



Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

December 2023 - Volume 26, Issue 5

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.

MYSTERY: Dec. Worship Services

Sundays at 10 am in our Sanctuary
& on Zoom <https://zoom.us/my/cvuusservice/>
Stay for Social Hour in Fellowship Hall



Dec 3—Waiting—Advent is a season of waiting, and of mystery. Rev. Tricia talks about the power of curiosity and imagination as we wait. Poppy Rees, our Dir. of Religious Exploration, and our kids will decorate our holiday tree, along with all of you! There will be ornaments they made and will be selling and ribbons for making Memory Ribbons (write the name of beloved people/animals who have died and tie it onto the tree). We'll share our offering and RE ornament sales for Dec with Charter House Coalition.



Dec 10—Exploring Mystery—Special guest Gregory Akinbiyi, with Esther Charlestin, explores the highs, lows, and everything in between as he remains dedicated to unraveling life's enigmatic paths. There'll be a special opportunity to contribute to the holiday staff bonus during the offering.

Dec 17—In the Darkness, Light—Rev. Tricia leads us for solstice.



Dec 24—Christmas Eve Services (Pageant at 4 pm and Traditional UU one at 6:30 pm)—Both collect for CVUUS Discretionary Fund (in coordination with HOPE) and end with the lighting of candles and singing of Silent Night. More inside! No morning service.



Dec 31—Our Spiritual Sock Drawer—Out with the old, in with the new. Bring a poem, song lyrics, book or a pair of socks that are new for you this year. What does it mean to add this to your sock drawer of life? Led by Liam Battjes-Greenwood.



Christmas Eve UU Service: The Light of Jesus

Sunday Evening December 24, 6:30 PM, Sanctuary

Rev. Christina Sillari helps us explore the light of Jesus and the meaning of Christmas through traditional gospel readings, music, stories and poetry. Our choir will sing accompanied by a special orchestra all led by Ronnie Romano. This service is preceded by the No-Rehearsal All-Ages UU Nativity Pageant at 4 pm (more on page 1 and 4). Come to either or both.

Death and Dying Explored in January 2024

Caring Network is hosting a couple of events revolving around the issue of death and the things one might get in order before one dies. These three events will be offered to the wider community of Addison County. Invite anyone you might think interested.

Do This Before You Die

Wednesday afternoon January 10, 1 PM, Fellowship Hall

The panel will include knowledgeable people covering issues such as simplifying the stuff in your life, getting important paperwork in place, information about Hospice & green burials, and Death with Dignity. Included will be a time for questions & answers after each presentation. Drinks and snacks will be provided, but no child care.

Community Remembrance Ceremony

Friday Evening January 12, 7 PM, Sanctuary

Come join Rev. Christina and leaders of CVUUS for a contemplative service of honoring and remembering loved ones we have lost, including Rev Martin Luther King Jr. Through photos, naming, music, candle lighting, and silence we will honor family, friends and loved ones who have died. All are welcome.

Worship Service: Practicing Death

Sunday Morning January 14, 10 AM, Sanctuary

How do we practice dying? How do we become spiritually and psychologically ready to die or do we need to? How does religion and culture impact our perception of death? Through poetry, questioning, and reflection we will explore our relationship with death and how we can practice dying so we can truly live.

CVUUS Communication Assistant Sought

We are looking for someone to assist Laura in the office beginning in January for up to 5 hours per week at \$20/hour potentially on Tuesday and Thursdays from 1-3 pm but it could be structured as work done remotely once training is complete. You would help with processing emails and mail, composing the Blast and newsletter, keeping cvuus.org up to date and preparing the final Order of Service. Let Laura (office@cvuus.org) or the ministers know if you are interested.



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 (1BamaDiva!)** 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

CVUUS Anti-Racism Covenant

"We commit to journey toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community through our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Adopted 3.6.23



Rev. Tricia

Rev. Christina

Welcome to Our New Ministers

Rev. Tricia Hart (revtricia@cvuus.org) and Rev. Christina Sillari (revchristina@cvuus.org) began in August for a year as part-time contracted ministers to bridge our search for a settled minister. See their video introduction at cvuus.org. Look for Rev.



