

Coming Home

The Newsletter of the Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists
VOLUME 22, ISSUE 12

We are a religiously liberal, welcoming community, united in a responsible search for knowledge and spiritual growth. Bound by no dogma or creed, Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists value and promote peace, liberty, social justice, and environmental sustainability through personal, community, and global action.

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Sunday Services

all services begin at 10am

December 4 Cache Youth Resource Center — *Jess Zamora*

December 11: Interfaith Candle Lighting — *Bonnie-Glass Coffin*

December 18: Winter Solstice Celebration — *Tara Hawkins & Maureen Killila*

December 25: Christmas Circle Share

Children's Sunday Program: To be announced



Julianne & Tara

Tara's Corner

"Out of Darkness Comes Light"

We are in deep darkness this year, forced to look at ourselves, our neighbors, and our country with new, more critical eyes. Now is the time to re-examine what we believed to be true about one another. Now is the time to speak our truth, to live as our authentic selves. Now is the time to gather together and make a plan for our future. Now is the time to consider, honestly and deeply, how far we are willing to go to uphold our values.

There are many little things that can be done on a personal level; remaining vigilant about recycling, car-pooling, and supporting solar energy; calling our elected representatives and letting them know where we stand on the issues; putting up a Black Lives Matter or Standing on the Side of Love sign up in our windows.

There are bigger things we can do if we work together; elect local leaders sympathetic to our views; join forces with coalitions to pass or defend legislation; donate time, talent, and treasure to causes we feel passionate about. We can refuse to normalize bigotry, misogyny, xenophobia, and violence. We can use the media to our advantage, making our voices heard and shaping the news to appeal to people's highest principles. We can share our principles and calls to action via social media.

There are things we must do, such as engaging people with political views other than our own and learning how to respond to their fears and concerns with love.

This is the darkest part of the year. It will get so dark, we will fear the sun will go out forever, but it will not. The days will slowly become bright again. Let's work together to create a world of light.



Tara Hawkins, Lay Leader



Dave Christian

President's Page

"Farewell "

As most of you know from my comments during Joys and Concerns a week ago, I recently resigned from the board. It was not an easy decision, but I realized that I have had a number of personal and professional projects calling for my attention.

It also seems timely to step down before the board receives and begins to implement [Kay Crider's written feedback](#) from our Next Steps weekend. Hopefully this will avoid "changing horses in the middle of the stream."

It's been a pleasure working with fellow board members, team leaders and serving all of you at CVUU. I wish the board all the best as they move forward implementing the Next Steps feedback.

I plan on being involved at CVUU, albeit in a lesser capacity, as I tackle other projects. I will continue to facilitate Socrates Café as usual. I hope to see CVUU continue to grow and prosper.

Sincerely, Dave



Dave Christian, outgoing President, CVUU Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

To be determined

Board President

Jay Black

Jennifer Courtwright

Chris Lant

Todd Seeholzer

Staff

Tara Hawkins

Lay Leader

To be determined

Organizational Coordinator

Program Staff

Julianne Larsen

Children's Program Coordinator

Rowan Ferré

*Childcare & Children's Program
Assistant*

Lyndi Perry

Sunday Music Coordinator

In Our Thoughts



- ❖ Friends, members, and their families mourning the loss of loved ones
- ❖ Friends, members, and their families struggling with physical or mental illness and other life struggles
- ❖ ***We hold in our hearts all of those around the world in harm's way***
- ❖ There are only two basic human emotions; **LOVE** and **FEAR**
We choose **LOVE**

On darkness...

"In order for the light to shine so brightly, the darkness must be present." – Francis Bacon

"Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift."
- Mary Oliver

"Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness." - Anne Frank

Announcements & Events



December 8: Save the Date, Environmental & Social Justice Team meeting, 5:30pm at CVUU.

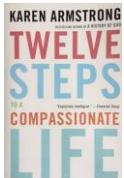
We will discuss ongoing and new efforts for our team and prioritize opportunities for activities, services, and community interactions. See [Standing on the Side of Love](#) for more inspiration. - Co-chairs Jenny Norton & Paul Rogers



Youth Coming of Age Program: Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists will be offering a [Coming of Age Program](#) this winter through spring for youth grades 7-9. We need 3-4 facilitators to teach this scripted program. Facilitators will meet with youth 1-2 times per month and attend 2 overnight retreats (1 in late fall/early winter and 1 at the program's end in the spring). For an overview of the *Coming of Age Program* [read more here...](#)

As a Cache Valley native, parent of a youth, and facilitator of this program for 2 cohorts of youth – I cannot express enough how invaluable and transformative this program is for the youth who participate. We all need community and as youth grow into their changing roles in society, they need the support, guidance, and friendship of compassionate community members.

