



# Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

January 2020 - Volume 22, Issue 6

2 Duane Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

(802) 388-8080

## 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.

## 4th Principle: Free & Responsible Search for Truth & Meaning

### *January Worship Services*

(Sundays at 10 AM)

EVERYBODY CAN BE  
GREAT BECAUSE  
EVERYBODY  
CAN SERVE.

—Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



#### Jan 5—Living Your Truth within a Meaningful Community: An LGBTQ+ Inclusive Service

LGBTQIA+ members of the congregation reflect on their personal experiences, challenge us to meaningfully engage with what our individual orientations and gender identities mean within a community, and celebrate the power of truly embracing our differences.



#### Jan 12—Just Care— Guest worship leader Rev. Dr.

Patience Stoddard returns to our pulpit to talk about the importance of understanding and advocating for the mentally ill in the current debate on health care. She worked for 4 years as Director of Pastoral Care at NH Hospital and will share some of the spiritual lessons she learned from her patients.

**Jan 19—What Would Martin Do?** — The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have turned 91 this Jan. 15 had he not been murdered in 1968. How would he want us to remember and honor him in this age of Trump? Led by

*Stay for our monthly Congregational Conversation*

**White Privilege, White Supremacy, and Us.** Margy Young will convene. Rev. Barnaby will provide a brief history of UU and UUA anti-racism work and then lead a reflection on what we feel we have accomplished and what we need to do going forward as a diverse congregation. How does a community with such wide-ranging personal needs and levels of desire for engaging these questions address them effectively, faithfully, and lovingly?

IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

**LOVE IS LOVE**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL**

**NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL**

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

**ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD**

UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Rev. Barnaby.

**Jan 26—2020**

**Hindsight**—Lessons from Y2K. Led by Rev. Barnaby



## Words from Rev. Barnaby:

As I write this, the “wayside pulpit” message on our new sign is *Never put a period where the Spirit of Life has put a comma..* By the time you read this, though, we will be displaying an excerpt from one of our favorite UU Christmas readings: *Each night a child is born is a holy night.*

The new quote was unanimously chosen for the sign at our recent meeting of our Council of Ministries. I chose the current message but it's our plan that the Council will be choosing all of them from now on.

Why? The monthly meetings of the Council bring together representatives of our diverse committees to share information about what is going on and to coordinate and support major events in the life of the congregation. We call it a Council of Ministries (not committees) because its focus is not on the myriad tasks that accumulate in keeping CVUUS going. Instead the Council exists to constantly steer our work toward maintaining vibrant fellowship in all we do. While the Board's main focus is our Future, the Council's main focus is our Now.

I think of our monthly message as something we offer the wider world for Now. To me, this seasonal quote says *It matters little that Jesus was born – in reality or myth – unless we strive to make a world where all births are regarded as sacred because of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. And this is a place where we do that.*

You might be interested to know what comes after the sign message sentence in the original poem by Sophia Lyon Fahs, a pioneer in liberal religious programs for children. It's a closing affirmation that each night a child is born is *a time for singing, a time for wondering, a time for worship.*

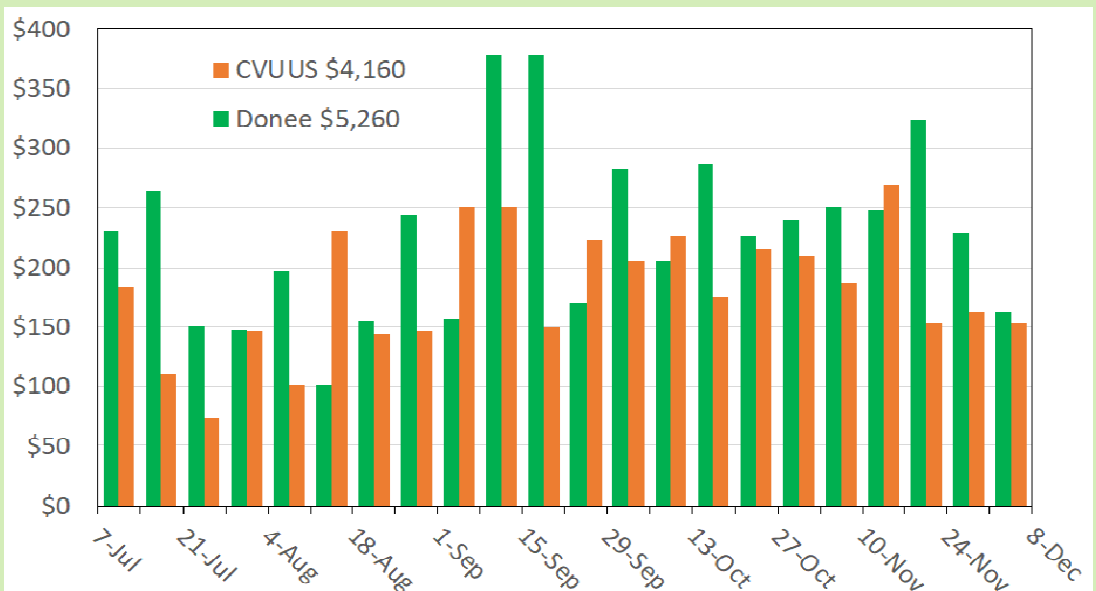
May the coming month be a time for all of these things for you! Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

