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.

Spirituality and the Arts
Summer Worship Services

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

July 4—United States of Reparations—Sample a service online from a major UU church, facilitated by Margy & Jordan Young.

July 11—Five Poems that Made My Day -- Rev. Barnaby will share five poems with time for others to share. Multi-access.

July 18—The Art of Being Mindful of the Natural World —Led by Liam Greenwood infused with *Braided Sweetgrass* reflections. Multi-access.

July 25—Artistic Collaboration: Kate Gridley and Francois Clemmons. Filmed from Kate’s studio.

Aug 1—Raising Whole Kids through Music—With guest Anne Severy, longtime and recently retired MUHS band leader.

Aug 8—Spiritual Practice of Farming and Art Making—With Hannah Sessions, Blue Ledge Farm co-owner.

Aug 15—Visions from Mongolia—With guest Sas Carey of Nomadicare.

Aug 22—Abstraction and Spirituality—With Hattian artist Sophia Domeville.


Summer services mostly multi-access (choose on site or online). Follow our Weekly Blast, cvuus.org & inside for more details.
Words from Rev. Barnaby:

Greetings Beloveds,

I've been using some of my June study time to reread *Widening the Circle of Concern*. It's a 196-page report published in 2020 after three years of research by the Unitarian Universalist Association on ways for UU's to transform our congregations into more racially, culturally, and socially diverse communities.

In a late insertion after the Table of Contents, the authors acknowledged the disruptive arrival of the pandemic. They wrote, “…This crisis has revealed the disparities that exist at all levels of well-being for Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, as well as for LGBTQ individuals, people living with limited economic means, and people living with disabilities. Addressing them within our faith becomes more important, not less....”

I was struck by how clearly this reflects something a lot of us began saying to each around that time. “*We don't want to return to normal. We want to end up with something better.*”

There are countless ways to pursue that dream. Some seem unrelated to the anti-racist and related anti-discrimination work spotlighted in the report. For example, some of us are pursuing lifestyle changes to which the pandemic introduced us because we feel healthier and more connected to the natural world.

Still, I think all good anti-oppression practices have something to say about other healthy forms of change. Here's one I thought about after reading about how anti-oppression work often stirs up feelings of guilt and shame. The report noted that such feelings usually undermine the goal, which is to empower people to change for the better.

Why are shame and guilt so prevalent then? One possibility, the study points out, is that they are by-products of the deeply embedded mindset of white supremacy. A culture of mastery spills over into assumptions that we are supposed to be in the know. We are supposed to be “learned,” not “learning.”

When it comes to racism, many white people respond to being challenged on their mastery of our history by dismissing reality as irrational “wokeness.” How much healthier it would be for us to embrace the liberating adventure, painful though it may be, in building authentic connections based on a more inclusive history. No guilt or shame is required. Just faith that the pandemic hasn't robbed us of opportunities to help each other take a better path. Lucky us....Blessed be, Rev. B

**The United States of Reparations:** On July 4, the United States commemorates the Declaration of Independence. However, it is time for this country to create a new declaration – one that involves emotional, spiritual, and financial reparations to descendants of slavery, America’s Original Sin. The time is now – and accomplishing this will truly make July 4th a day of celebration for all. Led by Rev. Kathleen Rolenz. Watch this worship service on **Sunday July 4, 10 am** from [All Souls UU](#), a major church in the heart of Washington DC, facilitated by Margy & Jordan Young.
Spirituality and the Arts
Summer Worship Services

Select services being held in person: You can help us refine our skill in offering multi-access worship by signing up to attend one of these in the Sanctuary and providing your feedback. Our target attendance for these experimental services is roughly 20 people -- please reserve a spot here. If you can’t access the link, or know of someone without a computer who wants to attend in person, contact Abi Sessions (349-8147) or the Office. While there will be no children’s program or childcare over the summer, children are welcome to attend with their family! For services where children are present, we will have special seating reserved for unvaccinated adults. All services recorded.

Gather Your Summer Waters!

Spring brought our Flower Communion where we created a communal bouquet representing our diversity. Fall brings our Ingathering Water Communion where we bring water from our summer travels or favorite watering hole to fill our communal bowl. We look forward to receiving your water in Sept when we’ll be on site with remote access possible via zoom and record the service for live streaming and post viewing.

