



Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

February 2022 - Volume 24, Issue 7

2 Duane Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

(802) 388-8080

Our Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- * Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations;
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- * The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Nurturing Community February Worship Services

Sundays at 10 am Attend online anytime

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

Followed by CVUUS Social Hour

Feb 6—Runaway Polarization—Rev. Barnaby reflects on the most dangerous social change in our lifetimes and what UU values call us to do in response. We'll share our plate with UUA Affiliates starting with Church of the Larger Fellowship (see p. 6).

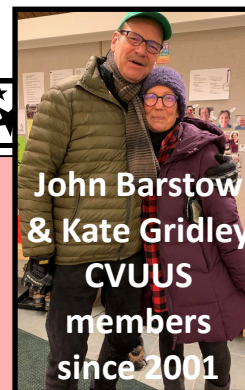
Feb 13—The Truth About Not Knowing—Rev. Barnaby reflects on the different forms of not knowing, including loss of access to what's been destroyed, leaving it to others to know for us, and deeply spiritual agnosticism about the concerns of traditional religion. We'll share our plate with UU RISE.

Feb 20—The Truth About Not Knowing (Part 2)—Rev. Barnaby continues last week's reflection on the different forms of not knowing, including loss of access to what's been destroyed, leaving it to others to know for us, and deeply spiritual agnosticism about the concerns of traditional religion. We'll share our plate with DRUUMM.

Feb 27—Does Classism still shape our lives?—Led by Mike Greenwood. We'll share our plate with one of our newest UU congregations, All Souls Palatka (FL).

Checking In: How Are You Doing?

We're grateful for many opportunities for this opening practice in our ministries and groups. See Priscilla's reflection (page 9).



John Barstow
& Kate Gridley
CVUUS
members
since 2001



Priscilla
Bremser
CVUUS
member
since 1988



CVUUS Feb Newsletter



Words from Rev. Barnaby

We are having a real stretch of winter as I write this, or should I say a stretch of real winter. Anyway, there's persistent snow and a long run of days below freezing. In fact, we've had quite a few days in single digits and a below zero here and there. Even the breezes can feel like gales.

None of it feels as draining to me as the Omicron surge. It was such a downer being forced to return to Zoom only worship after Christmas Eve. It hurts to be hearing once again from parents and teachers about exhausting, high-anxiety relationships with schools. And what a slog it has been to be participating once again in thoughtful masking and social distancing to protect the most vulnerable among us.

I sometimes find comfort in our hymnal's many songs and readings celebrating togetherness. Like this Call to Worship by Rev. Kathleen McTigue:

*We come together this morning to remind one another
To rest for a moment on forming edge of our lives,
To resist the headlong tumble into the next moment,
Until we claim for ourselves awareness and gratitude,*

Taking the time to look into one another's faces

And see there communion: the reflection of our own eyes.

This house of laughter and silence, memory and hope, Is hallowed by our presence together.

Nearly two years ago, I adapted this reading in my Daily Communion email message to you so that it would reflect our being together only in spirit over Zoom. It was a loving thing to do at the time. But now that adaptation has a stopgap feel to me. I am so, so ready for us to be back together again in reality, reading as a full congregation the original words above and, indeed, making our Sanctuary sacred again by our presence.

Why am sending this to you now? February is the shortest month. But I think it is going to be long enough for the pandemic tide to turn. I think that by the end of it we will be back in the Sanctuary on a restricted basis, or in the final stages of planning that for March. May it be so and blessed be, Rev. Barnaby

PS -- Some of our togetherness hymns have decent online versions to sing along with.

[Here We Have Gathered](#), for example. Or [Gathered Here](#). Or [Building a New Way](#).



CVUUS member
Steve Maier
since 1988

New to UU? Become a Member

If you are a newcomer wondering about how to get more involved and what it means to be a UU, so that you can decide whether you would like to become a member of this congregation, please [ping](#) Rev. Barnaby. He's hoping to create an alternative to the traditional new UU classes that introduces newcomers to each other, but is a better fit for the pandemic environment.



Welcome to CVUUS!

Visit us at cvuus.org, FB CVUUSVT, or email office@cvuus.org to follow us.



