



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105  
Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: [firstunitarian@ushartford.com](mailto:firstunitarian@ushartford.com)  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 to 3:00  
or call for appointment

USH-Enews ~ **February 5, 2020**  
**Building Community Since 1830**  
**Sunday Service 10:30 AM**  
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers

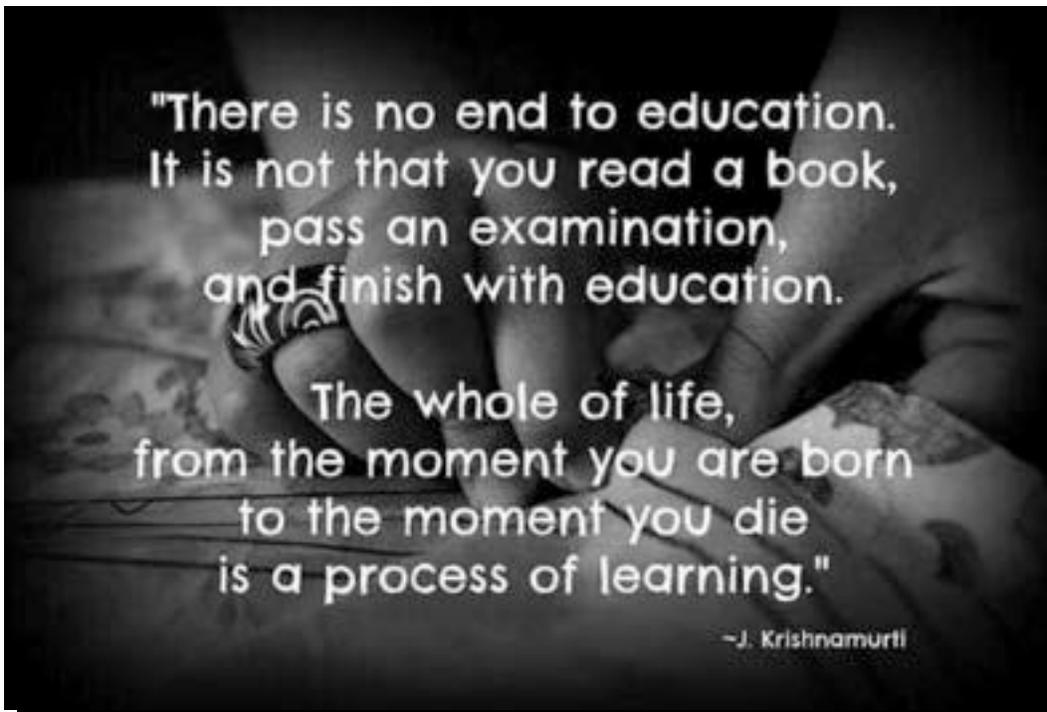


Image: [andreadekker.com](http://andreadekker.com)

**Worship Service, February 9th, 2020, 10:30am**  
**"Being an Inquirer"**  
**Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister**  
**Lisa Galinski, Worship Associate**

**A note from the Revs:**

Dear ones,

In this week when political upheaval dominates the news, on this day when the Senate appears ready to acquit the President in only the 3rd impeachment trial of this country's history, we remind you of these core Unitarian Universalist messages: it is a BLESSING you were born. It matters what you do with your life. And, perhaps most importantly, we don't have to do it alone. Whatever is in your heart this week, whether you are burying your head in the sand or devouring the news hourly, you are not alone. Remember that you are a blessing, and together we can create so many more blessings for this aching world.

If you need to feel less alone, less despairing, come to the Despair and Empowerment Circle that Lisa Galinski is leading here at USH tomorrow (Thursday) at 6:30pm in the Meditation Rooms. Lisa writes: "The pain we feel for the world is not meant to be borne privately and alone because we are an integral part of the world. We will gather in circle to recover, refresh, and renew ourselves in community as environmental and social suffering spreads. We heal feelings of powerlessness so that we may think more clearly, act more boldly, and love more deeply as we move forward. The first 15 minutes will be a warm-up with music and movement meditation or journaling. The remainder of the session is a facilitated discussion and small group exercises designed to create connection, allow for expression of truth, and renew our spirits together."

