



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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Website: www.ushartford.org

**Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm,
or email/call for an appointment.**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

**Building Community Since 1830
Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister**



September 5th, 2021, 10:00am

"You Can ('t) Go Home Again"

This Sunday is the last of our lay-led summer services on the contradictions of "Embracing and Releasing". The theme was initially conceived as a reckoning of the unexpected gains and heartbreaking losses of our pandemic year but became much broader in concept as sermons searched through discordant friendships, release through the arts, healing love, the balm of Mary Oliver and so much more. Our last service considers the action and reaction of returning "home". When is memory solid and real? When is the past misted by time, confirmed by place, lost by age, endowed with magical powers or doubted by present realities all in the service of creating the being each of us has become.

Laurie Kelliher, Guest Speaker
Sue Smolski, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director Music Ministries
Buffie, Zoom Master & Coffee Hour Host

10:00am Worship Service - Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).
Closed captions are available.
Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113
Passcode: 014277

11:00am - [Fellowship Time](#)
will be immediately following services
in USH Zoom.

You can also watch the Sunday service at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford> or on the USH Facebook page.



Guest Speaker

Laurie Kelliher was born into the UU faith and by virtue of multiple family moves attended various UU churches from the regal and columned downtown Baltimore church to the Morgantown, West Virginia storefront. The variety of experiences has led to visits in UU churches whenever her travel landed in a new town on a Sunday. UU churches differ widely in practice and setting yet there is a familiarity of substance that always feels like home. This summer Laurie returned to the Fairmont WV home of childhood for the first time in 60 years and now comes "home" with lots of questions and perhaps a few answers or at least some explanations in the process of "creating the being each of us has become".

BOARD UPDATE REGARDING OUR MEETING HOUSE

In keeping with current CDC guidelines the USH Board recently decided that until further notice, all individuals entering the Meeting House will be required to wear masks.

Masks will be provided for those who do not have one.

In addition, seating during in-person worship services will be arranged accordingly, in keeping with social distancing concerns.

Signs will be posted at the Meeting House concerning the above.



***A Message from our Interim Minister,
September 2021***

Dear members and friends of the Unitarian Society of Hartford:
As the summer months begin to wane, I have been having mixed feelings about the coming change of seasons. On the one hand, the summer has felt like it is rushing by at lightning speed, too fast to do all that I am anxious to get done. I want summer to last another month, at least.

On the other hand, the days leading to our annual in-gathering on September 12th seem to be dragging their feet, as if that day would never come. I want summer to be over already. I am excited and impatient to begin my ministry with you in earnest.

The days are going by both too slowly and too fast at the same time.

Experiencing conflicting feelings is often part of the human experience. Anticipation is sometimes mixed with doubt, hope can be mixed with fear, to name just a couple of examples.

With the passage of time, we gain knowledge, experience, and hopefully, greater wisdom, and our conflicting feelings oftentimes lead to greater clarity.

In the few short weeks that I have been a part of your community, I have had the opportunity to meet with a handful of the people who are part of the fabric of the congregation. I have begun to acquaint myself with your talented and committed members of staff. In short, I have begun to appreciate the wealth of human talent connected to the congregation, the talent and love of people upon whose shoulders the congregation has been carried during difficult times.

I am deeply grateful to be among you, and to have been entrusted with the task of caring for you and the staff team during a time of transition, as well as a time of transformation. There is so much that I have yet to learn about USH. I need to learn about its traditions, its recent history, its systems and procedures, its aspirations, and its vision.

You are all my teachers, and I am committed to learning about you, and from you, during my time as your minister.

I have been overwhelmed by the amount of enthusiasm for moving the congregation forward that many of you have shown since I unpacked my professional belongings in the Meeting House. I have also been deeply touched by several of you who have been frank about your concerns regarding the congregation's recent history.

These days, like hundreds of congregations in our UU denomination, as well as those in other faith traditions, we can be forgiven for feeling like we are in a perfect storm. The ongoing

COVID 19 pandemic has changed our lives, and we are all facing, with varying degrees of hope and doubt, anticipation and fear, and a host of other feelings as well, an uncertain “new normal.”

