May Worship Services

Sundays at 10 am in our Sanctuary (masked) and on Zoom
https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/

Social Hour follows in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

May 1—The Art of Gathering, Ritual & Meeting—Mark Orten, Middlebury College's Dean of Religious Life, shares insights. Followed by a presentation on our proposed budget by our Board for those interested during our social hour. We’ll donate to Hungarian Unitarian Church efforts to aid Ukrainian Refugees.

May 8—Exploring the Path to Meditation—Dinah Smith, Colleen Brown, Tracey Harrington and others lead our Buddhist service on exploring the many paths into the practice of meditation.

May 15—TBD —Christina Sillari returns to our pulpit.

May 22—TBD—Christina Sillari leads worship again.

May 29—Memorial Day Weekend Service—Karl Lindholm will lead us in reflections.

Save the Date! Rhubarb Festival Sat. June 4, 2022 If you’re new, or have been waiting for a moment before joining in, this is the perfect project. More inside & at cvuus.org.

CVUUS Annual Meeting Sunday June 5, (following our choir favorites worship service)
Spirit in Nature Walk, June 19
UUA General Assembly ONLINE, June 22-26
Ibram X. Kendi will deliver Ware Lecture June 25
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 inclusive 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 CVUUS Our Whole Lives (OWL) which helps youth explore their sexual identity.

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 cvuus.org/news/honoring-indigenous-people.

Worship Services during Rev. Barnaby’s Sabbatical June

June 5—A Choir is a Beautiful Thing—Led by music director Ronnie Romano.

June 12—Flower Communion led by Marnie Wood & Dinah Smith.

June 19—Juneteenth with Justice Elijah, Caitlin Gildrien & Esther Thomas (NAACP of Rutland members) and others.

June 26—UUA General Assembly Service—We’ll attend remotely by watching it on our screen which you can also opt to do from home.

Summer Worship: Spirituality & the Arts (July-Aug) Calling All Artists!

Our Summer Worship will again explore Spirituality and the Arts. We are just beginning to work on the schedule, so if you or someone you know practice an art form – any art form – and would like to share a reflection on this work, please contact any worship team member. For any matters concerning worship, you can contact Abi Sessions at abi.sessions@gmail.com or at 802-349-8147.

Worship Survey: We plan to conduct a survey of the congregation regarding some small changes we have made (hymn words on the screen, sometimes no readings before the sermon, inclusion of videos in the service, etc) and regarding people’s expectations for duration of worship services. Does anybody have any questions they think we should ask people about? Let Abi know.
The Rhubarb Times
CVUUS 12th Annual Rhubarb Festival
Sat. June 4, 2022 10 am—2 pm

If it takes a village to raise a child then it takes a community to hold a Rhubarb Festival. We need your help to ensure this fundraiser is a community success. Join us in the fun!

Rhubarb
My husband bought a little treat, A favorite thing I love to eat. We rarely see this anywhere so take advantage when it’s there. I never ate this in my youth For what’s inside, to tell the truth, Is something that did not compute – It seemed more veggie than a fruit. ’m talkin’ rhubarb, as in pie, With strawberries to satisfy My taste buds, waiting to explode; Of course, this will be a la mode. If you have never sampled this, You’ve missing out on certain bliss But if my tastes you do refute, We’ll have a rhubarb (a dispute)!
Ilene Bauer, 2017

Got rhubarb? See Gayle gmuenchow@comcast.net

Got plants or seedlings to share? Pot up extra plants you might be thinning and start a few extra sets of seedlings for the sale. Houseplants are welcome too. See Dinah dinah.smith@med.uvm.edu

Bake pies? We’ll offer rhubarb and rhubarb/strawberry pies. For our bakers, we will have a ready to go pie making kit with everything you need for baking that delicious pie. This is a sweet deal, don’t miss out! Want to bake in community with others? Learn how to make a delicious pie? Several pie making events are being held throughout the month of May. Watch the Blast. See Lise liseand55@gmail.com. Sign-up https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b49afaa29a64-2022

Rhubarb crisp? The Rhubarb Café will be serving rhubarb crisp with Wilcox vanilla ice cream along with assorted non-alcoholic beverages. Bake crisp? Be a café server? See Mike mike802vt@comcast.net

Books? We’ll offer gently used books and many are best sellers! Children can choose their own books, for free!!! Want to help with the book set-up and sale? Helpers are also needed to move and sort books. See Elizabeth elizabethgolden@shoreham.net

Aprons and Pot Holders? Wild rhubarb colored fabric aprons and hot pads will be sold during the Fest. Makes a great gift! Want to help make one? Pick up your “ready to sew bags” containing everything you need. See Kathryn kathrynschloff@gmail.com or Martha.