Flower Communion June 13, 2021
Experimenting with multi-access worship. See more pictures inside.
YOU DID IT!!! You made it through this school year! Congratulations, warriors.

And now it is time, if you can, to rest. And recover. I know it’s not all over. Many of you still have kids that aren’t vaccinated. You just spent an intense year with your kids around you SO much of the time and you probably want to just leave and go on a tropical vacation alone. My point is this: right now, our COVID numbers in Vermont are great. It’s green and beautiful. Your kids made it through this year. Let us try to put down the heavy burdens we have been carrying for months and months. Let’s try to breathe, lie in the sun, and be in the moment.

And then we can pick up hope. Hope that the vaccinations for children will come soon. That our kids are mostly okay, despite tons of screen time, too much junk food, and worried parents. We did our best and that’s all we could do.

One thing I am full of hope about is getting to be together, in person, this Fall at CVUUS. That will be amazing! When I imagine the Fall, I see us re-connecting, playing, talking, and starting the work of hopefully adopting the 8th UU Principle in the RE program. Of trying to be radically inclusive, of fighting racism and other oppressions, of supporting each other, and of helping our kids move forward, together, in Beloved Community.

2 SUMMER GATHERINGS FOR RE FAMILIES: July 17 and August 7, 3-6 pm
We encourage you to join us on July 17 and August 7 at Branbury Beach State Park on Lake Dunmore. It will be very casual and choose-your-own-adventure. You bring your own food and sit where you like - close or far away. We’ll pay your entrance fees – just say you’re here with CVUUS. Rain dates are the next day (July 18 and Aug 8).

CVUUS BUILDINGS AND LAWNS AVAILABLE FOR GATHERINGS: We also encourage families to plan get togethers at CVUUS, if you want! Contact Laura in the office to make plans.

POPPY ON BREAK: I will be on break from June 26-July 30. If you have a RE question during this time, please contact Catie Raishart (a member of the RE Council) catherine.raishart@gmail.com Or leave me an email and I will reply when I get back.

REINVENTION CONTINUES! We will still be reinventing things this Fall, as we figure out where and how we can safely be together. Vaccination timing will play a part, as well as family preferences about RE things. We will move thoughtfully, with intention and love, as we come back together in person. The first few months might be very different than past Falls.

If you have ideas or suggestions about RE next year, please let me know!

~ Love, Poppy - your Director of Religious Exploration
Music Director Selected: Ronnie Romano

Rev. Barnaby and the Director of Music Search Team are thrilled to announce that Ronnie Romano, whom many of you came to know as our fill-in accompanist in the five months since Kate Gridley retired, will become our first director of music, starting Aug. 16.

Ronnie will be both our main piano accompanist and choir director. He will also devote a portion of his time to expanding our music program. That includes leveraging his connections to his two other local music jobs: directing the Wellspring Hospice Singers and his recent appointment as founding director for a new choir at All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne, Vt. (All Souls uses the UU hymnal and meets Sunday afternoons). Ronnie also comes to us with close connections to the music program at Middlebury College, from which he graduated in 2020.

You will hear much more from and about Ronnie once he starts his new job with us. But there’s more good music news to share. First of all, we will continue to periodically enjoy Chuck Miller’s piano talents. Chuck is looking forward to being our go-to back-up accompanist when he’s in Vermont.

Secondly, our job search for music director introduced us to another candidate who wowed our search team – Ana Guigui.

Ana lives just outside Boston, where she is on the faculty of both the world-famous Berklee College of Music and the nearby Longy School of Music of Bard College. In addition to her teaching skills, she has many decades of experience as a singer, pianist, and actor in diverse forms of musical performance. The choir loved rehearsing with her and the search team came away impressed that she is everything advertised in her resume and then some. Ana is aiming to relocate a chunk of her life to Middlebury, having spent much of her childhood here while her father was conducting the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Ultimately, it became clear that she would not be in Middlebury enough of the week for the music director job to be a good fit. But it also became clear that a relationship of some sort with CVUUS would be exciting for both the congregation and Ana. And Ronnie! She and Rev. Barnaby have been working on the details of that relationship, which will be subject to Board approval. We expect to have good news on that front to share with you in the near future. Stay tuned!
**Welcome to CVUUS!**

Visit us at cvuus.org, FB CVUUSVT, or email office@cvuus.org to follow us. Join us for summer *Spirituality & the Arts* worship services (some on site, some online only, all recorded) until the Fall when we expect to be back onsite steadily with zoom-in option.