Many of you, I feel sure, will join with me in wishing that we could just simply go back to “doing church” once again. Yet COVID has accelerated a process already underway, of shifting “doing church” away from traditional Sunday morning worship (to choose what is usually the most visible part of what we do as a congregation), to other forms of spiritual experience. Online Sunday services are probably here to stay, and that will affect the ways in which we attend in-person services as well.

In recognition of that reality, I have asked the Board to invest in Sunday services by adding equipment that will enable USH not only to diversify the music that is so important to the spiritual experience that we try to bring every Sunday, but also to help us to do that in a multi-platform environment, i.e., Sunday gatherings that are simultaneously both in-person and online,.

In making this seemingly inevitable change, during the period of my service as your interim minister I am committed to “doing church” as closely to the familiar, comforting ways as possible. We will make full use of our sanctuary wherever possible, within the guidelines issued by the U.S. CDC. The church organ will be reincorporated into the Sunday experience as well.

In the next couple of months I am planning to schedule a series of meetings at which small groups of members will have an opportunity to share with me and each other your experiences at USH and your hopes for the immediate future of the church. I hope that all of our members will be able to attend at least one of these gatherings.

I am very excited by the future possibilities for USH as it nears its bicentennial in 2030. There is much to be done before that day arrives, and much to be done to prepare for the arrival of a new minister well before that.

It might feel that we are in a perfect storm, but from that a time of new beginnings, new imaginations, and new opportunities can, and I believe will, emerge.

I am looking forward to our shared ministry together immensely, and to working with you all with humility, with gratitude, and with love.

Yours in faith, Rev. Terry Cummings



HELLO USH FAMILY!!

We are quickly approaching the beginning of our church year and I'm looking forward to being in community with all of you. I wanted to give you an update on what to expect over the next few weeks. If you have any questions, please let me know and we can schedule an appointment.

September 12th - Please join us in the building for our Ingathering Service. Don't forget to bring your water with you. Also, please note that our DRE will be off on that day.

September 19th - This is our RE kickoff!! Please make sure to read the E-News and check-out our FB page. This curriculum will be available for all ages and I hope you will all join us. Sunday morning there will be a joint TFAA with our DRE and our interim minister, Rev. Terry. Then please meet us in the Chapel at noon for a parent listening session in the Chapel. Childcare will be provided.

September 26th - There will be a TFAA followed by a one room discussion.

We look forward to seeing you all this month!

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianSocietyOfHartford>

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

USH Community & Business

**Please take note that the next Board meeting will be on
 September 14th at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#)**

Updates from the Board

The consensus at the August 17 USH board meeting is to ***continue moving ahead*** with plans for in-person, in-sanctuary Ingathering services on Sunday, September 12... depending, of course, on Connecticut's Covid-19 status *at that time*.

Here's what you should know:

- We continue to follow CDC guidance; right now, that guidance is for everyone to wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Bring and wear your mask; if you forget, we have a supply and will give you one.
- The sanctuary is large enough to accommodate comfortably all who are likely to come. We can spread out, maintaining reasonable distance from each other. It's likely that alternate pews will be cordoned off to facilitate separation.
- We will continue to livestream the service on multiple platforms... you will be able to participate, even if you cannot be here in person! The capacity to feature virtual participation has been one of the (few) ongoing benefits of the pandemic.
- The building has been maintained at high standards, and is in great shape. Recommended cleaning protocols have been followed scrupulously. The space is well-ventilated.
- We expect many will be hesitant to return, possibly for a very long time — *and that's perfectly fine!* Stay home, and join us on Vimeo, Facebook, or Zoom (including coffee hour). However, you choose to be here, you are welcome.
- Speaking of coffee hour, we're planning for refreshments to be set up outside if the weather's decent. We can mingle at discreet distances and spread out a little more. (*Note: there will be cookies!*)

The last item, and it's rather important: **services will start at our previously-customary time of 10:30.** Of course, if you come at 10, that simply gives you more time to visit. And, whenever and however, you come, we'll be so happy to see you!

