



Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

May 2021 - Volume 23, Issue 10

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.

Join Us for Worship Services Online

Sundays at 10 am <https://www.cvuus.org/worship/watch-online/> OR <https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/>

At the Margins

May 2—At the Margins—Rev. Barnaby reflects on who gets left out, kept out, and thrown out of our efforts to build Beloved Community, where that leaves them, and where that leaves us. We'll introduce our May donee, *Sandy Hook Promise*.



Martha Dallas (right)
with her partner Lucy

May 9—Reclaiming Our Dead and Their Death—Guest Martha Dallas shares on the movement towards Home Funerals and Green Burials. More inside. Our choir sings *Justice & Joy* by Amanda Udis-Kessler (see queersacredmusic.com).

May 16—Coming of Age Celebration—Led by Poppy Rees, Dir. of Religious Exploration and Coming of Age kids with *Love Activists* as their chosen donee for this Sunday. More on page 4.

May 23—To Whom It May Concern—Rev. Barnaby reflects on who we answer to for responsible help figuring out how to redistribute power.

May 30—LGBTQIA+ Service—Led by Jordan Young with special guests and music by Jannalee Nieuwenhuis and our choir singing *Peace for All* by Chuck Miller with text by Lucy Tenenbaum.



NURTURE Your Spirit.
Help HEAL Our World.





Words from Rev. Barnaby:

In his autobiography, John Murray, the pioneering American Universalist minister, described a near brush with death in Boston in 1774 at the age of 32. A demonstrator seeking to disrupt his talk at a meeting hall hurled a large stone through a window that narrowly missed his head. Murray paused to retrieve the rock, which he held up to the audience, and then said, "This argument is solid and weighty but it is neither rational nor convincing."

Murray's supporters were impressed, but nonetheless still scared out of their wits about his safety. They urged him to end his address. Murray coolly responded that he intended to keep preaching, adding, *"...for your consolation, suffer me to say, I am immortal while He who called me into existence has any business for me to perform; and when He has executed those purposes for which he designed me, He will graciously sign my passport to realms of blessedness."*

In these uncertain times, I almost wish for something like Murray's faith that he was bound for "realms of blessedness" and, meanwhile, protected by an all-powerful God of Love who wanted him to assure everyone that God would save them too. But I remain grounded in messages more like the one Catherine Keller, a former seminary professor of mine, shared recently at an online event celebrating her newest book.

I'll paraphrase it: "It's cowardly not to leave yourself open to hope about the challenges we face. But it's only true hope if it is haunted by the possibilities we may be headed for further tragedy and decline. We may not overcome."

In other words, the future is in doubt. What we do – without divine protection -- matters. It helps me realize that I am already in a "realm of blessedness" to be seeking to figure out what we should do in the company of you, this amazing congregation of fellow seekers and lovers of life.

Blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

Welcome Guest Worship Leader Martha Dallas

Reclaiming Our Dead and Their Death: The Movement towards Home Funerals & Green Burials

When someone dies, it's typically almost reflexive to call a funeral home. However, it has not always been this way. The profession of funeral director, along with the related goods and services comprising the funeral industry, arose and flourished over the 20th century. This century, however, a movement is growing around home funerals, green/natural burials, and a reclaiming of families' options and rights, when it's time for the final goodbye. Given May's theme of exploring the realm of the margins, we'll explore this topic's ethical, scientific, practical, and psychological dimensions, with a focus on opportunities for us as UUs and Vermonters. The service will also seek to nod to Mother's Day, if only marginally.

Bio: Martha is a Certified Life-Cycle Celebrant, providing customized ceremonies marking major life transitions such as weddings and memorials for (often) secular and (typically) spiritual people through her Burlington-based business, Vermont Celebrants (vermontcelebrants.com). Prior to this, she was UU Director of Religious Education for over fifteen years, eleven of which were served at the First UU Society of Burlington, where she earned the status of Credentialed DRE and enjoyed several years of collegiality with Poppy Rees. Martha holds a BA in Anthropology from Mount Holyoke College and a Master's in Theology and Education from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She is pleased to be a guest at CVUUS!