May we each take our blessings and use them to bless the world in the spirit of love.

Take care of yourselves,  
Revs Cathy & Heather

**Coming Soon to a Home Near You  
USH Circle Dinners**

**Friday, Saturday or Sunday from March 13th - March 28th**

In an effort to get to know each other better and strengthen our community, the USH Board is sponsoring a series of Circle Dinners prior to this year's stewardship drive. **There will be no stewardship discussion or solicitation.** These will be strictly social occasions. Please plan to attend a dinner that fits your schedule. Details on signing up to follow.

If you are interested in hosting a dinner, contact Lisa Galinski:  
**[lisa.galinski@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.galinski@gmail.com)**.

---

**In This Week's Enews:**

[RE News You Can Use](#)  
[News from the USH Board of Directors](#)  
[Social Justice at USH](#)  
[Church Business News](#)  
[Programs for Adults and Families](#)  
[Connection Circles: Disability Focused Connection Circle](#)  
[Events & News of Our Community](#)  
[Meeting House Presents](#)  
[Get Involved at USH](#)  
[Upcoming Events & News in the Larger Community](#)

**Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:**

<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

**See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may have missed or find a link to the USH Facebook Page [HERE](#).**

**Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events at the Unitarian Society of Hartford: [www.ushartford.com/events/](http://www.ushartford.com/events/)**

**To submit a Calendar Request click [HERE](#).**

Contacts: <http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

**To read the USH Blog click [HERE](#).**

**E-News Contributors please take note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be included in the 'Subject' field.**

## RE News You Can Use: Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education



There will be nursery care this Sunday for infants and toddlers. There are activity packets and fidget items for anyone who wishes to use them during a service. There will be after care for those 10 and under this week until 2:00pm. The Youth will meet after service on the 9th at 1:00pm here at the church to see the movie *Just Mercy*. We would love you to join us for this enlightening experience, at Bow Tie Cinemas 1pm showing. For a little background, this 60 Minutes story provides some details: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VFtznbmvs>. Please confirm your attendance with Rob or Laura. The youth will also be volunteering on March 1st at Church St. Eats.

Our Director of Religious Education is still in much need of additional teachers and assistants for the remaining 2020 church year. We need your help in the following grade levels: Prek-2nd, 3rd-5th and 6th-8th. I am still in need of at least 2 more teachers for each grade level. I promise I won't call on you more than once every 4-6 weeks! We have a great group of teachers to work with and I provide everything you need each week. We just need your love and enthusiasm.

Please contact Rayla D. Mattson for more information at [dre@ushartford.com](mailto:dre@ushartford.com) or 860-233-9897 ext 104. Thank you! --Rayla



### The Traveling Chalice

I'd like to thank everyone who has shown interest and excitement around our traveling chalice. It is with our first family and I'm excited to hear more about it! Please let me know if you'd like to be next! As a reminder, I am asking families to take the chalice for a week or two to their home; decide how many days during that time you will engage as a family in developing your own spiritual practice. There is a book of reflections to help you get started and reminders of our UU Principles. I am hoping this will lead to deeper conversations within our community on how we can more fully live into our principles on a daily basis. **Offering this gift to you all with my love~**



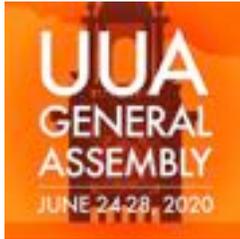
Youth Group  
going to court  
to witness  
people  
becoming US  
Citizens.



Good Afternoon Youth Group! I wanted to send out a message with some information about upcoming field trips. First, we are **CONFIRMED** to visit **Church Street Eats** in downtown Hartford on **March 1st**. We will send out information as we get closer, but the plan will be to meet at the church first and to drive over to the soup kitchen as a group. I believe we are supposed to be at the soup kitchen by 10am. We are also planning a separate field trip over the next two weeks to go see the movie *Just Mercy*. Once we have the details, we will share the date and time. We are planning to meet this coming Sunday during the service to plan out other field trips for the next few months. Thank You, Rayla Mattson, DRE.