The Inquirer Series

An Introductory Program for Newcomers and Friends
And Interested Members

The purpose of the Inquirer Series is to welcome newcomers into the Unitarian Society of Hartford community. The goals of the Inquirer Series are as follows:

- Make our church values and culture transparent and known to newcomers so that you may make an informed decision about membership in our church.
 - Introduce newcomers to church ministers and lay leaders.
 - Establish a "safe space" for newcomers to learn more about Unitarian Society of Hartford in the form of a regularly scheduled small group designed for their needs.
-

Advance registration required! These four one-hour sessions will be offered on Sunday's following the USH service from 11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. in the Library. Light refreshments will be offered. There is no fee, but advance registration is strongly recommended for the Wednesday prior to each session. Sessions will be canceled if insufficient enrollment. Requests for virtual participation must be made in advance. To register contact Buffie Pinnie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com. The schedule and theme of each session is as follows:

Sunday, October 3: 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Welcome, Introductions and About Unitarian Universalism

- Host: Laurie Kelliher
- Unitarian Universalism History, Principles and Sources: Laurie Kelliher
- Questions and Answers with the Minister: Rev. Terry Cummings

Sunday, October 10: 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Worship and Spirituality

- Host: Peter Meny
- Worship and the Liturgical Year: Sue Smolski
- Adult Spiritual Programs: Peter Meny

Sunday, October 17: 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Adult Programs and Community Partnerships

- Host: Dianne Daniels
- Adult Programs: Dianne Daniels
- Social Justice and GHIAA: Dana Donovan

Education and Faith Development for All

Sunday, October 24: 11:45 – 12:45 p.m.

- Host: Rev. Terry Cummings
- Lifelong Learning in USH: Terry Cummings
- Faith Development for Children and Youth: Rayla Mattson
- On becoming a Member: Rev. Terry Cummings

Back-Up Date: Sunday, October 31



BUILDING AND GROUNDS FALL WORKDAY – Saturday, September 11 - 9:00 AM -12:00 PM

Each year the Building and Grounds Sub-Council holds an official Fall Workday to which you are all invited! (They actually work on many other days as well.) Our Fall 2021 B & G workday is Saturday, September 11 from 9 AM to 12:00 PM. Volunteers are solicited by the Sub-Council for general clean-up work. This year we will mainly be sprucing up the bays and gardens. This is especially important this year due to the absence of the usual care during our long absence due to the COVID Pandemic and the aging of some of the main weeders! There are general areas to clean up between the buttresses and the two

Memorial Gardens – yes, there are two – the large Memorial Garden adjacent to the Village side of the Meeting House and the Pet Memorial Garden at the bottom of the main parking lot.

If you can attend, it would be helpful with the planning if you would reply to David Newton at [dcnewton999\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:dcnewton999(at sign)gmail.com) or 860/335-3742. Or, just come!! If you have tools, especially a spade or a shovel, bring them along. Also, gloves are a good idea! Thank you in advance for your consideration and help!

David Newton, Secretary Pro Tem Building and Grounds Sub-Council

Meeting House Sing-Along – September 11, 2021

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

Join us at the next Meetinghouse Sing-Along! Fred Louis and Ed Savage are offering an opportunity to CT Singing families, singers, song-writers and audience members to join in song on the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 PM. We will have song-sheets and some loaner copies of Rise Up Singing available. Bring along your own 'Rise Up Singing' if you have one, as we have used it a lot in other months. We will also use the NEW "Rise Again" sequel – 1200 more songs to sample.

Given the solemn occasion of this meeting, let's bring forward songs of peace and healing.

We'll put some chairs in a circle and take turns singing or playing, with those who know the tune or words joining in as they wish. You can come early or come late, whatever fits your family schedule. The UU meetinghouse is at 50 Bloomfield Avenue in Hartford. Some of us bring snacks, but that is not required (or organized) Look for a sign near the door if you can't see or hear us right away. We will be around to the right of the main entrance, down the path to the patio.

VAX protocol - OK to sing, socially spaced, if you are vaccinated; even so, masks would probably be a good idea. If you have NOT completed a COVID Vaccination, we ask that you skip the Sing-Alongs for now, to protect you, from US.



Summer Worship - "Embracing and Releasing"

Our Summer Worship series, EMBRACING AND RELEASING, will come to an end this Sunday, Sept 5th. "You Can ('t) Go Home Again, pulpit guest Laurie Kelliher.

This service will be in our on-line Zoom format.

