



Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

February 2020 - Volume 22, Issue 7

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.

5th Principle: Right of Conscience & Democratic Process

*Neighboring Faiths visits the
Quakers (and many
other faith groups)*



February Worship Services

(Sundays at 10 AM)

Feb 2—Wendell Berry and the Pleasure of Eating —Rev. Barnaby reflects on some 30 year-old wisdom about food and freedom. Stay for our De-escalation Techniques workshop hosted by our Safe Congregation Ministry.

Feb 9—"I Can't Be Having That" — Those words are associated with Granny Weatherwax, the late British fantasy writer Terry Pratchett's beguiling witch who relies more on psychology than spells. Though often only a minor character in Pratchett's stories, Granny Weatherwax tends to make sure right triumphs. Rev. Barnaby examines the connection between witchcraft and the UU affirmation of the right to conscience.

Feb 16—Democracy Stumbles—Rev. Barnaby reflects on how Unitarian Universalism's professed devotion to democracy is not faring well in our thoroughly distracted and neurotic society. How important is defense of this part of our faith? Stay for our Congregational Conversation on **Stewardship** convened by the Harringtons who are leading our Spring pledge campaign.



Feb 23 —The One Family—Our Unitarian forbearer William Ellery Channing famously said that he was a member of "the living family of all souls." The latter part of that phrase - *all souls* - is fairly well-known in our UU movement thanks to so many congregations bearing that name. Mara Dowdall returns to our pulpit to instead focus on the first part: *the living family*. What does it mean in these wild times?



Words from Rev. Barnaby:

I'm just about a month from turning 70, or, as I now like to think of it, the last stage of being middle-aged. The blessings of good health and the privilege of serving as your minister help me sustain this perspective.

We recently celebrated the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who would now be 91 if he hadn't been murdered in 1968. I concede that 91 *is* old, although I reserve the right to reconsider if I somehow make it to 90! I'm mindful of the story of the Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., then a sharp 91 year-old, walking past an attractive young woman with his friend and colleague Justice Louis Brandeis, and saying "Oh, to be seventy again!"

Maybe this is on my mind because I have been reaching out to some of you this month about whether CVUUS should invest in being the first congregation in New England to host a training session for the new **Our Whole Lives sexuality course designed for groups of folks over 60**. That would set us up to offer the course sometime next fall.

I hope we want UU's and especially CVUUS to be known as leaders on this subject. Nurturing children and a young adult generation of congregational leaders is crucial to our long-range vitality. We are working hard at that challenge. But we should be no less intentional about treating older congregants as a growing edge of our mission.

"Our Whole Lives" doesn't mean much if we act as though our post-teenage sexuality and gender issues need no further exploration beyond an occasional LGBTQ+ Sunday service. Our culture remains dangerously confused and uncomfortable with straight talk about sexuality and gender, and their role in relationships. Thus, CVUUS is called to be a safe and trustworthy home for exploration of this subject for all adults, including elders.

This is not a diversion from our shared quest to explore what each of us holds sacred or our efforts to dismantle racism and other injustices. This is another way we as a community like no other can affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person in all of our complexity.

Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

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. **CVUUS has \$1000 in scholarship** available to help cover your costs.

Interested in going? Questions? Contact either Margy Levine Young @ margy@gurus.org or Mike Greenwood @ mike802vt@comcast.net



CVUUS Feb Newsletter

RE THOUGHTS: WHAT'S THE "TIME FOR ALL AGES" FOR?



In most of our worship services, while the children are still there, we have a "Time for All Ages." The kids (and anyone who wants a closer look) are invited to come to the front and then there is a time meant to be especially engaging/oriented/understandable/designed for kids.

What this time could be is very open – we do many different sorts of things: stories, plays, object lessons, songs, short discussions, asking kids questions and more. And like much of worship, **there are many opinions about what's best.** Some people love picture books, some people think that [reading a picture book](#) is problematic. Some think this time should be for the kids, some think it should be a time for everyone but it's *geared toward* kids. Face the kids while doing it or face the congregation? You get the idea.

What do you think? **What "Time for All Ages" have fed you the most during your time at CVUUS.** What jumps out for you? Are there any that your kids remember or talk about? Do you enjoy this part of the service or not? Does it depend on how it's done? Share your opinions, offer ideas, ask questions or sign up to lead one some time!

