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.

3rd Principle: Accepting Each Other & Encouraging Spiritual Growth

December Worship Services

(Sundays at 10 AM)

Dec 1—What astonishes you?—We turn again to Mary Oliver’s poem *Gratitude*. Plus tree decorating! Children will share ornaments they made, ornaments from past years and the opportunity to add a memory ribbon to our community tree. *Radical Love and Alternative Giving continues.*

Dec. 8—Why Wait?—Rev. Barnaby wonders whether patience is an underrated spiritual discipline. We welcome back Sleep-out participants.

Dec. 15 - How We Are Called -- Rev. Barnaby explores whether something more than conscience is calling on our better angels. Stay after worship for our Congregational Conversation on *navigating the holidays.*

Dec. 22 – Fumbling in the Dark -- Thoughts about when accepting each other gets in the way of spiritual growth.

Dec 29—Now Let Us Sing—What are your favorite hymns? We’ll sing your favorite ones and be led in some *shape note singing*. Breathe in—rejoice!

TUESDAY DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Bring visiting family, neighbors and friends. Both end with traditional lighting of candles and singing of *Silent Night*. Donations from services go to HOPE.

5 pm—No-Rehearsal All-Ages Nativity Pageant! Join our family-friendly service in which all are welcome to take part in our joyful story with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, angels, animals, wise ones, and stars - flexible depending on who shows up. We provide costumes or bring your own. Or just sit and sing along with traditional carols. CVUUS children sing prepared song. Led by Dir. of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees.

7:15 pm —Carol Singing with CVUUS Choir

7:30 pm -- Traditional UU Christmas Service reflecting on the intersection of hope, faith, courage, and compassion led by Rev. Barnaby. Readings and carol singing. Special music by Dr. Francois S. Clemmons and our bell choir.
Words from Rev. Barnaby:

Dear Members and Friends of CVUUS

It’s that time of year when our blessings and, for some of us, our sorrows may feel more near at hand. Through our ancient rituals of generosity, sharing, family and community during these shortest days of the year, we experience many facets of faith in life-giving Love and love-giving Life.

We also get asked to do more for others than any human can gracefully manage. In some ways, it’s true all year round. But the opportunities for compassionate action and expressions of gratitude swell to a higher level than ever in December. The word “holiday” can become synonymous with emotional exhaustion.

It’s worth exploring what it is like to constantly feel asked to do more than we would ever volunteer for. It’s a common experience in UU congregational life. Every loyal congregant needs to say “I can’t right now” or “I said yes but I shouldn’t have and need help,” from time to time.

This can feel shameful to some of us, but it shouldn’t. One of the most valuable life skills we can learn at CVUUS is how to share our gifts lovingly. We can grow in understanding that most “asks” we get are invitations, not calls to duty, even when we sense the need for affirmation in the asker. We can grow in understanding how to make our own asks in that spirit and how to decline in that spirit. We can grow in our sense of belonging at CVUUS by how we don’t participate as well as how we do.

I hope this month that we can become better at seeing our options are not restricted to jump in or flee, to being present or away. There are countless ways to be partly present. Cumulatively, they make a huge difference in the life of CVUUS and what each of us gains from being a congregant.

Blessed be and may you be where you need to be throughout this holiday season, Rev. Barnaby

Good News Graphics From Your Finance Team

CVUUS runs on spiritual energy. But it also runs on money! Our society needs a steady income to keep in financial balance. Given that 84% of our income is from pledges, it’s a big help when those pledges are paid monthly, through automatic deductions, or paid in full early in the fiscal year that begins July 1. So this Good News Graphic is a shout-out and thanks to those who have either pledged early or have set up monthly automatic payments.

The graphs show the number of pledge units and the corresponding total dollars pledged. They indicate that 52 pledge units—about 42%—chose early or monthly payment, and that together they account for about 44% ($121,000) of the total dollars pledged.

Having close to half our pledge dollars come in early or on a monthly schedule really helps CVUUS pay its bills, meet our staff payroll, and plan the year’s finances!

When do I get my Tax Deduction Statement?
All statements sent in Jan and will include all donations received by Dec 31, 2019. Need an update on your pledge status? Contact our bookkeeper Kris Butler at fm@cvuus.org.
HELP DECORATE OUR COMMUNITY TREE! KIDS for KIDS will sell their handmade ornaments to support UUSC’s annual Guest at Your Table during coffee. This year’s theme is Women Leaders, Strong Communities. For more, see page 5. The ornaments are based on our seven principles and proceeds from the 2nd principle ornament will go to BLUU, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists. You may also write the name of a loved one on a Memory Ribbon and tie it to our community tree. Ornaments and ribbons may be put on the tree throughout December.