Arrange access to our spaces

Refer people to how to arrange for our spaces [here](#). They are well-ventilated and feature wifi access and gender neutral bathrooms. We adjust the permitted attendance level and masking requirements depending on COVID conditions so ask the Office when you schedule. [Watch our online calendar](#) for when we are scheduled and when we are available for your small groups or events.



What Are Your Pronouns?

Celebrate gender identity by designating your pronouns on your name tag. Can't find yours? Notify the Office, an usher, greeter or Ginny Ashenfelter. Check the Welcome Table basket in our lobby for collected and blank ones. Contact Poppy Rees about the future of **CVUUS Our Whole Lives (OWL)** which helps youth explore their sexual identity.

Adult Religious Exploration

See Rev. Barnaby about an orientation to UU and CVUUS history and values as well as an overview of our many small group opportunities.

Honoring Indigenous People CVUUS worship opens with a 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."* See more at cvuus.org/news/honoring-indigenous-people.

COVID TIPS FROM YOUR SAFE CONGREGATION TEAM

The Omicron variant is much more contagious than past variants. **GET A BOOSTER, IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY** Vaccination and boosters are by far the best way to try to avoid getting really sick if you get COVID. **GET A BETTER MASK – NOT CLOTH.** Get a certified, well-fitted, high filtration mask such as N95, KN95 or KF94. Just a cloth (doesn't filter well enough) or surgical (doesn't fit well enough) mask is not protective enough against Omicron. Order using the links at cvuus.org [here](#). Double mask (cloth mask over a surgical one). **You can reuse "disposable" masks until they are visibly worn or dirty.** BUT you should give them a 5-day break in between uses. After you wear one, leave it somewhere unsealed (so it dries out) for 5 days – basket, hook, paper bag, etc. Some people write numbers or do a color-coding thing to keep track of mask usage. **We have an emergency supply of KN95 masks (stocked in the unlocked black metal box outside Fenn kitchen) and rapid test kits (ask the Office or Caring Network).**

CVUUS ZOOM: Ask Laura (388-8080 or office@cvuus.org) how you can request a cvuus zoom meeting. **To "claim host" once you are in:** Click on your name in "participants" and scroll down below the list of names and click "claim host" and where it asks for the "host key", put in these 6 numbers: **364568**. Click claim.



RE THOUGHTS



TRYING TO BE MINDFUL

A few months into the Pandemic, I kept wanting to be able to jump ahead. Jump to the pandemic being over, to being out in the world in the ways I had been before. Skip the stress, worry, fear, exhaustion, boredom and loneliness and move on to the better stuff. Isn't that what we think when we imagine jumping ahead? It will be better?

Time passed. And then I started to want to go back. To before. Before masks. Before all of it.



And of course – you know where this is going – I can't do either. I must be here. It is the only choice. Here, in the unknowingness of this pandemic journey and of my life. Not knowing what will come or when. I have been here before, in different ways. But I have never been surrounded by a world that is also here at the very same time.

We are being forced to **be here now**.
And it is hard.

Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh died this week, at the age of 95. I was lucky enough to attend a few retreats with him many years ago and it deeply affected me. I was introduced to the mindfulness of normal life. The phone rings and you take a relaxed breath before answering it. Coming back to the present moment over and over and over.

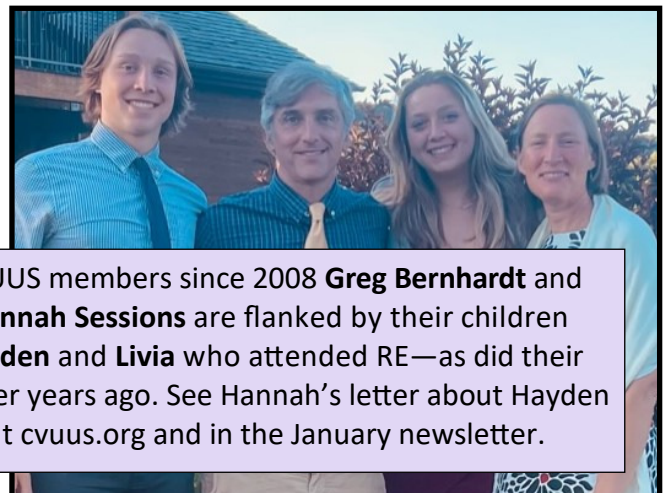
At the retreat, in beautiful summer, this was mostly lovely. Now, in month whatever of the Pandemic in January, I don't want to keep coming back to the present moment. It's too hard. So, I distract myself with Pinterest, crosswords, Facebook, *The New Yorker*, music videos and many, many other things.

