



Coming Home

The Newsletter of the Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists

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OUR MISSION

CVUU strives to be a caring religious community that encourages and supports the sharing of ideas and experiences of all who travel rich and varied spiritual paths.

Sunday (Virtual) Services

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, CVUU has suspended in-person Sunday services until further notice. **But we are still together in community and having services online!**

Tune in through Zoom each Sunday at 10:00 AM.



Use the Zoom link below to join us each Sunday, or you can enter the meeting ID if you already have Zoom open.

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/94154808522>
ID: **941 5480 8522**



Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists
is a [Welcoming Congregation](#).

25th CVUU

This year we are celebrating CVUU's 25th birthday! Below are a few photos (provided by Jim Gessaman) taken at the celebration of the official entry of CVUU into the UUA, which was attended by Rev. John Behrens, who at that time was President of the UUA. Recognize any of these young faces? You can [view more photos here](#).



photos provided by Jim Gessaman

25th Anniversary Lecture Series

In honor of Cache Valley Unitarian Universalist's 25th anniversary and drawing on Unitarian Universalism's fourth source—wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life—CVUU has partnered with USU's religious studies department to present seven lectures across areas of religious scholarship and traditions. These lectures will fall on the **second Sunday of each month** as part of our regular **10:00 AM** services.

June
14

> In Search of fairy Princesses and Divine Love

Dr. Danielle Ross - Assistant Professor of Islamic and Asian History
June 14, 2020

This talk will explore The Song of Sayf al-Muluk, a Sufi poem widely read in the Turkish-speaking world from the 1500s to the early 1900s. The poem begins with a young man's search for a beautiful woman, but soon unfolds into a metaphor for human beings' striving for unity with God.

July
12

> The Ongoing Restoration of Mormonism

Dr. Patrick Mason - Associate Professor of Religious Studies and History
July 12, 2020

2020 marks the 200th anniversary of the beginnings of Mormonism. Where is the religion now? And as it embarks on its third century, where might it go? Specifically, how can the tradition move beyond some of its past missteps to work in greater service of human dignity and care for the marginalized and vulnerable?

Aug
9

> Faith and Reason

Dr. Richard Sherlock - Professor of Christianity, Philosophy of Religion, and Catholicism
August 9, 2020

Sep
13

> Repairing a World that Can't Be Fixed

Dr. Eliza Rosenberg - Lecturer in Jewish and Biblical Studies
September 13, 2020

Tikkun ha-olam, "repairing the world," is a cherished principle in Judaism, one with far-reaching ethical implications. But what does it mean to repair a world that we cannot fix? This talk will explore the implications of *tikkun ha-olam* for addressing some of the systematic injustices in the world today, and the need to persevere with or without hope.

Oct
11

> **Tantra Yoga and the Radiance Sutras**

*Dr. Michael Sowder - Professor of Poetry and Sacred Literature
October 11, 2020*

śakti, the goddess, asked śīva, the supreme deity, "How can I be reunited with you again?" śīva responded by sharing 112 meditations for returning to a state of Divine Union. This eighth-century nondual śaiva tantrik text from Kashmir, the "vijñāna bhairava tantra," offers profound meditations in poetry (sūtras) that we can use today.

Nov
8

> **The World as the Body of God: Thoughts on Ecology from the Hindu Traditions**

*Dr. Ravi Gupta - USU Charles Redd Chair of Religious Studies; Professor of Hinduism
November 8, 2020*

The world's religions—with their rich histories, theologies, and narratives—have a crucial role to play in our response to the environmental challenges of our time. In this talk, we will explore a key metaphor from Hinduism—the world as the body of God—and see how it can radically alter our understanding of the world and move us to transform it.

Dec
13

> **The Good News and the Bad News**

*Dr. Dominic Sur - Assistant Professor of Religious Studies (Buddhism)
December 13, 2020*

This talk will explore the Buddhist concept of love. The Buddha is well known for advocating a rejection of worldly and familial life. Where does that leave us now — and how does the Buddha's message help us fulfill our spiritual potential today

Events & News

July
9

CVUU Board Meeting: All are welcome to attend and give input.

Contact info: Anne Hedrich at president@cvuu.org

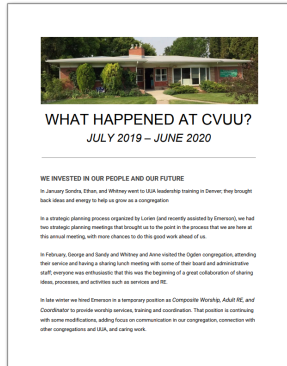
Thursday: 5:30–7:00pm online through Zoom

Highlights from the Last Board Meeting

1. The annual meeting will take place virtually, after the service on June 28.
2. CVUU 25th Anniversary Lecture Series will take place during Sunday services, every 2nd Sunday June through December.
3. Approved 5 core goals of strategic plan, based on planning sessions this past year.
4. We will be upgrading CVUU's internet to enable better streaming of services from the building, providing a remote option for high-risk participants in the future.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

1. Anne reviewed a long list of [the activities we did this year](#).



2. Anne reviewed the positions open for election and provided a chance for nominations.
3. Lorien presented our proposed budget.
4. Voting took place via an online form.
 - a. Positions and budget passed unanimously with 22 member votes.
5. Lorien presented a draft of our strategic plan for the future of CVUU.
 - a. Next steps: Zoom conversations in July (one per goal). **Please sign up for an action team by filling out [this form](#)!**
 - b. If you would like to see the proposed budget or strategic plan draft, email Lorien at finance@cvuu.org.

Staff Update



Emerson James will be taking on a new (and more lasting) position at CVUU. For the last three months Emerson has served in a temporary position with this awkward title: *Composite Worship, Adult RE, and Coordinator*. The timing of Emerson's joining the CVUU staff was fortunate, as they have brought a variety of talents that have helped us in many ways, especially with the changes brought about by the health crisis. You will have seen Emerson at work in a number of ways this spring and summer, including:

- Leading adult RE activities
- Organizing and sending out Daily Nuggets to our email list for connection and comfort
- Giving original services in-person (pre-covid-19), on Zoom (post covid-19), and in our collaborative Utah UU Zoom service
- Organizing and hosting Zoom services
- Facilitating and moderating our 25th anniversary speaker series
- Organizing our anonymous online voting at the annual meeting
- Assisting with our strategic planning

Emerson's new position will build on their temporary one, adding hours and work in communication in our congregation, connection with other congregations and the UUA, caring work, and miscellaneous activities such as helping with our 25th anniversary oral history work.

Care Available

- If you or someone you know are in need of help such as grocery shopping, getting to medical appointments, getting prescriptions filled, childcare, etc. please communicate your needs to our Care Committee chair, Jim Evans (jpevans@protonmail.com, 435-760-9318).
- Please also reach out to Jim if you are someone who is willing to help with meals and errands for others.

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
- ◇ All those unable to visit loved ones in times of sadness and grief

"We light this chalice for the warmth of love, the light of wisdom, and the energy of action."

Info & Contacts

[Board of Trustees](#)
[Staff](#)
[Action Teams](#)

[CVUU Calendar](#)



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