Tricia in the pulpit most first and fourth Sundays of the month and Rev. Christina on most second Sundays of the month. Come say hello!

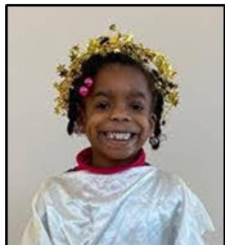
New! Vespers
Celebrating Solstice
Thurs. Dec 21, 7 pm,
Sanctuary

Rev. Christina leads us for a second time in meditative poetry, silence and music accompanied by Ronnie Romano. Try it!



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION December 2023

Connection. Joy. Action. Justice. Community. Join us!



We have many CVUUS kid traditions and many of them take place at this time of year. This year, we are bringing back our RE Solstice Celebration which I really love. Solstice and Yule feel like a very good fit with Unitarian Universalism. Our Pageant is moving back to its original Christmas Eve slot at 4:30. All events are open to children and youth of all ages, including kids who haven't been around in a while.

DECORATING OUR TREE: SUNDAY, DEC. 3, DURING WORSHIP

- kids and adult add decorations to our tree
- we have a collection (10 years worth!) of ornaments made in RE or donated by congregants
- write a name of a loved one on a memory ribbon to tie on the tree



KIDS SELLING ORNAMENTS IN THE FOYER: SUNDAY Dec 3, then while supplies last

- buy them to take home, give as a gift, and/or donate to the tree
- fundraiser for the Charter House Emergency Shelter

ALL-AGES RE SOLSTICE CELEBRATION: SUNDAY, DEC. 17 DURING RE

- making hopes for the year in Fenn basement beautifully lit by tons of battery votives
- leaving behind something from this past year up in bright Fenn chapel
- sunny snacks
- other Solstice and Yule activities

NO-REHEARSAL ALL-AGES NATIVITY PAGEANT: XMAS EVE AT 4:30

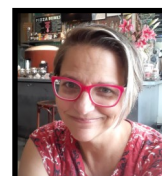
- joyful, interactive, low-stress UU retelling of the Christmas story
- we have costumes for all sizes or wear your own – **all ages take part!**
- characters enter and stay on stage, becoming part of our final scene Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, angels, animals, Wise Ones, and stars
- lots of singing of traditional carols and candle-lit Silent Night at the very end



kids also do readings, light the chalice, and sing, if they want

I hope as many of you as possible will join us in these upcoming heart-filled traditions.

~ Love, Poppy, your
Director of Religious
Exploration





Burlington Shooting Response from our CVUUS Ministers

Dear People of CVUUS – Both of us were horrified and grief-stricken by the shooting of three young Palestinian American men in Burlington this past weekend. Like all of you, our hearts go out to their families, friends, and to all Palestinians and others who are victims of hatred and live in fear of being targeted. Our UU values call us to condemn racism and hate, and to work for peace – in our neighborhoods, our world, and in our own hearts.

On Monday, it was shocking to learn that the person charged with this terrible attack had recently been involved with programs at the UU Society in Burlington. After his picture and name appeared in the news, several CVUUS members remembered him attending and participating in programs here in Middlebury as well. Though details are incomplete, it seems clear he was occasionally present at CVUUS over a period of years, until about a year ago. He was never a member of either CVUUS or First UU in Burlington.

This whole event is upsetting for everyone, and triggering for some. Please take care of yourself and each other, and reach out to one of us, the staff or lay leaders if you want help processing this event.

Some of you are already thinking about ways CVUUS might support the victims of this tragedy, or be in solidarity with groups working for peace. If you can, come to church this Sunday Dec 3 – there will be time after the service for conversation.