## Good News Graphics From Your Finance Team

Do you ever watch the collection plate go by during a CVUUS service and wonder what's in it and where it's headed? The graph answers those questions for the period from July 1 of this year to mid-December. It shows that we've given a total of \$5,260 to our Share-the-Plate donees, and another \$4,160 to CVUUS. (The numbers aren't equal because some give \$ earmarked specifically for one cause or the other; only undesignated gifts get divided equally.) The CVUUS numbers don't include gifts that are specifically to fulfill pledges, so they represent extra giving beyond what's been pledged. Thanks to all for your generosity!

### When do I get my Tax Deduction Statement?

All statements will be 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](mailto:fm@cvuus.org) or 388-8080 on Tues or Thurs (about 10 am– 1 pm) when she is in the office.





## RE THOUGHTS

The Pageant was last night. 41 people were involved in the service. 41! Playing piano/sax/guitar/shaker eggs, singing in the Kids Group Song, wearing costumes, helping with costumes, doing sound effects, welcoming everyone, narrating, sharing heart stickers, and running up and down the ramp. Glorious.

A lot of work goes into the Pageant, especially considering its “no-rehearsal” quality. The musicians and singers all rehearse, so there’s that. The chancel is set up, costumes are put out, and much more. All done at a very busy time of the year and I often wonder if it’s too much to do? And if it’s what you *want* as your family-friendly Christmas Eve tradition? This is something to consider for next year – but in the meantime, I want to relish the moments from last night because that’s what the Pageant is all about: the moments, the community, and the memories that are being built for us, especially the younger ones.



Some favorite Pageant moments: kids showing up ready to go in costumes from home (we had a koala last night), parent and child winged angels sitting side by side, the annual very-small-child-as-a-sheep who is oblivious to directions and story, and especially the candlelit *Silent Night* circle at the end. I love this moment, where we are all holding the space, singing in the darkened beautifully lit room. It’s magical.

And it’s worth it, the work of it. Though maybe we can find ways to simplify and not add to the work that can be December holidays. As you enter January, may you find space and time to settle, to do a bit less, to be here right now a bit more, and let the quiet of winter come – even if for only moments in between loud children and things to be done. And thank you for being my circle of light at the end of the Pageant.

~ Poppy, your Director of Religious Exploration

## **JANUARY for Children, Youth and Their Families** **4<sup>th</sup> UU Principle: We search for what is true for ourselves.**

- JAN 5:** 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.  
NEIGHBORING FAITHS \*\* TRIP TO BURLINGTON UU CHURCH 8:30-1:15 \*\*  
(OWL youth can assist in groups – ask Poppy first – or attend Worship)  
? HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP \*\* TBA - ? Cooking dinner at John Graham Shelter 4-6:30 \*\*
- JAN 12:** 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.  
NEIGHBORING FAITHS \*\* TRIP TO MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS (Quakers) leave time TBA \*\*  
OWL 10-12:30 next door at Mary Johnson Children’s Center  
RE COUNCIL 11:45-1:45 Interested in joining? Talk to Poppy, Tracey Harrington or Jess Rouse
- SAT JAN 11 5:30-7:30 PARENT GROUP!** Childcare available, dinner provided. RSVP to Tracey Harrington.
- JAN 19:** 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.  
NEIGHBORING FAITHS Fenn Chapel, starting right at 10.  
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6 pm
- JAN 26:** KIDS FOR KIDS Start in worship, then to Fenn for all-ages kids social justice group that works to help other kids. This month: counting the *Guest At Your Table* money and TBD.  
OWL 10-12:30 Next door at Mary Johnson Children’s Center





## fel-low-ship /'felō,SHIp/

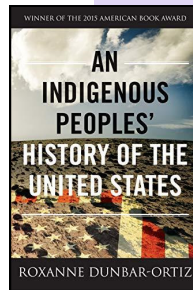
*noun* 1. friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests.