CVUUS May Newsletter



Staying Connected... Virtually

Sunday Morning Zoom Coffee Hour (~11 am):

Join exchanges after worship where we check in with each other. Login <https://zoom.us/j/cvuuservice/>

Weekend Greeting (Fridays): Rev. Barnaby shares inspirational thoughts, music and readings in a regular email from revbarnaby@cvuus.org. Not getting these? Email office@cvuus.org.

Weekly Blast (Wednesdays): Provides pathways for connection with links to our upcoming worship service, past services, and events. Not getting these? Email office@cvuus.org.

Facebook CVUUSVT follow us here with news and links to our Sunday worship service.

Yellow Card Milestones & Passages: Submit them before Sunday at <https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/YellowCard>

Virtual Visit: Request one with Rev. Barnaby at <https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/VirtualVisit> or arrange for one on one time with him in our Sanctuary at revbarnaby@cvuus.org

Small Groups: Some meet remotely. Contact Laura at office@cvuus.org if your group wants to schedule **Zoom meetings**. Ask Laura how you can become the host for your cvuus zoom meeting. Explore *small group ministry* and our *affinity groups* on page 8 and [here](#).

Council of Ministries: Lise Anderson and Jean Terwilliger convene reps from our ministry groups online on 1st Monday of month at 4:30 PM to brainstorm and update each other. Look for opportunities galore for you to promote, celebrate and stay connected with CVUUS.



RE THOUGHTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

REinvention. Hope. Joy. Fun. Community.

On Sunday, May 16, on Zoom, 9 of our middle schoolers will take part in our biennial Coming of Age service. They will share their "credos" (words about what matters to them and what they believe), play music, sing, do readings and more.

Please come to the service to support these youth!

This has been a hard year for them, as it has for all of us. Remote or part-time school, no school dances or clubs. Masks worn all the time. Rare socializing. No movies. You know the list. AND they are going through middle school! A very hard time for many of us where we often felt lonely, left out, self-conscious, and were constantly comparing ourselves to others. My 8th grade year was the worst.

These teens – **Ethan Spritzer, Nellie Stein, Clara Chant, Callie Rees, Kaden Hammond, Elyse Singh, India Danyow, Mary Harrington, and Dimitri Rodrigue** – have met with Allie Izzard (Zooming in from grad school in Delaware!) and me since the late Fall. We have played games, shared Joys & Concerns, made and sent Valentines to congregants, eaten sugary snacks sent in REinvention bags, had mini-campfires and made mini-smores, and spent this Spring – over Zoom – doing the hard work of thinking about the things that go into credos – what do they care about? Believe in? Think matters? What makes them them? What are their core values?

And they have done this without getting to do the usual fun Coming of Age stuff. No Boston trip. No Fall overnight at CVUUS. No pizza and ice cream while sitting around on the Fenn House lawn. Yet they have showed up, again and again, on Zoom, to be with each other and Allie and me. I am deeply grateful to have had this time with them, as they go through this awful year. For me, it has been a total gift to get to see them – especially when I don't get to see most of the CVUUS kids and youth.

So please come to May 16 Coming of Age service. To support them, yes, but mostly to be moved by who these 9 youth ARE, what they care about, and how they hope to make the world better.

**** UPCOMING RE THINGS ****

**Coming of Age has due dates this month – Poppy will share those directly with families/kids*

Youth Grou Sat, May 1 4-5:30

Coming of Age – NOT EVERYONE - Zooms to work on credos with kids Sat-Sun, May 1-2?