CHRISTMAS EVE BELL CHOIR & CHILDREN SINGING! We will have an intergenerational bell choir at the beginning of the late Christmas Eve service, led by Kate Gridley. Music reading skills, and music experience are NOT required. Come join us for a collaborative musical experience. All ages. All abilities. Rehearsals take place after Sunday services in December. Please tell Kate (kmgridley@gmail.com) ASAP if you are interested! CVUUS children sing a song led by Poppy during the early service. Easy to learn and sing! One rehearsal right after RE on Dec. 22, one more quick one at 4:30 on Christmas Eve, before the Pageant. Rehearsals will be short. If interested in singing, contact Poppy (re@cvuus.org).

CHRISTMAS EVE NO-REHEARSAL PAGEANT - want to help? There are things to do on Sun. Dec. 22 RIGHT AFTER THE SERVICE (set up barn/manger/hay, move chairs & furniture, decorate Narrator music stands, assemble Orders of Service, etc.) and things to do during the Pageant (hold microphones for the few lines that kids have, help with costuming, play music, read something...) It's fun! Talk to Poppy.

RADICAL LOVE CONTINUES! We’ll continue our Radical Love auction begun last month. Sign up for silent auction options and donate to Radical Love. This is our annual fundraiser toward sustaining our operational budget. December is also the time when we take up a special collection for our staff. Our offering during Dec 15 Worship will be to the Holiday Bonus fund shared by all of our part-time employees. If you won’t be at that service but want to share in saying thank you to our staff for the hard work on your behalf this year, please mail your check to CVUUS marked “Bonus Fund” in the Memo line, or give it to Rev Barnaby.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING OPTIONS ABOUND In addition to the UUSC annual Guest at Your Table collection mentioned above, you can choose from several other worthy alternative giving options this month.

Habitat for Humanity of Addison County will hold an Alternative Gift Fair after worship Dec 1 and 8. There will be cards representing a selection of gifts for needy families in our community priced from under $10, beginning with coat hooks for $2 each. The traditional colorful Habitat cards with detachable ornaments will also be available for $20, along with a range of other gifts for new Habitat homeowners in our community.

Helen Porter seeks holiday gifts for its residents. See Barbara Merz for a list of gift suggestions for specific residents. Gifts -- wrapped and with the identifying number of the recipient but no identification of the giver -- may be brought to CVUUS anytime you are accessing our sanctuary before Dec 15 and put under our tree.

John Graham Shelter holds its annual Sleepout fundraiser on Sat Dec 7. CVUUS Youth Group is paying attention to hunger! They prepare dinners for John Graham and will participate in the sleepout on the Mableworks lawn to raise awareness of homelessness and will be looking for your donation support again. You can use this link: https://www.classy.org/team/143317 You can attend the vigil 4:30-5:30 pm, dinner at St Stephen’s following it at 5:30 pm and/or participate in the sleepout with them and Abi Sessions.
DECEMBER for Children, Youth and Their Families

ALL MONTH: GUEST AT YOUR TABLE collection and ornament selling – take a box home, write a check, donate some change, buy an ornament for your home or the CVUUS community tree – many ways to support the UUSC’s social justice programs – this year’s focus is “Women Leaders, Strong Communities.” Some proceeds will also benefit BLUU Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism.

DEC 1: > BRING IN AN ORNAMENT < FOR OUR HOLIDAY TREE! Or put a name on a Memory Ribbon. We’ll put them on during today’s Time for All Ages. And then ornaments can be added at any time, by anybody -

2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship. (Pageant song introduction at snack)

NEIGHBORING FAITHS ** TRIP - Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community ** time TBA

*optional* OWL - LEARN PAGEANT SONG WITH POPPY after Time for All Ages

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6

SAT, DEC 7: YOUTH GROUP sleep outside at John Graham Housing & Services Fundraiser Sleepout

DEC 8: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship. NEIGHBORING FAITHS Fenn Chapel right at 10

OWL 10-12:30 Next door at Mary Johnson Children’s Center

SAT, DEC 14, 5:30-8 PARENT GROUP! Childcare available, dinner provided. RSVP to Tracey Harrington.