Our colleague the Rev. Karen Johnston, Senior Minister at FUUSB, sent a letter to that congregation which reads, in part: *As our Principles and Values call us to do, we denounce gun violence and how it shatters bodies, communities, safety, and trust. ... We denounce the rise of hatred based on religious or ethnic identity, and especially at this time, any targeting of Palestinians.* Unitarian Universalist voices are important right now. We are so grateful to be here with all of you. Many blessings, Rev. Tricia Hart and Rev. Christina Sillari

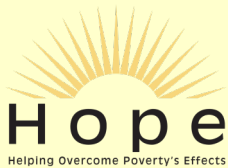
From CVUUS Archives: CVUUS serves as the most visible congregation in Addison County working to stem gun violence, including the program one summer to replace our usual monthly donations with subsidizing an invitation for local residents to turn in guns to the police and hosting Chief Tom Hanley to lead a community discussion during which he brought different guns into the Sanctuary to illustrate what he was talking about. More [here](#). UUA takes on strong stand on stemming gun violence. See more here: <https://www.uua.org/liberty/guns> **January Donee:** CVUUS has shared its offering plate with several organizations over the years working toward peace, reducing gun violence and lifting marginalized groups. Track how much we contribute to donees at cvuus.org/justice/sharing-donation-plate/. Let [Jean Terwilliger](#) know your thoughts about future donees and your interest in joining the Donation Ministry Team which could use a few more members.



Social Action Updates

December "Share the Plate" Donee: Charter House Coalition

Charter House Coalition is a local organization which has been providing housing and meals to the homeless in the Middlebury area since 2005. Over the years, its importance has grown, as has the need. In 2019 Charter House provided almost 40,000 meals to hundreds of individuals and families. It housed 134 men, women and children. In 2020 of the pandemic, Charter House had to radically change its activities, serving three meals a day to people living in various locations around Middlebury, including its own residents. CVUUS makes dinner for residents (up to 35) on the second Monday of each month and lunch every second Wednesday of the month. It is constantly seeking funding in order to employ the staff and purchase the food and other supplies. CVUUS has always been a generous supporter of Charter House, and with your assistance in December, we will continue to do so. More at chcvt.org



CVUUS Discretionary Fund will be our donee for our Christmas Eve service. It provides emergency relief funding requested of our ministers coordinated with **HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)**, a local non-profit whose mission is to reduce the effects of poverty in Addison County by providing low-income residents with opportunities for becoming more self reliant. Your support of our often unseen neighbors is greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your continued support of Donations Ministry. Thanks to all who gave to Gedakina in Dec. Track how much we contribute to donees at cvuus.org/justice/sharing-donation-plate/.

Volunteer & Know You Make a Difference with Your CVUUS Teams

Charter House Meal Prep Teams We make dinner for residents (25-40) **every 2nd Monday of month** and lunch every Wednesday following this. Sign up [here](#) or see [Alan Moore](#).

Community Meal Prep Expands: Friday Community Supper (free) **resumes eat-in** and continues take out at Congregational Church of Middlebury from 5—5:30 pm. CVUUS continues to provide nut-free **baked goods (300 cookies)** on **FOURTH Friday of month**. We look for 6 bakers to make 50 items each & occasional meals.



Meals on Wheels (9:30 to 11:30 am, week days). CVUUS has a longstanding team on **Mondays** who deliver meals to neighbors coordinated by [Mary Conlon](#). Contact her.



Affordable Housing for Addison

County YOU CAN HELP EASE THE

HOUSING CRISIS Spread the word among your friends, family and neighbors in Addison County.

- **HomeShare Vermont** See Abi Sessions, Connie Kenna, Ellen Flight & <https://www.homesharevermont.org/>
- **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)** Basic Info: <https://accd.vermont.gov/adu> Addison County Guide: <https://acrpc.org/regional-programs/housing/> See Mike Small.
- **Homes First (Tiny Homes)** <https://homesfirstvt.org/> See Jean Terwilliger.

Addison County Interfaith Affordable Housing Alliance meets the first Monday of the month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. See Mike Greenwood or Jean Terwilliger & [here](#).