View our summer services at the links below:

July 11th "A Summers day with Mary Oliver"- Judy Robbins

<https://vimeo.com/575018634>

July 18th "A Requiem; We Are Sorrow, We Are Beauty, We Are Love" - Rick Tsukada- First live-streamed service from our sanctuary

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/576411806>

July 25th "How To Have Difficult Conversations"-John Bengtson

<https://vimeo.com/579091128>

August 1st "Crossing the Edge"-Lisa Galinski

<https://vimeo.com/581796179>

August 8 - Reflections on "The Gift of a Year" -Artist's Way

<https://vimeo.com/584541577>

August 15 - "At The Threshold" -Judy Robbins-Live-streamed from sanctuary

<https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>

August 22 - "Making Peace with the Pandemic" Sue Smolski and Margaret Leicach

<https://vimeo.com/590301705>

August 29 - "Happiness In the Midst of Chaos" - Rob Spector

<https://vimeo.com/594175035>

~ Updated - Sue Smolski, WA Coordinator



Please join us in congratulating our very own Marye Gail Harrison on the publication of her new book "*Emerging Views*".

Buffie has two copies in her office, and you can simply call (860-233-9807) or email her to take out a copy here: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

[Unitarian Society of Hartford is on Vimeo](#)

We are asking for volunteers: Live streaming video team needs volunteers. We will teach you how to operate our live streaming equipment so that you join in rotation to produce our Sunday service. Please email jon Covault - jncovault@hotmail.com.

Many Thanks, Staff at USH



"Making Peace With The Pandemic" Meditation Exercise

In response to a request made at last Sunday's Coffee Hour: "Making Peace With The Pandemic" Meditative Exercise. Directions: Write your answers to the following questions, writing for about 3 minutes.

What are you grieving now?

What things have you lost or suspended during the Pandemic that you might get back?

What are some of the gifts you received or that came to your life because of/or during the Pandemic?

What did you learn about yourself?

What might you never return to?

What promises or commitments are you going to make to yourself (and, maybe, to others)?

What is possible now that wasn't possible a year ago?

Further directions:

Let these answers percolate for a week, then write yourself a letter, writing for no longer than 10 mins.

Finally, identify an object that symbolizes your Pandemic experience.

Source:

The first of two Meditative Worship Services, entitled "Making Peace With The Pandemic"- May 2021

Rev. Rebecca Bryan

First Religious Society UU

Newburyport, MA

Submitted by Sue Smolski, Worship Associate



Sunday Welcome Volunteers

These summer days are racing past. September will be here all too soon... back to actual school for some, the relief of cooler days for others.

At USH, the hope is to return fully to in-our-sanctuary worship, and Fellowship Hall-based "Coffee Hour". To do that, we need those Welcome Volunteers who previously were so instrumental in greeting members, friends, and visitors, to help them feel at home here.

Were **you** part of the Welcome Team? Or is this something you'd like to try?? If you're new, or haven't been around much lately (and who *has*??), greeting is a terrific way to meet lots of smiling people and feel an instant connection with the community. If you're hesitant, a couple of veteran ushers are available to talk with you, sharing their experiences and enthusiasm to help you get started. They're only a phone call away, and **Buffie** can put you in touch with them!

Buffie has developed a SignUpGenius "invite"; where you can easily select dates which work for you. You can be a greeter, an usher, or a welcome table volunteer. The link is below; if you have questions, let Buffie know and the answer will be revealed to you.

See Sign Up Genius Link [HERE](#). Please contact Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for any assistance or additional questions.



USH Solar sculpture

Please take the time to view our beautiful new solar sculpture in the doorway right off the ambulatory. It was designed, built and mounted by our very own Paula & Aaron Bleck~



Programs for Adults and Families



Spirituality for UUs

This is the foundational course in the UUSpiritLife series. UUism is a religion without a creed so it can leave some people wondering how to develop their innate spirituality. This program includes many experiential opportunities to discover what types of spiritual activities resonate with you as we chart a path to a deeper and more personal spirituality. This is a rigorous course with homework after each session and will require a couple of hours of non-class time per week. One of last year's participants said, "Judy and Rick create a warm, enjoyable class that also goes deep." The class will be on zoom, open to members of all three area congregations, facilitated by Rick Tsukada and Judy Robbins. 12 weekly sessions on Tuesday mornings 10-noon, Sept 7-Nov 23, 2021. For registration or more information:

judyrobb2@gmail.com.