DEC 15: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.

NEIGHBORING FAITHS ** TRIP - St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church ** time TBA

OWL 10-12:30 Fenn Chapel RE COUNCIL 11:45-1:45 YOUTH GROUP 4-6

DEC 22: RE SOLSTICE FUNDAY Start in worship, then out for all-ages Solstice activities CHILDREN’S PAGEANT SONG REHEARSAL 11:30-12 / PAGEANT SET UP 11:15 on Tuesday DEC 24 5 pm: 6th Annual No-Rehearsal All Ages Nativity Pageant!

All visitors welcome to take part! Family-friendly service. Come be part of our joyful story with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, angels, animals, wise ones, and stars - flexible depending on who shows up. We provide costumes or bring your own. Or just sit, watch, and sing along with the traditional carols. CVUUS children will sing a song. Ends with candle lighting and “Silent Night.” Led by Director of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees. SECOND SERVICE 7:30 pm led by Rev. Barnaby

DEC 29: Due to extremely low numbers on this date over the years, THERE IS NO RE! Children are welcome to attend worship which is SINGING FAVORITE HYMNS. Rainbow Connection children may join the Nursery if they wish.

For more information, contact Director of Religious Exploration Poppy Rees re@cvuus.org
Social Action Updates

December “Share the Plate” Donee

Our December share-the-plate donee is us, but not really. Here's the back story. Two years ago, we joined with other congregations in the Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network (ICAN) to support the Addison County Renewable Energy Co-op's (ACORN) plan to develop a solar energy project in Shoreham. The 17 panels we paid for will begin offsetting our electric bills when the field comes on line this winter, and eventually pay for themselves. We also pledged an additional 10 percent of our investment for ourselves to a fund to get solar energy for the Addison County Parent Child Center -- roughly $960. That additional money wasn't in our budget for this year so our plan is to offset the Parent Child Center gift we recently made good on with our offering to ourselves this month. And how fitting: the Parent Child Center exemplifies the spirit of our annual Christmas reading (...Each night a child is born is a holy night, Fathers and Mothers sitting beside their children's cribs feel glory in the sight of new life beginning...). Not only that, this offering in support of solar energy investment will be collected in the month where days are shortest in our beautiful state and sunlight most precious. The Donations Team knows there will be many other calls on your generosity this month but we hope you will feel especially heartened by this one.

Please speak with anyone on Donation Ministry to suggest an organization you would like CVUUS to support: Barbara Karle (chair), Parker (Monty) Montgomery, Ashleigh Hickey, Chris Murphy, Allison Cutler, Marjorie Carsen or Rev. Barnaby. November’s collection raised $1,050 for Hunger Free VT. Thanks!

Guest at Your Table KIDS for KIDS

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 60 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. This year's theme is Women Leaders, Strong Communities. CVUUS kids will sell ornaments they made last month after services through December to support UUSC's annual Guest at Your Table and BLUU. We hope everyone visits our table in Ross Fellowship Hall to buy an ornament. Extra donations will be gladly received too, and anyone may take home a Guest at Your Table box or envelope to fill through December. Our "guest" this year is Monica Curca, who runs Activate Labs, a program that brings art, story, and music making to Central American refugees on our border. She says "We need joy, creativity, art, and self-expression to return us to ourselves...because you can just get lost in sorrow."

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 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. Look for HOPE shopping cart to donate food. Prefer smaller sizes to jumbo ones. Contact office@cvuus.org if you can help take food to HOPE. Thanks!
How Would You Like to Stand for Radical Love?

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it. from Rabbi Tarfon (2nd century)

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

Tuesday, Dec 3, HEADING FOR EXTINCTION AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT: An Evening with Extinction Rebellion Champlain Valley
The evidence is clear and visible: we are in a climate emergency. And the greatest threat to the planet is the belief that someone else will save it. Yet figuring out how to make a difference as an individual can be overwhelming. Let’s join together and remember Margaret Mead’s words: *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.*
Join us for an evening that reviews the latest science, holds space for our grief, and offers opportunities to work together for resistance and resilience. Dec 3, 6-7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. Free, childcare provided. Extinction Rebellion will hold its monthly public meeting on Sun Dec 8, 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall and invites anyone to join them to plan further. Sponsored by the CVUUS Green Sanctuary Ministry.