But what am I waiting for? This is it. THIS is it. I can distract myself all I want but, in the morning, I wake up in my actual life. With its crushing uncertainty. And its flowers and cookies. It's all there.

I hope this month you can find moments to just BE. Be here, be yourself. Take a breath. Take the next one. Look at your loved ones. Look at the sky. We can do this.

REconnect. Hope. Joy. Action. Justice. Community.

And to everyone – I love you. I miss you. I am in this with you (this life).

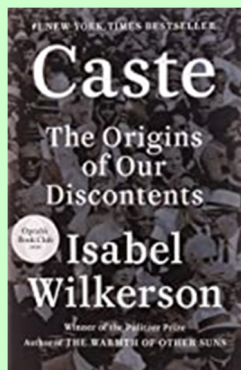


CVUUS members since 2008 **Greg Bernhardt** and **Hannah Sessions** are flanked by their children **Hayden** and **Livia** who attended RE—as did their mother years ago. See Hannah's letter about Hayden at cvuus.org and in the January newsletter.



Continuing in February 2022 CVUUS Race In America Book Group

reading and discussing



The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped a number of countries including the United States and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. Make sure you have a copy and join us on the **4th Wednesday** of the month, **January to April 2022, 7 PM via Zoom**.

Already read it? Read it again and join the discussion, **even if you missed the first one!** Contact Jean Terwilliger (2001 CVUUS member) at itwigvt@gmail.com or Mike Greenwood (2012 CVUUS member) at mike802vt@comcast.net

Session dates: Jan 26, Feb 23, March 23, April 27, 2022; 7 PM on Zoom [here](#) and/or live as COVID rates subside!

Jean and Mike led a common reading and discussion of *Breath: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry last year (Jan -April 2021). CVUUS has conducted other common reads on race including *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo and *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Byron Stevenson. You can borrow a copy of these books and many others on race from the CVUUS Library located on lower level (see p. 10). We offer reading lists [here](#) on race.

How Classism Impacts UU's Congregational Conversation Sun Feb 27, 11 am, CVUUS Zoom

Mike Greenwood will lead a congregational conversation following his worship service on Feb 27 that will build on previous work we have done and the UU Association's ***Widening the Circle of Concern Report***, an in-depth study issued in 2020 looking at how racism shows up within Unitarian Universalism. Look for more at cvuus.org/news.

Holocaust Remembered

United Nations designated January 27—the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau—as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It urges us to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides. Thanks to all who attended a special memorial event in Bristol, organized by Havurah community teen members Eliza & Emma Doucet, to mark this important day of remembrance. See the Addison Independent story [here](#).

Afghan Families Arriving in Rutland

Rutland Welcomes is collecting supplies for them. A spreadsheet of needed items is [HERE](#). If you're interested in helping to gather items, you can work directly with Rutland Welcomes' [Carol Tashie](#) or contact [Abi Sessions](#). If you want to work directly with new arrivals, you can email volunteer@uscrvt.org. More [here](#).





Social Action Updates



February “Share the Plate” Donees: UUA Affiliates

Feb 6— Church of Larger Fellowship Wherever you are in the world, wherever your truth takes you on your spiritual journey, the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is there to keep you connected with Unitarian Universalism (UU). Our 3,500 online members, with their children, live all over the world. What brings us together is the desire to connect, seek, share and grow within Unitarian Universalism. Look for *The Quest* in our lobby (coat rack area) or visit questformeaning.org.

Feb 13—UU RISE (Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education) offers direct legal services, particularly to those who have few resources to obtain legal assistance. Visit uurise.org for more.