Sweets & Savories? Want to make home kitchen contributions of additional rhubarb items such as jams & jellies, cakes & tarts, cookies & bars, muffins & buns, breads & brownies, sauces & chutney—Rhubarb with other berries in a pie or crisp - you decide! We will help meet your rhubarb needs. Get out your recipe file, your cookbooks and on-line delights ... IT’S RHUBARB TIME! See Marnie middmarn@yahoo.com
The daffodils in my yard have opened! I always love the opening up of May: warmer weather, summer clothes dug out, windows open, and perhaps the first creemee eaten outside. **Everywhere around me, I see signs of life and growth.** It’s so hopeful.

RE has been opening up, as well. Last Sunday, the group felt like a full-sized RE group, as the kids spread out on the Fenn Chapel floors, making Migrant Justice protest signs and playing with little plastic animals afterwards. We have routines again. The kids know to come circle up at the beginning, as we light out chalice, say names, and share Joys and Concerns to start our RE time together. Besides our longtime RE kids, **we have some new families** and it’s wonderful to see those kids settling in. **Everywhere around me, I see signs of life and growth.**

**On May 15, we plan to return to having the kids start in the worship service,** before going over to do RE. The congregation has so so missed the kids and can’t wait to see them again.

If you haven’t yet returned to worship, this **Spring is a wonderful time to come back.** While Rev. Barnaby is on Sabbatical, we will have a broad variety of worship guests and leaders. The Sanctuary space feels airy and bright and our great ventilation system helps bring in fresh air. We are all masked, except for worship leaders. We are all singing along with our wonderful Music Director Ronnie. **Everywhere around me, I see signs of life and growth.**

The Rhubarb Festival is in a month. In RE this Sunday, we’ll be assembling and decorating 150 (!!!) pie boxes to get ready for the pies that will come. It is exciting to think of getting to do the Festival again, not just the pie part. Live music, books, pies, jams, ice cream. **Every child and teen who comes can pick out 5 FREE BOOKS** at the book sale. We’ll eat rhubarb crisp with vanilla ice cream in our spacious Fellowship Hall downstairs.

And then the weekend later, on June 12, it’s our annual Flower Communion worship service. After a month of stretching our shoots up and out in the month of May, **we get to blossom together.** Signs of life and growth. Despite everything. There have always been hard terrible things, since people existed. And we kept going. We kept stretching our leaves out. We kept putting down roots, even though we knew that we would need to move again, sometime. Everywhere around me, I see signs of life and growth.

**Will you join me?** Join us? Unfurl your leaves and bring your tender, tired, hopeful selves to our Sanctuary, to be together as a people who share values about what people need to grow and thrive? And then stick around for a donut hole? **I hope you will.**

~ Love, Poppy - your Director of Religious Exploration
May “Share the Plate” Donees: Ukrainian Relief Efforts

As we are all painfully aware, the situation in Ukraine is not getting any better; with several weeks into Russia’s invasion, there's no clear end in sight. As of April 10, almost 700,000 Ukrainians crossed the border into Romania and 7.1 million are internally displaced. Behind the figures lies unimaginable suffering that only grows as humanitarian needs increase.

For most of May, we’ll collect for Providence Charity of the Hungarian Unitarian Church referred to us by Neil Chippendale. You can contribute to this UUA Faithify supported project through CVUUS or online here.

1. Attend to the needs of hundreds of Ukrainian mothers and children transiting through Kolozsvár/Cluj railway station
2. Provide housing and other support for 38 refugees in the Kolozsvár/Cluj area (more than half are children)
3. Transport urgent supplies to Transcarpathia (southwest Ukraine), consisting of nonperishable foods and other items needed by shelters housing internally displaced Ukrainians (cots, mattresses, sleeping bags, flashlights, light bulbs, hotplates)
4. Deliver a second shipment of medical supplies to a health center in Odessa (disinfectants, bandages, pain killers, syringes, flu medications, milk powder, diapers)
5. Launch a kindergarten class for Ukrainian refugee children in the day care center of the Hungarian Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár/Cluj

For the last week, we’ll describe and collect for Razom for Ukraine, relief effort designated by Diana Herasim, a Middlebury Union High School exchange student from Kherson, Ukraine. Her city is occupied by Russians and her family is in hiding.

In addition, some are helping artists they know raise funds for efforts. Chris Murphy is helping a PA artist sell prints of a pastel painting he has done which contains wonderful symbolism honoring Ukraine. Proceeds will support World Kitchen. See Chris during social hour or contact her to donate (802-236-1145) for more about this. Others have announced the effort by Middlebury’s Judy Wiger-Grohls who is selling cards of a water color she did of a sunflower to raise funds for Red Cross. Some are available at Middlebury Inn.