Saturday, Dec. 7, Mexican Consulate Visit, 9 am - 3 pm. The Mexican Consulate in Boston returns to CVUUS for a day of providing services and legal advice to area farmworkers. We help provide lunch and winter clothing donations. See further work of Addison Allies at cvuus.org/news. CVUUS and other groups work toward meeting migrants’ language, legal, banking, shopping, transportation, health and housing needs and host a Mexican Consulate Visit each winter. It will be Sat Dec 7, 9-3. Volunteer to help with this year's visit. Could you help with translation, driving, serving lunch, childcare during the day? Sign up below. The first link is for services and the second link for food and drinks. Catch up on more here. Warm outdoor clothing is needed. Only Men's size M and S. Work hats, neck garters/ balaclavas, pants, long sleeve shirts, heavy duty hoodies (especially popular), boots, thermal wear. Drop off in our lobby on Sundays or Fri 12/6, 4-6 pm. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B49AFAA29A64-volunteer http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090B49AFAA29A64-consulate2

Wednesday, Dec. 11, Harriet, 1, 4, 7 & 8:30 pm at Marquis. Next in the Seeing Color/Seeking Justice Racial identities/Justice movie series hosted by Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). Based on life of Harriet Tubman. Suggested donation is $10 and goes to Rutland- NAACP.

Saturday Dec 14, Remembering Victims of Gun Violence, 5 pm
Communities all across the country will be holding memorials this month because Dec 14th is the 6th anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Many will light candles for them and others, and say the names of those killed in recent shootings. CVUUS will provide a safe space for candle lighting, prayer, silence and sharing for all who desire it in our Sanctuary.
Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, Nov 17, our congregation welcomed new members to CVUUS during the worship service. They signed the membership book, and received tokens of our appreciation for this important choice— a chalice ornament, a rose, and our own cookbook from a previous Rhubarb Festival. Our newest members represent a welcome diversity in ages, spiritual orientations, life situations, and prior religious experiences, but they all have felt the warmth of the welcome here, and the inspiring opportunities for spiritual growth and sustenance that we share at CVUUS. Most have already found ways to serve and contribute, according to their talents, to, our community. For this, much gratitude is in order—to these new members, to those considering future membership, and to all of us who contribute to a welcoming and inspiring congregation. It’s important for ALL of us to remember our name tags, even a stick-on one when yours was left on the kitchen counter!

Considering that spiritual growth and the search for truth and meaning are parts of our basic UU principles, it makes sense that we take advantage of learning materials—pamphlets on the Visitors’ Table and books, CDs, etc. in the library— in service of these principles. Consider this an invitation to any and all to use these materials (including books for children) to enhance your spiritual growth. I was personally delighted to learn that a number of prospective members had already done so.

It is also rewarding to learn the stories about how folks have found their way to our doors, and I can assure all that getting to know new members and visitors, and sharing our own stories with them, is a great experience. It’s part of the spiritual practice of Hospitality!

Warm blessings for an inspiring holiday season.

Marjorie Carsen, for Membership Ministry

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**fel·low·ship** /ˈfelōˌSHip/

**noun**
1. friendly association, especially with people who share one’s interests.

**U&U Outdoors** is a monthly meeting of people who like to gather and share their love of the outdoors. All U&U Outdoors events are family and dog friendly. We aim to depart from our CVUUS lot by 10 am to carpool to sites.


**UUniversity** This book talk/small group ministry begins **Thurs, Jan 9, 2020** with UUA’s 2019-2020 Common Read *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015)

Coming soon, a **Brene Brown Book Group** (book title yet to be chosen). If you are not familiar with Brene’s work check out one of her videos on TED Talks.

Have other ideas or suggestions? Or better yet, want to help? Contact the Fellowship Facilitator, Mike Greenwood, *mike802vt@comcast.net* or 349.5653. See you at one or all of these events!

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**Let’s Eat Together (LET)**

The Caring Network welcomes you to lunch on the **4th Wed of the month at 12 pm** in 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 (989-7586) know of your interest. We will take **off for Nov and Dec for the holidays** and **resume Wed Jan 22**. Let them know if you’d like a ride.

**Join Caring Network FUUDIES on Dec 11 at 10 am in our new lower level kitchen to bake holiday treats for later distribution to those in need or to support our coffee hour or take home.**

Our Undercover Kindness Agents surprise us!
How did we ever get to the last month of 2019? It’s almost December and we are about to close out the year! Here we are, Solstice, Hanukah, Christmas, New Years, snow and cold, yes, here they come!