Adult Programs:

The USH Book Club: Meets **monthly**, on the **2nd Thursday**, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, via Zoom. All adults in the USH community are welcome. Please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

20's/30's Group: If you would like to join, please email Tara Cote at tcote11@gmail.com.

Disability Support Group:

This group meets on line the first Saturday of each month at 10 a..m. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. In this group participants discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of caretaking a loved one. What is said in the group stays in the group.

Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call at **860 904-7768**.

Origins of the Book Club

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead



A few weeks back, you heard of the original of our Artist's Way group.

Here's another origin story — this time, the **USH Book Group**.

Jean and Richard Groothuis came here about 10 years ago; at their former UU church, they'd been heavily involved in social justice activities and quickly found a similar niche at USH. They also wanted a different sort of connection, and landed on the idea of a book club-type group as something they (and others) could find interesting. The only things was... we didn't have a book group.

So they set out to start one.

A few conversations at coffee hour; open invitations in eNews: a nucleus had formed. Folks met monthly in members' homes; later, some meetings were held at the Meeting House and, later still, on Zoom. The format's flexible and accepting; through the depths of the pandemic, the group soldiered on, offering a welcome connection during this isolating time.

Book selection are eclectic, and balanced between fiction and non-fiction. The democratic process is employed: members submit suggestions, and all vote their preferences. The reading list always turns out to include an interesting mix, introducing readers to authors and genres which turn out to be much more engaging than might have been imagined.

The *real* enjoyment, though, comes through getting to know each other, sharing life stories, appreciating one another, and becoming friends. These connections are the heart of *all* our varied small groups — yes, there is an 'activity', abut that activity paves the way for deeper, richer relationships with others *and* with self.

Once again, *two people* put together an idea, a desire, and some initiative, to create a long-running and successful medium for engagement and connection. Per the saying — it's not rocket science. But it does take passion, initiative, and some work. If you believe there's something missing, and have a desire to fill that gap, speak up, and let's see what develops!

~Jean & Richard Groothuis RGroopofus@comcast.net

Social Justice

GHIAA: CORE TEAM LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Thank you for your interest in GHIAA Leadership Training. Leadership trainings will resume to in person trainings starting in September. However, we will make case by case accommodations for people who need to participate remotely via live stream.

Training Sessions (Day/Time):

Five Tuesdays - September 21, 2021 through October 19, 2021 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

or

Five Thursdays - September 23, 2021 through October 21, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Trainers: Cori Mackey, Pat Speer, Rev. AJ Johnson

Where: TBD

Questions about registration? send an email to ghiaa@cljct.org

to register contact Dana Donovan and go to their [registration](#) page.

Caring Network

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 **Janice Newton** 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.

Meeting House Presents



Unitarian Society of Hartford <https://www.ushartford.com>

50 Bloomfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105



<https://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/>

Meeting House Presents 2021-22 Season

**Concerts are the third Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. at the
Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Avenue Hartford, CT 06105**



| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Sept. 17, 2021 | Abbie Gardner |
| Oct. 15, 2021 | Scott Cook |
| Nov. 19, 2021 | Vance Gilbert |
| Dec. 17, 2021 | Reggie Harris and Pat Wictor |
| Apr. 22, 2022 | Mad Agnes (4th Friday) |
| May 20, 2022 | Seán Heely |

Tickets are available in advance from [brownpapertickets.com](https://www.brownpapertickets.com) and at the door for \$20.

Season tickets are available for \$100 for all six concerts and can be purchased at the door or after church services.

Abbie Gardner – Friday, September 17, 2021

listen: [you-belong-to-me sung by Abbie Gardner](#)

video: <https://youtu.be/7ccuxKT5wMo>



50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: <https://abbiegardner.brownpapertickets.com>

www.abbiegardner.com

@abbiegmusic instagram

www.facebook.com/abbiegardnermusic

Abbie Gardner is a fiery dobro player with an infectious smile. Whether performing solo or with Americana darlings Red Molly, her tales of love and loss, both gritty and sweet, are propelled by her impeccable slide guitar chops. Her solo live show is truly unique – as an award-winning songwriter, captivating vocalist, & world-class dobro player.