~ Poppy Rees, your Director of Religious Exploration/ re@cvuus.org



FEBRUARY for Children, Youth and Their Families

5th UU Principle: All people need a voice. Live democratically.

FEB 2: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.

NEIGHBORING FAITHS *TRIP TO CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS 8:40-11:15

(OWL youth can assist in groups – ask Poppy first – or attend Worship)

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6 pm

FRI FEB 7 CONTRA DANCE 7-9 pm Family friendly. Invite your friends!

SAT FEB 8 PARENT GROUP 5:30-7:30 pm Childcare available, dinner provided. RSVP to Tracey Harrington.

FEB 9: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.

NEIGHBORING FAITHS Fenn Chapel, starting right at 10.

OWL 10-12:30 next door at Mary Johnson Children's Center

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6 pm

FEB 16: RE FUNDAY Start in worship, then to Fenn for all-ages activity TBA.

RE COUNCIL 11:45-1:45 Interested in joining? Talk to Poppy, Tracey Harrington or Jess Rouse

SAT FEB 22 NEIGHBORING FAITHS

TRIP TO VERMONT HINDU TEMPLE times TBA

FEB 23: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.

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HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6 pm



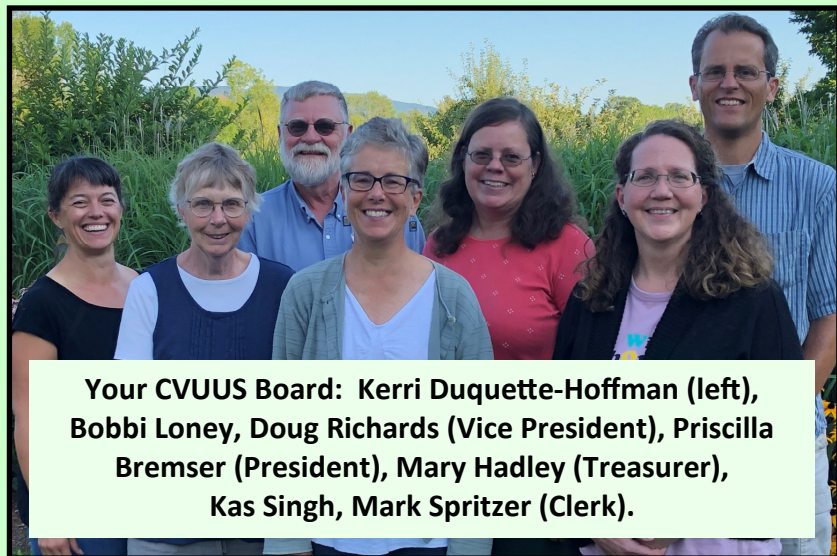
Kids for Kids made snowflakes after counting Guest at Your Table donations.

CVUUS Youth Group

Save the Date! Great UU Bake-Off! April 5, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall (Deadline to enter March 29)



FROM THE BOARD Mary Hadley



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

As the current CVUUS Board member with Treasurer duties, I spend a good deal of time using computer programs and spreadsheets doing various planning, tracking, and reporting functions. While we will continue to use QuickBooks, over the next few months we plan to migrate CVUUS to a new church management system called **Breeze**.

Breeze will simplify many tasks that Laura as Office Manager and Kris as Bookkeeper perform. It will also be very useful to the many office volunteers, ministry/team leaders, and all members and friends of the



congregation who will be able to update and interact with **Breeze** from an internet connection (computer, tablet, phone, etc.) **Breeze** features include managing:



- People
- Tags (organize and communicate with groups of people – by team, location, or other demographics)
- Events (calendars, check-in/attendance)
- Contributions

As Treasurer, I'm most excited that **Breeze** will *enable various giving methods from traditional cash, checks, and automatic bank transfers to more modern credit card, text, website, and kiosk payment options*. More to come as we roll out these new features.

As a member of the Board and various other teams and ministries, I look forward to trying out other features of **Breeze** for ease in communications, forms for surveys or other data collection, event tracking, and many other functions. If you have interest in helping us get Breeze going, feel free to reach out to me and I'll get you plugged in!