Feb 20—DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries) is a People of Color Ministry and anti-racist collective bringing lay and religious professionals together to overcome racism. It leads efforts to fulfill the *Journey Towards Wholeness Resolution* towards becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural UUA, creating space for youth, young adult and our families of color to heal and work collectively, and steward an effective organization that develops new leadership and manages consistent communication with members. Visit druumm.org for more.

Feb 27—All Souls Palatka (Palatka, FL) is a full blown new congregation... a great little group who had struggled for almost 10 years in their conservative part of Florida to reach critical mass and finally got there last spring, even during COVID. In the words of our own Rev. Barnaby, "Not only are they new, but they are on the frontlines of the cultural wars where our values are being most tested. People in that conservative area need a UU refuge and it would be great for them to know we are aware of their existence and cheering for them." They even have a Facebook page [here](#).



Thank you for your continued support of the Donations Ministry. Thanks to all who gave to UNICEF vaccination efforts and Rokeby Museum last month. Track how much we contributed to them and others at cvuus.org/justice/sharing-donation-plate/

Donate items to Neat Repeats, Buy Again Alley, JuneBug, WomenSafe, HOPE and Addison Allies! Let them know you are donating on behalf of CVUUS.





Volunteer and Know You Make a Difference with Your CVUUS Teams

Meals on Wheels provides more than just a meal. The friendly visit, safety check and nutritious meal are a lifeline. Age Well, which organizes Meals on Wheels, needs drivers. Delivery is typically 9:30 to 11:30 am, week days. Volunteer for a day or to be an occasional substitute driver. CVUUS has a longstanding team on **Mondays** coordinated by [Mary Conlon](#). Contact her.



Charter House Dinner Prep Team We make dinner for Charter House residents (25) **every SECOND Monday of month**. Right now these are prepped ahead in the homes of volunteers and gathered at CVUUS between 10 am and 1 pm



for delivery to Charter House. In addition, we provide **baked goods (250 cookies)** for **Community Dinner on the FOURTH Friday of month**. Contact [Alan Moore](#) to get on his list or sign up [here](#).

Your generosity recognized: *"Thank you for your generous gift of \$365 in Nov 2021 to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund...Your gift is already making a difference and benefitting people whose lives have been turned upside down."*

"Year after year we [at Helen Porter] have been amazed at how this community steps forward to embrace our seniors here as part of their family, providing beautiful and thoughtful gifts to brighten their holiday. Please accept our best wishes for health and happiness."

What's up with planning for the annual spring canvass pledge drive?

We will have one -- we have to do so to meet our obligation to present a balanced budget for the congregation to vote on at the annual meeting in June. We are a young congregation. We lack the kind of massive endowment that sustains many older churches and we have no major rental tenant providing a big chunk of income. *What we collectively pledge is close to 90 percent of what we can prudently plan on having available to spend on staff, facilities, and programs that embody our values.*

So is nothing happening? No, a lot is happening. **The Board has been discussing new ways to break up responsibilities for doing what needs to be done.** Leaders for some aspects of the work have stepped up. Most importantly, the Finance team, led by our Treasurer Ann Webster, has prepared a preliminary proposed budget for the annual meeting that will clarify how much we are looking for in pledges and one-time gifts. We are ahead of the curve in that respect. **See Ann's related letter about sustainable giving on page 12.**

What's the theme this year? Ripples! See more about this in the March newsletter and the weekly Blast.





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. 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.**



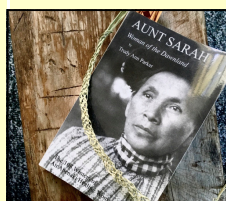
Writers Group meets the **second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm** on cvuus zoom. Contact Bobbi Loney at bobbiloney@gmail.com to be added to list.

UU Cingles gathers for those **aged 60+** to provide company and conversation. Meets every other Saturday at 1 pm usually in Fenn Chapel during colder months while face to face meetings are permitted. Watch the Blast for location. 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 evenings at 7 pm** when **Dinah Smith** gives 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 meet monthly at 7 pm to reflect on with *Aunt Sarah, Woman of the Dawnland*. Contact Liam or Mike Greenwood to be added to their email list for meeting reminders.



