After over a year of social distancing and pandemic precautions, we had both the challenge and opportunity to ask, “How do we live in community together?” We discussed the six civic values expressed in UVM’s *Our Common Ground* statement by exploring a different value each month. We reflected upon how we understand and embody these core values from our individual religious, philosophical, and cultural perspectives, as well as the gifts and challenges of being part of a pluralistic community where not everyone understands or expresses those values in the same way.

According to Catholic Monk and interfaith leader Brother Steindl-Rast, joy is “the happiness that does not depend upon what happens.” This year we explored how we understand and experience joy from our own religious and/or philosophical perspectives by discussing the qualities of mind and heart that can be stepping stones to joy. The six qualities were suggested by *The Book of Joy,* written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.