**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 Middlebury by 10 am to carpool to sites. These will resume in Feb after the big wedding of Mike & Liam Battjes Greenwood on Jan 18 in our sanctuary.

**UUniversity** This book talk/small group ministry begins **Thurs, Feb 13, 2020** with UUA's 2019-2020 Common Read [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015). Order your copy from Beacon Press or borrow from the CVUUS library.

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](mailto:mike802vt@comcast.net) or 349.5653. See you at one or all of these events!



## Welcome!

At CVUUS we make a heartfelt effort to welcome all warmly, perhaps now, in order to counteract the cold of January in Vermont. This includes new visitors, guests from other places, our regularly attending members and friends, and our newest members.

Getting to know visitors and prospective members is a privilege and inspiration, so I strongly recommend that we all seek out these folks to hear their stories, as well as to provide a welcome. Our dedicated greeters are usually able to invite newcomers to sign the Visitors' Book and make themselves a name tag, but it's OK to ask if they have done so when you introduce yourself. And if we all try to remember to wear name tags, it makes getting to know each other much easier. (You can make a new one for yourself if your tag is on the kitchen counter at home!)

The path to membership, including New UU classes every Spring and Fall, starts with a visit, one that is welcoming and spiritually appealing. So many of us contribute to that experience. Thus the concept of hospitality as a spiritual practice resonates with me. I invite you all to identify with this concept.

Here's a request then: If you have any ideas or suggestions about how we can do welcoming better, please feel free to share them with me or any of our friendly and dedicated Sunday greeters. And you are also invited to become a greeter yourself, as your schedule may allow.

New Year blessings to all,  
Marjorie Carsen for Membership Ministry

The Board welcomes new members who joined in 2019 to a special lunch on Jan 12 at 11:30 am in Fenn Chapel: *Revell Allen, Steve Butterfield, Rosalie Cryan, Avi Freund, Lindsey and Kemi Fuentes-George, Liam Battjes Greenwood, Nathaniel Hutner; Kenneth P. Levine, Tyler McDowell, Terry A. Racich, Dana Roark, Ian Ross, Julia Santere, Esther Thomas, Connor Timmons and Neily Jennings, Helene and Larry Vanderburgh*

## 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 **resume Wed Jan 22**. Let them know if you'd like a ride.

Join Caring Network **FUUDIES** on **Wed Jan 22 at 10 am** in our new lower level kitchen to **prepare meals or treats** for later distribution to those in need or to support our coffee hour.



## Social Action Updates



### January "Share the Plate" Donee: End of Life Services

In partnership with the community, **End of Life Services** supports patients, families, friends, and caregivers before, during and after the dying process. End of Life Services advocates for compassionate end of life care by providing volunteers, bereavement support, music and other therapeutic practices, education for the community that recognizes death and dying as part of life, training for the providers, and options for those who are unable to complete their lives in their own home. For more, see brochures provided in our lobby, speak with Laurie Borden or visit [endoflifevt.org](http://endoflifevt.org).

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 or Rev. Barnaby. December's collection raised **\$XX** for **our solar tithe to Parent Child Center** and **\$XX** for **HOPE** at our Christmas Eve services. *Thanks!*



**CVUUS Youth Group** Thanks to all who slept out, loaned gear, contributed and/or got contributions for the John Graham Shelter! Our team raised \$2204!!! And the entire event raised more than \$53,000! It was a COLD night, but thanks to a warm meal at St. Stephens, movie night at Gabe's house, lots of great warm gear, and 5 people in a 4 person tent no one got too cold. It was about 9 degrees when we got up (before dawn)! It was an adventure for us because we chose to do it and were able to return to our warm homes; it was meaningful because we know some people don't have the choice or the security of a warm home. Many joined in the vigil beforehand. Jan sees us returning to JGS to make meals.