Solo performances feature truly unique use of the dobro as a solo instrument, bouncing between a solid rhythmic backbone and ripping lead lines all in support of her voice and songs.

No Depression says she displays “uncommon versatility” on her 2018 CD *Wishes on a Neon Sign*. The recording is a fully-produced collection of 12 original songs featuring one co-written with Chris Stapleton. After his first listen, WFUV’s John Platt raves, “she’s not only a first-rate Dobro player, but a songwriter to be reckoned with.”

With the help of patrons, Abbie has spent the last year making the record she’s always wanted to make. It’s intimate, real and raw – her dobro and voice recorded at home, without a band or any studio tricks to hide behind. The result is stunning – you can hear every breath, every chuckle, as if you are in the room with her. The opening track, *Down the Mountain*, starts with a powerful bluesy stomp, but later begs, “send my prayers down the river in little paper boats, they’re too heavy for heaven so I hope they float.” The song, *See You Again*, encapsulates the loneliness and sense of restless waiting we’ve all been feeling in the line “even time holds her breath.” In the space since her previous record, Abbie’s vocals and dobro playing have both matured to share the spotlight equally. Though, in this case, the stage is a tiny recording studio and the spotlight a candle.

[Scott Cook](#) – October 15, 2021 50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

tickets: <https://scottcook.bpt.me>

listen: https://youtu.be/6R0W_QbGHR8

Scott Cook distills the stories collected over twelve 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.

Prairie balladeer Scott Cook is an Edmonton-based, world-traveling songwriter with heart forever on



sleeve.

His fourth release, *One More Time Around*, was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award, and its opening track “Pass It Along” won the Folk and Acoustic category in the 2013 UK Songwriting Contest, with UK magazine *Maverick Country* naming him “one of Canada’s most inspiring and imaginative storytellers”.

In 2015 he put together a seven-piece honky-tonk band for his fifth studio album, *Scott Cook and the Long Weekends Go Long*.

In 2017 he released his sixth album *Further Down the Line*, earning his second Canadian Folk Music Award nomination, for English Songwriter of the Year. The album is packaged in a 132-page softcover book offering a look back, in words and pictures, on his last decade of near-incessant rambling.

[Falcon Ridge Folk Festival](#) has announced Scott Cook won the 2019 Emerging Artists Showcase and will perform as one of 2020’s Most Wanted Artists. Cook was one of 24 contestants and won “with an amazing 49% of voters in his corner,” according to Anne Saunders, the festival’s artistic director.

Cook is one of the hardest-working DIY troubadours on the road today, averaging over 150 shows and a dozen festivals every year since 2007. All the hard miles notwithstanding, he still believes that songs can change your life, and your life can change the world.

Vance Gilbert – November 19, 2021 50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: <https://vancegilbert.bpt.me>

[Vance Gilbert's website](#)

Listen: <https://vimeo.com/377104057>

"If Joni Mitchell and Richie Havens had a love child, with Rodney Dangerfield as the midwife, the results might have been something close to the great Vance Gilbert." As the above quote from Richmond magazine suggests, Vance Gilbert defies stereotypes. It's little wonder then that he also exceeds expectations. In this case, those two qualities go hand in hand. "I'm black, I sing, I play an acoustic guitar, and I don't play the blues," Gilbert insists. That may be a broad statement, but it rings with truth.

His remarkable rapport with his audiences and his free spirited performances inspired one critic to hail him as "a folkie trapped in a vaudevillian body," with "a voice that could have been on the opera stage, a wit that could have been on a comedy stage and a songwriting talent that's thrust him on the folk stage for decades."

Those descriptive phrases come to full fruition on Gilbert's current album, the appropriately named *Good, Good Man*. Recorded with an A-list support cast that includes bluesman and singer/songwriter Chris Smither, Al Green's organist Stacey Wade, Tommy Malone of the Subdudes on guitars, Mike Posner on backing vocals, and Celtic harpist and vocalist Aine Minough, it sums up the strengths that Gilbert's always had at his command — that is, a gift for compelling melodies, insightful lyrics, a witty and whimsical point of view, and the ability to maintain an inherent humanity that translates to his connection with his audiences.

As always, the music is as varied as it is vibrant, from the philosophic musings of "Pie and Whiskey" and the rollicking R&B-flavored title track, to the swinging sound of "Zombie Pattycake," the tender trappings of "Hitman" and the bare-bones remake of the 1972 hit "Wildflower," a seminal song given Gilbert's intimate and essential additives.