The CVUUS Choir has great plans for December. Starting right on Dec. 1, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Neil Chippendale will lead us in Reggie Harris’ *In The Shelter of Each Other* as a call response. Chuck will play for us that day and it should be quite the rousing rendition of this song written for healing. From his website, [www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/portraits/reggie-harris](http://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/portraits/reggie-harris), he says “Many times the weight of the world crashes in... we feel broken and betrayed. We start to lose our sense of hope. But though our history remains, it's our actions we must change... if we hope to heal our planet we must stand... in the shelter of each other.” Reggie and Kim Harris have traveled together since 1980 singing over 200 performances a year. Their mission is to tell the stories and sing the songs about the legacy of race and racism in the United States and to teach people that they have the spirit, courage and decency to rise above it and heal. Reggie says that through their work they, “… bridge the gaps between those on the left and right...between the unaware and the true believers...between the oppressed and the oppressors and... provide a basis for dialogue and reconciliation.”

Dec. 8 the Choir with the congregation sing Rev. Jason Shelton’s piece *All Lifted Hearts* that provides a place for speaking PEACE in many languages, as well as a narrator portion that highlights the Golden Rule as it appears in many world religions. Kate will lead us that day on the piano.

Dec. 22 the Choir returns with one of the Christmas Anthems we are preparing for Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service. *In The Bleak Midwinter’s* lyrics were originally written by Christina Rosetti in 1872. Some text changes were made for the UU Hymnal. We’ll be singing the original tune by Gustav Holst, and our choir will find the right text to bring us all into the spirit of Christmas.

Speaking of the spirit of Christmas, the Choir and any other congregants who would like to join us will be going to sing at East View on the 22nd at 1 pm. It is our intention to have a pot luck lunch at the Ross Hall before going over to sing. I will have a collection of carols from my other choir job at a local nursing home that will be ready to hand out to the residents and our singers can join together to present a lovely hour of music. You’ll be all warmed up for the Messiah sing at 2 pm at Midd Congo.

**Christmas Eve** we will also sing the traditional Italian carol, *Dormi, O Bel Bambin*, arranged by Robert DeCormier. Priscilla Bremser remembers that she sang her very first ever solo with this song the first year I was at CVUUS, 2014. At her request we are reprising it for our service this year, again with her singing the lovely solo.

The choir will be in hiatus until Jan 12. Everyone stay warm and take care.  Blessings, Lucy
Welcome to (almost) winter! As the days get shorter and colder, I find it a great time to reflect on the past year and take stock. This is a nice time to reflect upon the growth I have gotten a chance to do, and that which is on the horizon. At CVUUS, we are also in this cycle as we spend the year reflecting on our long-range plan – now in its final year. Our community has seen profound growth since 2014! Much of the vision that we set forth in 2014 has taken shape. As a new member of the board, I have the opportunity to sit in a space of appreciation for the work that has gone into making CVUUS the community it is today.

I send out so much thanks for the hard work and dedication that each person involved with CVUUS has put into making it welcoming, inclusive and joyful.

As always, there is still much work to be done! Isn’t it such a gift to be here doing that work? An example of what a privilege this is recently happened for me. As I took notes in the congregational conversation last month, where were reflected on a proposed new Ends Statement (which loosely gets to why does CVUUS exist), I felt deeply thankful for the space to have the dialogue that I heard there. As a congregation, we grappled with what it means to be welcoming, and dug deeper into how our language and policies could move more toward justice and equity. We touched the surface of discussing the “whiteness” of the language that policy is often written in, and started to talk about what it might look like to disrupt that pattern in our policies. This is important work.

I have so much hope for the CVUUS that we will live into over the next 6 years. It is an exciting time to reflect on our progress, and start to build the path forward. What are your dreams for our future?
SEVERAL CVUUS AFFINITY GROUPS!

**Women’s Group** meets the 2nd Sunday of the month following coffee hour, 12-2 pm in the Sanctuary Meeting Room. All CVUUS members and friends who identify as female or non-specific gender are welcome to attend and join our group. We also host optional social get togethers on other days/nights, which you are welcome to attend. Bring your bag lunch or snack and drink. For more information, or if you require childcare, contact Elizabeth Golden. Next one **Dec 8**.

