



Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

March 2020 - Volume 22, Issue 8

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.



6th Principle: World Community with Peace, Liberty & Justice for All

Rainbow Kids voting on when to have snack - part of the 5th UU Principle theme of democracy and having a voice



March Worship Services

(Sundays at 10 AM)



March 1—United As One—Our stewardship service and spring pledge drive kick-off. Led by Rev. Barnaby and the Harringtons. Followed right afterward by the CVUUS *CommUUnion*, our Jesus-inspired ritual celebrating all prophets known and unknown with an Earth-centered twist. This unique time of peace, reflection and shared gratitude lasts about 15 minutes.

March 8—World Community Through Peacemaking - Global peace is the foremost dream of our Sixth Principle. Rev. Barnaby reflects on how much the achievement of the others to any substantial extent depends on centering peacemaking as a core UU practice. *Daylight Savings*. Join us later for a **Community Conversation: Take a Stand Against Hate**, 2 PM, Middlebury Congregational Church.

March 15—The Goal of World Community: Reflections — Led by Karl Lindholm and Martha Fulda. *Stay for our Congregational Conversation on Pronouns and special Cupcakes & Canvass coffee hour.*

March 22—The Return of Justice— It's no accident that we didn't say all we needed to about justice in our Second Principle. Led by Rev. Barnaby.

March 29—All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir — The 3rd Annual Great Kid Service. Join the CVUUS kids as they lead us in a worship service exploring how each of us has a special gift. What makes you YOU? The world needs who you were made to be.

SAVE THE DATE! CVUUS Winter Coffee House

Sat. March 28, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall. More inside.



Words from Rev. Barnaby:

I must be the Rip Van Winkle of the Communications Scene. I grew up and fell asleep back when folks said that you have to send out a message three times in three ways to have a good chance of it being absorbed. Now our Pledge Drive leader Tracey Harrington, an experienced school principal, and our office manager, Laura Asermily, tell me the common wisdom is that information needs to travel seven times in seven ways to reach its intended destination.

Maybe George Bernard Shaw's pre-World War II complaint that "the single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place" is getting truer with time. Are more channels of communication making contacting an entire congregation harder than ever? That seems especially so if we are trying to talk about deeply meaningful issues like stewardship of CVUUS.

Stewardship refers to the careful management of something valuable entrusted to one's care. The phrase goes back at least as far as the Biblical mandate that humans are to be stewards of Earth on behalf of God – a mandate often wrongly translated by power-hungry humans as permission to rule over Earth for their own benefit. Stewardship is on my mind, of course, because we are about to start our annual pledge drive. The form varies but it's always an all-congregation effort to project what financial resources we are reasonably likely to have available in the church year starting July 1. Working backward from that good-faith estimate, your staff and lay leaders fashion a balanced budget proposal. Then our members are asked to approve it (with amendments if any are agreed upon) at the annual meeting in June.

When I think of CVUUS, there so much to unpack in that simple-sounding concept of stewardship. What exactly is the "something valuable"? It includes what we have already created, like powerful memories, a beautiful facility, a religious exploration program for children, and a caring network of members and friends. It also includes our expanding potential to represent UU values in the wider world. But there is so much more to our value that words fail.

Beyond that, who has entrusted CVUUS to our care? (Oh, those wonderful ghosts I see among you at every worship service!) What constitutes management that is careful enough to protect what is valuable but not so cautious and restrictive that it is hard for us to grow, change, and thrive? What difference does it make to us, the stewards, how we organize ourselves and our resources to meet our management challenges?

I could go on (and will, in other ways at other times). Meanwhile, I pray you will join me in welcoming with open minds and hearts the invitation you receive from Tracey's team to pledge as generously as you are able. Stewardship of all that CVUUS is and could become is a life- and love-sustaining opportunity to live out UU values.

Blessed be,
Rev. Barnaby

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|--|
| 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 |
| <small>UUA.ORG/IMAGES</small> |



CVUUS March Newsletter



2020-2021 United As One Spring Pledge Drive has begun!