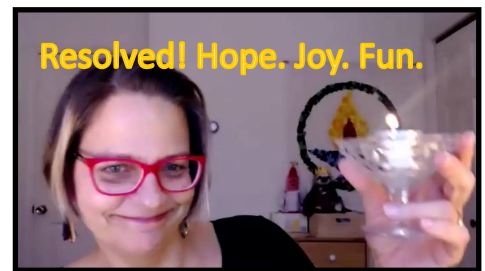
Coming of Age Sun, May 9 4-5:15

Coming of Age – NOT EVERYONE – planning meeting for service Mon, May 10, 7:30 pm

Coming of Age – REHEARSAL on Zoom with tech Sat, May 15 Time TBD

COMING OF AGE SERVICE!!! Sun, May 16 10

Youth Group Other May dates/times TBD



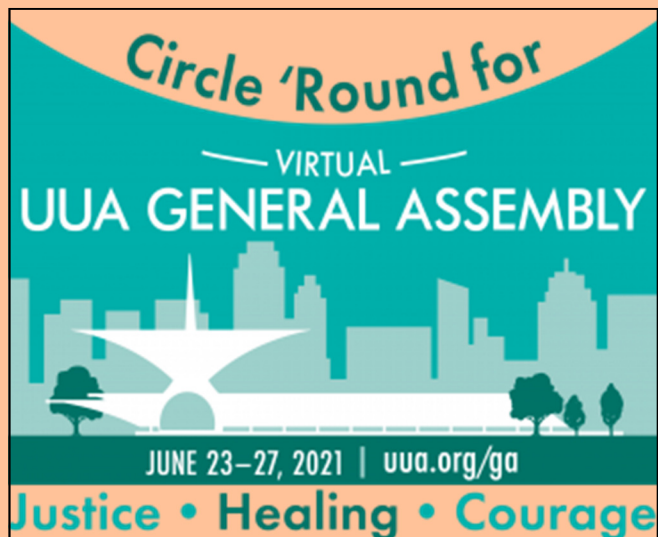
~ Love, Poppy - your Director of Religious Exploration



Congregational Conversation: Preparing for UUA General Assembly (GA)

Sunday April 18 Highlights

Thanks to those who joined us to learn about the wider work of UUA and the upcoming online UUA General Assembly. Watch this You Tube clip of who we are here! General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.



Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021 (June 23-27). General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association. and in our congregations. We study ways to implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes. Through programs and workshops, professional and lay leaders will learn and develop skills to equip them with tools to continue the mission of our faith. Featured speakers will delve into theological analysis, work around organizing for liberation, and the ways we tend our spiritual resilience. Honoring the myriad of communities within Unitarian Universalism, there will be more time for networking, meetups and caucusing over the span of our 5-days together. Finally, during GA 2021, we will preserve our connection to Milwaukee and the MidAmerica Region through special programming and activities. Get ready to Circle 'Round...

Open to the public: General Sessions, Service of the Living Tradition, Synergy Bridging Worship and Sunday Morning Worship will be streamed live and publicly accessible; registration is not required to view these events.

Registration is required for the rest of the program. 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. Cost is \$200 per person. Let us know if you'd like financial support.

From UUA President

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

[UUA Guidance on Gathering In-Person When COVID-19 Subsides](https://www.uua.org/ga) | [UUA.org](https://www.uua.org)





Social Action Updates

May “Share the Plate” Donee: Sandy Hook Promise

Sandy Hook Promise envisions a future where children are free from shootings and acts of violence in their schools, homes and communities. This nonprofit was founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec 14, 2012. Based in Newtown, Connecticut, their intent is to **honor all victims of gun violence** by turning our tragedy into a moment of transformation. By empowering youth to “know the signs” and uniting all people who value the protection of children, we can take meaningful actions in schools, homes, and communities to prevent gun violence and stop the tragic loss of life. For more and to make this promise, visit sandyhookpromise.org.



© Jan Mangar

Love Activists is an innovative educational program, based out of South Central Los Angeles, designed to strengthen schools and empower children to be compassionate leaders. They offer mentorship, curriculum, community outreach, art activism. For more on this donee chosen by our 9 middle schoolers for their Coming of Age service on May 16, visit loveactivists.org.

Future “Share the Plate” Donees Please speak with anyone on Donation Ministry to suggest an organization you’d like CVUUS to support: Allison Cutler (chair), Barbara Karle, Ashleigh Hickey, Chris Murphy, Avi Freund or Rev. Barnaby. Thanks to all who gave to **Common Ground Center** last month. *Track how much we contributed to them and other donees at cvuus.org/justice/sharing-donation-plate/*

Charter House Dinner Prep Team We aim to do this **every second Monday of month from 10 am – 1 pm**. You can come for part of this time for a specific job if that works for you. We provide **baked goods for this meal as well as for Community Dinner on the third Friday of month**. If you want to help, contact **Alan Moore** alanwmoore1947@gmail.com. Volunteers to **deliver lunch (11:30 am) or dinner (5:30 pm)** are also needed as well as **coverage for the Day Station**. Contact hlacey.charterhouse@gmail.com.