Images: farmviewmarket.com

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education  
 860-233-9897 ext. 104 | dre@ushartford.com  
 I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



### **UUA General Assembly June 24-28, 2020**

Our national annual denominational conference, General Assembly (GA), is wonderfully close by this year, in Providence, Rhode Island, June 24-28. Please consider if you might attend! Ask anyone who has attended a GA as there is nothing quite like it. It can be incredibly energizing to be around thousands of UU's from across the country, continent, and beyond. Especially in this pivotal national election year, nourish your spirit by worshipping, organizing, connecting, rallying, and engaging with your Unitarian Universalist

community. Full details are here: <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

The Unitarian Society of Hartford is able to provide some financial support for attending GA on a limited basis. We especially encourage youth and young adults to attend! If you are a youth or a parent of a youth, please let Rayla Mattson know if you/your youth is interested and able to attend. Please let Board Treasurer Phil Gardner know if you are interested in attending GA and in need of financial assistance. Anyone who wishes may attend GA. As a congregation, we will have 5 members attend GA as delegates who vote on behalf of our congregation on matters of denominational business and significance. If you are interested in serving as a delegate to GA 2020, please let Rev. Heather (as well as the above folks as well, if relevant) know. The Early Bird Registration deadline is March 15th!



### **Letter of Introduction from Dianne Daniels**

**(USH Intern Minister, January 2020 - December 2021, half-time)**

**I'm writing this letter to introduce myself to all of you and to give you some additional information on who I am. I look forward to working with and getting to**

**know all of you.**

**Unitarian Universalism came into my life after my family and I left the denomination that my husband had grown up in – the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas. There were some wonderful people and families there, but one too many experiences with “Do as I say, not as I do” expressions of authority from the leadership was enough for us. My family was “unchurched” for a couple of years until an elder from our community invited us to a Kwanzaa ceremony at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Norwich, CT. The people were so warm and welcoming, and even better, they were not opposed to answering questions about the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church, the faith, or their part in it.**

**Read More [HERE](#)**

**You can reach out to and welcome Dianne by e-mailing her at [USHInternDD@gmail.com](mailto:USHInternDD@gmail.com)!**

***From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member experiencing some difficulty, please contact Eve Pech or any member of the Caring Network so we can provide some assistance. A wide range of community services is also available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at 211.***

## Staff News



Please see our Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie will be here at USH through at least June 2020. Office hours are now Sunday through Thursday, (only occasional Mondays) from 9am-1pm. **Buffie's always happy to hear from you!!**

## News from the USH Board of Directors



### **Greetings from the Board:**

As always, our members and friends keep us going strong. If you would like to be more active and involved in any aspect of congregational life, please contact one of our Ministers or any Board member today.

~Joe Rubin, USH Board President

### **Your 2020 USH Board**

**Joe Rubin: President**

**Martha Bradley: President-Elect**

**Phil Gardner: Treasurer**

**Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary**

**Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair**

**Sue Tenorio: Administration Council Chair**  
**Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair**  
**Carolyn Carlson: Community Within Council Chair**  
**Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)**  
**Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)**

## Social Justice at USH



### Americans of Conscience

168 weeks down, 39 weeks to the presidential election.

The AoC Checklist features clear, well-researched actions for Americans who value democracy, equality, voting, and respect. To stay engaged through challenging times, we practice gratitude, self-care, and celebration.

See [here](#) for more info.