Please make your pledge to support CVUUS today! A packet of information about the annual canvass was mailed home and more information is available on the CVUUS website at United As One 2020 Pledge Drive.



Below is a schedule of some canvass related events planned for this month:

- Sunday, March 1st --Stewardship Service & Pledge Drive Kick-off
- Monday, March 2nd --Special Email Blast with the new secure electronic pledge form
- Sunday, March 8th --Testimonial by Tracey Harrington, Clarity of Values, during worship
- Sunday, March 15th --Cupcakes & Canvass @ Coffee Hour following worship
Tea Party at Eastview, 3- 4 pm, All Welcome (more details to come)
- Sunday, March 22nd --Testimonial TBD, What CVUUS Means to Me

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your pledge with us, please contact Tracey and Jay Harrington at 4.mt.mice@gmail.com or call 388-2882.

With love, **Tracey & Jay Harrington**



RE THOUGHTS WHAT ARE THE KIDS UP TO IN RE?

Exploration programs for kids are hopping! We have 71 kids enrolled. Here's what they're up to, along with the CROP Walk, Christmas Pageant (and group song), making & selling ornaments for *Guest At Your Table*, starting to rehearse for *The Great Kid Service*, many chalices lit and many Joys & Concerns shared...

Rainbow Connection - picture books, crafts and activities connected to the 7 UU Principles, building things together with Legos, "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

Undercover Kindness Agents - this group is pretty mysterious...but there have been some anonymous acts of kindness happening around here, like decorating Rev. Barnaby's office for his birthday, notes left in Ilsley Library books, kindness rocks, postcards

Neighboring Faiths - many field trips to other faith communities including a trip to Albany where they attended an almost four-hour-long service! Learning about Christianity, Catholicism, Mega-churches, Buddhism, Judaism, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Hinduism, Black Church traditions, and Quakers

OWL (Our Whole Lives) - learning about gender identity and expressions, sexual orientation, healthy relationships, social media, bullying, consent education, safer sex, pregnancy, and body image.

High School Youth Group - lots and lots of community service! Including making dinners monthly at the John Graham Shelter and being part of their annual Sleep-Out fundraiser, processing apples with Havurah Youth Group, interviewing people as part of Story Corp's "The Great Listen", preparing for the 2nd Annual CVUUS Bakeoff and starting plans for the Bridging of 7 (!) Seniors.

~ **Poppy, your Director of Religious Exploration**



CVUUS Youth Group Great UU Bake-Off! Sunday, April 5, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall Calling all bakers: sign up by March 29 to enter a delicious baked good - sweet or savory - email journeylarose@gmail.com to secure your spot - \$7 to enter. **Tasters:** save the date and attend! After worship on Sunday, April 5 - \$10 to taste



MARCH for Children, Youth and Their Families *6th UU Principle: Build a fair and peaceful world.*

MAR 1: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.
 NEIGHBORING FAITHS 10-11:15 location TBA
OWL KIDS DOING MUSIC IN KID SERVICE: REHEARSAL w/ Poppy 10-11:15 Fenn Chapel?
 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6 pm

FRI MAR 6 NEIGHBORING FAITHS ***TRIP TO ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF VERMONT** times TBA*

MAR 8: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.
NEIGHBORING FAITHS KIDS SINGING IN KID SERVICE: REHEARSAL w/ Poppy
 10-11:15 Fenn Chapel. **OWL** 10-12:30 next door at Mary Johnson Children’s Center
RE COUNCIL: ONSITE RETREAT 12-3 Fenn Chapel.

SAT MAR 14 PARENT GROUP 5:30-7:30 pm
 Childcare available, dinner provided.
 RSVP to Tracey Harrington.