**Community Supper Team** On Friday January 10th, we will prepare and serve approximately 200 people at the weekly dinner at the Congregational Church in Middlebury. This will be our 6th, or more, year our group has done this and as always, we can use your help. Starting at 1 pm that day, we need folks to help prepare all the food, then at 5 pm help serve it. As before we also need at least a dozen pans of apple crisp (about 18 servings per pan), made ahead and delivered that afternoon. If you can help in any way, please let me know: [kathrynschloff@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynschloff@gmail.com) or Alan Moore and Abi Sessions. Thanks!

**Charter House Community Lunch Team** Join our call list for making a dish occasionally, or help make sandwiches on site for take-out lunches, or serve, or help with cleanup. We do this **every third Tuesday from 10 am – 1 pm**. The best part is you can join our guests for a healthy lunch and enjoy the connections you make. Contact **Alan Moore** [alanwmoore1947@gmail.com](mailto:alanwmoore1947@gmail.com), Barbara Merz, Revell

### 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. 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> century)

**Saturday, Jan 4, Standing for the Earth Vigil, 10:30-11 am**, Middlebury Cross St Bridge.  
Hosted by Addison County Interfaith Climate Action every first Saturday of the month.

**Wednesday, Jan. 8, [Queen & Slim](#), 4 & 7 pm** at Marquis. Next in the *Seeing Color/Seeking Justice Racial identities/Justice* movie series hosted by Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). While on a forgettable first date together in Ohio, a black man and woman are pulled over for a minor traffic infraction. The situation escalates, with sudden and tragic results, when the man kills the police officer in self-defense. Terrified and in fear for their lives, the man, a retail employee, and the woman, a criminal defense lawyer, are forced to go on the run. But the incident is captured on video and goes viral, and the couple unwittingly become a

*We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.*

## ROOTED, INSPIRED, & READY!

### UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMES TO PROVIDENCE RI

June 25-28 in Providence, Rhode Island

**What is our annual UUA gathering ,General Assembly (GA) , all about?** Each day of GA offers numerous opportunities to attend worship services, lectures, over 200 workshops, time to meet other UUs from around the world, visit displays and of course have some fun! A day can begin as early as 8:00 a.m. and conclude as late as 11:00 p.m. Best of all, you can decide how to spend your day at GA and how many days you want to attend. Come for a day, the weekend or the week!

General Assembly 2020 will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center, centrally located in the heart of Providence. Acclaimed restaurants, a vibrant arts and culture scene, and beautifully preserved historic architecture combine to make Providence a destination for inspiration.

**Want to go but concerned about costs?** Here are some ideas to help you defray the cost of going. **NEW! Registration Payment Plan:** With a \$50 down-payment, the cost of registration can be paid over the course several months. Final payment must be received by February 29, 2020. When the final registration is complete, special consideration for dormitory lodging , [financial aid](#) and [volunteer opportunities](#) will become available.

Interested in going? Questions? Contact either Margy Levine Young @ [margy@gurus.org](mailto:margy@gurus.org) or Mike Greenwood @ [mike802vt@comcast.net](mailto:mike802vt@comcast.net)





## SAVE THE DATE! Another CVUUS Contra Dance for ALL ages!

**Friday, Feb. 7, 7– 9 pm, Sanctuary**

Come join the fun, with music by our own Fenn House RUUg-cUUtters and calling by our own Richard Hopkins and Ollie Contrara. No worries – callers will teach the dances (no prior contra-dancing experience needed) and use gender-neutral calling language. Child care will be provided in the nursery for those who don't yet dance. And, yes, friends are welcome, too. Snow date Feb 14. Carol Harden



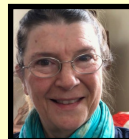
**Choir Notes** Why not let 2020 be the year you make the commitment to be a singer in the CVUUS choir?! It is a meaningful and rewarding mission at CVUUS, offering opportunities to learn to sing better, to learn music to enhance the worship services, to make new friends and get to know old friends better. It is believed that singing in harmony with others increases joy. We meet on Wednesdays at 5:45-7:15, and at 9 am on the 3 Sundays a month we offer an Anthem to the worship service. We also go to sing at East View a few times a year. AND we have great pot-luck parties several times a year for community building.

