

CVUU Monthly News

ADMIN & COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION



Coastal Virginia
Unitarian Universalists

DECEMBER 2018

ISSUE 12

Third Annual Kwanzaa Celebration is Dec. 1

CVUU invites congregants and community family and friends to our 3rd Annual Kwanzaa Celebration.

We will screen a film in the sanctuary, enjoy delicious, Afrocentric foods and traditional performances, and offer an opportunity for guests to purchase contemporary and handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry, home goods and accessories.

The Bazaar is free and open to the public in the spirit of Ujamaa, or co-operative economics, just in time for the holiday season!

Here is the schedule:

1 - 3 p.m. Film screening of "The Black Candle" - a film that tells the story of this week-long cultural celebration of African American culture.

3 - 4 p.m. Performances

4 - 7 p.m. Bazaar - traditional food, crafts available.



Help us help area homeless this winter

Save The Date! Jan.23-29, 2019 is CVUU's week to host NEST - Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team.

Planning has started and volunteer opportunities are plentiful. We will start scheduling in early December. We can't do it without YOU!

Providing love, warmth, and support for our area homeless has been the goal of NEST for the last 26 years.

This community-wide program keeps hundreds of people in need

safely indoors and fed during the harsh winter months. CVUU is just one of more than 30 local churches and synagogues who provide hope to homeless single adults each winter in the form of meals and shelter.

The coalition operates temporary overnight shelter on a rotating basis from November to April.

If you are interested in volunteering contact Julie Hurst, 757-620-7991, or email: jbhurst@cox.net.

A word from Rev. Justine Sullivan

Dear Members and Friends of CVUU:

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
~ **Matthew 25:40**

Twenty years ago, it was just the Unitarian Church of Norfolk and then a few more congregations in the area, and now over 30 congregations take their turn housing and feeding and serving homeless people during the cold months of the year. NEST, Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team, was dreamed up and brought into being by members of this congregation. I can think of no more fitting example of lived values of justice, generosity, and love.

In January (January 23-29) we will take our turn and will welcome into our CVUU home beloved siblings who find themselves without shelter in the cold winter months. Julie Hurst and Anne Denton have taken the lead on organizing our NEST volunteers. There is still a place for you to help out in a number of

well-defined tasks - greeting, serving, cooking, guiding our guests to where they need to be. I understand



that many of the folks who will be staying with us are known to us, people we have come to know and care about over the years. This is how we grow the beloved community, always making room for one more, offering not charity, but hospitality, sharing what we have.

We are now approaching the half-way point of our first year together. There is much to look forward to in the second part of the year. We host NEST in January, and in February, a dear colleague of mine will come and share her experiences working on the Lynching Memorial project in Mississippi, where she lives. There have been setbacks in the work for justice, especially in these past

two years since the election of 2016, but there is also cause for hope. In March, we will have a congregational retreat, focusing on covenant, how we are together and the promises we offer one another. In April we will bless our new building with a jubilant celebration full of music, soulful worship, and fellowship.

The season of Advent calls us to wait, to anticipate, but this need not be a completely passive time. Hoping, dreaming, imagining are all necessary steps in moving toward the light, moving toward a time and a space of more love, more joy, more peace. "Come dream a dream with me that I might know your mind."

Blessings,
Justine

The Reverend Justine Sullivan
Interim Minister, CVUU
RevJustineSullivan@gmail.com
757-627-5371

Adult Discussion
Meets Sundays @ 9 a.m. - discuss philosophical, spiritual, political & religious issues!

Looking for direction, balance, support?
Check out our CVUU Women's Peer Support Group!
We meet every Sunday at 12:15 p.m. Childcare provided!

Hanging of the Greens
Help us decorate our new church for the first time, Friday, Dec. 7th!
Fun starts at 6 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner - \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids over 3!
RSVP to office@c-vuu.org or sign up in the social hall after service!

Book Club pick for December!

Save the date for Hanging of the Greens

Don't miss the opportunity to help us decorate our new church for the first time on Friday, December 7.

We'll start at 6 p.m. with a spaghetti dinner (please sign up by December 4 so we'll know how much to cook—and how many vegetarians/gluten-free folks will be there). The dinner will cost you \$5 for adults and \$3 for children over 3.

After being fortified, there will be ornaments to make (be thinking about some short affirmation to put on your ornament), greenery to hang, and a tree to decorate (the Young Adult Group will put the tree up and put lights on it for us!) And, we have it on good authority that Santa will pay our good boys and girls a visit for last minute requests (we're not sure if any of our adults would be on Santa's good list!)