When do I get my Tax Deduction Statement? All state-

ments mailed in Jan and included all donations received by Dec 31, 2019. Need an update on your pledge status? Contact our bookkeeper **Kris Butler** at fm@cvuus.org or 388-8080 on Tues or Thurs (about 10 am– 1 pm) when she's in.

De-escalation Techniques Workshop

The Safe Congregations Ministry will be holding a short workshop led by Chris Mason of the Middlebury Police Department after the service on Sun. Feb 2 and will last a little over an hour. We encourage anyone interested in learning how to deal with individuals who are disturbed and/or not acting



normally to attend. We especially encourage those who are Greeters, Ushers, Worship Associates or Safety Volunteers to attend.





fel·low·ship /'felō,SHIp/

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

U&U Outdoors

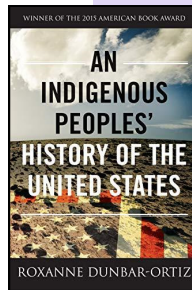
Sat., Feb 15, hike MT Philo

Sat., Mar 21, hike Snake MT

All hikes are family and dog friendly with a casual walking pace! Carpool from CVUUS at 10 am the morning of the hike. UU Outdoor activities are subject to change in the event of inclement weather or "poor" hiking conditions.

UUniversity begins **Thur., Feb 13, 6:30 – 8 pm**

with a book talk/small group ministry. We will discuss the UUA's 2019-2020 Common Read An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015). A few reviews of the 2015 American Book Award winner. Order your copy from Beacon Press or VT Book Shop or borrow from the CVUUS library. If you would like to join this group, please let Mike Greenwood know, mike802vt@comcast.net.



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. Bring your own lunch while the Caring Network provides drinks and seating. Let your hosts Dale Birdsall 989-7660 or Ginny Moser (989-7586) if you need a ride. Next one is **Wed Feb 27**.

Community Pizza Night Friday Feb 28, 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall



Why cook after a busy week? Come and bring the kids. We'll provide dough, cheese, sauce, and assorted toppings. You build your own masterpiece(s). Non-alcoholic drinks provided; BYOB. Suggested cost to cover food: \$5 per person or \$10 per family. RSVPs to Martha Fulda at mfulda46@gmail.com will help us know how much food to bring, but please come even if you decide at the last minute!

Welcome!

Greetings to all, especially any readers who are new to this area, our congregation, or to UU. Our Sunday morning worship is the most likely entryway to our community, but there are many ways that have been traveled to reach our doors. Whatever your path, we want you to feel welcome here. Our official greeters will invite you to sign the Visitors Book, if you are a first time guest, and there are many unofficial greeters you will hopefully encounter here as well.

The possibility of becoming a member of CVUUS occurs in many ways, for some after years of engagement in our community, for others, after one or two visits, and everything in between. We honor and respect all possible spiritual journeys, and feel blessed when newcomers choose to share their stories.

This sharing is a part of the path to Membership, which also includes small, informal discussions about the history of UU and this congregation in particular. These classes are held twice a year, are open to all-- potential members, old members, and anyone wanting to connect with others in this learning opportunity. We also invite any and all to make use of our library and read some of the relevant pamphlets available at the Visitors table. Sometime before March the New UU classes will be announced, in case you have some interest, but feel free to speak with Rev. Barnaby or myself with any questions about possible membership here.

And a big thank you to our Board for providing a healthy, delicious, and convivial lunch a few weeks ago, for New Members from the past year!

May you find yourself among people whose eyes light up when they see you, (Or, whose smile lights up when they hear your voice!)

Warm blessings,
Marjorie Carsen , for Membership Ministry





Social Action Updates

February “Share the Plate” Donee: UUA Affiliates



Feb 2— UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) is firmly rooted in the long history of our faith’s prophetic action on environmental and human rights issues. It seeks to inspire, facilitate, and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and all beings. UUMFE focuses on a number of issues, including Climate Change, Ecology and Rights of Nature, Front-Lines Solidarity, Food Justice, Social Justice & Human Rights and Sustainability. [Spring for Change](#), March 22nd (World Water Day) through May 22nd (International Day for Biodiversity), is an invitation to UU faith community to embody the transformational, regenerative power of Spring through sacred activism for Earth and all our relations. It also guides in how to be a Green Sanctuary. For more visit uumfe.org/



Feb 9 —Church of Larger Fellowship Wherever you are in the world, wherever your truth takes you on your spiritual journey, the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is there to keep you connected with Unitarian Universalism (UU). Our 3,500 online members, with their children, live all over the world. What brings us together is the desire to connect, seek, share and grow within Unitarian Universalism. Look for *The Quest* in our lobby (coat rack area) or visit questformeaning.org.