In January our worship is centered around the 4th Principle: Search freely and responsibly for truth and meaning. We gather on **Jan 8** to prepare for our first anthem. **Jan 12** is the first Sunday in 2020 when the Choir will sing. We will sing the lovely *The Lone Wild Bird* in an arrangement given to the choir by D. Rowe. The tune is a familiar Southern Harmony tune, *Prospect* and text, by Henry McFayden is:

1. *The lone, wild bird in lofty flight,  
Is still with Thee, nor leaves Thy sight.  
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.  
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.*
2. *The ends of earth are in Thy hand,  
The sea's dark deep and no man's land.  
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.  
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.*

**Jan 19** is the day before Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Not only will the newly formed Men's Quartet, with Dr. Francois S. Clemmons singing lead, sing twice during the service, the full choir will also sing an anthem by Rollo Dillworth, *Hand in Hand*. It is chosen especially to celebrate the love between our newlyweds, Liam and Mike Greenwood. The text of the song, "walk with me, my brother...sing with me, my sister...labor with me as we strive for unity..." is a powerful message for not only for personal love but especially for the kind of love MLK was sure would save the world. "This gospel-style original is a wonderful way to encourage understanding and unity. With steady, rhythmic energy that builds and builds, it sends a powerful, uplifting message to people of all ages!" says the Editor's Choice promo paragraph at JW Pepper music.

**Jan 26** the choir will sing *Open Our Hearts* by Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger of Concord NH. Kate says she has sung with the composer at Star Island and loves his music and energy. The song itself is "meant to be sung in the style of Taize with multiple repetitions in a meditative mode." ([https://www3.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Open\\_our\\_hearts\\_\(Michael\\_Leuchtenberger\)](https://www3.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Open_our_hearts_(Michael_Leuchtenberger))).



The Lyrics are: *Open our hearts, open them wide, Love and compassion be our guide.*

Blessings, Lucy

## Community Dance Party with Avant Garde Dogs

Sat. Feb 1, ~6 PM, Fellowship Hall. Watch Weekly Blast for details.



## Roses to...

...the faithful **Bob House** for extraordinary extra effort at inconvenient times to fix our pellet boiler (with support from Llyn Rice).



...**Esther Thomas** for joining Worship Ministry.

...the **Flower Co-op** for beautiful seasonal decorations including **Alice Berninghausen** for getting the inside wreath

...EVERYONE who helped with the Pageant —costumes, music, sound effects, etc. — especially **the RE Council**, Catie Raishart, Dana Roark, Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse and Natali West.

...**Mary Hadley** for another herculean effort reporting Radical Love winners and leading our awesome Finance Team in busy end of year preparations and initial budget projections.

...the **Wolfsons** and **Sheila House** for cataloging our beloved library (Blue room shelves postponed a bit), especially Rich for overhauling the shelving arrangements for children's books in the Fenn Chapel.



...the **Harringtons** for agreeing to lead the 2020 spring pledge drive.



...everyone who helps make the Parent Group/Saturday Night Livelies happen: Tracey Harrington, Caring Network for Mac & Cheese and all who provide childcare.

...**Gordon Gibson** for stepping up to lead the Personnel Team and **Mary Conlon** for agreeing to join him.

...**Ann Brousseau** for organizing the small group ministry meeting with Rev. Barnaby monthly at the Residence at Otter Creek.

...**Mike Greenwood** for initiating our UU hiking program.

...**David Durgin** for additional metal work adding flexibility to our new sign's messaging capability.

...**Ollie Cultrara** for leading the transition to organized small group support for weekly hospitality at coffee hour.

...**Gail Borden** for shepherding the Youth Group participation in the John Graham Shelter Sleep-Out and **Abi Sessions'** faithful participation.

...**Carol Harden** for coordinating musical offerings and performing along with so many gifted musicians and singers in our congregation, including **Kate Gridley** who coordinated our Bell Choir again, **Sydney Singh** singing a moving rendition of *Nighttime Falls* at our Dec 22 Singing in the Dark solstice service

...and **Steve Fidler** for his testimony at this same service.

Listen to them and all past services at [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org)





## FROM THE BOARD Priscilla Bremser



**Your CVUUS Board: Kerri Duquette-Hoffman (left), Bobbi Loney, Doug Richards (Vice President), Priscilla Bremser (President), Mary Hadley (Treasurer), Kas Singh, Mark Spritzer (Clerk).**

Leadership being exercised by each and all of us."