Donate Personal Care Items to

Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe),

They're in need of a variety of items for those who have had to leave their homes and seek refuge in the Atria safe house. Hairbrushes, combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, hand lotion, chapstick, gift cards to drug stores...anything that will help them care for themselves. Donations can be left in the box on the bottom shelf of the grocery basket in the foyer. Thank you so much for your past donations!

Donate Items to HOPE, Have a Heart, Neat

Repeats, JuneBug, and Addison Allies, also! Tell them you are donating on behalf of CVUUS. Look for the food cart in our foyer.

Staying Connected

Sunday Morning Social Hour

(~11 am): Join exchanges after worship where we check in with each other.

Weekly "Blast" (Wednesdays):

Provides pathways for connection with links to our upcoming worships, past services, events. Not getting this weekly email? Contact office@cvuus.org.

Yellow Card Milestones &

Passages: Complete a "yellow card" in the lobby on Sunday morning or submit online [here](#).

Council of Ministries:

Mary Hadley, with Susie Patterson and Louise Cadwell, convenes reps from our ministry groups on 1st Monday of month at 5 PM to brainstorm and update each other in Fellowship Hall.



Mary



Need an update on your giving status?

Contact our bookkeeper Cara

Mosier at fm@cvuus.org or 203-314-3347 on Tuesdays when she works remotely.

Have You Discovered Our CVUUS LIBRARY?

CVUUS has several wonderful adult and children's titles and an [online reading list](#) for finding them. **Catalog:** There's a link to our [library catalog](#) on the CVUUS website under the "Learning" heading. We're happy to locate books for you. Arrange with Office or Artley Wolfson awolfson@middlebury.edu.





Membership Ministry Welcomes Susie Davis Patterson!

Susie became an official CVUUS member at our Thanksgiving Feast where she shared her spiritual journey (see below). As you are ready and comfortable, we would love to help you consider joining our progressive religious community. See more at cvuus.org [here](#) or Membership Ministry's Mike Greenwood, Mary Hadley, Martha Fulda, Lise Anderson and Tom Morgan.



A Pilgrim's Progress

I started my spiritual journey as a child growing up in the Bible Belt with very strict parental beliefs which I quickly found to be troubling in my young life. Then, faced with the first huge trauma in my life - the tragic death of a brother four years younger when I was a student at Middlebury College - I was torn apart by grief and growing certainty that I was not interested in belief in a personal God who determined our individual fates.

As well as reading John Bunyan's classic in my college literature studies and readily adopting the analogy of life as a pilgrim searching for answers, I was also reading Emerson and Thoreau in American Literature class and learning first hand about Unitarianism when visiting a college roommate's family near Boston and going to UU services with them. My quest to understand my spirituality took on more direction and depth.

After graduation and marriage to a Middlebury classmate, we settled in the Burlington area becoming part of the UVM community. With thought and deliberation, we chose to raise our children in the First UU of Burlington, and thereby my own spiritual journey grew in the fullness of UU principals and their expression through our congregational involvement.

Tom's and my journey together became severely affected by his developing a Frontal Temporal Lobe Dementia which slowly caused him to lose all language, and eventually necessitated residential care. Five years ago with Tom at The Arbors in Shelburne and with my children's blessing, I set out, as a pilgrim, in body and soul and spirit, on the Camino Santiago, a 500 mile pilgrim walk since the Middle Ages across northern Spain. Over 36 days I devoted myself to physical and emotional challenges, drawing insight and understanding through daily journal writing, talking with fellow pilgrim travelers, and sharing it all in my mind with Tom, who was very much with me on a powerful experiential learning trip. I returned home and experienced a strong spiritual connection with Tom as he died.



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. We have **four groups** that meet monthly. Most take off for the summer and resume in Sept. More on what small group ministry is all about at cvuus.org [here](#). 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 3 pm in Fenn Chapel in Sept. All welcome. Contact [Bobbi Loney](#) at to be added to list.