Meals on Wheels Time commitment is based on your availability— vary from one day a week to two days a month (weekdays only). Delivery is typically from **10 to 11:30 am**. Talk with **Mon UU Team** leaders Mary Conlon & Mike Greenwood.

Donate items to Neat Repeats, Buy Again Alley, JuneBug, WomenSafe, HOPE and Addison Allies! Drop off used clothing to Neat Repeats and give them account **#108** or Buy Again and give them **#504**. **WomenSafe** will take toiletries. **Addison Allies** needs appliances and seasonal items for migrant workers. More at cvuus.org/news. Thanks!



Rhubarb Festival "Pies Only" Sat. June 5, 2021

Come by for our signature homemade pies on Sat. June 5, **10 am - noon**. Choose from rhubarb or strawberry rhubarb. Pies will be sold on a first come basis while pies last. No advance or online orders this year. Thanks in advance for masking and social distancing. We look forward to seeing you.

Sign up to help chop rhubarb, fold boxes, hand out supplies, bake, come to pie bees, set up, sell, or cleanup here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B49AFAA29A64-2021>



For the past 10 years, May has been the big “run up” of our Annual Rhubarb Festival typically on first Sat in June. As you know, the tag line for the annual CVUUS Rhubarb Festival has long been “food, fellowship, and fun” – but with social distancing part of our “new normal”, we decided on a “pies only” event last year on Sat., May 30 from 10:00am - noon – which Lise Anderson headed up. To quote Brett Millier, “it was all about the pies.”

With imagination and radical love, we stepped up during COVID to remake a fundraiser that yielded 134 pies (gulp) and gross proceeds of \$3000 with \$1000 shared with HOPE! We appreciate your help again. Contact Mary Hadley with questions.

Honoring Indigenous People: CVUUS worship opens with ringing of the bell and saying: *"We recognize that CVUUS gathers on the land of the Western Abenaki people. We respect their spiritual relationship to the land. We hope to learn from them how we can live together in peace and justice."* **Fuller Event Opening Language:** *"I want to start this event by acknowledging that we (or for Zoom, 'most of us') are gathered here and holding this Meeting on the unceded traditional homelands of the Abenaki People, their Ancestors, and allies. Please join me in acknowledging the Abenaki community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. Let us not look away from the exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples, including those on whose land we live, work, and witness. May we be committed to dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism here in Ndinakina - the place the Abenaki People call Our Land. Thank you."*



CVUUS displays the poster held by Chief Don Stevens as an important reminder.



Explore Small Ministry Groups: A Different Way to Do Church

Small Ministry Groups deepen and broaden personal spiritual growth. A group usually consists of 8-10 members who meet via Zoom monthly. Each meeting is focused on a spiritual or religious topic. To join or form a group, contact Doug Richards (drichard@keuka.edu or 802-989-9387). **Or join one of our affinity or Adult RE groups.**



Writers Group meets the 2nd Monday of month from 7:30-9 pm via Zoom. This is for anyone who writes: for pleasure, hoping to publish, published. All are welcome to come and share, including people not part of CVUUS. You may ask for feedback or not. Questions? Email bobbiloney@gmail.com to get on the list for Zoom link.

UU Cingles gathers outside for those aged 60+ to provide company and conversation during these difficult times. We aim to meet on every other Saturday at 1 pm (May 8 and 22). Watch the blast for invites. For more, call or email Monty Montgomery, Revell Allen or Marjorie Carson.



Native Moons Group led by Liam and Mike Greenwood celebrates the Abenaki and Iroquois lunar cycle and uses *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Hall Kimmerer to guide reflective writing and sharings via monthly Zoom evening meetings aligned with celebrating the full moon. Contact Liam at liambattjes@gmail.com to get on his zoom list. Look for him leading our worship service often on last Sunday of the month.

May 11 -- Silver Bells

May 26 -- Collateral Damage

June 10 -- Sitting in a Circle

June 24 -- Setting Down Roots (last session?)