MAR 15: 2 YOUNGEST RE GROUPS Start in worship.
NEIGHBORING FAITHS KIDS IN KID SERVICE SKIT: REHEARSAL w/ Bobbi 10-11:15 Fenn Chapel.
OWL 10-12:30 next door at Mary Johnson Children’s Center
 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6

SAT MAR 21 NEIGHBORING FAITHS ***TRIP TO HAVURAH** times TBA*

MAR 22: RAINBOW CONNECTION Start in worship, then normal RE until **joining Kid Service rehearsal UNDERCOVER KINDNESS AGENTS & NEIGHBORING FAITHS KIDS: FULL KID SERVICE REHEARSAL!** 10-11:15 Fenn Chapel.
OWL 10-12:30 Next door at Mary Johnson Children’s Center
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4-6 pm
RE COUNCIL 11:45-1:45 Interested in joining? Talk to Poppy, Tracey Harrington or Jess Rouse



Mysterious visitors to Rev. Barnaby’s office while he was away...celebrating his 70th birthday!!

SAT MAR 28 WINTER COFFEE HOUSE 7-9 pm Fellowship Hall. Family friendly.
 Kids can perform – sign up in advance with Shannon LaRose. Invite your friends!

MAR 29: **THE 3rd ANNUAL GREAT KID SERVICE!** No RE groups.

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



fel·low·ship /'felō,SHIp/

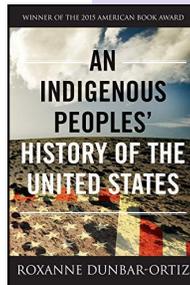
noun 1. friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests.

U&U Outdoors

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.

UUiversity began last month and continues **Thur March 13, 6:30 – 8 pm** with a book talk/small group ministry discussing the 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 VT Book Shop or borrow from the CVUUS library. It meets on the second Thursday of the month (Feb-May): Session #1: Author's notes/Intro/Chapter 1, Session # 2: Chapters 2-5, Session # 3: Chapters 6-8; and Session #4: Chapters 9-Conclusion. You are welcome even if you missed the first session. If you would like to join this group, please let Mike Greenwood know mike802vt@comcast.net or 349.5653.



Welcome!



So much is happening at CVUUS this March, and we are almost at the point when we don't need to check the forecast for snow and ice events as we plan to join in our community opportunities for sharing fellowship, worship, and service. It surely helps to have this newsletter, the weekly "blast", and the Pathways to Connection in each Sunday's Order of Service. We can be very grateful to Laura A. and her teams of volunteer helpers that put these communications together behind the scenes. We all should make the effort to check out what is happening, even if busy lives limit our participation. There are more options for family-friendly activities than ever before.

Our Spring New UU classes will take place in April. Anyone who may be considering, or at least curious about becoming a member, should take note, and feel free to chat with me or Rev. Barnaby about the details. That might include scheduling concerns, or any need for child care.

We'll have an **informal supper meeting on Thurs., April 16, 6 pm in Fenn Chapel for potential members**, with a focus on getting to know each other and sharing our spiritual journeys. Hearing these stories is what I most value and enjoy about being in Membership Ministry. There will also be **two class discussions after Sunday worship, on April 19th and 26th**, to provide an **overview of UU history and the history of this congregation**.

These are open to anyone in CVUUS, whether old members, new friends, and any in between. The short and sweet new-member welcoming ceremony takes place on, or before, our Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 7th.

More details will be forthcoming, and anyone interested in knowing more about our faith may use our libraries and Visitor-table pamphlets to expand their understanding.

Warm, almost-Spring blessings to all, Marjorie Carsen

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) know if you need a ride. Next one is **Wed March 25**.

RAD Love winners

of a Game Night from Kate Gridley and John Barstow had a grand time!

the Vanderburghs, Chippendales and Thomas'





Social Action Updates

March “Share the Plate” Donee: Common Threads

PROJECT

Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence— even if they are trapped in war zones or displaced as refugees— deserve a full opportunity to heal from the deep psychological wounds they have suffered. But rarely are long-term psychological services available where rape is a pervasive weapon of war. Inspired by ancient cultural practices and validated by current neuro-scientific understandings of trauma, **Common Threads Project** has developed a unique and effective group recovery program. In a safe and supportive environment, women create story cloths to depict experiences that may be hard to express in words. This becomes an entry point for a multi-dimensional therapeutic process. We build local capacity through training and mentoring, build successful interventions and conduct rigorous research. For more, visit commonthreadsproject.org.