Feb 16 —Newest UU Congregation: LAKESHORE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
620 Park Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220



Feb 23—UU the Vote supports congregations and UU organizations in activating thousands of UUs to mobilize voters, counter voter suppression, and to engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with voters in their communities. Visit <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020> to see more and view their toolkit.

Please speak with anyone on Donation Ministry to suggest an organization you would like CVUUS to support: Barbara Karle (chair), Allison Cutler, Parker (Monty) Montgomery, Ashleigh Hickey, Chris Murphy, or Rev. Barnaby. January’s collection raised **\$1050 for End of Life Services**. *Thanks!*

Community Supper Team Our crew served about 200 people Jan 10. This was our third year of making Shepherd’s pie with local beef and it’s always well received. The cost was about \$2 per person and also included salad, peas, apple crisp (thanks to generous CVUUS bakers) and ice cream. Hard to beat! From Kathryn Schloff



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**. Contact **Alan Moore** alanwmoore1947@gmail.com, Barbara Merz, Revell Allen.

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 (2nd century)

Saturday, Feb. 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.

Wednesday, Feb 5, Amazing Grace, 1, 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). The amazing story of Aretha Franklin. Suggested donation is \$10. Benefits PLOT, an organization in Binghamton: <https://binghamtonbridge.org/plot-progressive-leaders-of-tomorrow/>



Wednesday, Feb 19, Suppressed, 4 & 7 pm at Marquis. Hosted by Lean Left and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) about voter registration (and lack thereof) in Georgia and how it affected Stacey Abrams' campaign to become Governor. A discussion of voter registration follows this short 30 minute film Suggested donation is \$10. Donations go to her nationwide campaign to create a fair voter registration system. <https://www.leanleftvt.org/suppressed>

White Privilege, White Supremacy, and Us

Margy Young convened our monthly Conversational Conversation on this topic following our Martin Luther King Jr worship service on Jan 19, 2020. Rev. Barnaby provided a brief history of UU and UUA anti-racism work and then led a reflection on what we felt we have accomplished and what we needed to do going forward as a diverse congregation. He updated us on the hidden racism involved in the disposition of the \$3.5 million Northern New England District endowment when the District merges with the UUA's New England Region. We discussed a proposed inventory for how we are doing as individuals and as a congregation in our work to dismantle racism. We can track related activity [here](https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/white-supremacy-culture-characteristics.html) and visit this link mentioned in our conversation: <https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/white-supremacy-culture-characteristics.html>

Anti-Racism Accountability Scorecard/Worksheet/Inventory (choose your term)

This second version by Rev. Barnaby focuses solely on the personal accountability portion of the original document, excluding the draft congregational metrics. It incorporates feedback and suggestions from those who attended the Congregation Conversation on this subject following worship service on Jan. 19, 2020

What did you do to further educate* yourself on racism issues in 2019?

- List websites and social media followed/run by or for POC (people of color)**
- List other anti-racist websites followed.
- Did you post on these sites and how often?
- List books read for anti-racist content.
- List public lectures or other events attended to deepen your understanding.
- List workshops, classes, or training sessions attended to deepen your understanding of any aspect of racism and/or skills for anti-racist work.
- List Stand Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) films attended – note if you did subsequent research about their historic accuracy.
- List times when you took advantage of an invitation by anyone marginalized by racism to ask them about their experiences.
- List specific ways you have benefited from white supremacy in 2019 – note continuing benefits from the past.

(continued on page 7)



Anti-Racism Accountability Scorecard/Worksheet/Inventory (continued)

* The word educate was a loaded one for at least one teacher in our group; someone suggested “raise your awareness” as a possible substitute, but no consensus emerged. ** Joanna Colwell said that BIPOC – for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color – is an improvement on the more familiar collective term “people of color” because it distinguishes the substantially unique history of Black people and Native Americans from other victims of racism. I will use “BIPOC” going forward for myself but I would appreciate more feedback on whether its greater granularity is helpful for others in publicizing this accountability document.

