dinner at John Graham Shelter

**SAT., APRIL 11, 2-4 pm:** ANN ROSS FELLOWSHIP HALL DEDICATION TEA PARTY

5:30-7:30 pm: PARENT GROUP Dinner and childcare provided.

MAY 12: *last* KIDS FOR KIDS this year All-ages kids social justice group that works to help other Kids. This year’s Kids for Kids has focused on Central American refugee children.

MAY 19: BRIDGING CEREMONY for graduating Seniors Silas Conlon and Peter Orzech + RE APPRECIATION SUNDAY Younger kids start in service, leave to make RE Appreciation gifts, and return at the end. Older kids encouraged to stay in entire service which includes UU Bridging Ceremony. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 3-5 at Homeward Bound

MAY 26:*last* RE FUNDAY Start in Worship. All-ages group with special activity TBD. Ideas? Contact Director of Religious Exploration, Poppy Rees, for more information: re@cvuus.org
Social Action Updates

May “Share the Plate” Donee

Vermont Legal Aid

Vermont Legal Aid provides general civil (non-criminal) legal information and helps you find free and low-cost civil legal aid, help and services in Vermont. At vtlawhelp.org, you will find:

- information and resources about your legal rights, the law and the courts
- help for your health care and health insurance issues
- a “Find Legal Help” tool that guides you step-by-step to legal and health care information and to a form to ask for advice
- links to state and community resources that may be able to help you
- legal forms and guides to help you prepare for a court appearance
- sample letters to help solve a problem — for example, with a landlord or bill collector

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. April’s collection raised appreciated funds for Middlebury Festival on the Green and was $908. 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  Kas Singh

Walking the Talk – putting the action into UU principles for our Kiddos

Unitarian Universalism has 7 wonderful principles to live by. These values are what attracted me and keep me coming back to the UU community. These principles are more than just talking points on a Sunday morning. These principles are what I want my daughters to learn, absorb, and live as they grow up. We teach them in all of our Religious Exploration groups to our children. They get to see Social Justice in action through Kids for Kids. They learn about healthy relationships with themselves and others through Our Whole Lives (OWL). They get to learn about all other types of faiths through Neighboring Faiths so that one day they can make up their own minds about their spiritual practice (or not – we are all UUs).

RE is so important for our children but also for all members of our UU community. It reminds me of the phrase: It takes a village to raise a child. The CVUUS “village” is such a vital part of my and my girls’ lives and I value what each member of our community contributes not only to me but to my daughters. They have gained a family that shows ‘radical’ love and acceptance and so much more that I don’t have enough words to express my gratitude. I believe the key to our growth for our community is bringing in more families and a vital and active RE program is necessary to do this. For this we need volunteers to teach and/or serve on the RE Council. If you, like me, gain so much from our community and are looking for a way to give back, check out our RE program by contacting Poppy Rees or myself, Kas Singh, or one of the other RE Council members.

Sincerely,  Kathy (Kas) A. Singh

Board Meeting highlights from April 16:

The Board will be proposing a change to the church bylaws to indicate that the “preference” is for the Board Vice President to serve on the Nominating Committee rather than the current wording which has this as an absolute requirement. This decision was prompted by the fact that Doug Richards has been nominated as the new vice president of the Board and his wife Colleen Brown is currently serving on the Nominating Committee, which could create a conflict of interests.

Poppy Rees reported on her experiences during her sabbatical. She visited three churches during her time, which gave her some new ideas as well as a sense of pride for the quality work that we are doing in religious education.

The Board discussed the continued need for help with clean-up in the kitchen area after services. Board members agreed to help out.

The Board discussed the current budget short-fall of about $30,000, and no easy solutions were found. Either some difficult cuts will need to be made to the budget or we will need to get an increase in pledges and one-time donations.

Where do I park? Our lot will be very busy this spring. Fortunately, we may park at MUHS and next door at Mary Johnson or carpool if we need to drive. 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. There are often 20 or so vacant spots beyond where students park which is also closer to our building anyway. Please inform guests ahead of time about our 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.
May Membership Greetings

Our Membership Ministry offers greetings to all, as we enjoy the transformation of our world into full Springtime. In our shared worship and community activities, there are opportunities for spiritual transformation and renewal as well.

Our Spring New UU classes for potential members, now underway, are open to all, and offer a chance to learn about the history of this congregation and of our denomination. There are amazing and inspiring facts to learn. Led by Rev. Barnaby, the second class is Friday, May 3rd, in the Fenn House, and the last one is after the service on Sunday, May 5th, in the sanctuary. Child care is available upon request.