**CVUUS encourages all eligible congregants and friends to be fully vaccinated.** Call Caring Network (352-4246) if you want a ride to and from or help scheduling your appointment.

We are considering how we can prudently relax our COVID policies in light of the latest recommendations from the CDC and State of VT. It is **preferable to meet outdoors** if you can. It is enough to either wear a mask OR maintain social distancing; indoors, you need to both mask and maintain social distancing UNLESS you are a small group where we know all are fully vaccinated in which case you can be unmasked but should still be distanced.

**Welcome to visitors, travelers, Addison County residents, and our current members—Everyone!** You have the option, if you would like to know more about UU and us, of reading our Summer newsletter and the weekly Blast, checking our Website, and/or calling our office, Rev. Barnaby Fedder, myself, or a member of our congregation. Our member-and-friend Directory is available on request, as is this Newsletter, either online or on paper via mail, or at the office. And our excellent library is also available on request. Our summer Sunday morning worship services are available virtually, and feature a theme of Spiritually and the Arts. Folks in CVUUS and guests from our wider community lead and assist in these services. Check them out! Each service will be unique, yet all will provide inspiration and food for thought in varied ways.

Some of us will have the welcome opportunity of travel, and visits with friends and family, from whom we have been physically separated for far too long. These long awaited reunions will offer inspiration and joy for many. Plan to bring those feelings back to our community to share as summer ends, and we can be all together, hopefully in person, within our sanctuary. So we celebrate our spiritual home together, and encourage visitors and newcomers to explore how CVUUS might become their spiritual home as well. (Here I give thanks to those in our congregation who have welcomed some and introduced them to our community!) Summer blessings to all, with hope for a safe and healthy season. Marjorie Carsen
Quick Reference 2021-22

General Questions: Contact Office Manager Laura Asermily at office@cvuus.org or 388-8080 when she works mornings Mon-Fri in the office. You can reach our Bookkeeper Kris Butler at fm@cvuus.org or call her Tue and Fri (10-2) when she works remotely from home 989-7346.

Pastoral Questions/Concerns: Contact Rev. Barnaby revbarnaby@cvuus.org or 989-9303. In his absence, contact Pastoral Care. If you or someone you know in the congregation needs support such as calls, visits, meals or rides, contact Caring Network.

Web Site: cvuus.org WIFI Password: 1BamaDiva! Librarian: Artley Wolfson (awolfson@middlebury.edu) Webmaster: Margy Young (margy@gurus.org). Tech help: Jordan Young and Brian Mason

Calendar of Events: Under News at cvuus.org. Check with Laura (office@cvuus.org) about scheduling on site or online using our CVUUS Zoom account. Click "claim host" by putting in these 6 numbers: 364568.

Building Use Schedule, Policy & Rates: Contact office@cvuus.org or refer our website. Please sign in on the clipboards at our entrances so we can track who is entering.

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.

Religious Exploration: Contact Director of RE Poppy Rees for more (349-8508).

Membership: Contact Marjorie Carsen to learn what it means to become a member.

Staying Connected

Sunday Morning Zoom Coffee Hour (~11 am): Join exchanges after worship where we check in with each other. Login https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/

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 worships, past services, events. Not getting these? Email office@cvuus.org.

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

Small Groups: Contact Laura at office@cvuus.org if your group wants to schedule in person or Zoom meetings. Explore small group ministry and our affinity groups here.