CVUUS Sangha & Meditation If you're interested in developing a meditation practice, you're warmly invited to join us **Sunday mornings 9:15 to 9:45**

AM when **Colleen Brown** or **Dinah Smith** give instruction and three 5-minute guided meditations. It's aimed at those who are just beginning a meditation practice. Please feel free to contact either Colleen or Dinah with any questions. Zoom link [here](#)

Have You Discovered Our CVUUS LIBRARY?

Need UU social action reading material? See our CVUUS Library reading lists at <https://www.cvuus.org/learning/library/reading-lists-2/>.



We're happy to locate books for you. Arrange pick up with office@cvuus.org or awolfson@middlebury.edu.

NEW! CVUUS Library of Things(LoT)

Library of Things (LoT) is a listing of useful items, owned by congregants, that they are willing to lend to other community members:

- **baby equipment** (portable cribs, booster seats, infant baskets),
- **medical equipment** (cast covers, walkers, canes, shower seats),
- **furniture** (folding tables and chairs, lawn chairs),
- **kitchen equipment** (pressure canner, percolator, hot plate),
- **craft or hobby equipment** (hot glue gun, sewing machine), and
- **tools** of all kinds.



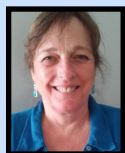
It will be important that items be lent and returned in good condition, and especially for baby and medical equipment, be clean and sanitary. Let Artley know what items you are willing to lend. Visit <https://www.cvuus.org/connection/library-of-things/> to view what's listed so far. We are still working out our loaning process.



Choir Group Greetings and Salutations! Spring it finally is! YAY! OK, it's still threatening to snow, but we'll survive, right? In May Choir will continue to meet on ZOOM on Wednesdays. You'll have a few more opportunities to come sing, greet the choir, say

hello and goodbye to me, and all in all have some singing time to share. It is still, after a full year of Zoom choir, strange to say, "let's sing together, please mute your audio!" But, we spend much more of our rehearsal time chatting and catching up (than we used to in person, where the 90 minute choir rehearsal was planned to the gills!!) I hope some of you, in addition to the regular choir members (that's about 10 of you) will drop by to visit and share some stories. It would mean a lot to me to see some of your dear faces, and share some music that we all enjoy singing.

I look forward to Wednesdays at 5:30 until June 16. Let's keep CVUUS choir a fun and functional group for as long as we can. We have two remaining anthems that Eric Maier is producing into Choir Compilations for us. The final piece from Amanda Udis-Kessler, *Justice and Joy!* that was programmed for April is moved to May. And, we have **HYMNONYM by Chuck Miller** for your listening pleasure at the final service in May for Memorial Day. **I wrote the words, they are simple : *Peace for all of us, for eternity.*** Come June 20th for our Choir-led favorites service. Blessings, Lucy



Need an update on your pledge status? Contact our bookkeeper Kris Butler at fm@cvuus.org or 989-7346 on Tues or Fri (10 am– 1 pm) when she works remotely. Look for the 2021-22 online pledge form that you can easily complete at cvuus.org.

Planned Giving Strategies: Most of us have many more options than we realize for making financial gifts to family members, organizations they support like CVUUS, and charities. Did you miss our free workshop with guest advisor Jason Cadwell, Ashley Cadwell's younger brother--a money management expert based in Burlington? See more [here](#) including how to contact him. It was not recorded, but you can follow up with Rich Wolfson or John Berninghausen for guidance.

Online Giving <https://cvuus.breezechms.com/give/online> See how to choose options [here](#) or by code to right.

PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) Loan Update: Ours is being forgiven. The \$26,050 was used to continue to pay employees at their full salaries through ~2 months of the pandemic spring.



for online giving



Roses to...

...**Dinah Smith** and CVUUS Sangha (**Colleen Brown, Bobbie Carnwath, Jack Carter, Mars VanOrder**) for leading our annual Buddhist-centered worship service.

...**Bob House** and **Gerry Loney** for organizing and overseeing Blue Jeans "Saturday" tasks and all who helped. Bob also oversaw signage for our ventilation system on main and lower level.

...**Mike Greenwood** for leading our Congregational Conversation on UUA and GA.

...**Lise Anderson** and **Jean Terwilliger** for long range planning and reopening efforts.