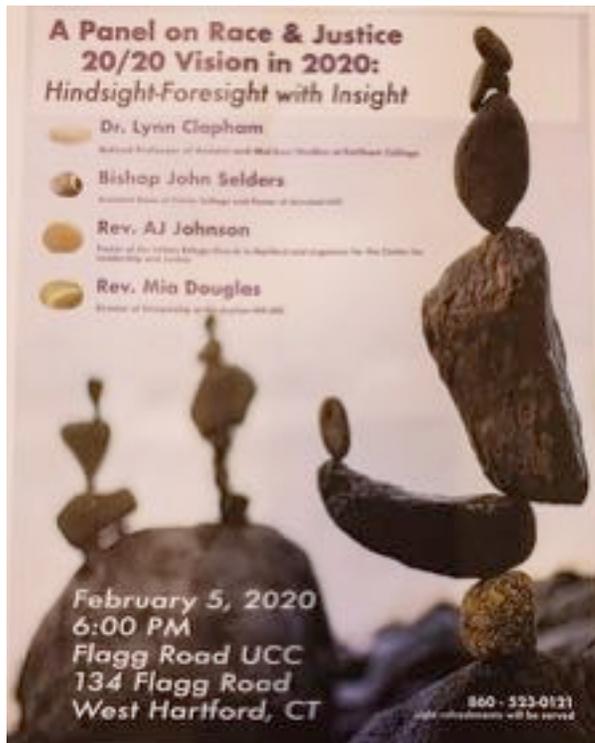


### UU the VOTE

<https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020>

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## 20/20 Vision in 2020

February 5th, 2020, at  
6:00pm  
Flagg Road UCC  
134 Flagg Road  
West Hartford, CT  
203-523-0121

**\*Light refreshments will be served.**

Candace Low Consulting Services  
helping your faith community include the disability community



COMPASSION. INCLUSION. TRANSFORMATION.

## A Quiet Call for Justice: Standing Up for the Disability Community

**Members of the disability and faith communities will come together to remember disabled victims of crime including filicide (those killed by family members or caregivers), police shootings (nearly half of those killed by police have a disability), and insurance rationing (caps on or withholding of life sustaining medicine or equipment). We renew our call for justice, renew our call to eliminate ableism and send a message that disabled**

**people are as valued as able-bodied people.**

March 2nd at 6:00pm at Hartford Seminary in the main building meeting room.

**Speakers include:**

The Rev. Donna Manocchio, Minister, United Church of Christ

Kathy Flaherty, Connecticut Legal Rights Project

Candace Low, Candace Low Consulting Services

Light refreshments will be served. The event will be interpreted for those who use sign language. *This is a scent-free event.*

**Note: Hartford Seminary is committed to providing accessibility for all. Please contact Susan Schoenberger at [sschoenberger@hartsem.edu](mailto:sschoenberger@hartsem.edu) or 860-509-9519 at least 3 days in advance if you have questions about our accessibility or need reasonable accommodations for this event.**

## Church Business News



### USH Choir is back on with new 2020 rehearsal time

#### Please Join us!

The USH Choir is back on for the Spring with a new rehearsal day and time. The Choir will meet every Wednesday from 7:00pm– 8:30pm. This Spring, the Choir will be tackling music from choral composers of the past and present: performing older works from

composers such as Palestrina, Purcell and William Billings, as well as more contemporary works from composers like Elaine Hagenberg, Jessica Rudman and Bill Withers.

Music Sunday this year will feature the music of Romantic composer Fanny Hensel; Hensel was the sister of composer Felix Mendelsohn and, although lesser known during her lifetime, was a fabulous composer in her own right. This Music Sunday will be the USH music program's second consecutive collaboration with the music program at the Universalist Church of West Hartford. The program will be presented during worship at USH on March 15, 2020.

We hope that some of you will consider joining the Choir this semester, or even just try it out for a little while! We are in particular need of lower voices (tenor and bass ranges) but all are always welcome! If you have any questions about the Choir you can e-mail Director of Music Ministries Sam Moffett at [smoffett@ushartford.com](mailto:smoffett@ushartford.com) or call them at **860-371-8880**.

The latest financial reports for **July-September 2019** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **December 2019** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) for the username and password.

## Programs for Adults and Families

For more information on current programs please check the [online calendar](#) often as schedules can change, or contact the facilitator for more information. Contact information for programs is listed below. Also visit [www.ushartford.com/building-community/adult-family-programs/](http://www.ushartford.com/building-community/adult-family-programs/).

### **Programs:**

#### **New Program! Despair & Empowerment Circle: Nourishing Our Spirits to Face the Climate Crisis.**

The deepening climate crisis can cause many of us to fall into denial and despair. Yet our grief, anger and fear are healthy responses to the harsh realities of our time. The pain we feel for the world is not meant to be borne privately and alone because we are an integral part of the world. We gather in circle to recover, refresh, and renew ourselves as environmental and social suffering spreads. We will honor our natural responses to the climate crisis through the revolutionary practice of the Work That Reconnects. We heal feelings of powerlessness so that we may think more clearly, act more boldly, and love more deeply as we move forward.