Make reservations by calling the church office or by signing up in the social hall when you're at church!

Christmas Craft Show is Dec. 9th

Please stay after the service for the CVUU Art/Crafts Show on Dec. 9th.

There will be several CVUU folks offering items for sale for your last-minute gifts.

Some of the proceeds will help support our continued efforts to make CVUU our new home. See Sandy Ogletree with any questions!

The Christmas Pageant

On December 24, at 5 p.m., the children of the church will lead us in the premier of "A Modern Day Nativity."

All children are invited to be in the play...there are speaking and non-speaking roles. However, you must let Sally Daniel know by December 8 so our initial meeting about the play will go smoothly! Call at 627-5371 or email at DRE@c-vuu.org.

Mention whether you are interested in a speaking or non-speaking part.

More details can be found in the email to parents. This will be heart-warming. Plan to be a part of it!

HR Pride offering scholarships

Hampton Roads Pride is pleased to announce we are offering four \$1,600

scholarships available to students during the 2019 Spring semester. Our scholarship opportunities are open nationwide to all LGBT students and their allies; applicants need not to live in Hampton Roads or Virginia, however, if we see enough interest, we are looking to limit applicants to Hampton Roads in 2020.

Please find additional information about the scholarship opportunities below:

- Applicants with 3.0 GPA and over preferred
- Applicants must write an essay stating why they are deserving of the award (1,000 words)
- Applicants involved in some form of LGBT social justice initiative (this can be volunteering, club member, etc.) will see their applications weighted higher

The deadline is April 1, 2019. For more details: <http://www.hamptonroadspride.org/>

Last workshop session before Spring

Part 1 of our Spirit in Practice workshop ends on Dec. 8th—the last ses-

Cont. page 4

Grief & Bereavement Support Group

CVUU Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists

Contact Jannie Marvel at marvva@cox.net or 757-352-6150 for more information.

CVUU Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists

Christmas Casting Call!

All children invited to take part in our 5 p.m. Dec. 24th pageant!
RSVP to DRE Sally Daniel by Dec. 8th
DRE@c-vuu.org

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

Christmas Craft Show Dec. 9th!

CVUU Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists

Young Adult Group

Welcome to all 18+

Social Activities TBA each month
Spiritual Activities every 4th Thursday 6:30p

To join our emailing list: valerie.rottink@gmail.com | Check our Facebook: CVUU Young Adults

sion is at 9:30 a.m. Part II will be offered in the spring.

Anyone can drop in for a session. The workshop offers a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich your faith journey. For more details, go to:

<http://www.c-vuu.org/spirit-in-practice-workshop-for-adults-starts-oct-20/>

The heron has landed at CVUU

A Great Blue Heron has taken up residence in our courtyard at CVUU. The 42-inch tall bronze sculpture was installed Nov. 28th with the help of the sculptor who crafted it. The statue, "Taking Flight," is the work of David Turner's Wildlife Foundry in Onley, VA on the Eastern Shore. The heron was attached to a 2-foot tall brick pedestal where the remains of the late Phil Caminer are interred. Phil was a longtime congregant, lifelong social activist, immigrant and naturalized US citizen. Phil's wife Vicki Caminer, our Worship Service Committee Chair and member of

the CVUU Board of Directors, has gifted the sculpture to CVUU in memory of Phil and the principles of Free Thought (England from WW II era). Vicki says the Free Thinker philosophy guided Phil's life as an adult UU here in America. He was a member of UCN and then CVUU since the early 1950s.

Help a needy child this holiday season

As is our yearly tradition, we are aiming to help needy children for Christmas - 15 children from Norfolk and 5 infants from Virginia Beach.

Our Angel Tree had a very successful day on Turkey Sunday. We have only 13 tags left for buying clothes and/or toys for our little friends. If you missed out, look for our walking, talking Angel Tree this Sunday!

The wrapped gifts are due by Dec. 16th.

CVUU passes kitchen inspection!

Good News! CVUU's new kitchen was inspected by the VB health Department last week and passed with flying colors.

The Inspector was impressed with our

facility, especially the cleanliness and functionality. Thanks to all of you who have committed to our new way of "doing kitchen" by taking training classes and to all who have been using it and keeping up standards.

Our kitchen is here to be used and we are doing it right! Keep an eye open for continuing kitchen orientation classes which will be announced in the next newsletter.