...**Julia Chant** for recording worship team mtgs.

...those providing extra cookies and baked goods for Charter House community meals.

...**Gordon Gibson** for guiding us on staffing questions along with the rest of our Personnel Team **Mary Conlon** and **Connor Timmons**, who also introduced us to our April donee Common Ground Center where he works as Exec director.

...those helping us plan for hybrid meetings, including **Margy Young** and **Mitch Kramer**.

...**Rev. Barnaby, Michele Lowy, Abi Sessions, Martha Alexander, B Porter, Theodora Porter** for delivering REinvention Bag #4 out to 29 families.

...**Allie Izzard** and **Abi Sessions** for being part of the Youth Group and Coming of Age - Allie is doing it from Delaware!

...**Bobbi Loney** and **JP Rees** for going above and beyond in supporting Poppy and RE.

...**Chris Murphy, Shannon LaRose** and especially **Carol Harden** - the Music Ministry Team - for putting in many hours on the CVUUS Music Survey and new music staff search.

...**Callie and Milo Rees** for helping with the Stuffie Sleepover.

...**Rich Wolfson** and **Steve Maier** for advocating for and communicating our solar success.

...**Mary Hadley** for leading RF 2021.

Complete Our Short CVUUS Music Survey!

By now, you've heard that CVUUS is taking steps toward a long-standing vision of having a Music Director. As we begin the process of identifying interested applicants, we'd like YOUR HELP in two ways. First, complete our survey about music at CVUUS. We hope to hear from everyone, young and old. The survey will run until May 15: [SHORT CVUUS MUSIC SURVEY](#) Second, contact Carol Harden (charden@utk.edu) if you are interested in being part of determining our music future and staffing.

Interested in Owning Solar? Individual CVUUS members and friends are now able to buy into the new [Bristol Community Solar Project](#), a project of the Acorn Energy Co-op. This is a limited-time offer, so please contact Acorn coordinator Mary Mester, at info@acornenergycoop.com if you are interested. CVUUS participants will be able to designate a part of their purchase to benefit the [Clemmons Family Farm](#) in Ferrisburgh due to the efforts of the Addison County Interfaith Climate Action Network. Rev. Barnaby indicates that CVUUS may be able to cover the "tithe" to the Clemmons Family Farm as long as we have social action funds remaining in our budget. Contact Rev. Barnaby for more information.



FROM CVUUS BOARD

Throughout the pandemic I have been giving a great deal of thought to the different experiences that our community members are having. In my work daily, I am reminded that “Stay Home, Stay Safe” is a challenging dynamic when home is the least safe place

in your life. I am fortunate to live in a community and state that sees this as well, and is providing increased resources for community members in this position.

I am also aware that safety is a bare minimum. Over a year of isolation is taking a toll on many of our community members. As well, many families who are caregiving and have not had the respite of friends and family are feeling the strain. Though I see hope on the horizon, I know that this will not reach all of us at the same time.

As we look to the upcoming seasons at CVUUS, it seems very possible that we will have increased in-person connections. While these will look different from “normal” services, experimentation with worship in the sanctuary may begin as early as this summer. It is even possible that RE programming could have summer outdoor in-person connections. Though I am thrilled about this, I am also aware that we are far from the time when in-person services are accessible to all of our community members. My heart has been filled when I hear about the ways that Reverend Barnaby and the Tech Team are thinking about making both virtual and in-person services and coffee hours simultaneously possible. The summer experimentation will be vital in this effort.

Poppy’s work to keep our youth connected has been amazing, and I know that the needs of our youth have been central to many conversations of which I have been a member. The Caring Network’s continual efforts to brighten people’s days and make deep connections has been so inspiring. I could go on and on about the many ways that our community has been a source of inspiration for me this year!

As we look to the future, and our varied needs, I also (forever the social worker) would like to mention that many social service agencies around the community are helping people get and maintain access to technology. If access is an issue for you or someone that you know, please reach out. I would be happy to find that connection for you.

With much care, Kerri





A Solar Year for CVUUS

On March 10, 2020, the Acorn Energy Coop's Solar 2 facility in Shoreham (AES2) went online. AES2 boasts 612 solar panels and a peak power of 150 kilowatts (kW). CVUUS owns 17 of those panels, and we're credited with the electricity they generate. We've now had a year's experience with AES2.