CVUUS Sangha & Meditation

You're warmly invited to join us **Sunday evenings at 5 pm** when [Dinah Smith](#) gives guided meditations aimed at those who are new to this or already have a practice. Zoom link [here](#)

Gather (Drop In Community Space)

Volunteer to cover shifts at this project of the Breadloaf Mountain Community Zen at 48 Merchants Row (open W-Sat 11-4:30, Sun 9-11). See [Colleen Brown](#) if interested.

Flower Buds Help decorate our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall with seasonal arrangements. Contact [Dinah Smith](#) if you'd like to rotate in or could help with our grounds. Thanks to **Jess Danyow** for decorating last month and **Dinah Smith, Marnie Wood, and Alice Berninghausen** for this month and **Kathryn Schloff** for getting our tree this year.



Let's Eat Together

Caring Network invites you to come to **Eastview** (off South St next to Porter) on the **4th Tuesday of the month** at noon

to share lunch with them and the many Eastview residents there who are CVUUS members and friends. We had 14 people at our Nov one and will take off for Dec since it is the day after Christmas and **resume on Jan 23**. Bring your own lunch. Juice/beverage provided by [Dale Birdsall](#) who you can contact with questions or if a ride is needed (377-1322).

Facilities Team meets the third **Wed of the month at 10:30 AM** in the Blue Room and is working hard on several projects from continuing research on cold climate heat pump options to roofing repairs and much more. Thank you! Let Bob House know if interested.



Habitat for Humanity of Addison County

Join several congregants volunteering to build housing and fundraise.



Dale Birdsall will be **selling Holiday Cards** (reduced from \$20 to \$10/card) in the lobby on Sunday mornings Dec 3 and 10. Learn what you'll support.



Music & Choir

I am consistently amazed at how people gather together so often and with so much enthusiasm to make music together at CVUUS.

CVUUS Choir (ever-expanding!)

rehearses Thursdays, 5:30 pm in the sanctuary and 9 am before worship services in which they sing. Never too late to join.

[Click here](#) for Choir Resources. Find me! The Choir will sing in the Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm led by Rev. Christina. Contact me if you'd like to play an instrument in the Christmas Eve Orchestra. I'll be accompanying Rev. Christina for her *Vespers Service* honoring winter solstice on Thur Dec 21 at 7 pm. More on page 3.

Alive with Music, Dancing & Performing Several outside groups call CVUUS home.

Middlebury Community Chorus Concert, Sun Dec 3, 5 pm, Middlebury College Center for the Arts. Come hear many congregants who are part of this amazing chorus of almost 100 members I have conducted that have rehearsed at CVUUS this fall. Stay posted on their feature rehearsal home and see me if interested in joining them.

Wellspring (Hospice Singers) continue to rehearse in our sanctuary typically on the 2nd and 4th Wed of the month at 5 pm. See me if interested.

Opera Company of Middlebury (OCM) Youth Concert, Sun Dec 3, 2 pm in our sanctuary. Come hear this special free concert featuring Spanish music followed by a bake sale fundraiser. OCM was with us earlier for auditions of its next opera and will be back to "Meet the Singers" in May. Their orchestra rehearses with us frequently.

Middlebury Acting Company rehearses and auditions at CVUUS occasionally under the guidance of Melissa Lourie and Becky Strum who share their gifted performers with us for worship services such as Gina Stevenson this past summer.

West Africa Dance Class on Mondays at 5:15 pm in our sanctuary completes a six week pilot on Dec 11 and mulls a return for another six week run in January. Stay posted. Try out this spirit-lifting experience with live drummers at \$15 to \$20 per class.

Old Time & Contra Gender Inclusive Dancing was enjoyed in early Nov organized by Richard Hopkins (who also brings us wind instruments on Sat. Jan 6 at 3 pm) and by Red Dog Riley at CVUUS Thanksgiving Dinner. We look forward to more opportunities in 2024.