Council of Ministries: Lise Anderson and Brett Millier convene reps from our ministry groups on 1st Monday of month at 4:30 PM to brainstorm and update each other beginning again in Sept after their August retreat off site. No July meeting. Look for opportunities galore for you to promote, celebrate and stay connected with CVUUS.
**Social Action Updates**

**Summer “Share the Plate” Donee: RIP Medical Debt**

When hospitals and insurers can't collect debt from patients, they sell the right to payment to collection agencies for a fraction of face value. **RIP Medical Debt** arranges to buy portfolios of debts owed by the most impoverished patients from collection agencies for pennies on the dollar. It then forgives the debt and notifies the patients and their families the debt has been eliminated. And it also helps them repair any damage the debt has done to their credit ratings. On average, every dollar **RIP** gets from donors ends up retiring close to $100 in medical debt patients owe to collection agencies. For more on **RIP**, see [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSk8xDd2GbU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSk8xDd2GbU)

**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 Festival on the Green last month. Track how much we contributed to them and other donees at [cvuus.org/justice/sharing-donation-plate/](http://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.

**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**. **HOPE** welcomes your excess recycled bags (plastic, brown bags, totes).

**WomenSafe** welcomes toiletries, *especially pint size bottles of laundry detergent, brushes and combs, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, mouthwash*. Please **do not donate small bars of soap**. They have many of these and cannot use more. You can leave items in the marked box on Dottie Nelson’s porch (223 Woodland, Midd) the one next to the garage) any time. Thanks so much in advance from the women at Womensafe.

**Addison Allies** needs appliances and seasonal items for migrant workers. Contact vciambra@gmail.com. More at cvuus.org/news. Thanks!
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 monthly. They will meet in person at members’ homes over the summer. 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 groups.

Writers Group will not meet in July and August. Their next meeting will be Mon, Sept 13, 3:30 - 5:30 pm back in Fenn House chapel, unless the Covid situation changes. Contact Bobbi Loney at bobbilooney@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

UU Cingles gathers outside (often in the Marble Works near 11th Hour Botanicals or at the Bristol Village Green gazebo) for those aged 60+ to provide company and conversation during these difficult times. We aim to meet on every other Saturday at 1 pm. Watch the blast for invites. For more, call or email Monty Montgomery, Revell Allen or Marjorie Carson.

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 guided meditations. It’s aimed at those who are new to meditation or already have a meditation practice. Please feel free to contact Dinah with any questions. Zoom link here.

Native Moons Book Group
Zooming on the Full Moon (although in-person clustering is smiled upon). The Native Moons Book Group has chosen to learn about Abenaki history more deeply and more intimately. We will be meeting with Aunt Sarah, Woman of the Dawnland. This biography by Trudy Ann Parker is of Trudy’s great aunt Sarah, who lived to be 108 years old. Her journey from the 1820’s to the 1930’s within the State of Vermont is a slow loss of indigenous culture and rights, and a complex relationship with the dominant settler culture.

Join us August 22 on Sunday afternoon at the Maritime Museum in Vergennes at 1 p.m. for a light picnic, visit to their bookshop to pick up a copy of Aunt Sarah, and an introduction to the Abenaki Artist Council which holds events at the museum. Contact LiamBattjes@gmail.com to reserve your picnic space or to be added to his email list.

August 22 is the full Harvest Moon. We will be meeting in person. In the evening, Liam will touch base through Zoom with anyone who was not able to join us but would still like to participate.

Other Meetings:
- Monday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. Indian Corn Moon, and pages 1-46
- Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. Falling Leaves Moon, and pages 47-90
- Friday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. When Deer Drop their Horns Moon, and pages 90-138

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8670084161
FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!

Rhubarb Festival "Pies Only" June 3 (hopefully last time) We sold nearly all of the over 100 pies we made this year and made around $2600 which will be shared between CVUUS and HOPE. There are so many folks to thank for making this year's Rhubarb event possible with leadership from the following folks: Lise Anderson - without a signup genius, how would we have gotten everyone else? 

