



# Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

June 2020 - Volume 22, Issue 11

2 Duane Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

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## 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.



## June Worship Services Online

Sundays at 10 AM

<https://www.cvuus.org/worship/watch-online/>

OR <https://zoom.us/my/cvuuservice/>

**June 7—Who We Are & Our Purpose**—Led by Rev. Barnaby. Followed by **CVUUS Annual Meeting ONLINE**.

**June 14 —Small Is Beautiful** -- Welcome to the Era of Small Group Congregational Life and Worship. Led by Rev. Barnaby.

**June 21—Community Is the Heart of Choir**—Lucy Tenenbaum, Choir Dir. leads us in celebrating our favorite worship songs. See inside.

**June 28 —Rooted, Inspired, and Ready! Connecting with UUA General Assembly (June 24-28)**— Margy Young helps us attend UUA GA worship service where the sermon will be delivered by Rev. Joan Javier- Duvall, the minister at Montpelier with whom we've done pulpit exchanges. More inside.



## Staying in Touch...Virtually

**Sunday Morning Social Hour (~11:15 am):** Jordan leads exchanges on how we're doing. Login <https://zoom.us/my/cvuuservice/>

**Daily CommUUion:** Rev. Barnaby shares inspirational thoughts, music and readings in a regular email. Look for an email titled *Daily CommUUion* from [revbarnaby@cvuus.org](mailto:revbarnaby@cvuus.org) email. Not getting these? Email [office@cvuus.org](mailto:office@cvuus.org).

**Yellow Card Milestones & Passages:** Submit your info at <https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/YellowCard>

**Virtual Visit:** Request one with Rev. Barnaby at <https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/VirtualVisit>

**Caring Circles:** Our Caring Network formed circles of 6-8 congregants, organized largely by neighborhood, as a means of staying in touch with one another through phone call and Zoom check ins. Did we miss you? Contact Michele Lowy ([mclowy@gmail.com](mailto:mclowy@gmail.com) or 989-7197).

**Our Ministries & Affinity Groups:** Several are taking a break until the Fall and some are arranging to meet remotely or distanced over summer.



## Words from Rev. Barnaby:

I received a call recently from a man whose name sounded vaguely familiar. Maybe “familiar” implies too strong a connection, even preceded by “vaguely.” I certainly couldn't put a face to the name although he told me he had been to CVUUS a couple of times “over the years.” Church of any sort wasn't his thing, he assured me, when I suggested he would be welcome to drop in on us more often – online for now, of course.

He told me he was calling for advice on what to do with money that he had received from the Government as a Corona-virus payment. “I don't need it and I want to donate to some group supporting local farm-workers,” he said. “I trust CVUUS to know where it should go because I have seen all the good things you do.”

What a nice thing to hear! It did leave me wondering, though, how our reputation is going to be shaped as the pandemic unfolds. I'm guessing many CVUUS activities that attracted this gentleman's attention won't happen as publicly as they did in the past, if they happen at all. We certainly won't be hosting or sponsoring open social justice, arts, or spiritual programs in our Sanctuary for the foreseeable future.

My prayer is that we will one day look back on this as a blessing. Our congregation likes to sink its teeth into big challenges. The most recent, of course, was our capital campaign to build our Ann Ross Fellowship Hall and Kitchen. But now we have a bigger challenge than any of us imagined: creating a new form of 21<sup>st</sup> Century congregation on the fly in the midst of social distancing, economic recession and political chaos. We must learn to serve the elderly, children, and everyone in between equally well online and, through small group ministry, in the flesh. The large Sunday morning service where we are all invited to come together physically in our Sanctuary will become another vital way of fulfilling our mission when it returns, but not necessarily the driving force it has been historically in shaping our identity.

I believe we are called by this pandemic to, as one of our hymns puts it, revere the past when appropriate but “trust the dawning future more.” That same hymn urges us to “go forward in the power of love.” May it be so....  
Rev. Barnaby

## VIRTUAL UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JUNE 24–28, 2020 | [uua.org/ga](https://www.uua.org/ga)

## Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

### Attend General Assembly Online June 24-28

This year, we can all attend the UUA's annual meeting and celebration virtually! We encourage as many people as possible to attend (\$150); contact Barnaby about scholarships. Register here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site>. CVUUS is entitled to four voting delegates. Contact Barnaby if you are interested. GA registrants receive **access to all workshops, performances, lectures, and events listed in the GA Program**. Registrants will have exclusive access to a chatroom, recordings of previous streams, and dedicated support. **Open to the public:** Registration is not required to view or participate in the Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship, or Sunday Morning Worship. In fact, Margy Young will help us access Sunday Worship on June 28 as our worship service. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. Joan Javier-Duvall, the minister at Montpellier with whom we have done pulpit exchanges.