Settled Minister search begins

The CVUU Board of Directors is in the process of forming a search team for our next settled minister. The search process lasts about 18 months. The team should be in place by early 2019. The board requests the input of the entire congregation in finding the best people to serve in this role.

The primary task of the search team is to find the best ministerial candidate for our congregation and to present them for a full congregational vote. To succeed in that work, the team will need to

Cont. page 5

December 2018

For full details go to: <https://www.ucnorfolk.org/calendar/this-month>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 11:30a Racial Justice 12:15p CVUU Women's	26 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers 6:30p PPM Committee	27 2:30p Landscape Comr 7p Wall & Art Committee 7p Worship Service Coi	28 7p Choir	29 6:30p YAG Spiritual Dis 7p Program Council	30 7p Line Dancing!	1 9:30a Spirit in Practice 1p Kwanzaa 1p YAG Winter Traditor
2 11:45a Getting to Know 12:15p CVUU Women's	3 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers 7p Building Council	4	5 7p Choir	6 7p Thursday Covenant 7p CREC	7 5p Hanging of the Gree	8 9:30a Spirit in Practice
9 12p Christmas Bazaar 12:15p CVUU Women's	10 1:45p Chair Yoga 3:15p Covenant Circle 7p Buddhist Affinity Gro	11 6:30p Social Justice Cc 7p CVUU Election Boar 7p Executive Committe	12 5:30p Committee on Mi 7p Choir	13 6p Ches. Climate Actior	14 7p Girl Scouts	15 12:30p Women's Book
16 11:45a Getting to Know 12:15p CVUU Women's	17 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	18 6p Environmental Initiat 7p Worship Service Coi	19 5:30p House Keeping C 7p Choir	20 7p Board of Directors M 7p Thursday Covenant	21 6p Yule Celebration	22
23 11:30a Racial Justice 12:15p CVUU Women's	24 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	25 2:30p Landscape Comr 7p Wall & Art Committee	26 7p Choir	27 6:30p YAG Spiritual Dis	28 7p Girl Scouts	29
30 12:15p CVUU Women's	31 1:45p Chair Yoga 3p Sandwich Makers	1	2 7p Choir	3 7p Thursday Covenant 7p CREC	4	5

engage the congregation in conversations that will allow the search team to tell our story accurately and well, to show both our strengths and our growing edges. The team will also survey the congregation to see what we most need and want in our next settled minister. The most effective search team is one that both represents all the many different facets of our congregation and can function as a team, listening well to the congregation and to one another, sharing in the many tasks required, and communicating their progress. If you know someone that you think

would serve us well as a member of the team, please share that recommendation by sending an email to Reverend Justine Sullivan at minister@C-VUU.org. Tell why you are recommending the person & if you have let them know you are passing their name along. It is fine to nominate yourself; just tell us why you want to serve. The board will contact nominees and make a final decision team by mid- January.

Hamilton performance coming!
Save the date for a performance by Bill Chrystal of "America's Founding Fathers,

Slavery, and Religion: Thoughts from Alexander Hamilton," 7 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2019. Chrystal is the nation's leading interpreter of Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804), the First Secretary of the Treasury and author of our financial system.

Bill believes in bringing history and all of its lessons alive for his audiences. As a Hamilton scholar, he dons a wig and tights to share insights gained over decades of study and research.

There will be a pizza dinner and a performance by the Itinerant Band before the show. More details to come!

CVUU's Beloved Pet of the month - Rocco!



December Worship:

We offer a weekly service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.:

Dec. 2 - "Miracles of Light," with Rev. Justine Sullivan.

Dec. 9 - "Waiting on the Light," with Rev. Justine Sullivan.

Dec. 16 - "Winter Solstice, Yule," with Rev. Justine Sullivan and CUUPS.

Dec. 23 - "Celebrating the Season," with Rev. Justine Sullivan.

Dec. 24 - CREC Holiday pageant at 5:00 p.m. and Contemplative Christmas Service at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Justine Sullivan.

***REMINDER FOR 12/24:**

There will be a Christmas Eve reception with cookies and appetizers between the



two services, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the CVUU foyer/social hall. Please come early or stay after (depending on which service you choose) for some holiday fellowship!

If you are able to bring an item to share on Christmas Eve, please send an email to office@c-vuu.org.

Planning an event? Things to consider:

Send current requests to Susie Gullixson at office@c-vuu.org or call (757) 627-5371.