It's been an unusual year, coinciding with the first year of the covid pandemic. With our buildings largely unoccupied, we've used considerably less electricity than in a normal year. But the Sun didn't have to quarantine, so

Energy graph shows solar generation and energy from the grid for CVUUS electric bills April 2020—March 2021. Total for year was 15,261 kilowatt-hours with 6,763 kWh of that from solar.

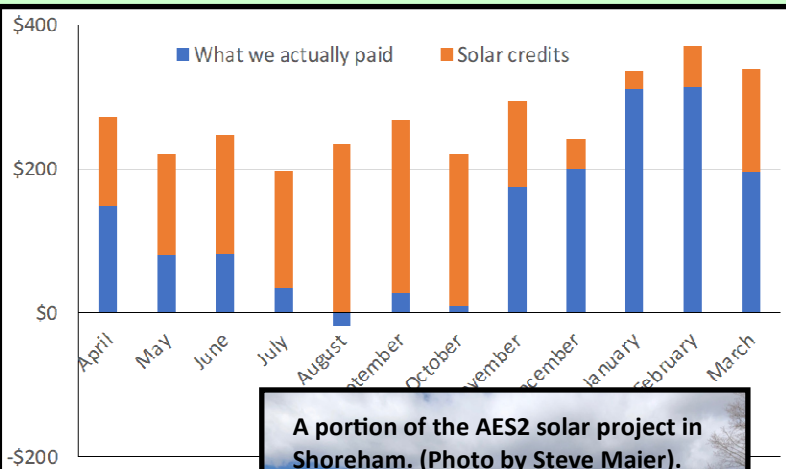
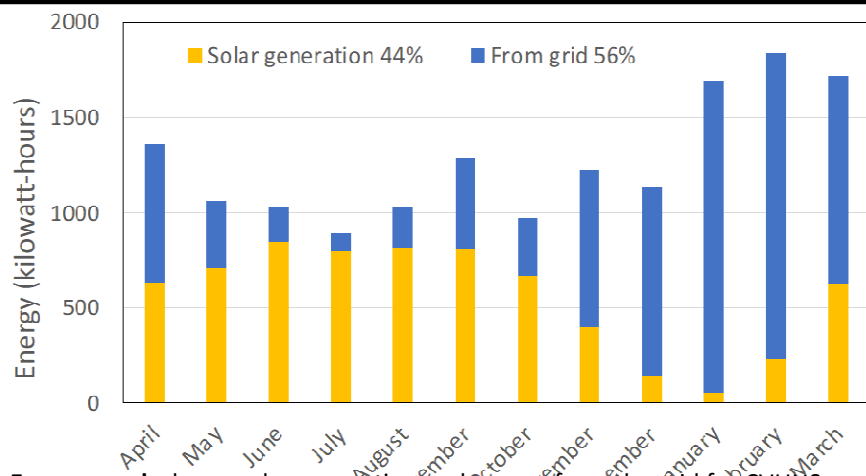
our experience on the solar generation side is probably typical. When we signed on with Acorn Energy in 2018, we had anticipated getting about a quarter of our electricity from solar, but for this unusual year the solar portion has turned out to be 44%. Not surprisingly, solar did best from April to October, supplying the great majority of our electricity in those sunny months.

Money is more complicated. We receive several kinds of solar credits associated with our AES2 panels, which totaled \$1333. We also get credit from Green Mountain Power's Share Green program, where owners of individual rooftop solar arrays donate excess credits to a pooled fund for small businesses and nonprofits. CVUUS is a recipient in this program, and some of us in CVUUS are contributors. CVUUS received \$326 from Share Green. On the other hand, we pay a portion of the AES2 maintenance costs; for the current year our maintenance fee is about \$350. The net result is that our investment in AES2 covered 41% of our electric bills. That number accounts for the solar maintenance costs, and would have been 52% without maintenance included. The **money graph** shows details.