**Meets:** 6:30-8:00pm, 1st Thursday of the month (Feb-June). Exception: Wednesday 4/1. The first 15 minutes will be a warm-up with movement, meditation and music. No pre-registration required - come for one, some or all sessions. Not an organizing or activism group. \$2-5 sliding scale for each session.

Facilitator: Lisa Galinski, [lisa.galinski@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.galinski@gmail.com), 860-518-0197.

**Disability Support Group:** Beginning on Saturday, February 1, 2020, and continuing on the first Saturday of each succeeding month, USH is holding a Disability Support Group at 10 AM-11:30 AM in the room "David's Den." This group is a chance for participants to discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of care-taking a loved one. All are welcome and what is said in the room stays in the room. Contact Bill LaPorte-Bryan for more information at (860) 308-2688 or email at [b37bryan@gmail.com](mailto:b37bryan@gmail.com).

**USH Artists' Group:** Mondays at 6:30 PM; Sensing a call to be creative? To write or paint, to collage or sketch, to weave or quilt? Whatever your medium, the USH Artists' Group invites you to join us at future meetings! The group is using the book *Wild Ideas: Creativity from the Inside Out* by Cathy Wild as the stimulus for ongoing discussions. You can purchase the book on Amazon and bring it with you. All who are interested in exploring and nurturing their creative process are welcome to join these Monday evening gatherings. No need to pre-register - just come. For more information contact Marye Gail Harrison ([maryegailh@gmail.com](mailto:maryegailh@gmail.com)).

**Emei Qigong Cultivation:** Tuesdays at 11:00 AM and Wednesdays at 5:00 PM. Contact Diana Heymann: 860-200-8525.

**Tai Chi Gigong:** Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Contact facilitator before attending: Stephen "Lucky" Luckingham: 860-202-3404 or [stephen.luckingham\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:stephen.luckingham(at)gmail.com).

**Authentic Connection & Communication:** An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 – 9:15 PM. Contact Mark Friedman for more information: [drmarkafriedman@drmarkafriedman.com](mailto:drmarkafriedman@drmarkafriedman.com).

**Meeting House Sing-A-Long: All Are Welcome:** Meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, in Emerson/Meditation room (or Memorial Garden if weather / memorial service permits.) For more information contact Ed Savage: Esavage15@att.net.

**Ballroom Dance:** Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:45 PM. Contact Ron Friedman: 860-523-1105 or rsfriedman41(at)gmail.com.

**USH Book Club:** Meets the second Thursday of the month September-June. Off-site, contact Richard Groothuis for more information: rgroopofus@icloud.com or 860-748-3532. Books are selected by Members to raise social and life issues. We meet monthly with the objective to discuss the books as literature but with particular emphasis on how the issues relate to us personally and as UUs. Our discussions follow the Small Group goals of seeking input from all in attendance. Our hope is that those attending will make an effort to make as many meetings as possible. Membership is open to all. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm.

**Lunch Bunch ~ We will be meeting on Tuesday, February 18th at 12:00 Noon**

At the February meeting, Michael Chadwick, Chadwick Financial Services, will speak on investment and financial planning in retirement. Feel free to invite friends and family who may be interested in this topic but who do not regularly attend the Lunch Bunch.

If you plan to attend, please let me know

by 11AM on Wednesday, February 12. Please call me at 860-677-1121 or email me at janicecnewton@gmail.com.

The Lunch Bunch will meet at Concetta's, Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Ave., Bloomfield. In addition to lunch, there will be a speaker. You will be able to order off the menu. Separate checks will be provided. There is convenient parking. We will meet at Concetta's on the third Tuesday of the month through June. The remaining dates for 2020 are: 2/18, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19, and 6/16.