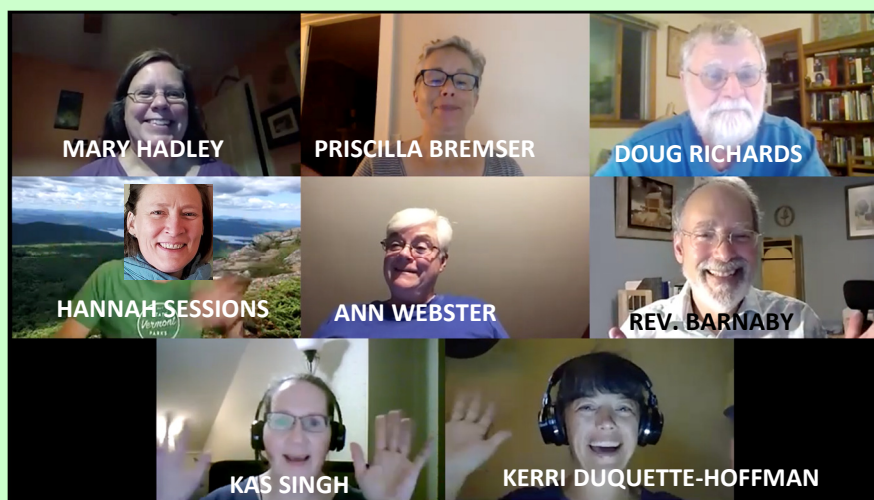
Green Sanctuary Ministry is led by Elizabeth Golden. Track our efforts at reducing our carbon footprint in **response to climate change** and **environmental stewardship** at cvuus.org [here](#). We have made great strides in accessing solar power for ourselves and others, gleaning for HOPE, participating in the Interfaith Climate Action Network of Addison County (ICAN), hosting climate action initiatives in coordination with Climate Economy Action Network of Addison County, 350.org, Green Mountain Club, VT Interfaith Power and Light, and others.



Music & Choir Choir rehearsal is back in our sanctuary! Come **Wednesdays 5:30 pm** where we will prepare for services with our special masks. It is never too late to join. Want to meet with

Music Director Ronnie Romano one on one? Contact him at music@cvuus.org or 201-388-4038 to be added to his list. Look for email from choir@cvuus.org.





FROM YOUR CVUUS BOARD "Checking In"

The CVUUS Board begins each meeting with a check-in, as any UU might expect. This ritual is very important to me. Getting small glimpses into people's hearts in the moment reminds me that CVUUS exists to help people connect in meaningful ways. It also reminds me how much I

appreciate these particular people.

If I'm going to be honest, I must acknowledge that check-in also gives me a chance to examine my evolving feelings about definitions and rules. I cringe a little to read this question from InterConnections, a newsletter for UU leaders (Oct. 1, 2000):

I have always understood that the check-in process should be brief, personal, and without interruption. ... Where can one find an official written definition of the check-in process?

Dang. That judgmental (probably fake) questioner could have been me. Of course, the answer starts this way:

There is no single definition or process for check-in.

Open-minded Me takes a deep breath and nods. We're not a convent; no strict procedures here! Later, though, Judgmental Me finds more:

Check-in is not a time for conversation but a time for connecting. If you hear something during check-in that you want to talk to a colleague about, make time at a break or the end of the meeting for that.

That's how I used to understand the rules of check-in. The imaginary talking stick was meant to encourage deep listening (and maybe keep things efficient). In the end, though, connection is the goal, and maybe strict adherence to some protocol isn't necessary. I certainly feel heard by the other Board members, and I sense that we are connected in a way that's deeply satisfying, whether or not sharing turns into conversation.

The continuing disruptions of the pandemic have made me re-examine a lot of my earlier assumptions about procedures and the ends they're supposed to serve. I find myself asking why we do things a certain way and how much it matters. The Christmas tree can, in fact, stay up after Epiphany. You can end a sentence with a preposition if you want to. The sharing at check-in can take whatever form makes sense in the moment. More than ever, we need to interact with each other about what is in our hearts. That's what matters.