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. February’s collection raised **\$930** for **UUA Affiliates: UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) \$162, Church of Larger Fellowship \$199, Newest UU Congregation \$335, and UU the Vote \$234.** *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**. Contact **Alan Moore** alanwmoore1947@gmail.com, Barbara Merz, Revell Allen.

Meals on Wheels provides so much more than a nutritious meal. Time commitment is based on your availability—it can vary from one day a week to two days a month (weekdays only). Delivery is typically from **10 to 11:30 am**. Talk with **Thurs UU Team** leaders Mary Conlon & Mike Greenwood. Contact emarks@agewellvt.org or 662-5249 or visit agewellvt.org/giving-back.

Donate items to Neat Repeats, Buy Again Alley, and HOPE Food Shelf!

Drop off used clothing to Neat Repeats and give them account **#108** or Buy Again and give them **#504**. Look for **HOPE** shopping cart to donate food. Prefer smaller sizes to jumbo ones.

Thanks!



Look for the **WomenSafe** heart-wrapped box in our sanctuary lobby near the welcome table. Always in need of self-care items! See **Dottie Nelson** with questions. Thanks! **WomenSafe** will hold its annual **Kimberly Krans Award Ceremony at CVUUS on Tues March 24, 5 pm**. This year’s recipient is former and longtime Mary Hogan School nurse Mary Gill who currently services on ACSD and MNFC Boards. All welcome.

Please Post



Going for a walk?
Commuting to work?
Wouldn't you like to take
along some UU friends?

For your UU listening pleasure

Unitarian Universalist Podcasts
From the Church of the Larger Fellowship
sermons, meditations, RE materials and more
anytime and any place

Use your iPod, MP3 player, or computer

Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via
iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication **Quest** (also available in print and online) gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

Have a listen —
www.clfuu.org/podcasts
www.clfuu.org/quest





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, March 7, 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.

Sat. March 7, HEARTSTRONG ACTIVIST: A Workshop for Changemakers, 9am--4pm, Sanctuary. Sponsored by *Extinction Rebellion & Bowling Branches Sacred Activism and CVUUS Green Sanctuary Ministry* Open to all.

Living in these divisive and tumultuous times fills us with passion and energy to work toward the life-nourishing and just world that we want for ourselves, all beings, and future generations. Life also tests our mettle and can be draining and enraging. How do we work with the fear, anger, overwhelm, hopes and other strong emotions that roil us? How do we move toward positive visioning and co-creating? To make beneficial, transformational change in society, we must acknowledge and look straight into the truths in our hearts, bodies and minds. As 21st century Earth citizens intertwined in an unraveling web of life, sacred activists know the rejuvenating, regenerating power of coming together in community to nurture the light, hold all that is present, and voice from our deepest spaces. The Work That Reconnects, developed over the past 40 years by Joanna Macy and many colleagues, provides time-tested personal and group practices to help empower us. Gratitude, honoring our pain, seeing with new eyes, and resolve to go forth with intention tap into universal wisdoms and instill in us new energies for creativity and collaboration. Join us for a heartfelt day.

Facilitators: Marc Lapin and Kristen Andrews. Registration preferred but not required. Contact Marc for more info or to register lapin345@gmail.com. If you wish to contribute, \$10 donations accepted to cover minimal costs and contribute to the food shelf, or bring a food donation. Bring your lunch please. Beverages and snacks provided.

Sunday, March 8, TINY HOUSES: Conversations from the Open Road, 12-2 pm, Fellowship Hall. Watch a short documentary of tiny house projects in other cities visited by VT teens followed by discussion on efforts to develop a tiny house village in Middlebury. Hosted by CVUUS Green Sanctuary.