When making a request, consider:

- ◆ Room(s) requested, allowing time for setup and takedown!
- ◆ Childcare needs – **Childcare is available Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6—9 p.m. and Sunday mornings.** It is the responsibility of each committee or organizer to arrange childcare **directly** with Selene Spelts at spelts.selene@gmail.com for hours outside of the above times. It is **not** the responsibility of the Office or the DRE. Forward your requests for childcare to at least **four weeks prior to your event.**

- ◆ Contact name (with phone number and/or email address)
- ◆ Person in charge of locking up, sound setup requiring a sexton
- ◆ Parking needs (note if 'overflow' parking will be needed)

Large Print Hymnals are available at the table in the foyer.

Hearing Amplification Headsets are available at the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.

CDs of the service are available for borrowing or for \$3 for purchase. Inquire at the sound booth in the sanctuary for CD recordings.

If you stay late, please double check to see the building is secured!

The weekly email, The CVUU Courier, is sent out Wednesday at noon.

- ◆ The deadline for the Order of Service newsletter is Wednesday and the deadline for CVUU Courier is Monday at noon.
- ◆ The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the month. If you would like to place an ad for September your deadline is Aug. 15th!

***Please Remember,** when advertising events to make sure to include BOTH Susie Gullixson & Tracy Brune. Send your media to office@c-vuu.org & coordinator@c-vuu.org

For up-to-date news, check out our website: www.c-vuu.org.

Virginia Unites for Jobs, Clean Energy & Justice

Join us for an inspiring evening at 6 p.m. on Dec. 13 at CVUU to learn about Virginia's biggest climate solution yet: Joining the Regional Greenhouse Initiative. When it comes to climate change, we're driving toward a cliff... and Dominion's at the wheel.

CVUU is co-hosting the event with CCAN Action Fund and other conservation-minded groups.

It's time to take the wheel from Dominion and give the power back to Virginians to steer in the right direction. Here's how: force fossil fuel companies like Dominion to pay for their pollution and unlock millions of dollars for us to create jobs, save lives, and save money on our energy bills. No more new fracked-gas pipelines. We need to create an economy based on RENEWABLE energy instead.

There will be snacks, speakers, and, of course, you & your neighbors! You'll leave powered with the information to turn your personal story into action.

RSVP today! <http://bit.ly/rggi-va-beach>

Update from our CVUU Treasurer

Friends,

This is to bring you up to date on the review of our financial statements for the fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 20, 2018). The review was conducted by Corbin and Company, a local accounting firm. Our bylaws call for a financial review to be conducted every year, and although we can have an internal team provide this service it is best provided by an outside independent entity.

The recent move and financing of our new home also called for an external review by our lenders. The passing grade is in the final paragraph on page 1 titled, "Accountant's Conclusion". The paragraph succinctly states, "We are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States." This is CPA speak for "everything's cool".

I will be happy to provide the Independent Accountants' Review Report in pdf format.

Please send your request to treasurer@ucnorfolk.org. If you desire a hardcopy the CVUU office will have this file and may provide you a printed copy. Please request these from our office manager Susie Gulixson, at office@ucnorfolk.org.

The proper stewardship of your gracious donations is the Finance Committees' utmost concern. We are pleased at the results received from Corbin and Company and will continue to make the financial management process at CVUU as transparent, efficient and effective in the coming years in our new home. We could not have such a great place to grow Unitarian Universalism in Hampton Roads without your continued support. Thank you!

Sincerely YoUUrs,

Paul Moss, CPA, CVUU Treasurer

CONSCIOUS COMPOSTING

Traditional composting requires a space large enough to hold at least a three foot by three foot pile, with room to turn and mix it, and easy access to a hose to moisten it from time to time. A strong back and a pitchfork are useful, as the pile breaks down much more quickly when it is turned. Traditional instructions suggest you maintain a certain ratio of green material to brown (dead). For volume, those venerable instruction also tell you to use spoiled hay and crop residues from your enormous vegetable garden. Slightly more up to date instructions tell you to add grass clippings which are high in nitrogen



and...

Wait a minute.

What if you don't have the space, the time, or nine cubic feet of anything that was once a plant or came from a plant? You can still compost, and give back to the soil all the elements and trace minerals from your yard and garden waste. You can revitalize tired out or compacted soil by adding nutrients

and creating more pore space in the soil. Here's how to compost and create soil that's easier to dig and doesn't need to be watered as often.