CVUUS paid \$9.369 upfront for our 17 AES2 solar panels. Over a year, they've earned us \$1,333 in solar credits, or \$983 with the maintenance fee subtracted (this doesn't include Share Green credits, which come from others' solar panels). That's a rate of return of 10.5%—greater than we get with money in the bank or most other investments, and greater than

Acorn's estimate of 9.36% when we signed up for AES2. Because the Sun isn't subject to covid (and is safely distanced at 93 million miles), we can expect this return to continue, approximately, in which case we'll have paid off our initial investment in less than 10 years (even less counting the Share Green credits). Our building use, however, is subject to covid, and once we're occupying the building again, then the solar portions of our electrical energy and of our electric bills will likely drop.

Stay tuned for updates! Rich Wolfson CVUUS Solar Coordinator



A portion of the AES2 solar project in Shoreham. (Photo by Steve Maier).





B Porter 5/1
Elizabeth Golden 5/8
Mitch Kramer 5/10
Poppy Rees 5/10
Vera Flight 5/11
Bob House 5/12
Did we miss you?

Mike Greenwood 5/13
Breelle Thomas 5/14
Esther Friedrichs 5/16
Al Boudreau 5/14
Llyn Rice 5/16
Zora Duquette-Hoffman 5/18
Lynn Luginbuhl 5/18
Bobbi Loney 5/19
Amy McGlashen 5/19
Barbara Ganley 5/20
Annan Duquette-Hoffman 5/21
Mary Harrington 5/29
Marjorie Carsen 5/31
Ann Webster 5/31
Let the Office know!



CVUUS welcomes another
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Tues May 11, 10 am—4 pm,
by appointment redcrossblood.org

Wheel of Life CVUUS commemorates births and deaths. Listen to **Milestones and Passages** each Sunday for these and share your own. See how on page 3. Also see the **Seasons of Life Fund** below.

CVUUS Directory: We send out a directory monthly by email to those listed in the directory. There are two versions: one with photos and one without photos. Contact Laura (office@cvuus.org) if you'd like to be added, need to report a change or want to add or change a photo.



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. Mary Hadley made a gift in honor of **Bob Johnson** who died peacefully March 7, 2021 at age 96.



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 offer rides to any member or friend who might want a ride to and from their covid-19 vaccination appointment. If you or anyone you know could use a ride, please call or email Kathryn Schloff (kathrynschloff@gmail.com or 349-5264) and arrangements will be made.

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: M–F, mornings
Visit our web site at www.cvuus.org.
And Facebook page CVUUSVT

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	Mark Spritzer
Mary Hadley – Treasurer	Kerri Duquette-Hoffman
Kas Singh – Clerk	Ann Webster

CVUUS Leaders

Caring Network – Kathryn Schloff 349-5264
Council of Ministries – Jean Terwilliger 377-1849, Lise Anderson
Donation Ministry – Allison Cutler 989-7792
Facilities – Bob House 989-5050
Fellowship—Mike Greenwood 349-5653
Finance—Mary Hadley 377-2270
Green Sanctuary – Elizabeth Golden 598-2388
Library & Information Resources – Artley Wolfson 989-7081
Membership Ministry – Marjorie Carsen 453-8457
Music Ministry Team – Carol Harden 989-8783
Pastoral Care – Laurie Borden, Jordan Young, Marjorie Carsen
Religious Exploration Council – Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse
Safe Congregation—Alan Moore 865-335-2028
Small Group Ministry – Doug Richards 989-9387
Worship Team – Abi Sessions 349-8147

CVUUS Staff

Accompanists – Kate Gridley and Chuck Miller
Bookkeeper – Kris Butler (fm@cvuus.org, 989-7346)
Choir Director – Lucy Tenenbaum (lucytunes@me.com)
Dir. of Religious Exploration – Poppy Rees (re@cvuus.org)
Office Manager – Laura Asermily (office@cvuus.org)
Custodian— Keith Rickerby (989-6036)

Stay Connected...Virtually!
Worship Service Online 10 AM
Followed by Zoom Coffee Hour
Save the Date! More Inside!
Rhubarb Festival, Sat June 5
CVUUS Annual Meeting Online, Sun June 6
Flower Communion On Site, Sun June 13
Choir Favorites Online, Sun June 20
UUA General Assembly Online, June 23-27

Return Service Requested

2 Duane Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