Nancy Means Wright - for volunteering early on to help with media publicity Bob House - for his assistance and wise counsel all along the way Michele Lowy - for awesome pie bee leadership as well as mass supply procurement Brett Millier - for awesome pie bee leadership, mass supply procurement, and involved with most everything else preparing for and working through the Rhubarb Festival day Anne Christie for stepping in as Chief Rhubarb Wrangler Sheila House for signage and expert placement throughout downtown Ken Levine, Marjorie Carsen, Dale Birdsall - rhubarb pickers Gail Borden - most diverse participation from box maker, to pie bee participant, to setup Barb Karle for rounding out box making in her "just back from Maine" capacity Kathryn Schlöff and Laura Asermily - Rhubarb Choppers (along with countless others who helped process rhubarb) Dinah Smith - supply handouts, setup assistant Janice Sabet, Mike Greenwood, Marnie Wood, Jean Terwilliger, and Donna LaRose, Carol Harden - for pie sales and setup/cleanup Ollie Cultrara - setup assistant 

And the host of rhubarb donors from our CVUUS community - so critical to our success: Janice Sabet, Will Porter, Bob and Sheila House, Anne Christie, Jeanne Van Order, Artley and Rich Wolfson, Gayle Muenchow, Kate Tilton, Lise Anderson, Martha Soderberg, Monica Sanchez, Steve Maier, Sue Grigg, Caitlin Gildrien

And finally the folks who baked and provided pies for sale: Johanna Nichols, Kathryn Schlöff, Gail Borden, Dorothy Mammen, Rich and Artley Wolfson, Lise Anderson, Brett Millier, Michele Lowy, Julie Chippendale, Gayle Muenchow, Martha Soderberg, Sheila House, Mary Hadley, Priscilla Bremser, Faith and Kathy Comstock, Jean Terwilliger, Meredith Anderson, Carol Harden, Dinah Smith, Gerry Loney, Julia Chant, Bobbie Carnwath, Becky Strum. 

Fiesta June 25 Over 1,000 people came to the Marbleworks in a huge outpouring of support for the women of Viva El Sabor. Thanks to each of you who volunteered in so many ways, and all who attended for making this first event a resounding success! This couldn't have happened without you. See cvuus.org/news for more on the event supported by many from CVUUS and Addison Allies. Pictured are supporters Gloria Gonzalez Zenteno and Ariane.
Roses to…

...Gordon Gibson for helping the Office review the 2021-22 staff contracts and guide Music Director Search Team on hiring for our new position.

...Margy Young for connecting us with UUA General Assembly on June 27 and All Souls UU on July 4.

...Chuck Miller, Eric Maier and others who assisted Lucy Tenenbaum and the choir in lifting their voices for our special choir favorites worship.

...Mike Greenwood for serving as our UUA GA delegate along with ubiquitous Alan Moore who keeps a careful eye on our safety and new kitchen.

...Sue Rasmussen for tending our gardens with Dinah Smith and Sheila House and Marnie Wood who oversaw flower communion arrangements with Dinah.

...Kate Gridley for providing the Flower Communion pictures you’re seeing.

...Bob House for diligent research on so many facility matters including remote openers for our upper sanctuary windows and nursery window covers.
Have You Discovered Our CVUUS LIBRARY?

Need UU summer 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 & accept returned books & “book sale” boxes you held for us. Arrange with awolfson@middlebury.edu or Office.

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
- medical equipment
- furniture
- kitchen equipment
- craft or hobby equipment
- tools

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.

Wheel of Life – Ann Brousseau died peacefully just before 3 am June 24 in her room at The Residence. Her daughter, Mary Conlon, was with her during the night, along with two favorite caregivers during Ann’s time on Hospice. Mary described the final moments as “very gentle.” We will share plans for celebrating Ann’s life in our Sanctuary when a date is set. We’re blessing Ann’s 18 years among us as a devoted and active member of the congregation.
CVUUS is blessed with wise and well-trained individuals providing support to members and friends in various kinds of distress. Jordan Young and Marjorie Carsen lead this.

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. A donation in memory of Jozef Callum Sloma was made by Gordon Cawood. Joe was an active congregant, and protagonist for, the UU Society in Spokane. He spent most of his life there, visiting his maternal family in Leister Vt occasionally. Planned Giving: Contact Mary Conlon, Rich Wolfson or John Berninghausen for help.

Online Giving

https://cvuus.breezechms.com/give/online
See how to choose options here or by code to right.

Pastoral Care

CVUUS is blessed with wise and well-trained individuals providing support to members and friends in various kinds of distress. Jordan Young and Marjorie Carsen lead this.

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.

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 2. Also see the Seasons of Life Fund below.

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.