Pastoral Care

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

Priscilla Bremser



WORSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Zoom Social Host:** Hold the space for online visiting.
- Usher:** Greet, pass out bulletins, oversee donation collection when we're back onsite. See Mike Greenwood.
- Safety Volunteer:** Watch doors; oversee COVID protocols when we're back onsite.
- Flower Co-op:** Bedeck our sanctuary with seasonal arrangements.
- Worship Associate:** Help create the service, welcome attendees, make announcements, light our chalice, etc. If you're interested, contact [Abi Sessions](#)



When do I get my Tax Deduction Statement? All statements will be sent in Jan and will include all donations received by Dec 31, 2021. Let Kris know if you want a print copy. She's happy to do it but is also happy to save the postage and envelopes for those who don't! Need an update on your pledge status? Contact our bookkeeper Kris Butler at fm@cvuus.org or 802-989-7346 on Tues or Fri (10 am– 1 pm) when she works remotely.

Have You Discovered Our CVUUS LIBRARY & Library of Things(LoT) ?

Need UU fall 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 with Office or awolfson@middlebury.edu. Library of Things (LoT) is a listing of useful items, owned by congregants, that they are willing to lend to other community members. Let Artley know what items you are willing to lend. Visit <https://www.cvuus.org/connection/library-of-things/> to view what's listed.



Staying Connected

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

Council of Ministries: Lise Anderson and Brett Millier convene reps from our ministry groups on 1st Monday of month at 5 PM to brainstorm and update each other. Look for the link in our Blast and opportunities galore for you to promote, celebrate and stay connected with CVUUS.



Lise



Brett



Roses to...

...**Mike Greenwood** (member since 2012) and **Jean Terwilliger** (member since 2001) for launching another Race in America book discussion. It's not too late to join. See p. 3

...**Karl Lindholm** (member since 2002) for organizing a lovely service with Christal Brown.

...**Doug Richards, Ann Webster and the rest of our Board** for its amazing commitment to planning for our future in so many ways, including our canvass efforts. See Ann's letter on the next page.

...**Priscilla Bremser** for her work on behalf of the CVUUS Board. At a time where it's hard to envision what will be happening a month from now, it recently completed some visionary work on a [five-year plan for the congregation](#). Check it out!

...**Francois Clemmons, Paul and Frances Stone and Steve Butterfield** for organizing the online celebration of Martin Luther King

CVUUS member since 1999 and OWL leader

Ted Scheu seated with **Molly Darrell** who remains a CVUUS member even though she resides in Maryland now. Molly visits us now and then and was our first office manager.



General Assembly (GA)

is the annual UUA meeting. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. It'll be a **multiplatform event**. Let's reach record-breaking attendance **June 23-27, 2022!** Visit uua.org/ga. More next month.

Whale Coast Alaska 2022 Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, this is for you! 4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program this summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. More at: www.WhaleCoastAK.org. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Live on an Island this Summer Many lives have been positively influenced and careers determined by spending a summer at **Star Island** off the shoals of NH. The powerful community that arises each summer is an outgrowth of common goals, hard work and mutual support. Visit or work there. More at: www.starisland.org.

UUA President Rev. Susan

Frederick-Gray invites you to connect your values to your joy and be reminded that we are not in this struggle alone by connecting with UUA's [30 Days of Love](#) (MLK Jr. Day thru Valentine's Day).





Is it time to think of your pledge as a sustaining financial gift rather than an annual commitment?

If there is one thing the pandemic has taught us it is that we need to reassess how we do things, and not only how we do things, but why we do things. *What is the purpose of what we do and how do our actions support those goals?*

As we plan the budget to present to the members of CVUUS at our Annual Meeting each year we hold a canvass so members and friends can commit a financial pledge to support that budget. In fact, our By-laws stipulate that to be a member a person must make a financial contribution of record annually, unless waived. This is because we are all stewards of our society and responsible for what we build to leave to future generations.