With only vegetable kitchen scraps, eggshells and coffee grounds you can start trench composting. Coarse dry materials like corn stalks, corn husks, coconut husk or nut shells take too long to break down so I leave them out. I like to cut up grapefruit and orange peels so they break down faster. I don't use cooked food leftovers since they almost always have some salt, fat or oils. No dairy or meat—they tend to stink and attract critters. Outside, toss leaves, pulled up weeds and dead plants in an old pot or a bucket with holes in the bottom. Dig a shallow trench or a hole and leave the dirt heaped alongside it. The hole can

be between shrubs or even in the root zone of a tree. The trench can be in an existing bed or where you want a new bed. Save up your kitchen scraps (no meat, bones or oil) in a covered container. Put the stuff into the hole and cover with dirt, leaves, or old mulch. It's okay if the soil mounds up, it will sink back down in time. When you've filled up the first one, dig another. In our climate materials break down very quickly since the soil hardly freezes. Don't cook much but you do have lots of yard waste? Then sheet composting may be just the thing for you. You can layer materials in your flower bed, vegetable garden, even under shrubs and trees. Scatter pulled-up weeds, dead flowers, small hedge clippings and cover with sawdust, pet hair, old Halloween straw, and leaves. If you like things tidy, cover up the whole mess with mulch and your neighbors will never know.

In a forest, the plants die, break down and the residue goes back into the soil. Leaves fall, and twigs—even whole trees—do the same. They fall to the forest floor and decompose. The soil stays moist and feels soft underfoot. By composting you can have really nice dirt too!

And that's conscious composting.

Barbara Perry Gelzer is an experienced horticulturist and a member of the CVUU Landscaping Team. She moved to Virginia from the Dallas/Fort Worth area where was active member of the Horizon UU Church and worked in the wholesale nursery trade. She has also served as Landscape Coordinator at the Chesapeake Arboretum.

'The Sun Still Shines' by Anthony Ray Hinton

If a man kills another man, should he face the same consequence? Yes or no? What if he claims to be innocent? Do we ignore his plea and poison him or electrocute him or hang him or shoot him anyway because he was found guilty in a court of law?

Anthony was found guilty. A jury listened to the evidence, and they decided that he was guilty. Not innocent. Guilty! And then they decided that he needed to die, just like the victims. "An eye for an eye" seemed to be the appropriate response. Kill him, and keep him from killing any other people ever again. Kill him, and let others know that we don't tolerate murder. It sounds like a good idea, but is it?

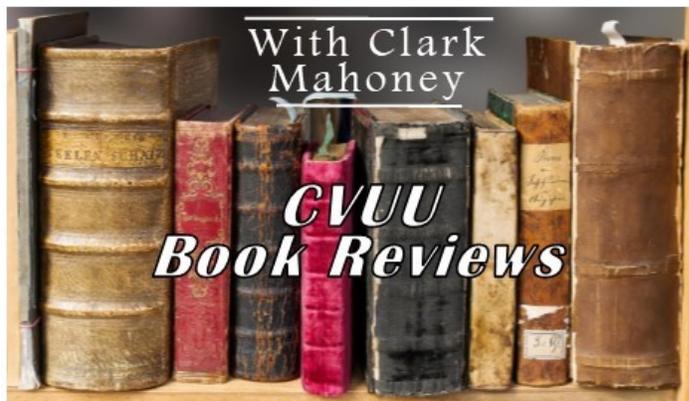
Anthony says, "No!" Sometimes we get it wrong. And by we, I mean the detectives who are supposed to detect, the prosecutors who are supposed to prosecute, the judges who are supposed to monitor, the juries who are supposed to decide, and often, the correctional officers who are supposed to kill. Sometimes they don't do their job correctly, too focused on finding someone to blame, too quick to dismiss the accused's argument, too motivated by wanting to appear "tough on crime".

If you want to know what really takes place in our "justice system", then read this book. Anthony will tell you. He was

there, going through it all and spending twenty-eight years on Death Row. He'll tell you about how he endured while waiting, how he kept from killing himself while waiting, how he showed kindness to others while waiting, and how he managed to remain hopeful even though man after man who was caged nearby was led down the hallway and killed...while he waited for courts to take serious his request for another look at the "evidence". He waited, and waited, and waited.

By the time I got to the end of *The Sun Still Shines*, I was anxious and hoping for justice. Will you still be for Capital Punishment when you finish this book? Maybe. Myself, I am left with an unanswered question. How many times must we get this wrong and kill an innocent man before we'll say, "Enough is enough". "No more!" "We're better than this!" Read Anthony's story and decide for yourself. I did, and I hope that you will too.

Clark Mahoney is an avid reader, active member of CVUU and the chair of our membership committee.



December Birthdays!