Thank you for your continued support of Donations Ministry. Thanks to all who gave to Living Lands and Waters last month. Track how much we contributed to them and others at cvuus.org/justice/sharing-donation-plate/
2022-23 Canvass: Creating Ripples to Amplify Love in Our World

The goal of our canvass was to provide a balanced budget for the congregation to approve at its Annual Meeting June 5, 2022. Thank you to those who have pledged and those who attended our presentation on the budget after worship this month toward that goal. Look for more to prepare us for the annual meeting in the Blast and June newsletter.

Online pledges & donations are easiest for us to handle. Go to https://cvuus.breezechms.com/form/ripple For your pledge status, contact Kris at fm@cvuus.org or 989-7346

Three words: When making your pledge we asked you to provide 3 words summarizing CVUUS. Each week at worship last month, we showed a word cloud representing this. The bigger the word, the more times it was submitted. As of the end of April, community, connection and love led the way. Mary & Hannah and your Board of Trustees

Donate items to Neat Repeats, Buy Again Alley, JuneBug, WomenSafe, HOPE and Addison Allies! Let them know you are donating on behalf of CVUUS. Look for the cart in our lobby.

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 (25-35) every SECOND Monday of month. These are prepped ahead in the homes of volunteers and gathered at CVUUS between 10 am and 1 pm for delivery to Charter House. For this month on May 9 we will shift to the afternoon at 12:15 pm to allow MUHS to finish conducting testing in the morning. 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.
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 (dricht@keuka.edu or 802-989-9387). **Or join one of our affinity groups.**

**Writers Group** meets the second Monday of the month at 7 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 offsite again. Watch the Blast. For more, call or email Monty Montgomery, Revell Allen or Marjorie Carson.

**Music & Choir** Come Wednesdays 5:30 pm to the Sanctuary or by Zoom. 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. Ask him about joining Music Ministry to plan wider events.

**Flower Co-op/ Landscaping** Help bedeck our sanctuary and grounds. See Marnie Wood, Dinah Smith or Sue Rasmussen to learn when they meet (often on Fridays) to plan things.

**Green Sanctuary Ministry** still seeks people to serve on a new, temporary task force to research and determine the feasibility of purchasing and installing an **EV charging station in our parking area.** We’d like to know how many congregants have an EV or plan to get one soon. Contact **Elizabeth Golden** (802-598-2388) with this and if you are interested in this project or in our Ministry.

The Green Sanctuary Ministry welcomes new members to join in its mission to engage in an ambitious Environmental Justice and Climate Justice movement that seeks to live fully our seventh principle and achieve our vision of a viable and just world for all. Track our efforts at reducing our carbon footprint in response to climate change and environmental stewardship at cvuus.org here.

**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

**Nature Walk (Ripton)** follows worship on Sunday June 19. Led by Fellowship Ministry’s Mike Greenwood. Bring lunch. We’ll review the sayings on the UU Trail up and decide if we would like to replace some of them and explore other trails (see map in sanctuary lobby). Beverage provided. Carpool, please! More details later!
The all-hands-and-feet-on-deck skit that Hannah Sessions and Hayden Bernhardt led at the Easter service was a joyful embodiment of the “Ripples” theme for the annual canvass. I hope those of you watching on Zoom could hear the gradual rise in volume of clapping, snapping, and stomping.

As the canvass wraps up, it seems likely that the Board will be making some adjustments to the aspirational budget that the finance team put together in February and March. At our April meeting, the Board had a thoughtful discussion of our congregation’s values and expectations, and we articulated three priorities that we want our final budget to reflect: a robust Religious Exploration program, vibrant musical offerings, and appropriate compensation for our employees.

Throughout that Easter service, I could feel the importance of those three focus areas to our beloved community. In addition to Hannah, there were at least two youngish adults at the service who participated in the CVUUS R.E. program as kids, and we were all treated to Poppy’s excellence as she shared the lessons from Sweety, the extra-awkward naked mole rat. Ronny and the guest musicians got everyone moving. The order of service was full of evidence of our activities throughout the week, all made possible with the support of our staff.

The CVUUS Board looks forward to seeing you all at the CVUUS Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 5, right after church. Toward the end of May, we’ll send out a warning with an agenda and proposed budget for the 2022-2023 church year. In the meantime, reach out to any of us with questions about the budget or the budget process. Priscilla Bremser
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/cvuusservice/

Weekend Greeting (Fridays): May ones will prepare and inspire us for the Rhubarb Festival during Rev. Barnaby’s sabbatical. 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 in the Blue Room and on Zoom. Look for the link in our Blast and opportunities galore for you to promote, celebrate and stay connected with CVUUS.

WORSHIP SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Associate: Help create the service, welcome attendees, make announcements, light our chalice, etc. If you’re interested, contact Abi Sessions.