**Parents Group** meets 2nd Saturday of month, 5:30-7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, sharing dinner. **Childcare and dinner are provided in the Fenn House.** 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. Contact **Tracey Harrington** for more. Next one is **Dec 14**.

**Retirement Group** meets 2nd Monday of a month at 7 pm in the Blue Room to talk about their current or prospective reflections and experiences on the transition to retirement. Contact **Dinah Smith**.

**LGBTQIA+ Group** meets 1st Wed of month 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall for potluck dinner to address the needs and interests of LGBTQIA+ and questioning folks. For more, see Jordan Young or Ollie Cultrara. Next one is **Dec 4**.

**Writers’ Group** meets on 3rd Monday of month at 3 pm in Fenn Chapel. Bring something to read (with a few copies): fiction, nonfiction, poems. Contact Nancy Wright. NO Dec one. Next one is **Jan 20**.

**Residence at Otter Creek Group**
Meets for discussion with Rev. Barnaby on 3rd Thurs of month at 2 pm. Contact Ann Brousseau. Next one is **Dec 19**.

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**Night Sky Wonders for Dec**

As the month begins, Saturn, Venus, and Jupiter form a string of pearls in the southwest. The waxing crescent Moon overlooks the trio of planets from the upper left. Saturn will be the highest planet, with Venus below and to the right of it. Jupiter will be the lowest and perhaps hard to see unless you have clear skies and an unobstructed southwestern view.

Jupiter will only be visible early in the month because it will be obscured by the Sun later in the month, and will reach a conjunction (directly on the opposite side of the Sun from Earth) on the 27th. It will emerge early next year as a morning object. The 21st will be the longest night of the year with winter officially starting at 11:19 p.m. Earth’s southern hemisphere will be enjoying the longest day of the year at that time. There is a meteor shower this month on the 13th and 14th, but the strong Moonlight will hide all but the brightest. This shower is called the “Geminids” since the meteors will appear to come from the constellation Gemini low in the east-northeast. Here’s wishing you (and me) clear skies. If you have astronomy questions drop me an e-mail at astro-manvt@gmavt.net

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**CVUUS Sangha & Meditation**

We meet every Sunday evening at the CVUUS Fenn Chapel 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 Brown at 989-9974. Our CVUUS website has good information as well.
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 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). The Singh family is currently coping with Ian’s late-stage cancer treatments. For two simple and flexible ways to help them with grocery and gas expenses, please contact Hannah Sessions at blueledge@hotmail.com or call/text (802) 989-3776.

Roses to...

...Donna LaRose, Terry Racich and Mary Hadley for coordinating our Radical Love Party extraordinaire—with pizza and sundaes and to all who contributed to our giveaway raffles and live and silent auctions.

...Barbara Merz for faithful Weekly Blast help and stepping up to take food donations to HOPE and coordinating the gift drive for the residents of Helen Porter nursing home.

...Ollie Cultrara for testimony, buying socks for the Consulate Visit, rallying LGBTQIA+ potlucks, and coordinating the Hospitality team sign-up for coffee hour. Sign up your ministry group!

...Alan Moore for his ubiquitous help—with Lise Anderson in covering the Mexican Consulate Visit.

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

...Abi Sessions for her continued support of homelessness along with our Youth Group.

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

2 Duane Court, Middlebury, VT 05753
Located at Duane Court & Charles Avenue

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Hospitality – Ollie Cultrara
Library & Information Resources – Artley Wolfson
Membership Ministry — Marjorie Carsen
Music Ministry Team — Carol Harden
Pastoral Care —Sue Grigg, Laurie Borden, Jordan Young
Religious Exploration Council — Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse
Small Group Ministry — Doug Richards
Worship Team – Becky Strum

CVUUS Staff
Accompanists – Kate Gridley and Chuck Miller
Bookkeeper – Kris Butler (fm@cvuus.org)
Choir Director — Lucy Tenenbaum (lucytunes@me.com)
Dir. of Religious Exploration – Poppy Rees (re@cvuus.org)
Nursery Head —Journey LaRose (journeylarose@gmail.com)
Office Manager – Laura Asermily (office@cvuus.org)
Sexton— Keith Rickerby

2019-20 Worship Themes
We will focus from September through May on an in-depth exploration of the wide variety of things we care about through a month-by-month journey through the UU Seven Principles.

Return Service Requested
Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society
2 Duane Court, Middlebury, VT 05753