2) What have you done to inform others about anti-racism issues?

- a) List relevant social media and websites you have created or administered.
- b) List informative materials provided to others in writing or verbally.
- c) List education-oriented meetings organized or co-led.

3) What have you done to protest racism you've encountered in word or deed?

- a) Face to face conversations with friends, family, co-workers and others who know you.
- b) Clear, private opposition to racism expressed in your presence or through any media.
- c) Clear public online opposition to racism expressed in your presence or through any media.
- d) Clear public opposition in person to racist acts or actions by people you know or strangers.
- e) Acts to comfort victims of racism.
- f) Acts to protect victims of racism.
- g) Acts to financially support victims of racism outside of direct payments, waived compensation, or credit provided to individual BIPOC's (there was discussion in the Conversation about “donations” being a loaded word denoting privilege compared to “contributions” and the diverse understanding of the term “reparations”).
- h) Person-to-person financial support of individual BIPOC's.



Neighboring Faiths visited Macedonia Baptist Church in Albany NY for a 3-hour service.

4) What have you done to dismantle systemic racism in organizations to which you belong or work for?

Questions for further discussion include how we at CVUUS will continue to update this form, how we will distribute and use it internally, and steps we will take to share it outside CVUUS -- especially with other UU congregations. It is my hope that every congregant will develop a personal version to compensate for any ways this form fails to help you progress in your commitment to dismantle racism.

I also hope that CVUUS members and friends who identify as BIPOC will want to convene separately, at least once, to discuss this accountability project. I believe it is potentially important for them to have a time to share among themselves how our overwhelmingly white congregation's personal and congregational accountability effort can best serve their interests, and BIPOC people in the wider community. I also hope that they will be comfortable sharing any conclusions they reach with the congregation.

Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby



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 Cultrara. 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

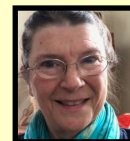
First, I would like to thank the leaders who stepped up to help with the choir during my convalescence after foot surgery in early January. Kate Gridley picked up the baton and helped the choir rise to new heights with her musical skills in full view. (they are frequently in use, but more often from behind the curtain...). Neil Chippendale, along with Kate, has been tending to the choir closet/library, which was, like the task of Sisyphus, neither easy nor with an evident end in sight. Great strides have been made! Members of the choir have stepped up to be prepared for both my and Kate's absences, were that to occur, and keep the choir anthem going as an essential element of the service. I am confident that my job of Choir Director is secure, but boy is it heartwarming to know how well the choir members can care for themselves. Blessed be and AMEN!

After taking Feb 2 off, the Choir returns on **Feb 9**, with our minds on the 5th UU Principle, with the Wailin' Jenny's favorite, *One Voice*. "This is the sound of one voice," ... come listen as the choir adds two and three voices to the mix.

On **Feb. 16**, we will share Rev. Jason Shelton's *Come Let Us Worship*, the title piece from his 2019 Volume 2 Cycle of Song for SAB Choir. This Cycle includes 8 pieces designed to pair with a call to worship by the Rev. [Gretchen Haley](#), senior minister of [Foothills Unitarian](#) in Ft. Collins, CO. Only this first piece is a direct setting of her text. As in all of Rev. Shelton's music, the choir works very hard to make it sound easy!

Feb. 23 I found a wonderful setting of the well-known Sibelius tune *Finlandia* by Clif Hardin. With text by Michael Hennon, Jan Chamberlin, and Clif Hardin, the Anthem perfectly states what we know we need to do. "For Justice Now, we march and come together. As we have stood and marched as one before. Together now, we gather, bearing witness; in faith and hope, for now and evermore. We seek one world, with truth and understanding, there we will know a new reality."

February is a short month. The first week of March is also a choir anthem Sunday. I hope you'll plan on coming to hear the choir every week that we sing. It would be wonderful and amazing to have some new congregants join the choir, raising your voices with us in the New Year. Our rehearsals are every Wednesday from 5:45-7:15, and at 9am before services on the Sundays we sing, 3 times a month. Our season is September through June, so we have a lot of Choir Anthems left this spring. We'd love to have you join. There will be a pot luck soon to celebrate our ministry of music and the bond we share at CVUUS. See you on Sundays! Lucy



SAVE THE DATE! CVUUS Winter Coffee House

Sat. March 28, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. Watch Weekly Blast for details.