The budget is about the prudent and responsible use of the money congregants give us to fulfill our mission. Where we allocate our dollars is about our priorities and where our members focus their time and effort. But the canvass is about so much more than the money. The canvass is about meeting face-to-face, about hearing each other's stories, about finding out about what are priorities to each of us as individuals and also about fun, fellowship, and celebration. But what happens during a pandemic? What happens when health authorities have asked us to limit face-to-face contact? What happens when fellowship and celebration are limited or restricted?

It is clear as we move into the future that we need to continue to *be creative about how we make connections with each other and how we nurture and support one another on our spiritual journeys*. The pandemic created obstacles, but it also revealed some barriers that individuals may have been experiencing prior to Covid-19. I think it taught us we can do better.

Your Board will be coordinating the Pledge Campaign this year, beginning in March. In anticipation of that undertaking we are, in "Covid fashion," reassessing how we do things to make this a more sustainable task going forward. To this end, we ask everyone to *consider making their pledge going forward a sustaining gift*. A sustaining pledge can be set up as an automatic withdrawal from a bank account, an automatic charge to a credit card, or a donation set up through an IRA or Trust account, providing an amount of money sent automatically to the congregation on a regular basis every month, quarter or annually. Sustaining pledges are not only beneficial to the congregation for budgeting purposes but can cut down on the administrative demands of starting over each year. Cash flow is often more consistent due to funds coming in on a more regular basis. It also means that the annual canvas can focus on saying thank you and providing fun, fellowship, and celebration.

While sustaining pledges will allow CVUUS to anticipate a base of support as we plan for and reassess our programing, staffing needs, support of members and friends, and outreach to the larger community for the upcoming year we would hope that members would evaluate their own level of giving on an annual basis in support of those goals and plan to increase their support as possible. Sustaining pledges show your commitment to supporting the growth and development of CVUUS for future generations. The generosity in this community is something we should be proud of. You will be hearing from your Board soon regarding your 2022-23 pledge. Visit our website at cvuus.org and click on "give" in the upper right-hand corner to explore the many options for supporting CVUUS and each other, while determining the best option for yourself.

Ann Webster, Treasurer

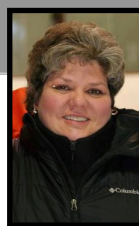


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Recent
 CVUUS
 members
 since 2020
 Pam
 Billings
 and Janice
 Sabett
 celebrate
 birthdays



CVUUS member
 since 1998
 Margy Young
 still helping us
 with technology



Wheel of Life CVUUS commemorates births and deaths. **Milestones and Passages** are shared each Sunday. Also see **Seasons of Life Fund** below.

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



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. **Dee Carol** gave a special gift in January in memory of her late husband Bob. A life-



long UU and longtime member of the Albany NY congregation, he died in 2020 at their home in Westport not long after Dee began attending our services remotely and becoming a member at taking UU classes on Zoom. Dee, who moved from there to the Residence, wishes Bob had lived to get to know CVUUS.



Our Caring Network provides support, such as calls, visits, meals, and rides, to those in need. We offer rides to any mem-

ber 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, **KN95 mask** or **rapid test kit**, 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

Doug Richards – President	Members At Large:
Kerri Duquette-Hoffman – Vice-President	Priscilla Bremser
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Kas Singh – Clerk	Hannah Sessions

CVUUS Leaders

Caring Network – Kathryn Schloff 349-5264
Council of Ministries – Lise Anderson 734-255-3434, Brett M
Donation Ministry – Allison Cutler 989-7792
Facilities – Bob House 989-5050
Fellowship—Mike Greenwood 349-5653
Finance—Ann Webster 388-7506
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Pastoral Care – 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

Bookkeeper – Kris Butler (fm@cvuus.org, 989-7346)
Music – Ronnie Romano (music@cvuus.org, 201-388-4038)
Religious Exploration – Poppy Rees (re@cvuus.org, 349-8508)
Office Manager – Laura Asermily (office@cvuus.org, 388-8080)
Custodian— Keith Rickerby (989-6036)

More inside & at cvuus.org
Checking in! How Are You? See page 9

CVUUS Social Hour follows online

Attend online <https://zoom.us/j/7000000000>

February Worship Services 10 am

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