Facilitators need not be UU members, though an alignment with UU values and guiding principles is important. If you or someone you know is interested in being a facilitator for this youth experience, please contact Leah: at 435-890-3315 or l.hazlett@aggiemail.usu.edu



Adult Religious Exploration Book Group: *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

This group will meet once a month on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (note - December meeting will be on the second Tuesday, Dec. 13th) for an hour to discuss Karen Armstrong's book "*Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*" and to commit and support each other in cultivating compassion in our daily lives. You are welcome to join us anytime.

Contact: Jennifer Courtwright at courtwtjl@dukes.jmu.edu



Singing Group for Winter Solstice/Holiday Season: Last call to join the CVUU winter singing group! To participate, use the sign-up sheet on the table by the church entrance or email Lyndi at lyndiperry@gmail.com.

We will work collaboratively to choose songs, work out a weekly practice schedule, and perform at the Dec. 18 solstice service, probably with piano accompaniment as well as guitar.

Lyndi has never participated in a CVUU solstice service before, so anyone who can help choose, lead, and comment on seasonal songs would be most welcome regardless of their desire to join the group. In order to get 3 or 4 practices in before the 18th we will need to work quickly, so please contact Lyndi as soon as possible if you are interested.



Winter Tasks: The House Elves are going south for the winter. Please, everyone pitch in

- Empty waste baskets
- Take towels home to wash
- Water house plants
- Properly distinguishing between trash and recycling and putting in appropriate receptacle
- Empty trash & recycling into the proper outdoor bins
- Take bins to the curb Monday evening & bringing them in after Tuesday pick-up
- Help keep our building clean
- Shovel snow

Dobby says THANKS!



Snow Removal at CVUU: Everyone pitch in! Thanks to Bruce Pendery for using his snow blower to clear the drives and sidewalks of snow but he needs help when snow is less than 3" and during the week. Stop by any time after a snow event. Shovels will be outside.

- Use shovels when snow is less than 3" deep
- Avoid parking on the snow in driveways as it packs down and contributes to ice build-up
- Please shovel a space for your vehicle **before** parking in the driveways
- Sidewalks get a lot of foot traffic (especially during the week) which quickly packs the snow down to ice – please help keep walks shoveled
- Snow melt, sand, and shovels are located near the outdoor trash/recycling bins



Socrates Café meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month for stimulating questions and lively discussion. For more information visit the [Socrates Café page](#) on the CVUU website.

Contact: Dave Christian at dchristian999@gmail.com



Parked IN: The two driveways at CVUU can hold more vehicles if some of us are willing to be "parked in" by people arriving after us.

Signal your willingness to be "parked in" by pulling far forward, then affixing a yellow flag-rag to your back window using the associated suction cup. Flag-rags are tied to the bannister on the south driveway and tied to the juniper skeleton in the north driveway.

Don't forget to return flag-rags to the bannister or juniper for the next user. Those persons parking behind others can help by being alert for drivers trying to exit after the service.

- Susanne Janecke



Financial Advice for CVUU Community

CVUU member Dr. Jean Lown provides financial advice on a sliding scale basis to the CVUU community in exchange for a donation to CVUU.

Jean recently retired from teaching personal finance, investing, retirement and estate planning at USU and the Financial Planning for Women (FPW) seminars.

Jean provides advice on financial concerns ranging from budget and credit problems to investment asset allocation, college and retirement planning.

The standard rate is \$75/hour with reduced rates based on income.

Contact Jean at 435-760-2392 or jean.lown@usu.edu

(Please note that Jean will be out of town through February, 2017)

Energy in Action... what we've been up to lately

Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists could not operate without the dedication of members and friends who voluntarily donate their time and talent to keep programs and facilities running smoothly.

➤ People, Activities, & Action Teams

[Read more about our volunteer led Action Teams here...](#)



Blast from the past!