**Welcoming Celebration** (Wed, June 24, 7:30 pm)  
GA officially begins with a joyful, worshipful opening celebration with inspirational music and speakers. The opening celebration sets the tone for the days ahead. The Opening Celebration includes a procession of banners from hundreds of UU congregations and organizations.

The Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray,  
UUA President  
<https://www.uua.org/about>





## 2020 GA FEATURED SPEAKER SERIES



**Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz** is a historian, writer, and professor emeritus in Ethnic Studies at California State University. She is author or editor of 15 books, including the award-winning and 2019-2020 UU Common Read selection [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#). Her most recent book is *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*. Forthcoming in 2021 from Beacon Press is *Not "A Nation of Immigrants": Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion*.



**Dina Gilio-Whitaker** (Colville Confederated Tribes) is a lecturer of American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos, and an independent consultant and educator in environmental justice policy planning. Dina's research focuses on Indigenous nationalism, self-determination, environmental justice, and education. She also works within the field of critical sports studies, examining the intersections of indigeneity and the sport of surfing. Dina is co-author with Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz of Beacon Press's ["All the Real Indians Died Off" and 20 Other Myths About Native Americans](#) (2016), and her most recent book, [As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock](#), was released in 2019.



**Howard Bryant** is a senior writer for ESPN and is a correspondent for NPR's Weekend Edition. He has won several awards for his writing, and has been twice-nominated for the National Magazine Award for commentary. His books include [Full Dissidence: Notes from an Uneven Playing Field](#) and [The Heritage: Black Athletes, a Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism](#).



Transqueer Activist, Latinx Scholar, and Public Theologian, **Robyn Henderson-Espinoza** was named one of 10 Faith Leaders to Watch by the Center for American Progress. In [Activist Theology](#) author Robyn bridges the gap between academia and activism for the sake of political liberation and social change for marginalized communities. Dr. Robyn travels the country doing activist theology and continues to write for both the academy and the public square.

Amid the many challenges facing progressive faith in the 21st century, what role will our seminaries play? **Rosemary Bray McNatt**, president of Starr King School for the Ministry and Elías Ortega, president of Meadville Lombard Theological School will reflect on their unique roles not only in preparing religious leaders, but in shaping Unitarian Universalist thought and practice.



John A. Buehrens was the president of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1993 to 2001. His latest book, [Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice](#), provides one of the most extensive portraits of the Transcendentalists to date and helps explain why they continue to fascinate and inspire us.

**Naomi Klein** will be the **Ware Lecturer (Sat June 27, 6 pm)** and is the Gloria Steinem Endowed Chair in Media, Culture and Feminist Studies at Rutgers University, and an award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist and international and *New York Times* bestselling author of, *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal* (2019), *The Battle for Paradise: Puerto Rico Takes On the Disaster Capitalists* (2018), *No Is Not Enough: Resisting the New Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need* (2017), *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate* (2014), and *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* (2007).



## VIRTUAL UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JUNE 24–28, 2020 | [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga)

**Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!**





## VIRTUAL UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUMMARY SCHEDULE (subject to change)

EDT	CDT	Wednesday 6/24	Thursday 6/25	Friday 6/26	Saturday 6/27	Sunday 6/28
9:00 AM	8:00 AM		<b>Morning Worship</b> (Available On-Demand)	<b>Morning Worship</b> (Available On-Demand)	<b>Morning Worship</b> (Available On-Demand)	
9:30 AM	8:30 AM					
10:00 AM	9:00 AM		<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Workshops</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Worship East</b>
10:30 AM	9:30 AM					
11:00 AM	10:00 AM					<b>Coffee Hour</b>
11:30 AM	10:30 AM					
12:00 PM	11:00 AM		<b>Featured Speaker</b>	<b>Featured Speaker</b>	<b>Featured Speaker</b>	
12:30 PM	11:30 AM					
1:00 PM	12:00 PM					<b>Sunday Morning Worship West</b>
1:30 PM	12:30 PM		<b>General Session 2</b>	<b>General Session 4</b>	<b>General Session 5</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
2:00 PM	1:00 PM					
2:30 PM	1:30 PM					
3:00 PM	2:00 PM	<b>Organizing Your Congregation to #UUTheVote</b>				<b>Workshops</b>
3:30 PM	2:30 PM					
4:00 PM	3:00 PM		<b>General Session 3 (COIC Report)</b>	<b>COIC Workshops</b>	<b>General Session 6</b>	
4:30 PM	3:30 PM					
5:00 PM	4:00 PM		<b>Report</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Report</b>	
5:30 PM	4:30 PM	<b>Orientation</b>				
6:00 PM	5:00 PM		<b>Service of the Living Tradition</b>	<b>Synergy Bridging Worship</b>	<b>Ware Lecture</b>	
6:30 PM	5:30 PM					
7:00 PM	6:00 PM					
7:30 PM	6:30 PM	<b>Welcoming Celebration</b>	<b>Reflections</b>	<b>Reflections</b>	<b>Reflections</b>	
8:00 PM	7:00 PM					
8:30 PM	7:30 PM	<b>General Session 1</b>				
9:00 PM	8:00 PM		<b>Featured Speaker</b>	<b>Featured Speaker</b>	<b>Featured Speaker</b>	
9:30 PM	8:30 PM					
10:00 PM	9:00 PM			<b>Family Fun Night</b>		

Orientation – Learn about Virtual GA and how to connect with others  
 Reflections – Discussion groups about the worship service  
 Coffee Hour – Newcomers and UUs introductions/meet-and-greet



## RE THOUGHTS

## HELP WITH RE VISIONING FOR 20-21!

We know now that **the earliest the Religious Exploration program can gather in person at CVUUS is January.** I think it's possible that we won't have in-person RE this coming school year at all, at least not much or in our old ways.

So what WILL the program be then? This is uncharted territory. Usually, we mostly think about the content of RE: what will we DO. But now **the delivery is extremely important:** HOW and WHEN will it happen? Can kids handle more Zoom? Can we ever meet safely in person?

It's hard to plan ahead right now, especially when so many big things are unknown, like how school will be next year. Will kids have so much Zoom that RE Zoom will be unbearable? What about ever meeting in person, like in the huge Fellowship hall? Is that safe? **Each of us has our own safety and risk levels**, so who would want to meet in person, even if it can be designated as not very risky? There won't be easy answers. And we probably won't all agree on them.

**BUT now, more than ever, our children and youth need a deeply supportive community.**

And they need to be able to feel like they can make a difference. But we need to continue to raise and support kids who will dream, work, fight, and speak out for the world they and we need. **The world needs UU kids, now and later.**

There is essential work to be done. We will be having **RE VISIONING sessions in the next two weeks.** Please come and share your ideas, questions, concerns, offers, dreams, and hopes for what RE could become next year. ALL are welcome – children, youth, parents, CVUUS leaders, and all congregants. Take advantage of this time of upheaval and **DREAM BIG FOR OUR KIDS!** ~ Poppy, your Director of Religious Exploration

## *JUNE for Children, Youth and Their Families*

As of May 26 – more may come. All are on Zoom unless otherwise stated.

**DATE/TIME TBD PARENT GROUP** Join Tracey and Poppy to catch up, get support and just say hi.

**THUR MAY 28 RE VISIONING 7-8 pm** Share ideas, questions, concerns, offers, and hope for what RE will be next year. ALL are welcome – parents, children, youth, CVUUS leaders, congregation

**SUN MAY 31 FLOWER COMMUNION – worship service** Uniquely UU annual celebration of the special necessary qualities of everyone in our congregation. Led by Rev. Barnaby. **Kids encouraged to stay for the entire service. \*\*Poppy's piece will be interactive and kids will be able to talk in the Zoom service\*\***

**TUES JUNE 2 RE VISIONING 10-11 am** Share ideas, questions, concerns, offers, and hope for what RE will be next year. ALL are welcome – parents, children, youth, CVUUS leaders, congregation

**WED JUNE 3 RE VISIONING 4-5 pm** Share ideas, questions, concerns, offers, and hope for what RE will be next year. ALL are welcome – parents, children, youth, CVUUS leaders, congregation

**SUN JUNE 7 ANNUAL MEETING - AFTER WORSHIP** Come have your voice heard! A chance to share ideas and concerns about CVUUS. Next year's budget is discussed and hopefully approved.

**For more information, contact Director of Religious Exploration**





## Religious Exploration Roses to...

**Journey LaRose**, Nursery Caretaker, and **Livia Bernhardt**, Nursery Assistant, for the incredible love and dedication they bring to our youngest children. **Wren Colwell** for subbing in Nursery.