We are looking for speakers. Are you interested, or do you know someone who would be interested, in speaking to the group? If so, please contact Margaret Leicach at [margaretleicach@bhhsne.com](mailto:margaretleicach@bhhsne.com). Reservations are necessary! Hope to see you on the 18th. ~Janice Newton



### **Faith Forward Inquirer Series**

Interested in learning more about the Unitarian Society of Hartford or thinking of becoming a USH member? Registration is now open for the Faith Forward Inquirer Series, a curriculum for adults composed of nine individual modules covering various aspects of our faith, congregational life, services, and opportunities available to USH members. Individuals considering membership are kindly asked to

participate in the first three modules; you do not have to enroll in all nine. All modules will be offered after service on Sundays from February 9th through April 5th from 12:00-1:00pm and will meet in the Library. A full list of dates and topic are available on the registration website: <https://doodle.com/poll/mgh5yzmyisxsq8zw>. **Please see Nicole DeRonck, Carolyn Carlson or Brian Harvey for more details.**

### **Art in the Ambulatory**

Retiring director of the USH ambulatory art program, Sara Sturges, has turned the program over to Diane Cadrain. This concerns the art displays that typically hang in the ambulatory (the circular hallway that encompasses our sanctuary). What would you like to see, and how can you help make that happen?

**Contact Diane Cadrain for more details.**



### **Dinner and a Movie**

#### **Before Sunrise (1995)**

"The combination of optimism, tragedy, and the fuzzy warmth of new love is absolutely flawless."\*\*

"...a bittersweet celebration of romantic frisson - the notion that our most precious moments of connection are often the fleeting ones"\*\*\*

At the Sundance Festival 25 years ago, this innocent indie movie enchanted the audience. This continues today, even in the smart phone era. Starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delphy, it is the story of two young people who "meet cute" on a train and impulsively decide to get off in Vienna, spending a day together, talking and laughing. You can see the trailer here <https://youtu.be/9v6X-Dytlko>.

On Friday, Valentine's Day, **February 14**, the Dinner & Movie series will feature this PG-rated film. We will gather at 5:30 PM for popcorn and socializing, enjoy pizza and salad at 6, view the movie at 7 with optional conversation following.

To reserve (\$10 each), please leave a voice message at 860-693-4269 (no texting) with your name and phone number, number of reservations, and choice(s) of meat or vegetable pizza topping. Please reserve by noon on Wednesday, February 12th.

You can pay with cash or check at the event. The Board has recently added a small fee to cover facility operating costs; more information is available through the USH website and at the event.

If on the day of the movie you find you cannot attend, please call the number above so the pizza order can be adjusted. If the event needs to be cancelled, you will be notified by noon on Friday, Feb 14. Questions? Call 860-693-4269.

-Submitted by Nita H.

\*\*from Rotten Tomatoes website.

### **DINNER & MOVIE SERIES - YOUR INPUT REQUESTED!**

Are you a movie aficionado? Are you aware of our USH Dinner & Movie Series? It has met monthly for over two decades, on a Friday evening with a meal of pizza and salad followed by film and optional conversation. The conversations are generally spirited and lively.

However, reservations have been minimal lately, and several evenings have been cancelled. So, we are looking for suggestions to enhance or alter the evenings, to increase attendance! If you would like to offer your ideas, regardless of your past participation, please email:

**[pickmovies@ushartford.com](mailto:pickmovies@ushartford.com)**. Thanks for your help!



Celebrate Imbolc  
with  
the Temple of  
Witchcraft CT

Hello Everyone!  
The Temple of  
Witchcraft CT is  
having our Imbolc  
Ritual on Feb. 8th  
2020 at 7pm —  
\$10 donation.

Come celebrate the awakening of the slumbering Goddess, and reawaken the fire within. Please bring a dish to share in fellowship afterwards. Held at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford CT 06105  
Door locks a few minutes after 7pm so please be prompt.  
Blessed Be,  
Dan

### Connection Circles (formerly known as Small Group Ministries)



#### **New Connection Circle to begin February 19th**

A Connection Circle is an opportunity for USH members and friends to get to know each other better over eight, 2 hour, once weekly small group meetings led by a trained facilitator. This group will meet on **Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm in the Hartford home of Judith Hopkins**. Each group is limited to 10 people, so sign up early. If you are interested in joining, **sign up after service in Fellowship Hall, or call/text/email Martha Bradley, 860-305-3307 or [marthabradley49@yahoo.com](mailto:marthabradley49@yahoo.com)**. If you are interested in Connection Circles, but can't make this day or time, please let Martha know, and we will try to schedule a second group.

Please text or email Martha Bradley at 860-305-3307, **[marthabradley49@yahoo.com](mailto:marthabradley49@yahoo.com)** for more information or click [HERE](#).