I confess that I'm still struggling to figure out what I should *do* to claim spiritual leadership. Can we do that at CVUUS? That's kind of the point, though. We at CVUUS are quite good at tasks, which the reading calls "technical" leadership. The other types are "facilitative," "adaptive," and finally "spiritual," which does *not* mean checking boxes or crossing things off lists. It does mean continual openness to what we all have been calling radical love.

Instead of creating a list of tasks, then, I offer some examples of spiritual leadership that we've seen in our own congregation:

- Kate Gridley came up with the idea of "Date Night," where volunteers offer an evening of child care. That evolved to its current form when Tracey Harrington started a parents' group. Kate passed the baton to Abi Sessions, and the roster of volunteers keeps growing.
- Liam Battjes Greenwood suggested during a choir rehearsal that the singers could end *All Living Hearts* by leaving the chancel and offering the "Peace...Peace...Peace" chant directly to the congregation. Introverted choir members gulped and said okay, and were greeted with deep appreciation after the service.
- Nita Hansen, Michele Lowy and others in the Caring Network formed the FUUDIES group to prepare meals in the new kitchen for distribution to people in need.

Knowing this community, I am sure that there are many other forms of spiritual leadership happening every week. Thank you all.

\*Rev. Barnaby, Becky Strum, Poppy Rees, Doug Richards, Jean Terwilliger, and I

It's been a month, and I'm still thinking about the *Claiming our Spiritual Leadership* workshop that six CVUUS people\* attended at the Montpelier church. To quote from the assigned reading, which I may or may not have read in full ahead of time, "Spiritual Leadership is not a set of tasks or a role but an orientation and a practice. It is leadership that does not require us to be 'leaders.' It does not depend on our rank, status, education, or social location. It can, therefore, be exercised by anyone. Indeed, creating sustaining and restoring Beloved Community depends on Spiritual

### **Act of kindness brightens library**

What are the bright colors in the Ilsley Library garden?

The leaves are fallen and the flowers gone, but there are bright shiny colors all around.

Walking in I see them — shining bright painted rocks in every color everywhere; on the benches, paths, stepping stones, stumps and birdbath, in among the plants and trees and shrubs, around the big tree and in secret corners.

There are hearts and stars, circles and rainbows and suns, moons and fireworks. They say "You are Awesome!" "Love the Earth," "Be Happy," "Thank You!" "We Love you!"

I am delighted. I tell others who tell others who tell me back until many people have seen these messages of joy and goodness for themselves. They make us all stop, look and be happy. Who made them? Where did they come from?

A friend says they are from "The Undercover Kindness Agents."

Hooray for the Undercover Kindness Agents! Thank you from all of us. You have warmed our hearts and made us happy. You remind us, too, to be kind and caring ourselves

I wrote this before the recent snow and the stones are now covered in white stuff, but they will reappear after a thaw, just as bright as ever.

**Anna Rose Benson  
Weybridge**

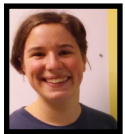


## SEVERAL CVUUS AFFINITY GROUPS!



**Parents Group** meets **2nd Saturday of month, 5:30-7:30pm** 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 **Jan 11.**

**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 for potluck meals to address the needs and interests of LGBTQIA+ and questioning folks. In January, we'll meet after coffee hour on **Jan 5** (same day as our service) at 11:45 am in the Blue Room. It will be soup and sandwiches; soup will be provided and folks are invited to bring some sandwich fixings if they are able. We'll talk then about future potlucks. For more, see Jordan Young or Ollie Cultrara.



**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. Next one is **Jan 20.**



**Residence at Otter Creek GrUUp:** Meets for discussion with Rev. Barnaby on **3rd Thurs of month at 2 pm.** Contact Ann Brousseau. Next one is **Jan 16.**

*How would you like be involved?* **CVUUS Council of Ministries** is composed of some CVUUS committee chairs and others. Its focus is on communications and connections within the congregation and between the congregation and minister. It serves as a supportive and creative sounding board. It's important that a myriad of voices are heard. We invite you to join. We leave each meeting filled with gratitude for this beloved community. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 3:30-5:30 at the Fenn House. Contact co-conveners Margy Levine Young or Jean Terwilliger for more.