**THE RE LEADERS:** **Natali West**, **Abi Sessions**, and **Jay Harrington** for *Rainbow Connection*; **Catie Raishart**, **Martha Alexander**, and **Gerry Loney** for *Undercover Kindness Agents*; **Mary Hadley**, **Allie Izzo**, and **Jess Rouse** for *Neighboring Faiths*; **Joanna Colwell** and **Jordan Young** for *OWL (Our Whole Lives) 7-8*; **Gail Borden** and **John Barstow** for *Youth Group*; **Bobbi Loney** for *Kids for Kids* and being a sounding board and brainstormer to **Poppy**

**YEAR-LONG ASSISTANTS:** **Amy Mason** and **Will Porter** for *Undercover Kindness Agents*

**RE COUNCIL members:** **Tracey Harrington** and **Jess Rouse** (Co-Heads), **Catie Raishart**, **Natali West**, and **Dana Roark** for being RE Greeters, DRE subbing, assisting with groups, and doing so many helpful and loving things

Parents and grand-parents who assisted in RE: **Molly Andres**, **Caitlin Gildrien**, **Jess Danyow**, **Julie Berg**, **Lindsey Fuentes-George**, **Billy Connelly**, **Nita Hanson**, and **Bobbi Loney**

People who assisted in RE and didn't have kids in the program: **Ken Levine**, **Ted Scheu**, and **Mary Lou Bright**

Kids who assisted in RE: **B Alexander**, **Milo Rees**, **Elyse Singh**, **Sophie Mason**, **India Danyow**, **Xavier Fuentes-George**, and **Callie Rees**

~ and anyone else we may have forgotten who helped in some way! I'm sure there were many – sorry!

## Bridging CVUUS Youth Group High School Seniors' Plans ...

**Livia Bernhardt** will be going to Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

**Ellen Berg** plans to study Illustration at Maryland Institute College of Art

**Will Carpenter** plans to study Industrial Design at Wentworth Institute in Boston.

**Gabriel Cason** plans to study Robotics Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Wren Colwell** will be making her decision by June 1, but plans to go to a liberal arts college where she can study Literature and Theater.

**Journey LaRose** plans to study Early Childhood Education at Mount Holyoke in South Hadley Massachusetts.

**Mira Maglienti** will be at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.







## Roses to...

...**Lise Anderson** for heading our novel **Drive By Pies Rhubarb Festival** on Sat. May 30 (10-12) , **Sheila and Bob House** for wrangling rhubarb, **Michele Lowy** for coordinating supplies along with **Brett Millier** and **Jean Terwilliger**, **Mary Hadley** for setting up online purchasing (*we sold out! over 100 pies were pre-ordered and paid for online*) and all who offered supplies, made pies and help with supply distribution and drive-by pick up.

...All those who through one-time gifts or pledge increases have helped us to substantially narrow the funding shortfall for our proposed budget for the year starting July 1.

... **Doug Richards** for leading Small Group Ministry and all who led monthly groups including **Alan Moore** (Wed night group), **Dinah Smith** (Retirement Group), **Tracey Harrington** (Parent Group), **Elizabeth Golden** (Women's Group) and **Ollie Cultrara** (LGBTQIA+).

...**Liam Greenwood** for leading Worship Ministry in the interim while Becky Strum cares for her husband and **Kathryn Schloff** for leading Caring Network while Nita Hanson cares for her family.

...all who contributed to our Parenting in a Pandemic worship service on May 10 including the **Harringtons** and **Singhs**.

...**Marjorie Carsen** for helping Rev. Barnaby shepherd our New UU group toward membership online meetings (first ever).

....our devoted Board Chair **Priscilla Bremser** for the June 7, 2020 Annual Meeting preparations.

...**Scott Barkdoll** and **Paul Stone** for tree donations for our wetlands and those who helped plant them.

...**Julie and Neil Chippendale** for refreshing our shed with new paint.



## Welcome!

Our New UU classes, led on Zoom by Rev. Barnaby Feder, were held recently, with content that included UU history, the story of our congregation (with several member guests who provided a detailed picture of past events and more recent developments), as well as shared stories of our inspiring spiritual journeys. Having been a part of these classes for several years, I have found that there is always much to learn that is both interesting and inspiring. It is our custom to have these classes each Autumn as well as in Spring. Those who decide to become members at this time will be welcomed into CVUUS on the Sunday of our annual meeting, on June 7th. That informal ceremony will need to be incorporated into our online services, and I have great confidence in the skills and creativity of our technical team to make it a warmly special occasion.