Zoom Social Host: Hold the space for online visiting. See Margy Young or Abi Sessions.

Usher: Greet, pass out bulletins, oversee donation collection when we’re back onsite. See Mike Greenwood.

Safety Volunteer: Watch doors & walkways; oversee COVID protocols and emergency drills and procedures. See Alan Moore.

Flower Co-op: Bedeck our sanctuary with seasonal arrangements. See Marnie Wood or Dinah Smith.

Hospitality: Make or serve beverages and treats for social hour. Help clean up. See Alan Moore.

Roses to...

...Lise Anderson and all who have stepped up to help with the Rhubarb Festival including Mike Greenwood for amazing publicity.

...Ronnie Romano, Johanna Nichols and Steve Maier stepping in to lead April’s services for guest leaders who developed COVID and Becky Strum for her wonderful service on Change through Theater.

...Alan Moore, Brett Millier and Priscilla Bremser for covering for Laura while she was away from the office and Carol Harden for covering the Jazz music event held by Miles Donahue who assures us he will be back!

...Gerry Loney who assisted Alan Moore who arranged pizza and all who helped spruce up our grounds. It shows!

Need an update on your pledge or giving 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.
SAFE CONGREGATION TEAM TIPS

PERMISSION REQUIRED TO MEET: Anyone using CVUUS grounds or buildings MUST get clearance and schedule ahead of time with Laura. Contact her in the Office preferably M-F 8-12 office@cvuus.org. In an emergency, when Laura can’t be reached, contact Poppy Rees or Alan Moore.

MEETINGS: We are still limiting attendance levels based on COVID conditions vaccination eligibility for all ages. See here for more about scheduling and renting our environmentally-friendly, award-winning well-ventilated spaces with wifi and media access for multi-platform meetings.

VACCINATION STRONGLY ENCOURAGED: CVUUS encourages all eligible congregants and friends to be fully vaccinated and boosted. Contact our Caring Network if you want a ride to and from or help scheduling your appointment or to be tested or help acquiring a home rapid test kit.

MASKING: Masking required for CVUUS worship inside. Exception: speakers at designated microphones will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask, but not required, while using the mic. We encourage KN95 masks and have them available in the Sanctuary foyer and the metal box right outside the main Fenn House door. Non-CVUUS groups and small CVUUS ones may make their own masking and signing-in decisions.

DISTANCING: This is still a healthy safety measure and should be observed where convenient.

VENTILATION:
- Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall – always turn on the ventilation systems
- Smaller spaces when warm out – open windows
- Smaller spaces when cold out – air purifiers on and windows closed
- Don’t use the ceiling fans in Sanctuary or Fenn House

SINGING: You may sing all hymns during the service and soloists will be able to sing unmasked if they have a negative result on a rapid test taken before the service.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH: Everyone must mask while inside, except for children 2 and under and people who can’t for some reason and have spoken with the DRE. People working with children and youth must be vaccinated and boosted – the DRE will save a copy of their vaccination card.

CVUUS Safe Congregation Team: Alan Moore, Will Porter, Mike Greenwood, Poppy Rees, Laura Asermily, Rev. Barnaby, Ronnie Romano.

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.
CVUUS Seasons of Life Fund

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.

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.

Pastoral Care

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. Pledge for 2022-23 here.

Our Caring Network provides support, such as calls, visits, meals, and rides, to those in need and well as access to KN95 masks or rapid test kits. Please contact Kathryn Schloff (kathrynschloff@gmailcom or 349-5264) to make arrangements or to join her, Michele Lowy, Dale Birdsall, Ted Scheu, Marjorie Carsen, & Ginny Ashenfelter in this meaningful work. They report that EastView has teamed with Middlebury College to launch a Dementia Friendly Middlebury (DFM) initiative. They’re surveying community members in early May. This summer they’ll convene sector meetings followed by a community meeting where collectively community members might share DF initiatives they’ve implemented and set action goals for DFM. See here for more about this specifically geared to faith communities.

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.
CVUUS Board of Trustees
Doug Richards – President
Kerri Duquette-Hoffman – Vice-President
Ann Webster – Treasurer
Kas Singh — Clerk

Members At Large:
Priscilla Bremser
Mary Hadley
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
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 —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)

Save the Date!
Rhubarb Festival, Sat. June 4
More inside at cvuus.org

May Worship Services 10 am
in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom
CVUUS Social Hour follows
https://zoom.us/j/9455916451
in our sanctuary and on Zoom

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
And Facebook page CVUUSVT

MINISTER
Rev. Barnaby Feder
388-8080 (office)
989-9303 (cell)
989-7197 (home)
Email: revbarnaby@cvuus.org