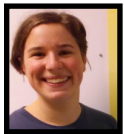


SEVERAL CVUUS AFFINITY GROUPS!



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 **Feb 8.**

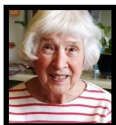
Retirement Group meets **1st Monday of a month at 7 pm** in the Blue Room to talk about their current or prospective reflections and experiences on the transition to retirement. Contact **Dinah Smith.**



LGBTQIA+ Group meets for potluck meals on **1st Sunday of month at 11:45 am** in Blue Room to address the needs and interests of LGBTQIA+ and questioning folks. For more, see **Jordan Young** or **Ollie Cultrara.** Next one **Feb 2.**



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 Bobbi Loney with questions. Next one is **Feb 17.**



Residence at Otter Creek GrUUp: Meets monthly for discussion 2 pm with Rev. Barnaby. Contact Ann Brousseau. Next one **Feb 17.**

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.

NURTURE Your Spirit.
Help HEAL Our World.



Night Sky Wonders for Feb

Five planets are visible to the unaided eye: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn (if you don't count the planet immediately under your feet). This month is your chance to see the most challenging of these: Mercury. On the 10th Mercury reaches its greatest elongation from the Sun, and half an hour after sunset it's still more than 10-degrees above the southwestern horizon.

Venus is still shining brightly in the evening sky this month. Look southwest 30-to 45 minutes after sunset. You won't miss this extremely bright object.

Jupiter and Saturn are no longer obscured by the Sun. They are now "morning objects" seen low in the southeastern sky 30-minutes before sunrise. By the end of the month you can see Saturn, Jupiter and Mars in the southeastern sky about 45-minutes before sunrise. Saturn is the lowest, with Jupiter up and to the right, and Mars further up and to the right. Here's wishing you (and me) clear skies. If you have astronomy questions drop me an e-mail at astromanvt@gmail.com

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 March Friday nights with Tori Hovde.



Roses to...

...**Ollie Cultrara** and **Jordan Young** for leading an amazing LGBTQIA+ service and all who participated in that service. We also thank Ollie and Jordan for hosting monthly potlucks for inquiring on gender and teaching us about gender identification for our nametags.

...**Karl Lindholm** for coordinating our snow removal and all the wonderful ones who show up time and again to keep our walks clear.

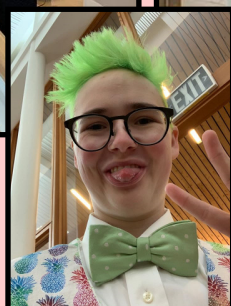
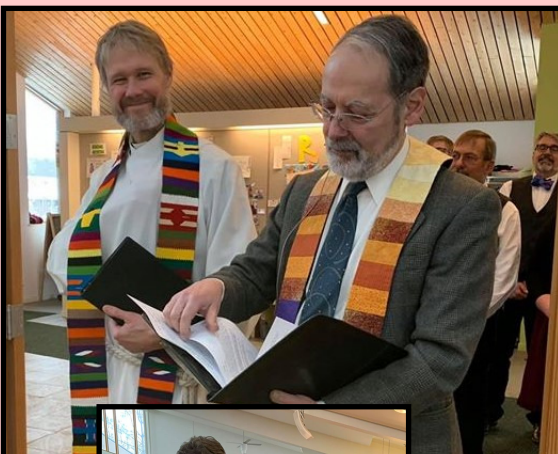
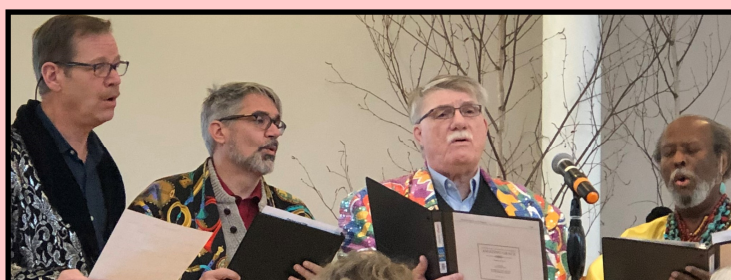
...**Francois Clemmons** for assisting in the honoring and remembering Martin Luther King Jr.