Some of the ways we have been welcoming to visitors, before pandemic restrictions were needed, are not available, but at least I hope that we can invite anyone who might be looking for a spiritual home to tune into our online Sunday services, and to check out our website in general, and perhaps that of the UUA, to learn more about Unitarian-universalist beliefs and practices. Warm nearly-summer wishes, for your safety and good health, Marjorie Carsen, for the Membership Ministry



# CVUUS June Newsletter

## Social Action Updates

### June "Share the Plate" Donee: World Central Kitchen



WCK is working across America to safely distribute individually packaged, fresh meals in communities that need support – for children and families to pick up and take home, as well as delivery to seniors who cannot venture outside. **WCK is now active in dozens of cities providing over 250,000 fresh meals every day.**

Traditional safety nets like school feeding programs, city services, and food banks are struggling to meet basic needs. Seniors, who are isolated for their safety, are unable to access meal services. Meanwhile, the country's hospital workers are more stretched than ever before. WCK is also now activating restaurants to help meet this demand by providing jobs for their staff and meals for those in need. **#ChefsForAmerica** is making a key connection between people who need meals and restaurant workers and drivers who need to earn a living. For more, visit <https://wck.org/chefsforamerica>.

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. May's collection raised ~\$450 for **VT Natural Resources Council** and XX for **Age Well's Meals on Wheels Program**. *Thanks!*

**Addison County Mutual Aid spreadsheet for covid-19 relief** Amy Mason helps coordinate this. Give help or request help here: <https://www.addisoncountymutualaid.org/>

### Food Project for Homeless in Rutland with Breadloaf Mountain

**Zen Center** We'll continue bag lunch distribution by dropping off bags in the open trunk of Rev. Barnaby's Prius, which is parked in the CVUUS parking lot Thursdays (starting by noon) for pick up Thursday evening. A bag might include: any mix of fresh fruit that is easy to handle and chew (grapes, clementines); individual apple sauce servings; small boxes of raisins; small packages of small carrots; string cheese (two per bag if possible); packaged trail mix; granola or protein bars; and bags of chips. Hand sanitizer and wipes are precious additions. Individual tissue packets and cans of seltzer water are also appreciated. Last but certainly not least, the best bags include an kind saying or expression.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:emarks@agewellvt.org) or 662-5249 or visit [agewellvt.org/giving-back](http://agewellvt.org/giving-back).





**Choir Notes** Hello Dear CVUUS folks! News for June, is it summer yet?? I can only say, what a long, strange trip we're on. since we went into isolation in March, I have been running a Zoom Small Ministry Choir for CVUUS choir members and any others who would enjoy a weekly workout. Chuck has been Zooming with us either in person or with pre-recorded accompaniments to hymns and anthems. We still welcome singers who are interested in seeing some friendly faces while singing to YouTube recordings while keeping your mic off. **You are welcome to Zoom with us Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. Login at <https://zoom.us/j/96889818147>.** We congregate and check in until 5:45 then we sing various things until 6:30. I choose and send PDF copies of the music so we all have eyes on it. It's not an idea way to do choir, but we are finding some joy in singing music we can all enjoy, and in our fellowship. Our Community.

We're working very hard to prepare for **Choir Favorites Sunday June 21: *Community Is the Heart of Choir***. It will be a special service led by the Choir Ministry Team members, aka, singers, with some structure offered by me and Chuck. I encourage all congregants to share your favorite hymns with me so I can send them along to the choir for possible inclusion in the service, or you could sing them for us to share. I know there are many singers in the congregation who love to sing but haven't been able to be in the choir. We welcome your audio and or video participation in this service! We will have many ways to offer music, some may even be live via Zoom. We have a strong group of dedicated singers who may want to add their song or voice to one of Chuck's piano recordings. I can't wait to see what will turn out to be our service. We would love congregant as well as choir participation. Didn't you love the Harrington's offering a few weeks ago? That's what I'm hoping for from the choir and musical support community. **Chuck offers to give any eager singer or singing family recorded music to sing to** if you'd like to be a musical part of any upcoming service. There are ways to coordinate pre-recorded music with live singing or, with pre-recorded singing for the folks who aren't as confident vocally as Poppy. Wow. Poppy, you do so easily what so many of us only dream of. So, CVUUS congregants, it's time to come out of the woodwork and bring some music together to put the June 21 service on the map. Now's your chance to be in the choir without all that rehearsal time!