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to the following members of CVUU:

Suzanne Miles—12/1; Martha Mercorgliano—12/2; Manoa Bell—12/2; Mark Berger—12/3; Anita Leiboldt—12/6; Joseph Mixon—12/9; Tim Hixson—

12/14; Vicki Caminer—12/16; Caleb

Reeves—12/16; Karen Strobino; Jimmy

Luttrell—12/20; Casey

Mixon—12/21; Esther

Sasser-Strom—12/27; Steph Sterner—12/28; Blue Sterner—12/30 and Dylan Pausch—12/31.



Build stronger ties within our Covenant Circles at CVUU

Do you yearn to build stronger interpersonal relationships with other UUs while engaging in spiritual exploration? This takes place regularly each month at Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists (CVUU) in covenant circles (CCs) which provide an avenue for confidential discussion and deeper spiritual exploration led by a covenant circle facilitator. You are invited to join such a group for late 2018-2019!

Covenant circles (CCs) offer opportunities for both relationship-building as well as spiritual exploration in small group, private discussions which meet once each month (or twice monthly for the Saturday CC). Group members and facilitators select the discussion topics, though sometimes groups choose to follow the worship theme for the month such as "Community", "Gratitude", etc. These are not intellectual, abstract discussions but instead provide the chance for sharing of personal life experiences related to the themes discussed, such as "For what life experiences do you experience a sense of gratitude, even though you may not have realized the 'gift' in the challenge facing you at the time?" Since our feelings or emotions are engaged any time we explore values and meaning in life, CCs encourage our sharing of how we

feel as well as what we think in response to the themes chosen. These are not therapy groups, but they provide an important avenue for building community and personal exploration at a deeper level. (If you feel the need for individual emotional support, contact Rev. Justine Sullivan or the coordinator of the lay pastoral team Richard Anderson for that kind of assistance.)

Here is the list of current Covenant Circle meetings for 2018-2019:

- **First Thursday night**, Room 205 at CVUU, 7-9:00 pm, Facilitator Richard Anderson

- **Third Tuesday night**, Room 207 Meditation Room at CVUU, 7-9 pm, Facilitator Perry Duncan.

- **Fourth Thursday afternoon**; meets in facilitator Pat Metzler's home, 3610 Gentle Road, Portsmouth, 1-3 pm.

- **Second Friday afternoon** at 890 Poplar Hall Drive, Norfolk from 3:15 to 4:45 pm. Facilitator Vicki Caminer. (Group meets in movie room, ground floor off of lobby on the left, to accommodate a member who resides in assisted living at Commonwealth Sr. Living, located about a mile north of CVUU in Norfolk.)



Image credit — Steve Daniel

Paula Echols and Jimmy Lutrell enjoy a cup of fellowship!

- **First and third Saturdays**; meets from 2-4 pm. Contact facilitator Joe New for location of meetings on a monthly basis but usually on the first Saturday and elsewhere on the third Saturday monthly.

How do I find out more about covenant circles or join a covenant circle? Contact Vicki Caminer, CC convener, call at 757 638-0737, text at 757 469-1397 or via email at vicki0737@hotmail.com.

Update on the Promise and the Practice of Our Faith Campaign

The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith Campaign, established at General Assembly in June, 2016, and enacted in October of that year, is our opportunity to take the lead as a faith denomination in addressing our history of upholding white supremacy.

Together, we can collectively work to dismantle it and amend a long broken promise to the Black Lives within our Association.

Congregations were asked to join in the Promise and the Practice of Our Faith by engaging in the following opportunities:

[Schedule at least one Sunday](#) to engage around the theme The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith.

Make a [financial commitment](#) in our support to BLUU that is transformational and inspirational which helps fulfill our \$1 million match opportunity (double the impact of your contribution by meeting the threshold of \$10 per certified member, or however you count the souls you serve).

Make a [long-term commitment](#) to dismantling white supremacy, racism and oppression from within our denomination and beyond, and uplifting the Black Lives, Voices, and Leadership of Unitarian Universalism.

At CVUU we had a service on Feb 4th about the Black Lives of Unitarian Uni-

versalists (BLUU) and asked for donations for our financial commitment of approximately \$2,060.

We had a second service on October 14th and have received donations of \$3225.37 to date. Because of the matching grant promised to the UUA, our donation is more than \$6,450.

We are fulfilling our long-term commitment by offering Pledge to End Racism workshops, four times in the past two years. About 60 members and friends of CVUU have signed the pledge so far. Many, many thanks to those of our congregation who have helped to make this commitment a reality.