...**Margy Young** for her *My Legacy of Slavery* testimony (which you can hear and read at cvuus.org under past services) and for leading the congregational conversation *White Privilege, White Supremacy and Us*.

...**Caitlin Gildrien** for her testimony on writing as a spiritual act and sharing her poems with us (which you can also see at cvuus.org).

...**Neil Chippendale** for leading the Men's Choir.

...**Elizabeth Golden** for coordinating the many, many volunteers who helped set up, decorate, greet, usher, serve, and clean up from the **big wedding** of **Mike and Liam Greenwood** and to the newly married couple for including us in their sacred ceremony in so many ways and showing us the capacity of our expanded Sanctuary to host a large event and **Terri Arnold**, a returning friend who visited us from the west coast to attend and who supplied us with memories of the event and her visit that you see below and on next page.





CVUUS Feb Newsletter

2020 Spring Pledge Drive: United as One

Dear Members and Friends of CVUUS,

We're looking forward to leading this year's pledge drive, and it's coming up in March! We're working out all the details, and will be kicking things off on Sun, March 1st, with Barnaby's Canvass Kick-off Sermon. The theme of this year's pledge drive is

United as One. This came to us from the hymn, "Gather the Spirit," (347) which touches on the reasons we gather, and the ways we gather, and yet reminds us that "our separate fires will kindle one flame...[with] the chorus of life resounding as one." There are so many gifts we bring to CVUUS and a variety of reasons we come together in beloved community, but with the canvass, there's really just one goal: to get financial commitments from enough people to meet the operating expenses of CVUUS for the year ahead.

In the coming weeks, you will receive budget information and details about what it costs to staff, operate and maintain our church. The February 16th congregational conversation will be about this year's pledge drive and some of the ways we hope to connect with and engage all our members and friends. As we plan to be **United as One**, we also know it takes about *seven times, and seven ways to ensure information is communicated effectively across large diverse groups. We will discuss some of the ways we will solicit pledges and engage everyone in the important canvass process. Thanks for reading this pledge drive preview and get ready for a "next generation canvass" in March. More to come soon!* Love, Tracey & Jay Harrington





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Mars"Van" VanOrder 2/1
 Margy Young 2/1
 Molly Darrell 2/2
 Kate Tilton 2/3
 Ashleigh Hickey 2/7
 Sylviane Acker 2/7
 Amelie Trefethen 2/7
 Bill Sessions 2/9

David Martin 2/10
 Charles Barstow 2/13
 Xavier Fuentes-George 2/13
 Brett Millier 2/14
 Carrie Mol 2/15
 Doug Spannbauer 2/18
 Emmett Raishart 2/21
 Barnaby Feder 2/24

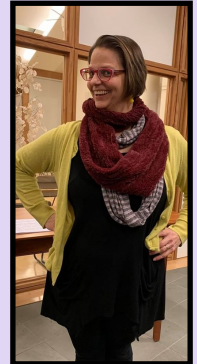
RECENT VISITORS

Sabi Ward
 Jim Collier
 Elise Thompson
 Tom Harmon
 Ellie Bishop
 Teri Herzog
 Kevin Marshall
 Emma Percy

Have You Discovered CVUUS LIBRARY yet?

Check out the **children's book collection** in Fenn House chapel and our **adult library collection** in the sanctuary meeting room. Feel free to borrow any of these books! Please return books out for more than 3 months so others may read them.

For more information about our library, see CVUUS web site's library page under the Learning tab: <http://www.cvuus.org/learning/library/>. Library volunteers are always welcome! Contact Artley Wolfson, awolfson@middlebury.edu, or Barb Karle.



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).

CVUUS received a donation from Margot Borden as well as an anonymous one in honor of the marriage of Mike & Liam Battjes Greenwood.

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**, **Jordan Young** 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). **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.

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:
(802) 388-8080; office@cvuus.org
Office Hours: T–F, 10-2
Visit our web site at www.cvuus.org.

MINISTER
Rev. Barnaby Feder
388-8080 (office)
989-9303 (cell)
989-7197 (home)
Email: 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
Library & Information Resources – Artley Wolfson
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)
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.

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