## Meeting House Presents!



**2019-2020  
Season**



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 - The intersection of Routes 44 & 189



**Friday, Feb 28th, 2020,  
7:30pm**

### **Belle of the Fall**

Belle of the Fall is Tracy Walton and Julia Autumn Ford, an indie folk rock pop alternative americana duo from Northwest CT. Belle of the Fall met when Tracy produced Julia's debut solo album in 2014 at his studio: On Deck Sound Studio. They spent the better part of the next year touring together as solo artists.

Eventually they began to play on each others' sets and sing harmonies together. In July of 2015 after wrestling with the idea of remaining separate solo artists or committing to a duo they merged forces and became Belle of the Fall. In April 2016, Belle of the Fall released their debut album, "Earthbound," following it up in April 2018 with their second album: "Rise Up". Currently they are working on the third BOTF album.

## **Save These Dates - Coming Up:**

**Friday, Feb 28, 2020** [Belle of the Fall](#) lead singer, Julia Autumn Ford possesses the voice of an angel. Soft, tender and raw all at once: Julia's vocal delivery is light as a feather yet powerful enough to knock down an entire city block with one turn of a phrase. Her partner in crime, bassist Tracy Walton, rounds out Belle of the Fall's folky yet modern sound.

**Friday, March 27, 2020** [Seán Heely Celtic trio](#) Experience the magic music of Scotland and Ireland with the Seán Heely Celtic Trio. The group features U.S National Scottish Fiddle champion Seán Heely, acclaimed multi-instrumentalist Kevin Elam, and Highland bagpiper Tracy Jenkins. The three gents bring together multiple different

instruments to perform fiery dance tunes and ancient, soaring melodies from Scotland and Ireland. They perform original compositions and have rich vocal harmonies in their solid song repertoire that features ballads, sea shanties, and songs in Irish and Scots Gaelic.

**Friday, April 17, 2020** [Scott Cook](#) has managed to distill the stories collected over eleven years touring across Canada, the USA, Europe, Asia, Australia and elsewhere into straight-talking, keenly observant verse. Road-worn, painfully honest, and deeply human, his tunes weave threads of folk, roots, blues, soul and country over spacious fingerstyle guitar and clawhammer banjo arrangements.

***We hope that you will join us!***

Click [HERE](#) for more info or e-mail us at [MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com](mailto:MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com)

- Phone Laura and Paul Cipriano at (860) 298-9984
- Check our web page or subscribe to our email list for notification if shows are sold out or rescheduled: [www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/](http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/)

### **Sign Up for Meeting House Presents email list:**

Our email includes concert announcements, updates, and info about folk music events in the area. Subscribe to Meeting House Presents Email— send a message to: [MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com](mailto:MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com). Put "subscribe" in the subject line. We send one or two emails each month.

Meeting House Presents is always looking for volunteers to help out. You decide if you want to help out three nights, one night, or the entire season. We need help with refreshments, tickets, communications, hosting performers if you have a spare room, and we'd like to have a "street team" to post flyers. Best of all, the commitments are for the evening of the show and you won't have to attend meetings. Contact Laura Cipriano at [MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com](mailto:MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com) to volunteer. Come be part of the fun.

### **Get Involved at USH - Be Part of a Great Team!**

**USH Needs You—**

#### **Get Active with USH! Committee and Sub-Council Openings**

We are continually striving to fill open positions on various Board committees and sub-councils. If you are interested in becoming more engaged at USH, or just learning more about the activities of our congregation, we encourage you to reach out to a Board member, one of the Ministers, or the Chair of a particular Council, Sub-council or Committee.

**Get more connected with this congregation through volunteering.  
Below are some areas, both seasonal and year-round,  
where Volunteers are especially needed and welcome:**



The USH Sunday Welcome Team; Join the Choir; Office Volunteers; Connection Circles Host, Advisor or Facilitator; The Book Table During Coffee Hour. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.



**Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM)**

USH Member Doris Maldonado is in need of help with this ministry. Please contact her at [unicas.miracle@gmail.com](mailto:unicas.miracle@gmail.com) if you would like more info. The USH AIM task force, many of whom identify as having a disability, are charged with the following mission: To welcome, integrate, and support people with physical or psychological disabilities and their families in our congregation. For more info click [HERE](#).

