Coming Home
The Newsletter of the Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists
VOLUME 23, 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.

Sunday Services
all services begin at 10am

| December | 3 | Learning From Others' Beliefs: Lorien Belton / New Member Ceremony |
| December | 10 | Social Justice in Action: Kevin Whitaker |
| December | 17 | This I Believe: Lyndi Perry |
| December | 24 | Winter Solstice: Tara Hawkins |
| December | 31 | Transitions: Sean Duncan |

Tara’s Corner
Christmas is a big deal in my family. After all, that's when Santa comes. We love to decorate for the holiday, we love the gift giving, we love the carols, we feel the cheer.

One of my earliest Christmas memories is of making ornaments for the tree as a family out of eggs and tiny figures and velvet. In later years it became a privilege to put up one of “our” ornaments.

It's not uncommon to get a handmade gift in our family and usually those are the ones we cherish the most. I used to make dolls for the children on my list. My niece, Tegan, takes her doll with her everywhere. I just love getting a picture of Tegan and her doll on an adventure.
I love the CVUU tradition of celebrating the Solstice. I love the songs and the poetry and the handmade snowflakes and the candles and seeing all our generations represented. It is fitting, to me, to take a moment and celebrate the returning of the light.

This year my mother will be with us for the Solstice celebration. I look forward to sharing our traditions with her. It will be nice for all of us to share some sacred time together.

Happy Holidays!

Tara Hawkins, Lay Leader

In Our Thoughts

- Sandy Charlson, Chris Lant, and their daughters Helen and Hannah
- Tara Hawkins and Julianne Larsen
- Emily, Vincent, and Violet Baker
- 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*

Upcoming Events

**Community Event: Fair Trade Sunday** is an opportunity for faith communities and their members to learn about and support fair trade.

Fair trade is a social movement dedicated to helping producers and artisans in developing nations to receive better trading conditions and to promote sustainable practices.

The products we carry are from groups who are receiving a livable wage, are working in safe conditions, are not using child labor, and are producing their products with a minimal impact on the Earth.

It is a way for us to help eliminate poverty and in helping marginalized groups be self-sufficient.

**Where:** Global Village Gifts
69E 100 North
**Special Sunday hours, 10am-2pm**
SOCRATES CAFÉ meets at CVUU at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month for stimulating questions and lively discussion. For more information visit the Socrates Café page. Contact info: Dave Christian at dchristian999@gmail.com

Announcements

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE: Susanne and Jim purchased some “Standing of the Side of Love” placards for CVUUs who want to be “love people” at protests. There are several 11X17-inch orange placards for you to borrow, use, and return. They are behind a poster at CVUU, leaning up against the back of the oak hutch. Look in the wooden built-in on the SW wall of the kitchen.

HOLIDAY SINGING GROUP: Hello CVUU music lovers.

If you have any interest in practicing in a group in the weeks leading up to the winter solstice service please sign up on the sheet by the front door at CVUU (perfect attendance is not required)

Children are invited to sing their own special song for the solstice holiday as well! Practices will be held DURING church on Dec. 3 and 10, so no special attendance is required, and they will be able to perform their song with jingle bells for the grownups during the Dec. 24 service.

Also, Lyndi would love to hear song ideas and other thoughts on arrangement. A pianist will be available for the service so let's make the singing count too!

Contact info: Lyndi Perry/Music Coordinator/435-237-9489

CVUU DIRECTORY UPDATE: The CVUU Directory will be finalized soon. If you have not already done so, please let us know if you want to:

- Remain in the CVUU Directory
- Be removed from the CVUU Directory
- Be added to the CVUU Directory

If you want to be added, please include your name, name of spouse / partner (optional), children’s names (optional), address, and preferred contact information.
Send to: Susan at coordinator@cvuu.org
Ongoing Happenings

SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE PREVENTION: Thanks in advance to Bruce Pendery for using his snowblower to clear sidewalks and driveways every winter. He can always use help, especially during big snowstorms that dump lots of white stuff over extended periods AND especially when snow is heavy and wet!