My other regular contribution to Worship at CVUUS has been helping on services that Chuck's playing, with the background photo montages. It is so much fun, I hope to be able to continue to do that as long as we have virtual worship services ongoing. We'll continue choir rehearsal gatherings virtually over the summer.

This time of dealing with the unknown isn't easy, but provides us with challenges I think we can overcome. I am grateful to be a part of the CVUUS staff and family.

Blessings, Lucy





## 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 am writing this in mid-May, but when you read this it will be June, and if everything goes as anticipated, we're about to have our annual meeting on Zoom.

Most of you will have had a Zoom experience. Like me, you've probably examined the books on people's shelves and the art on their walls, and been thrilled when somebody's cat or dog makes an appearance. One of my Zoom meetings is Small Group Ministry. We respond to readings sent to us by SGM coordinator Doug Richards. They're always evocative, and one I liked is a quote from Wendell Berry.

*"The world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our own feet and learn to be at home."*

For some of you, this Covid-19 journey has been horribly arduous. I'm humbled by the resilience of you whose work or family requires you to take care for others, and the generosity of you who do it by choice. We've all been forced to be "at home", and the ground under our feet keeps shifting.

Confined to small spaces, I'm noticing details more than ever, sometimes even "inch by inch": how familiar objects change color as the light in our house moves; how the tree in the yard next door changes shape with the weather; how daffodils move to face the sun, but no matter how I watch I can't catch them at it; how people's faces on Zoom are beautiful when they're listening to something that moves them; how that gives me deep joy. The journey tulips take from being buried to being in full bloom has never been more important, or the expressions of my grandchildren more cherished. May 17 was our first CVUUS Zoom service, and I was moved to tears seeing your faces. Someone's dog barked when we shouted Blessed Be!

CVUUS *will be* back in our sanctuary, and it will be wonderful. I hope next year's annual meeting will be there. And I hope when we go to the Ann Ross Fellowship Hall after our first service back, we are even closer than when this all started. After seeing so many of you today, and talking in one of Jordan Young's breakout rooms, and seeing Allie Izzard and her fat furry cat all the way in California, I am filled with hope.

We are about to vote on a budget based on our financial pledges. As we journey into new ways to be together, let's pledge to support CVUUS in other ways too. That could mean joining a Small Group Ministry group or showing up for a Zoom poetry and music session or wearing funny hats one Sunday or celebrating someone's birthday with a socially-distanced parade or helping do RE and Worship. Maybe it will mean something no one has thought of yet. (Show and Tell, anyone?)

In the spirit of the poem Esther Thomas read at our service today, here are words from poet Taylor Duvall. *"Church – a human connection of love, not a building – a lifestyle, not a weekly activity – an act of service, not a service to attend."* And last, thank you for letting me serve on your Board for the past year. My term is up at the end of June. It's been good for me, and I hope my small part has helped. Stay safe.