## Upcoming Special Events and News in the Larger Community



### Greetings from the Florence Griswold Museum

Greetings and Happy New Year from the Florence Griswold Museum! In the spirit of our current exhibition "Nothing More American: Immigration, Sanctuary, and Community", we are excited to offer a new community partnership to you! For one

Sunday each month we are inviting members of local community organizations to visit the Museum, completely **free of charge**! We encourage you, family, and friends to please be welcome and join us. Visitors will be able to enjoy all we have to offer: the art exhibition, the historic Florence Griswold House, and our beautiful riverfront grounds and gardens. We will also offer a fun hands-on craft project, and a light reception of snacks. "Nothing More American" is an exhibition of contemporary photographs by New York-based artist Matthew Leifheit that tells the story of immigrant and refugee families resettled in Connecticut communities. The exhibition was inspired by a story in The New Yorker highlighting the efforts by the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme to offer sanctuary to one immigrant family in 2018. Leifheit's portraits honor the struggles and strength of these families and the bonds of friendship formed in their new communities. All you need to do to take advantage of this offer is visit our Front Desk staff in the main lobby of the Museum. They will direct you to our community check-in area on these special days:

#### **The dates will be:**

**March 1st (1-5 PM)**  
**April 5th (10 AM-5 PM)**  
**May 3rd (10 AM-5 PM)**

We hope this exhibit and these stories will inspire and move you. Some of you may know these families personally or many more just like them and understand how this story will resonate. We can't wait to share what we have to offer with you in this new partnership. If you have any questions please reach out to our Marketing Department at [emily@flogris.org](mailto:emily@flogris.org) or [tammi@flogris.org](mailto:tammi@flogris.org).

**The Florence Griswold Museum looks forward to seeing you soon.**



### **St. John's Church**

Simon Johnson is one of the most versatile musicians of his generation, successfully combining life as a virtuoso organist with extensive work in choral direction, composition and arrangement. As the Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral (London), he has been involved in all the

national occasions that have taken place there since his appointment in 2008, including the funeral service of Baroness Thatcher, the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and Her Majesty's 90th Birthday celebrations, for which he also arranged some of the music.

**This concert is at West Hartford's St. John's Episcopal church on February 21st at 7:30pm, free admission, no tickets required.**

Suggested donation: \$20, checks payable to Music at the Red Door. A reception follows in the church hall. This concert is co-sponsored by the Greater Hartford Chapter, American Guild of Organists. See info: <https://www.reddoormusic.org/event/simon-johnson-organist/>.



**USH Staff:**

<http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister  
[revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com](mailto:revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister  
[revheatherrionstarr@gmail.com](mailto:revheatherrionstarr@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021)  
[USHInternDD@gmail.com](mailto:USHInternDD@gmail.com)

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager  
[dre@ushartford.com](mailto:dre@ushartford.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries  
[smoffett@ushartford.com](mailto:smoffett@ushartford.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator  
[hartforduociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduociety@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper  
 Office Hours by Appointment | [bmullen@ushartford.com](mailto:bmullen@ushartford.com)

**Lost and Found**

I still have a "mophie" i-Phone charger that someone left in the parking lot and I have a beautiful burgundy scarf that was left on a recent Sunday.

I will be donating the lost and found items to a local Goodwill or Salvation Army at the end of every month so please come and visit my container of articles! Thank You~ Buffie, Office Admin

**When the Meeting House Loses Electric Power**

Please note that when there is a power outage **NO** water or sewer services should be used. This will cause a flood in Fellowship Hall.

Please refer questions or concerns to Buffie, Office Admin.

**Thank You for your cooperation during such events.**

***The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon.  
Email to: [ushenews@ushartford.com](mailto:ushenews@ushartford.com) OR [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com)  
Please note in the subject line "USH-Enews." Thank you for your submission!***



Image: [januaryart.org](http://januaryart.org)

**Peace – as we come to the close of the USH-Enews week.  
Be kind to others – and to yourself.**

**Our Unitarian Universalist Principles:** The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process, within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.