- The snowblower can’t handle mashed potato snow
- Our sidewalks get LOTS of foot traffic which packs down snow making it hard to remove
- It is very difficult to clear the north entrance walk with the snow blower. Typically, that is a task that is best done with a shovel
- Remove small amounts of snow with shovel or broom. Small amounts of snow that are too little for the snow blower to be effective but that get packed down by foot traffic turn into ice
- Shovel before you park in driveways. Tire tracks of vehicles parked on top of snow in the driveway often turn to ice, making snow removal difficult
- Volunteers needed to shovel sidewalks/driveways of small amounts of snow and help Bruce with the big storms

FUNDRAISING THE EASY WAY! NATURAL GROCERS CARDS FOR SALE: Buy $100, $50, or $25 cards at face value and CVUU gets a 5% donation.

Contact Lorien at 770-2413. If you shop there anyway, think about it!

FUNDRAISING VIA SMITH’S REWARDS CARDS: Did you know that if you link your Smith's rewards card to CVUU, then CVUU gets donations from Smiths?

Here’s how:

I. Go to the Smith’s website https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/account/create/ and create an account on their site. One of the fields asks for any existing rewards number (often your phone number) that you have.

II. Then go to your account page. At the bottom, you'll be able to Enroll in the "Inspiring Donations" program. Our organization number is PV584, or you can just search under Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists.
Reminders

**ONGOING TASKS**
Please, everyone pitch in when you see a need

- Empty waste baskets
- Take hand towels home to wash
- Water house plants
- Put trash and recycling in appropriate receptacles
- 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

**Winter Contact:** Liz Berke building@cvuu.org

**COMPOST & RECYCLING:** 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.

**GOOGLE GROUPS LISTSERV USE REMINDER:** Please limit posts to the Google Groups listserv to CVUU business only (to avoid clogging up already too full email inboxes!). **Contact:** Susan for information about posting to the CVUU Facebook page

**DO YOU HAVE FEEDBACK FOR US ON CVUU SERVICES?**
Ideas, comments, or concerns about CVUU services? Please give compliments directly to those giving the services, but direct any complaints or concerns through Susanne.

**Contact:** Susanne Janecke is the main point of contact, regardless of who conducted the service.
Leadership Contacts

**ORGANIZATIONAL COORDINATOR:** Susan Buffler  
coordinator@cvuu.org

- Website, monthly newsletter, social networks, Listserv
- Systems
- Miscellaneous questions

**BUILDING MANAGER:** Liz Berke  
building@cvuu.org

- Maintenance
- Supplies
- Rentals and building use
- Scheduling ANY CVUU or private event/activity, etc. (so events do not overlap)

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Co-President: Anne Hedrick  
Co-President: Ellen Klomps  
Treasurer: Lorien Belton  
Secretary: Liz Berke  
Member at Large: Jim Vandygriff

**STAFF (PART-TIME)**
Lay Leader: Tara Hawkins  
Children’s Program Coordinator: Julianne Larsen
Childcare and Children’s Program Assistant:  
Piper Christian  
Music Coordinator: Lyndi Perry  
Organizational Coordinator: Susan Buffler

**ACTION TEAM LEADS (VOLUNTEER POSITIONS)**
Art: Susanne Janecke  
Building Manager: Liz Berke  
Caring Team: Jim Evans  
Church Administrator/Finance: Lorien Belton  
Environmental & Social Justice: Jenny Norton and Paul Rogers  
Fellowship & Hospitality: OPEN  
Grounds Team: Jean Lown  
Membership: OPEN  
Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education: Lorien Belton  
Religious Exploration: OPEN  
Special Committees:
- Nominations: Leslie Black, Robert Schmidt  
- Committee on Ministry: Susanne Janecke, George Wootton
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All activities listed here are held at the **Jay and Leslie Fellowship House** located at **596 E. 900 North, Logan, UT** unless otherwise noted.

See the [Connections] tab on the [cvuu.org website] for details about our regular activities.
Join us at 10am 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 to learn more about our church community!

Connect with us!

General contact email
info@cvuu.org