Love, Ronnie Dir. of Music music@cvuus.org (201-388-4038)





In September, both the CVUUS Board of Trustees and the Council of Ministries developed a series of goals to guide us for this church year, a year of transition in many ways. Both groups decided that dealing with **our long-term financial situation was a priority**. A continuing trend of not meeting our canvass goals was the primary motivation for this, but the Board and Council are also concerned with long term trends in church membership and volunteerism, not just at CVUUS, but with most churches in general. These trends greatly affect our ability to raise the funds needed to keep our church operating at the level which we are accustomed to.

The Board decided that we should establish a task force to look at some of these issues and come up with recommendations for confronting them. Ten members of the Congregation volunteered to be a part of this Long-Term Financial Health task force. Rev. Tricia is acting as a consultant. The Board prepared a Charge for the Task Force to address the following:

- What has made current canvass/ stewardship campaigns successful or not, and what suggestions can be made for improving our mechanisms for raising the funding needed to run CVUUS.
- What long-term structural issues are impacting CVUUS finances?
- Are there ways we can improve our overall financial health aside from the annual funds drives and events?
- Are CVUUS expenses consistent with current and future income expectations? Can we be more effective at how we spend our money?
- How might the Team invite broad congregational engagement?
- In summary, what actions must CVUUS take in order to have a more sustainable financial situation? The Board would like the Task Force to present a final report in time for our annual meeting in June 2024. However, recommendations will probably emerge as we study and reach conclusions on the topics included in our Charge. Submitted by Alan Moore



West African Dance Class

We're piloting this class in our sanctuary main level for a series of 6 Mondays through Dec 11 from 5:15-6:30 pm and likely resuming for another round resuming in Jan. Join Soriba "Simbo" Camara in a high energy, quick moving and joyful dance class celebrating the dynamic traditional rhythms from Guinea, West Africa. Live drummers accompany the class taking the energy to the next level. Bring your loose, comfortable clothing, bare feet, and water! All levels and abilities welcome. Pay on a sliding scale of \$15-20 per session to cover his expense and rent.



CVUUS HOSTS RETREATS & EVENTS

We continue to welcome groups. Our next door neighbors Mary Johnson Child Care Center staff appreciate use of our parking lot during the week. Watch our online calendar.

--**Al-Anon** for families and friends of Alcoholics meets weekly on Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm in Fenn Chapel, seeks anonymity.

--**Wellspring Singers (Hospice)** rehearses in our sanctuary on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of month at 5 pm resuming in Jan. Contact Ronnie Romano if interested.

—**PEO (Philanthropic Education Organization)** meets on 2nd Thursday of month at 2 pm in Fenn Chapel. Contact Anne Christie 388-4347

--**Counseling Service of Addison County** for trainings and retreats Dec 4-6 and into 2024

--**Opera Company of Middlebury** for auditions a Youth Concert on Sun Dec 3 in our sanctuary and more in 2024.

—**American Red Cross Blood Drive** none for Nov, next one Dec 27 and monthly into 2024.

—**Quilters** return on Dec 9 for a sit and sew and Dec 12 for a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall. See Dorothy Mammen if interested.

—**Addison County Long Term Recovery Group** will discuss how area churches, including CVUUS, could provide emergency volunteers space to stage their work (offer lunches, equipment access, space for cots) on Thur Dec 7 at 7 PM in the sanctuary.



RESERVED PARKING! In our lot for those who need accessible spots.

CARPPOOL! See map in Fellowship Hall & Go! VT [connectingcommuters.org](https://www.connectingcommuters.org). **NO PARKING!** Along streets (Duane, Water, Charles) or at ACSD Building lot (208 Charles).

WHAT CVUUS SAYS ABOUT COVID

If you have COVID symptoms, please don't attend CVUUS events (unless you know you have allergies or something like that). Help us protect the many people who are high-risk for COVID who regularly come to CVUUS.

If you have been exposed to someone with COVID, it's fine to come to CVUUS but please follow the current CDC guidelines: mask inside around others for 10 days after exposure AND test on Day 5 (or earlier if symptoms).