Meeting and welcoming new people, whether they plan to become members or not, is one of the very best parts of what I do; the stories they share about their spiritual histories, and the paths that have brought them to CVUUS, are wonderful to hear. And it warms my heart when I hear-- quite often-- that for a newcomer, there was an immediate feeling of being "at home" in our spiritual community. This reflects our diverse and welcoming environment, as well as our appreciation for the many paths that bring us together. I strongly recommend having these conversations -- about how we arrived here, what we have been seeking, and what we have found-- with any and all of us as we gather together. (And may I add, it is very helpful for us all to try to remember our Nametags!). Warm blessings,

Marjorie Carsen for Membership Ministry

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.) We are deeper than normal 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 greatly appreciate everyone’s participation and contributions to our response to what Rev Barnaby called a “sacred space” in a recent pulpit message: https://www.cvuus.org/services/i-didnt-see-that-coming/ Please feel free to reach out to any member of the finance committee. -Mary Hadley, CVUUS Treasurer (hadleyme@juno.com)

Next Steps, Our New Sign – David Durgin is working on our new two-sided roadside sign. He sought your input on where out front it should be located (consistent with the required setbacks from the road). Watch for progress on this!

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.
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

Middlebury Showing Up for Racial Justice will host a public screening of the award-winning documentary film *Time for Ilhan* on Wed., May 8 at 4 and 7 pm at Middlebury’s Marquis Theater at 65 Main Street. This event is free and open to the public, although a $10 suggested donation is asked in order to collect funds for anti-racism work done in Addison County.

*Time for Ilhan* chronicles U.S. Congresswoman Ilhan Omar’s historic campaign to become the country’s first Somali Muslim woman legislator. The film follows the young, hijabi-wearing mother of three as she challenges a 43-year incumbent in her Minneapolis state legislative district, home to the largest Somali community in the nation. A fresh and timely take on the classic American Dream, the film offers an inspiring, stereotype-busting portrait of one of America’s brightest new political stars, at the start of her meteoric ascent from political newcomer to one of the first Muslim Women in the U.S. Congress.

Coffee and Conversation with George Lakey. You are cordially invited to an informal discussion with George Lakey, a prominent peace and environmental author and activist. It will be held at the Weybridge Congregational Church from 9 to 10:30 am on Fri, May 10. Refreshments will be served.

A sociologist recently retired from Swarthmore College, George Lakey is a prolific author and has been active in direct action campaigns for social change over six decades. His 2016 book, *Viking Economics*, tells how the Nordic countries transformed their economies to a model of social and economic equality. The premise of the book is that we can achieve that goal here in the United States. His most recent book, *How We Win: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning*, will be on sale at this event. George Lakey has been an inspiration to a group currently developing a "Vision for Vermont."

Please rsvp to <spencerp@sover.net>. Sponsored by Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network.

Migrant Support in Addison County (blog at the CVUUS website) remains a place where anyone can find links to the many, many resources compiled over the past few years or get caught up on efforts. So much has been accomplished and so much continues to be accomplished.

Night Sky Wonders for May 2019

This month we’ll let our Moon guide us across the night sky. You’ll see it as a thin crescent by the seventh. On May 9th the Moon will be below the head-stars of Gemini, with the bright star Procyon below it. The next day (May 10th) our Moon will visit the beehive cluster of stars. It’s sometimes difficult to see the Beehive, so you’ll need dark skies.

On the 11th and 12th you’ll find our natural satellite near the bright star Regulus, first appearing to the star’s right and then on its left the next day. Regulus is the brightest star of the constellation Leo the Lion, most of which will be above the Moon’s path. On the 15th it will be close to the first-magnitude star Spica. On the 18th the full-Moon will be in the constellation Scorpius with the red-giant star Antares below it. Late on the 19th and 20th the Moon will make a triangle with Jupiter and Antares.