The Fairy Godmothers of CVUU

(In honor of the late Cora Sullivan)

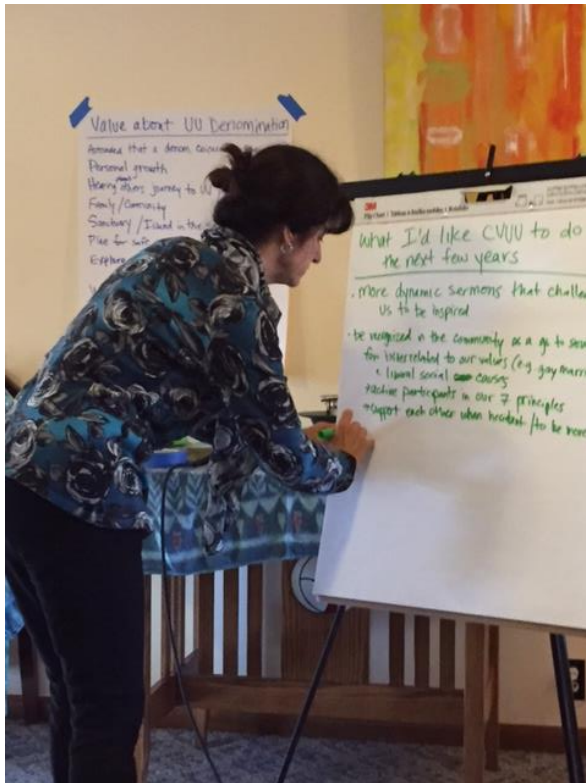
Once upon a time, there were three CVUU fairy godmothers. These fairy godmothers were so insistent that the youth of CVUU (and maybe some adults) not *ahem, wink wink...* experience any surprises, or other unexpected well... you know what, that they decided to hand out condoms at church one Sunday!

Handing Out Condoms:

Left to right: former CVUU Lay leader Beth Walden and late CVUU members Jerri Miller and Cora Sullivan dressed as Fairy Godmothers. Photo: courtesy of Kim Sullivan

November Next Steps Weekend: On Saturday, November 5th, UUA Consultant Kay Crider conducted two workshops to learn about CVUU culture, concerns, hopes and priorities for the congregation.

CVUU was commended and challenged in a 16-page "[Next Steps Weekend Report](#)" drafted by UUA consultant Kay Crider. The report elaborates on Kay's November 6 preliminary summary presented to the congregation. Its strongest observation is that CVUU is a good church in need of a good strategic plan. Stay tuned!



UUA Consultant Kay Crider guides a workshop group through a visioning exercise. Photo credit: Susan Buffler



CVUU Sunday Music Coordinator Lyndi Perry leads a song during the Next Steps Weekend Sunday service. Photo credit: Susanne Janecke

Come Back Home Potluck: The Membership Committee hosted a *Come Back Home* potluck dinner on November 5th to encourage members and friends to reconnect. From the looks on people's faces and the level of noise due to conversation, we can safely say it was a great evening.

We are hoping to host another evening potluck gathering in the spring. Watch for upcoming information in the newsletter, on the listserv, and Facebook.

Speaking of potlucks, save the date for the 5th **Sunday** after service potluck in **January**. We'll be looking for folks to sign up and the help with clean up – and remember, if you do clean up, you're off the hook for bringing a dish.

In the meantime, Happy Holidays from all of us ☺

- Sandy Charlson & the Membership Team

Anti-Hate March and Rally: On November 17th, CVUU members and friends participated with USU students, faculty, and other sympathizers in a pro love, respect, and equality rally by displaying the [Standing on the Side of Love](#) banner of the UUA sponsored *National Advocacy Campaign to stop oppression*.



Standing on the Side of Love. Photo credit: Kim Sullivan



March and rally at the Cache County Courthouse. Photo credit: Susan Buffler

CVUU 2016 Thanksgiving Dinner:

About twenty-five members, friends, and guests gathered together for fellowship and shared a fantastic potluck dinner on Thanksgiving Day.

Turkey with all the trimmings and a variety of awesome side-dishes, and of course, lots of pie and other desserts were served and savored. These folks know how to cook!