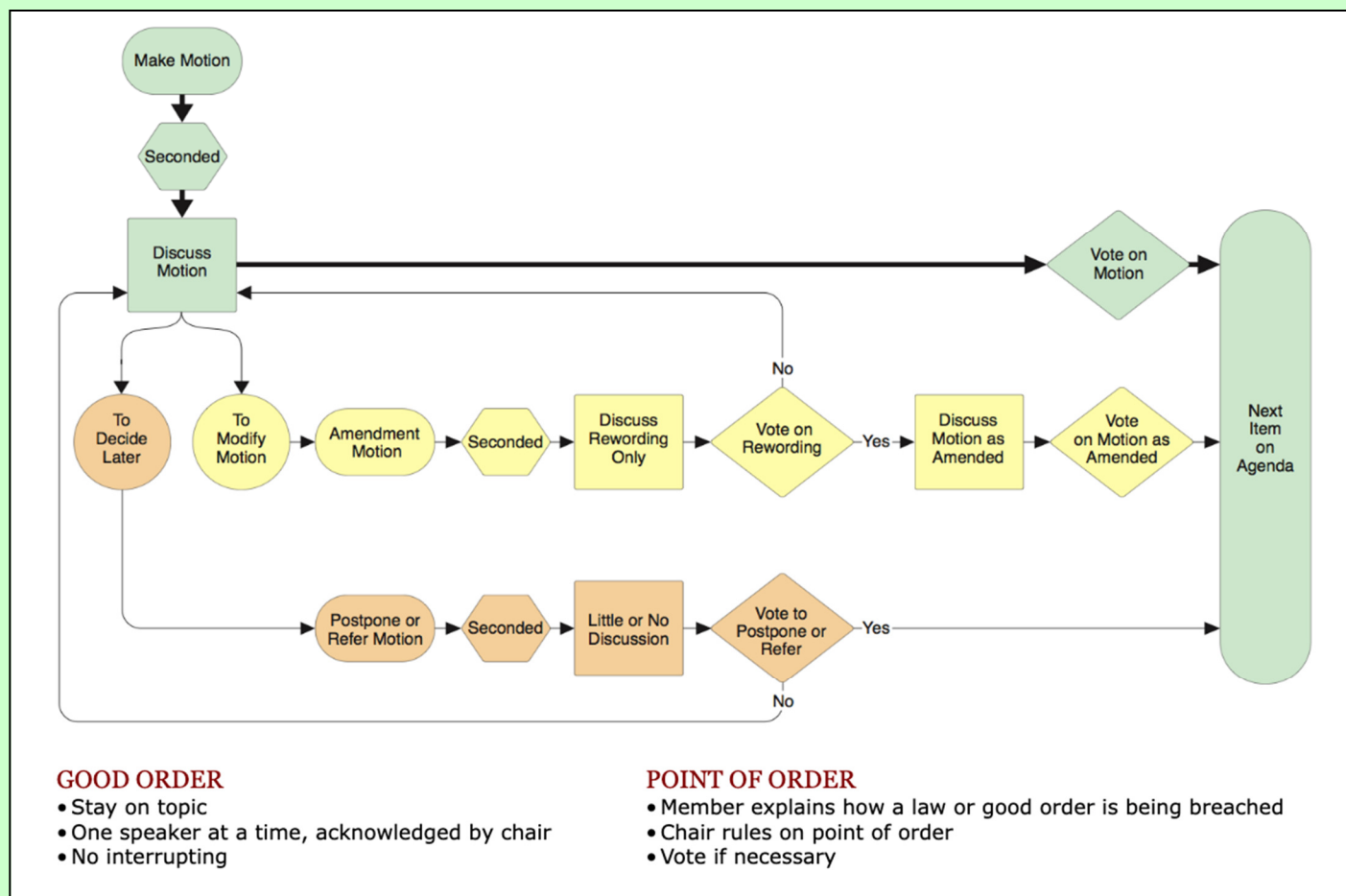
## You're invited! CVUUS Annual Meeting ONLINE via Zoom Sunday, June 7, after worship (~ 11 am)

Login in at <https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/>

To phone in, dial 301-715-8592 and enter meeting ID: 229 318 0991.

**What to Expect** How does our congregation govern itself? In lots of ways, but the centerpiece is the Annual Meeting, where we gather to **elect representatives to the Board** and other bodies, **approve a budget** for the coming year, and **consider other items of importance** to all of us. The Board puts together an agenda and distributes it ahead of time sent separately electronically (contact [office@cvuus.org](mailto:office@cvuus.org) if you would like these mailed to you).

At the meeting, we follow our version of Robert's Rules of Order, which have some advantages but can be confusing. Ideally, the rules maintain a good balance between robust discussion and reaching decisions in a timely fashion. Here's a chart that shows how a proposal ("motion") makes its way to a vote:



(I can't remember anyone raising a "Point of Order" at a CVUUS meeting, but you get the idea.)

How will we do this on Zoom? We will use the hand-raising feature for discussion, and the polling feature for votes. We'll give a quick lesson on those features at the start of the meeting. Members can vote. Non-member friends are not entitled to vote, but are welcome to observe and ask questions. If you have never used Zoom, watch the "Join a Meeting" tutorial here: [https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials?\\_ga=2.16368628.396979308.1584389720-1126904688.1583861996](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials?_ga=2.16368628.396979308.1584389720-1126904688.1583861996)

See you soon! ~Priscilla Bremser for our CVUUS Board







## CORONAVIRUS POLICY

### Our Buildings Are Closed to Public Use

CVUUS formed a **Safe Congregation Team** (Alan Moore, Will Porter, Mike Greenwood, Jay and Tracey Harrington, Poppy Rees, Donna LaRose, Rev. Barnaby) last year to hone our procedures. It created the new [Emergency Procedures](#) posted throughout our buildings, assigned a safety volunteer to monitor our doors during worship, and more. When the COVID crisis escalated in March, CVUUS consulted the expertise of Paul Seward (a doctor, pictured above, in addition to Will Porter, also pictured) and Richard Hopkins (experienced in epidemiology, pictured). It agreed to follow the protocols of VT Gov. Scott and CDC. The Board formed a **COVID 19 Advisory Team** in April specifically to focus on legal aspects and best practices during what has been a state of constant change. This team is comprised of representatives from the Safe Congregation Team (Will Porter), Board (Kerri Duquette Hoffman and Priscilla Bremser) and Council of Ministries (Jean Terwilliger) and staff (Rev. Barnaby). We closed the buildings to public use, urged CVUUS teams to meet online, and established a CVUUS Zoom account to assist this.