Our giant friend Jupiter appears again in our eastern sky. You’ll see it rise three hours after sunset as May begins, and roughly 40-minutes after sunset as the month ends. Even a small telescope will allow you to see two dark cloud bands painted across the planet’s face. Saturn also makes an appearance this month, rising about an hour after Jupiter. Here’s wishing you clear skies. If you have any questions contact AstroAl at astromanvt@gmavt.net or (802-758-2221).
Announcing to the CVUUS Community!! May is the month you can join the choir for just a few weeks to prepare for the big final service of the year. We welcome extra voices in preparation for our Choir-led service on June 16. We repeat a set of favorite anthems from the 2018-2019 year. It’s always an amazing worship service with music and musicians galore. Starting in May, we select those pieces, and start re-rehearsing them in preparation. Our May and early June anthems are programmed to leave some time for study on the reprises. That said, we still have a pretty strong month of May musically. If you liked Poppy Rees singing I am Willing a la Holly Near, I think you’ll also like the choir anthem on May 5, the Coming of Age service Piper Harrel is “producing”. It’s I am Willing in a 4 part choral arrangement. I know you’ll have fun hearing an alternative arrangement. May 12 is Mother’s Day, and the choir will bring you a warm Prayer to Friends by a composer familiar and friendly to UUs, Carolyn McDade, who composed Spirit of Life. The last week the choir sings in May is May 19. Right now we have an Amidon arrangement of There but for Fortune programmed, but you know, we are flexible to the creator of the service’s image of the service, and may find another anthem more suitable for Bridging and RE appreciation. If you know the song, you understand my reluctance to say, yes, we’ll sing that on May 19. So, until further notice…at least you know which 3 Sundays the choir is in attendance. Of course, you see the choir members at services when we don’t sing. That’s because the people in the choir are many of the movers and shakers of the CVUUS congregation and have their fingers in many pies.

If you enjoy singing, and are looking for a home with great singers and all round good humans, CVUUS choir is such a place. We practice Wednesdays from 5:45-7:15, and learn 3 Anthems a month for 3 Sunday services, and occasionally we go singing in the community to share our love of vocal music. We’d love to share our love with you. It’s never too late to join the choir! We’ll gather for a potluck lunch after choir favorites on June 16 at Theresa Gleason’s new place in Painter Hills Middlebury, where, weather permitting, we can swim in her pool. Blessings, Lucy

Music Ministry Team Shannon LaRose, Lucy Tenenbaum, Kate Gridley, Poppy Rees, Priscilla Bremser, Carol Harding, Richard Hopkins, YOU?! Meets next on Wed. May 8, 3:45 pm, Fenn Chapel.

P.S.—We want to let you know about a special opportunity to remember Pete Seeger who would have turned 100 in May. There will be a special sing-along concert to remember and celebrate his life and work, with songs he loved to sing, and stories from the folk singers who will lead us in song on Sat. May 11, 7 pm at Middlebury Methodist Church. Books and CDs will be available at the concert. Free will donations benefit Open Door Clinic.
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 **May 5**. 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., May 11**. 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 **May 20, 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 **May 13**. **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?) 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. Come to a potluck on **Wed May 22 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall**. Jordan Young or **Elizabeth Cultrara** (elizabeth.cultrara@gmail.com) can provide more info.

**Let’s Eat Together (LET)**
The Caring Network welcomed 20 people for **Let’s Eat Together (LET)** last month. 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 May 22 at noon**.

**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:

...Revell Allen and Laura Asermily for preparing 120 lunches for walkers in the 350 VT Next Steps for Climate Solutions Middlebury to Montpelier Climate March April 5-9. Rev. Barnaby and Laura walked the first and last days. Kate Gridley walked three days. Rev Barnaby spoke at both the opening and closing ceremonies. Poppy and Callie Rees were part of the opening ceremony on the Green and the 350VT organizers slept in Fenn House the night of April 4. Catherine Goldsmith walked the third day. Martha Fulda, Marjorie Carsen and Michele Lowy provided food the first night in Bristol. Bobbie Carnwath, Jack Carter and several from CVUUS attended various parts of the walk.

...Alan Moore, Barbara Merz and Revell Allen for taking over from longtime faithful volunteers Sue Grigg and Mary Lou in coordinating our Charter House lunches.

...New congregants Ken Levine, Elizabeth Cultrara and Gayle Muenchow for notable hospitality contributions.

...Johanna Nichols Minister Emerita for leading our moving first service in April, Kate Gridley for organizing our stunning Easter service with the Guarnaccias and several guest musicians from our congregation, and Mark Spritzer for his testimonial in our last April service.

...Dale Birdsall, Ginny Moser and the Caring Network for organizing Let’s Eat Together.