Wednesday, March 11, Just Mercy, 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). Follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation. One of his first cases is that of Walter McMillian, who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the only testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie. In the years that follow, Bryan becomes embroiled in a labyrinth of legal and political maneuverings and overt and unabashed racism as he fights for Walter, and others like him, with the odds—and the system—stacked against them. Suggested donation \$10.





The Powerful Poetry of Rajnii Eddins Mon., March 16, 4–6 PM, Sanctuary

CVUUS is pleased to join SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) to present an important and powerful poetry reading and discussion with Rajnii Eddins of Burlington. Mr. Eddins is a poet, author, teacher, facilitator, and spoken word performer. Much of his professional work is aimed at empowering youth through self-expression, as well as addressing white supremacy and the social construct of race for students, educators, professionals and community members in general, from elementary to academia. Rajnii's poetic voice is honest and strong, with some language probably not suitable for children under 12.

With his latest poetry collection (which will be available for sale), *Their Names Are Mine*, Rajnii aims to travel to every state in America in order to share his craft, hold space for vulnerable dialogue, while affirming mutual humanity through shared story.

Mon., March 30, Sierra Crane Murdoch with Bill McKibben, 7 pm, Sanctuary. Murdoch is a Middlebury College graduate and journalist who is the author of the new book, *YELLOW BIRD: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country*. Bill McKibben, her longtime mentor and friend, will be her interlocutor for the event. About the book: When Lissa Yellow Bird was released from prison in 2009, she found her home, the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, transformed by the Bakken oil boom. Three years later, when Lissa learned that a young white oil worker, Kristopher "KC" Clarke, had disappeared from his reservation worksite, she became particularly concerned. *Yellow Bird* traces Lissa's steps as she obsessively hunts for clues to Clarke's disappearance. A profound examination of the legacy of systematic violence inflicted on a tribal nation and a tale of extraordinary healing. Hosted by Green Sanctuary and VBS.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Take a stand against



March 8

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

@The Congregational Church of Middlebury

Slurs can escalate to harassment, harassment to threats, and threats to physical violence. With the appearance of swastikas and Patriot Front posters here in Middlebury, and elsewhere in Vermont, are such groups taking hold? How should communities respond?

Speakers:

Erik Bleich
Chair of Political Science Department,
Middlebury College

Thomas Hanley
Chief of Police,
Middlebury Police Department

Mitchell Pearl, Esq.

The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC
2 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-7634
office@mckducc.org
www.mckducc.org





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 **Mar 14.**

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 in Blue Room to address the needs and interests of LGBTQIA+ and questioning folks. For more, see **Jordan Young** or **Ollie Cultrara.** Next one **Sun. Mar 29, 11:45 am.**



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 **Mar 16.**



Residence at Otter Creek GrUUp: Meets monthly for discussion 2 pm with Rev. Barnaby. Contact Ann Brousseau. Next **Mon Mar 23**

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.

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.

RAD LOVE WINNERS

of Moonlight Snowshoeing with the Harringtons.

Send your RAD LOVE pics to office@cvuus.org





SAVE THE DATE! CVUUS Winter Coffee House

Sat. March 28, 7 PM, Fellowship Hall.

Come to socialize and provide a friendly audience for our intrepid and trepid (yes, that's a real word) performers. Our 2nd inaugural Coffee House features performers of all ages. Come to enjoy instrumental and vocal music of various genres, poetry reading and other performance arts. Performers can sign up during coffee hour during March or email Shannon LaRose at newfivecents@gmail.com. FOOD: This time around we are going to try out "potluck" dessert and coffee time treats. Consider bringing a dish to share.



Choir Notes

What?? Did I see a drop of water? Did I hear a drip drip of melting snow? I'm thinking of spring and celebrating the return of the light. In March we are continuing our discussions of the 7 UU principles. We have gotten to the 6th principle: The goal of world community, with peace, liberty and justice for all. If this seems a lofty goal, music can surely lift us up to our possible heights and help achieve it!