Thank you to all who participated with food preparation, setup and clean up, and of course... eating! A special thanks to Dawn Holzer for reviving this CVUU tradition.



A fantastic meal was shared at CVUU on Thanksgiving Day. Photo credit: Susan Buffler



Libations on the altar. Photo credit: Jay Black



Members, friends, and guests share Thanksgiving dinner. Photo credit: Susan Buffler



Thank You! Cache Valley Alternative Gift Market Success! (CV-AGM)

The CV-AGM brought in close to \$5000 for Alternative Gifts and an additional \$2413 went to AGM through credit card sales on Market Day from our location. This is an increase from last year and encouraging for all of us! The SeeMe and the sewing machine fund raising was also a success. The CV-AGM was a great success and I want to thank you all for your hard work and participation.

If you missed the Market you may purchase your Alternative Gifts after the Sunday service December 4, 2016. I will bring order forms, inserts and cards and can accept cash, checks or credit cards. Don't know what an Alternative Gift is? See the [Alternative Gift Market](#) site for the details.

Jenny Norton - CV-AGM market coordinator

CV Unitarian Universalist Environmental & Social Justice Team Co-Chair



Thank You! 2016 leaf raking and yard cleanup: Thanks to all who helped with leaf and yard cleanup this fall. Susanne, Jim, Jenny, Liz, Emily, the CYRC youth and others!

Special thanks to my special heroes George and Todd for climbing up on the roof to clean the gutters and Bryan for adjusting the solar panels for the low angle winter light.

Jean Lown, Grounds Team Chair



Building & Facilities: Reminders

CVUU strives to be as 'green' as possible. Read about our [compost and recycling](#) efforts. Turn off the lights to save energy and make sure the doors are locked if you are the last to leave. Check basements lights. Also, check out the CVUU [solar power production](#).



Newsletter Submissions: Best Practices

Submit newsletter items and direct questions to: **Susan Buffler** at info@cvuu.org

- ✓ Articles no longer than 250 words preferably in Microsoft Word
- ✓ Any submission subject to editing
- ✓ Photos encouraged
- ✓ Make sure you have permission in writing /or attribution to use an image, particularly from parents of children
- ✓ **Do NOT** use images from the internet unless they have [Creative Commons](#) licenses (include license with image)

Deadline: the evening of the second day before the end of the month. Items received after the deadline will not be posted for that month.

Connect with us!




Join us for Sunday Services at
The Jay & Leslie Black Fellowship House
596 E 900 North, Logan, UT
(435) 755-2888
info@cvuu.org



Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists is a [Welcoming Congregation](#)
Visit the [cvuu.org website](http://cvuu.org) to learn more about our church community!



CVUU Church Calendar: December 2016

Sun.	M	T	W	Th.	F	Sat.
 <p>All activities listed here are held at the Jay and Leslie Fellowship House located at 596 E. 900 North, Logan, UT unless otherwise noted.</p> <p>See the Connections tab on the cvuu.org website for details about our regular activities</p>				1 Ewe Ewe Fiber Arts Group 7pm	2 CYRC 4:30pm	3
4 Sunday Service Cache Youth Resource Center	5 Cache Valley Buddhist Sangha 7:15pm	6 Socrates Café 7pm see p. 5	7 Amrita Yoga Satsang 6:30pm	8 E&SJ Team meeting 5:30pm see p. 4 Ewe Ewe Fiber Arts Group 7pm	9 CYRC 4:30pm	10
11 Sunday Service Interfaith Candle Lighting	12 Cache Valley Buddhist Sangha 7:15pm	13 Adult RE book group (note - Dec. meeting second Tues.) see p. 4	14 Amrita Yoga Satsang 6:30pm	15 Ewe Ewe Fiber Arts Group 7pm	16 CYRC 4:30pm	17
18 Sunday Service Winter Solstice Celebration	19 Cache Valley Buddhist Sangha 7:15pm	20	21 Amrita Yoga Satsang 6:30pm	22 Ewe Ewe Fiber Arts Group 7pm	23 CYRC 4:30pm	24
25 Sunday Service Christmas Circle Share	26 Cache Valley Buddhist Sangha 7:15pm	27	28 Amrita Yoga Satsang 6:30pm	29 Ewe Ewe Fiber Arts Group 7pm	30 CYRC 4:30pm	31 New Years Eve