CVUUS will adhere to VT Governor Scott's executive order when determining whether and how CVUUS facilities will be used. Staff has been given permission to resume on site hours, following CDC safety guidelines. They stagger times, keep separate work areas, and may work remotely as they prefer. Everyone who enters the property is responsible for *washing hands on arrival and departure and using the cleaning supplies on hand to disinfect what they touch, staying 6 feet away from anyone they encounter, and signing in so we can track entries. A thermometer is available in Fenn kitchen.*

In cases where CVUUS's mission to serve the wider community involves work that arguably falls within the Governor's standards for "necessary activity," the minister will have the authority to approve use of CVUUS facilities for that work if advised by one of the several medical professionals in the congregation that such a course of action is safe for those doing the work and those in the broader community with whom they may subsequently come in contact.

**The Board decided that for budgeting purposes, we assume that we will not be holding services in our sanctuary before January 1, 2021.** This is partly in response to an anticipated shortfall, given the results of this year's canvass. It also seems extremely unlikely that it will be safe for us to gather before then. Indeed, after the Board's vote in May, the UUA made this statement: **"In the midst of uncertainty, it is the UUA's strong recommendation that congregations plan for ongoing virtual gathering and operations through May 2021.** This applies to worship, events, committee meetings, staff meetings, one-on-one visits, rites of passage, and more. While smaller gatherings may be able to resume sooner if conditions improve, planning for virtual operations that could continue for a full year is advisable."

The **Board's COVID 19 Advisory Team** drafted the facilities policy above and will continue to meet on the last Monday of the month at 5 pm and consider whether the policy needs tweaking or we need additional ones. Any comments or concerns can be directed to Rev. Barnaby who will keep them collected in google docs for distribution for others on the team to see. It will monitor requests from small groups (no more than 10 people) to meet. For instance, we allow Worship Team members to produce on site and Rhubarb Festival volunteers to handle pie supply and sale distribution. The **Safe Congregation Team** hopes to create a **COVID 19 building use checklist** to guide CDC compliance soon. The Board will continue to pay attention to the Governor's executive order updates, recommendations from the UUA, and advice from our local experts and will err on the side of caution in deciding when and how to reopen our facilities to groups. The health of our congregants and the members of the larger human community is paramount.



Kerri Duquette-Hoffman 6/3  
Carol Kulczyk 6/3  
Steven Fidler 6/4  
Roland McGlashan 6/4  
Natali West 6/7  
Gabe Cason 6/12  
Walter Deverell 6/14  
Paul Seward 6/14  
Marnie Wood 6/15  
Greg Goldsmith 6/16

Sydney Singh 6/17  
Paula Guarnacia 6/18  
JP Rees 6/20  
Dale Birdsall 6/21  
Wilder Stewart 6/22  
Elizabeth Mason 6/25  
Charlie Grigg 6/26  
Cindi Gillen 6/28  
Gabriel Sands 6/29  
Nathaniel Hutner 6/30



Our buildings are closed for public use in June, but we're "open" virtually. Follow us at [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org).

## Online Giving Options

Submit a donation **by text** (dial 518 255-8053) or **by code** to right or at <https://cvuus.breezechms.com/give/online>

Enter the amount you want to give. It defaults to Gifts Non-pledge but

remember you can use

the drop down on the right of that field to choose another giving category. Thanks for all you give.



for online giving



## 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)).

## 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, Marjorie Carsen**



**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 by contacting Kathryn Schloff ([kathrynschloff@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynschloff@gmail.com) or 352-4246).

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: M–F, mornings  
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 – Kathryn Schloff  
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 – Liam Battjes Greenwood

### 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

***Staying Connected...Virtually!***  
Worship Services, 10 am  
CVUUS Annual Meeting, Sun. June 7  
UUA General Assembly, June 24-28  
***More inside!***

Return Service Requested

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