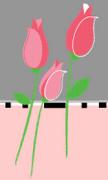


March 1st the choir singers will perform another piece by Mark Miller brought back from the Denver AUUMM conference I attended in 2019. *Creation of Peace* is a familiar text in the UU hymnal it's *We'll Build a Land*. Mark Miller writes it from his Christian perspective, so we sing, "Come build a love, come gather together, anointed by God, then create peace. Where justice shall flow down like the water, and peace, peace, like and everflowing stream! Hallelujah!"

March 15 brings another musical treasure that is right on the topic of world community and striving for peace for all, again from the wonderful UU conferences I get to attend. DeReau Farrar, the new president of the AUUMM, arranged a wonderful call and response that Yara Allen shared at a conference. "Somebody's been hurting' my people, and it's gone on *Far Too Long*...and I won't be silent anymore." The choir will sing it with enough verses that the congregation can learn it and join in.

March 22 we continue to focus on Justice with another Jason Shelton piece from his first Cycle of Song from the 2018 Haverhill MA one-day conference that I got to attend. It's "*Will Justice Ever Roll Down?*" again referencing MLK's speeches. Rev. Shelton says "it is...enormously difficult to write a lyric about justice that actually says something meaningful. I spent weeks honing and revising this text...This piece is a lament, a cry of frustration and anguish that we have not yet figured out how to cure the hatred and racism which continues to plague our societies. Written on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr King, I spent time with the speeches King made toward the end of his life as he expanded his work into dismantling militarism and capitalism, which he names as pillars of an unjust society. And I heard him ask 'How long?' while questioning the easy answer 'Not long.' What will it take for justice to roll down, finally? Nothing short of the radical fearlessness and depth of relationship that only agape love – the Beloved Community – can bring about."

The CVUUS Choir practices every Wednesday from 5:45-7:15 in the Sanctuary. Kate Gridley accompanies most weeks, but Chuck Miller is also available to help the choir prepare for Sundays he's playing. We are so blessed to have their commitment to the choir and music at CVUUS. If you have other musical skills to offer, please talk to Lucy or Kate or Carol Harden who is the coordinator of the **Music Ministry Team**. Both the choir and MMT are inclusive and welcoming. You are welcome to join the choir any time during the choir year, Sept - June. The MMT has openings regularly that needs new volunteers. Please join us making music at CVUUS. We would love to collaborate! Lucy



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!



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.

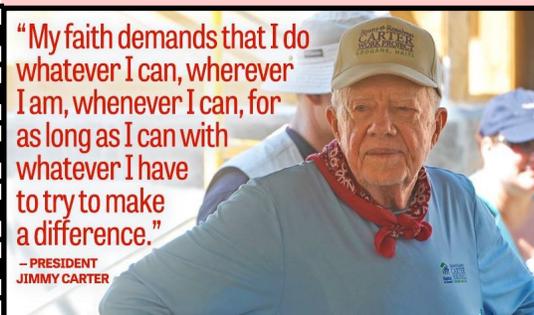
What is our annual UUA gathering, General Assembly (GA), all about? Each day of GA offers numerous opportunities to attend worship services, lectures, over 200 workshops, time to meet other UUs from around the world, visit displays and of course have some fun! A day can begin as early as 8:00 a.m. and 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! **Naomi Klein** will be the Ware Lecture speaker. Visit uua.org/ga and also see the schedule posted on the bulletin board in our Fellowship Hall.

CVUUS has \$1000 in scholarship available to help cover your costs. Interested in going? Adult full time early bird registration is \$400 through March 15. Visit uua.org/ga/registration. Questions? Contact either Margy Young @ margy@gurus.org or Mike Greenwood @ mike802vt@comcast.net.