...Jason Duquette-Hoffman and Joanna Colwell for running the Coming of Age Crepe Breakfast - we made $360 for the Boston trip! And thanks to all the Coming of Age parents that helped out, as well. And Catie Raishart for being the DRE Sub while Poppy was in Boston. And Bobbi Loney and Penelope Markle for running the RE Funday and Jason Duquette-Hoffman and Piper Brooks for chaperoning the Coming of Age Boston trip, along with Poppy.

...the Music Ministry Team (Shannon LaRose, Carol Harden, Richard Hopkins, Priscilla Bremer, Lucy Tenenbaum, Kate Gridley, Poppy Rees) for researching and getting a sound system for our new Fellowship Hall. It should be up and running soon!

...All the bakers and tasters who made the first UU Bake-off possible. The Youth Group raised over $800 for their June NYC service trip.

...Artley and Rich Wolfson for bringing in a high chair, booster seats, and small chairs for our emerging Kid Corner in the Fellowship Hall.

...Mitch Kramer for collecting information on potential upgrades to our sound systems; Bob House for continuing work on Downstairs projects. Paul Stone and Scott Barkdoll for leveling out our parking lot ruts, and for doing the same at the Mary Johnson lot to thank them for allowing us to use their parking lot; Dinah Smith and Sue Rasmussen for sprucing up our grounds. Jordan Young for AV help on April 28.

...Michele Lowy for cooking for and helping Rev. Barnaby host the Middlebury College UU's on Fri, Apr. 12
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. Lise Anderson is recruiting pie makers and bakers and organizing “pie bees” over two evenings at Fenn House and our new ground floor kitchen. We welcome your donations of rhubarb stalks, preferably pre-cut into chunks for pies to store in our fridges this month. 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:** We are ‘GOING BIG’ this year, expanding our Book Sale to include MORE BOOKS, as well as ART OF ALL KINDS! This expanded effort is designed to RAISE MORE MONEY to benefit the library by BUILDING NEW LIBRARY SHELVING in our new Fellowship Hall ‘Blue Room’. So, this year, we are accepting an unlimited number of books of all kinds, for all ages, hard and soft cover. The only exceptions are encyclopedias, older travel guides, magazines and damaged books. We also accepting DVDs and CDs, but not cassette tapes or VHS videos. Tell your friends that they can donate books and art, too!

And new for this year, we are accepting ANY KIND OF ART - framed or matted, sculpture, ceramic, woven, mobiles, wood carvings, carved walking sticks, 3-D, handmade cards, stained glass, press flowers, knitted clothing, quilts, and more. The art will not be sold off cheaply, and some of the larger, photo-filled books will be priced above the usual 50 cents - $2 prices.

DONATIONS can be dropped off at CVUUS on Sunday, May 12, 19 and 25th. There will be boxes in the sanctuary foyer to collect books, or if you have a LOT OF BOOKS and/or ART to donate, you can pull up to the drop off point on the street after service and bring them directly into the Fellowship Hall. We will have people to assist you and a rolling cart. Feel free to tag any especially valuable books or art with a recommended price, to guide us in our pricing.

We will also be extending the book sale for the following Sunday and two Sundays afterward, to sell as many books and art as possible, to maximize our fundraising. Helpers are needed to sort books, bring books inside, and assist at the Book and Art Sale. To volunteer, and for more information, contact Elizabeth Golden 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. Look for Pat Schmitter’s “Watermelon Basket” to place donations.

**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. See Dinah Smith or Sue Rasmussen about plant questions. We need people to organize the sweets and savories sales table.

**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). It’s a great way to celebrate our community and the season of Spring!

It’s growing! Bring your chopped rhubarb to us soon!
2018-2019 Worship Themes
What does it mean to be a people of ...
Sept—Purpose  Oct—Transformation
Nov—Hunger  Dec—Hope  Jan—Possibility
Feb—Perseverance  March—Simplicity
April—Emergence  May—Freedom

Recent Visitors:
Meryl Trefethen, Anna Benson, Terry Racich,
Sam & Paula Guarnaccia, Bonnie Rita Hearthstone,
Kimmarie Glynn, Julie & Jack Cavacco,
Csizmesia Family

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. Laurie Borden, Sue Grigg and Marjorie Carsen 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).

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 website’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.

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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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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CVUUS Board of Trustees
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Membership Ministry—Marjorie Carsen
Pastoral Care —Sue Grigg and Laurie Borden
Small Group Ministry — Doug Richards
Worship – Ann Webster

Staff
Accompanists – Kate Gridley and Chuck Miller
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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