## Night Sky Wonders for Jan

Planet Earth will reach its "perihelion" (the shortest distance from the Sun) on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Since the Earth's orbit is fairly circular, this is only 3 percent different than our aphelion (the longest distance from the Sun) which occurs in July.

Venus will be shining brightly in the evening sky this month. Look southwest about 45 minutes after sunset. Jupiter and Saturn are obscured by the Sun. Mars is a morning object visible in the southeast 45 minutes before dawn.

China's "Yutu2" lunar rover has set a record for the longest time working on the Moon's surface. It's located on the far side of the Moon. Our Moon will be at first quarter on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, full on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and new on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Here's wishing you (and me) clear skies. If you have astronomy questions drop me an e-mail at [astromanvt@gmavt.net](mailto:astromanvt@gmavt.net)

## 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. Additional meditation experiences are available at the Breadloaf Zen Center in Cornwall and may begin in Feb on Friday nights with Tori Hovde.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Rob Alberts 1/4  
Steve Maier 1/5  
Martha Alexander 1/7  
Greg Bernhardt 1/6  
Sophie Mason 1/6  
Colby Hammond 1/9  
Willow Ross 1/8  
Melanie Sands 1/10  
Karl Lindholm 1/11

Owen Connelly 1/14  
Ann Ross 1/18  
Theron Trefethen 1/19  
Ron Hallman 1/20  
Liam Battjes Greenwood 1/21  
Victoria Cherney 1/21  
Thomas Martin 1/22  
Gerry Loney 1/23  
Steve Trombulak 1/28

**Snow Cancellation Possibilities:** It is impossible to predict all of the winter weather conditions that might warrant the closing of CVUUS. This is especially true for services on Sunday morning when no one would want us to be closed. In an effort to provide an approach that might enable members and friends to anticipate what to expect, the following guidelines are being offered: 1) In the event of a major snow storm on a Saturday night/Sunday morning: · The office voicemail (802-388-8080) and our website ([www.cvuus.org](http://www.cvuus.org)) will both be updated as soon as possible; · If a snowfall of over 10" has occurred on Saturday night/Sunday morning, there will be no services held on that Sunday. 2) Don't take any unnecessary chances. If you feel that there is significant reason to question your safety while traveling on the streets, stay home. 3) If an ice storm is in progress, stay home. 4) For an evening or Saturday meeting or event, if 10" or more fall, the event will be cancelled. You can also call the office voicemail at 802-388-8080, or check the website for info.



## 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](mailto:berningh@middlebury.edu)).

*CVUUS received a \$2000 grant from the Plebney Trust of the Princeton Community Foundation for general support. This foundation was started by Margy Levine Young's father, Robert J. Levine, who was a long-time UU.*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:blueledge@hotmail.com) or call/text (802) 989-3776.

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.

## Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
(802) 388-8080; [office@cvuus.org](mailto:office@cvuus.org)  
Office Hours: T–F, 10-2  
Visit our web site at [www.cvuus.org](http://www.cvuus.org).

MINISTER  
Rev. Barnaby Feder  
388-8080 (office)  
989-9303 (cell)  
989-7197 (home)  
Email: [revbarnaby@cvuus.org](mailto:revbarnaby@cvuus.org)

### CVUUS Board of Trustees

Priscilla Bremser – President	Members At Large:
Doug Richards – Vice-President	Kas Singh
Mary Hadley – Treasurer	Bobbi Loney
Mark Spritzer – Clerk	Kerri Duquette-Hoffman

### CVUUS Leaders

Caring Network – Nita Hanson  
Council of Ministries – Margy Young, Jean Terwilliger  
Donation Ministry – Barbara Karle  
Facilities – Bob House  
Fellowship—Mike Greenwood  
Finance—Mary Hadley  
Green Sanctuary – Elizabeth Golden  
Hospitality – Ollie Cultrara  
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Membership Ministry – Marjorie Carsen  
Music Ministry Team – Carol Harden  
Pastoral Care —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](mailto:fm@cvuus.org))  
Choir Director – Lucy Tenenbaum ([lucytunes@me.com](mailto:lucytunes@me.com))  
Dir. of Religious Exploration – Poppy Rees ([re@cvuus.org](mailto:re@cvuus.org))  
Nursery Head – Journey LaRose ([journeylarose@gmail.com](mailto:journeylarose@gmail.com))  
Office Manager – Laura Asermily ([office@cvuus.org](mailto: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.

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