Our 2020 NNED Spring Assembly and Annual Meeting, April 24 and 25, UU Church in Nashua, NH. We'll discuss the recommendation to dissolve the district before voting on it on Saturday afternoon. On Friday evening we'll have a fun UU Trivia event for any who'd like to participate!

Roses to...

...Richard Hopkins, Ollie Cultrara, Kate Gridley, and Carol Harden for organizing a joyous contra dance.



"My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."

— PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

...**Bob House, Paul Stone** and our Facilities Team for EVER faithful attention to our heating system.

...**Mary Hadley** for helping us transition to a new database (Breeze), hooking up our new lower level TV, and leading Neighboring Faiths field trips.



FROM THE BOARD Bobbi Loney



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

I was asked to join the Board for one year and said yes because I knew it would be another way to be of service while getting closer to people, both important to me. But I really didn't know what they did. So what do they do?

The CVUUS Board Description states that "The Board of CVUUS, through the Board members, acts to ensure that the CVUUS mission is carried out to the fullest possible extent. The Board is responsible, along with the Minister, Staff, Council of Ministries, and other lay leadership, for the general well-being of the congregation. That well-being

includes right relations among congregants, Minister, and Staff; adherence to bylaws and policies; financial health; and productive interactions with and service to the wider community. Although the Board carries the ultimate responsibility for most aspects of congregational health, it acts, under policy governance, largely as a planning and visionary body that delegates much of the day-to-day responsibility to staff and volunteers."

Our current ENDS statement (think of it as a mission/aspirations statement) states that "Our first priority is that all people are opened to deeper connections with themselves, others, and the spirit of life."

The first time I joined a group was for RE, and the first thing that happened was someone lit a chalice and did a reading, and then we went around and shared something about ourselves – about our day or week or about the future, or a joy or concern. Almost every group I've been in at CVUUS, including RE children's groups, begins with a chalice and sharing, and it helps me make deeper connections.

The younger RE groups say "We are a church of open minds, helping hands, and loving hearts." Each of us has our own ways to be open, to help, to be loving. For example, I like being with the kids, but I don't like baking. I'm so glad somebody does!

Like Mr. Rogers sings: "There are many ways to say I love you."

I love this place. I'm grateful for it, and everyone here.

Bobbi Loney

Board meeting highlights from our Feb 11 meeting:

There was discussion of the need to replace the failing pellet boiler with another heat source. Propane is currently the best option, but the feasibility of a heat pump should be considered as a long-term solution.

In the context of monitoring reports, the Board discussed staff compensation and future sab-batical plans.

The theme of "community outreach" was discussed in relation to developing a new long-range plan. The importance of measuring both church membership and attendance was emphasized.



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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Bob Alberts 3/2
 Hayden Sessions Bernhardt 3/3
 Gloria Gonzalez Zenteno 3/3
 Frances Stone 3/3
 Baxter Harrington 3/4
 Ember Roark 3/5
 Kate Gridley 3/7
 Ana Bright 3/8
 Alan Moore 3/9
 Scott Barkdoll 3/10
 Priscilla Bremser 3/10
 Becky Strum 3/12
 Clare Molineaux 3/13
 Tieran Santerre 3/13

Doug Richards 3/14
 Julie Chippendale 3/16
 Jeannette Lampron 3/16
 Pat Todd 3/17
 Revell Allen 3/19
 Sonora Gildrien 3/20
 Cheyenne Ross 3/21
 Silas Conlon 3/22
 Bennet Fuentes-George 3/23
 Laura Ferguson 3/25
 Sheila House 3/25
 Nan Crowell 3/29
 Finn Roark 3/30

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!



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, 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. Let us know if you'd like to join this network which meets in Fellowship Hall on **first Monday of month, 10:30 am** to coordinate needs and **4th Wed of month, 10 am** to prepare meals in advance. Contact **Nita Hanson** (boostasha@aol.com or 345-0489).

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, Marjorie Carsen
Religious Exploration Council – Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse
Small Group Ministry – Doug Richards
Worship Team – TBD

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