3. **If you need COVID tests but aren't able to get them for any reason**, please let us know

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.



Helene Vanderburgh 12/1
Morris Earle 12/3
Mason Tully 12/4
Linda Seward 12/6

Aldan Fuentes-George 12/12
Amaya Morgan 12/12
Larry Vanderburgh 12/12
Bethany Barry 12/14
Jasper Gildrien 12/17
Colleen Brown 12/19
Tracey Harrington 12/19
Jennifer Molineaux 12/20
Lois Alberts 12/22
Artley Wolfson 12/23
Sue Grigg 12/24
Maura Connelly 12/30
Roxanne Ross 12/30
Chloe Mol 12/31

Ollie Cultrara 12/30
Kiara Santerre, 12/30
Bob Heffernan 12/30
Missing you? Contact Office

CVUUS Seasons of Life Fund

Commemorate personal milestones and passages through financial gifts to CVUUS that provide extra funds for us to fulfill our mission statement. Thank you for considering this .

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



for online giving

Online Giving <https://cvuus.breezechms.com/give/online> See how to choose options at cvuus.org/connection/donate or by code.

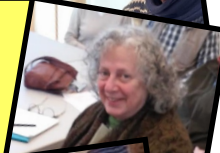
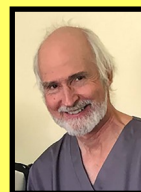


Long Moon: On December 12, we enter the season of the Long Moon. During this time, the Abenaki honor Brother Fire, for fire brings light and warmth to the long nights of the winter solstice. Send to [Liam Battjes Greenwood](#) photos of candles in the dark, a fire outside or inside, and possibly faces, hands or feet looking to the light or enjoying the warmth. Since the worship theme for December is mystery, then feel free to add some shadows of mystery. We'd love to include pictures from a variety of ages and households.



Our Caring Network (CN) provides support, such as calls, visits, meals, and rides, to those in need. If you

think of a need that we could provide for you or any CVUUS member or friend, there are "pink cards" on the foyer table in the sanctuary. Please fill one out and place in the nearby envelope marked *Confidential for the Caring Network*. We'll check it weekly and do what we can to facilitate this need. Join Kathryn Schloff (802-349-5264 or kathrynschloff@gmail.com), Michele Lowy, Dale Birdsall, Ted Scheu, Ginny Ashenfelter, Morris Earle, Lynne Balman & Bethany Barry in this meaningful work. Come to our next meeting on **Thurs. Dec 7 at 10 am** in Fenn Chapel.



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

MINISTERS
Rev. Tricia Hart
Email: revtricia@cvuus.org
Rev. Christina Sillari
Email: revchristina@cvuus.org

CVUUS Board of Trustees

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Hannah Sessions– Vice-President	Doug Richards
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CVUUS Leaders

Caring Network – Kathryn Schloff 349-5264
Climate Engagement – Lise Anderson 734-255-3434
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Fellowship/ Membership—Mike Greenwood 349-5653
Finance—Mary Conlon 349-0512
Library & Information Resources – Artley Wolfson 989-7081
Music Ministry – Chris Murphy 236-1145
Religious Exploration Council – Tracey Harrington, Jess Rouse
Safety—Alan Moore 865-335-2028
Small Group Ministry – Doug Richards 989-9387
Worship Team – Abi Sessions 349-8147

CVUUS Staff

Office Manager – Laura Asermily (office@cvuus.org, 388-8080)
Bookkeeper – Cara Mosier (fm@cvuus.org, 203-314-3347)
Religious Exploration – Poppy Rees (re@cvuus.org, 349-8508)
Music – Ronnie Romano (music@cvuus.org, 201-388-4038)
Custodian— Keith Rickerby (989-6036)



December Worship Services 10 am
In our sanctuary & on Zoom
Followed by Social Hour
Christmas Eve Services 4 PM and 6:30 PM
Death & Dying Explored in 2024
More inside!

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