In short, it's Gilbert at his very best, a set of songs that deserves to bring Gilbert the wider recognition that's eluded him for far too long.

Over the course of his career, he's carved out a singular niche with songs that have resonated with his fans and drawn in new listeners. His classic compositions — "Old White Men," "Charlene" and "Unfamiliar Moon," "Goodbye Pluto," and "Waiting for Gilligan" — are emotive and profound, offering certain truths in ways that make a meaningful impact in the most enduring and evocative ways.

Indeed, Gilbert possesses a wide palette and perspective, from a co-write with Grammy Winner Lori McKenna, "House of Prayer," to a song on a Grammy-nominated children's record by the duo Trout Fishing in America. Likewise, after alt-rock star Mike Posner heard Gilbert perform on a podcast, he invited him to take part in co-writing sessions and subsequently to sing on his recent single, "Noah's Ark." Posner reciprocated with a haunting background vocal on "Flyby," a song featured on Gilbert's forthcoming album.

"How rounded is that?", Gilbert may quip. Truth is, ultimately, it's the impact that he has on his audiences that matters to him the most. "People take away from these songs what they decide they're going to take away," he reflects. "I would hope they walk away thinking. If that's the case, then I've done my job successfully."

Reggie Harris and Pat Wictor – December 17, 2021

50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Websites: <https://reggieharrismusic.com/>

<https://www.patwictor.com/>

Tickets: <https://reggieharris.bpt.me>

listen: <https://youtu.be/aiYrnt2V3ao>

Reggie Harris has been dubbed an "Ambassador of Joy, Hope, and Freedom," and his new album, *On Solid Ground*, captures all of those qualities.

The lead track, "It's Who We Are," introduced as a single for Black History Month, in the wake of the January 6 insurrection, sets the tone. It's a hard-charging call-to-action, featuring Pat Wictor on slide guitar. With civil rights leaders like Martin Luther

King, Jr., and John Lewis as his inspirations, Reggie dares to address the divisions we face. When people ask, “How did we get here,” he responds, “It’s who we are,” but it doesn’t have to be that way:

It’s in our hearts | It’s in our hands|

It’s in our minds | But we can change!

Reggie Harris is an innovative guitarist, a fearlessly creative vocalist, and an engaging storyteller whose concert performances are infused with joy. It’s clear to all that he deeply loves singing and that it is more than his work. But that’s not all.

Uniquely committed to “music as a community building vehicle,” Reggie’s music shares insightful perspectives on issues of life, history, education and human rights. In the spirit of his mentors, Pete Seeger and Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, (founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock), Reggie is a master songleader who loves to help people discover that they can make a difference at any age, wherever they may live.

Pat Wictor first burst on the folk and acoustic scene as an innovative slide guitarist known for fresh and memorable interpretations of traditional and contemporary songs. Since then he has made his mark as a singer-songwriter penning lean and poetic songs that honor – and subvert – rural blues and gospel traditions. For seven years he toured as one third of Brother Sun, the powerful harmonizing trio with Joe Jencks and Greg Greenway, garnering critical acclaim, two #1 CDs on the Folk DJ charts, and a continent-spanning tour schedule. Wictor’s newest recording is a duo album titled *Counterpoise*, a collaboration with jazz vocalist Deborah Latz. The two first sang together at a vocal improvisation workshop led by Bobby McFerrin. His most recent solo release, *This is Absolutely Real: Visions and Versions of Phil Ochs*, reached #2 on the Folk-DJ charts and was nominated for Best Tribute Album by the Independent Music Awards.

An American by birth, Pat’s early years were spent in Venezuela, the Netherlands, Norway, England, and East Texas. His time abroad gave him an outsider’s wide perspective, and set him on a journey to understanding America – and his own American-ness – through music. His early experiences made him accustomed to charting his own course and being ready for the unexpected.

Save the dates for spring 2022 concerts. Tickets will be available next year.

Mad Agnes – April 22, 2022 50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.



Mad Agnes is Margo Hennebach, Adrienne Jones and Mark Saunders. Each member arrived at the trio from a staggering list of solo accomplishments, including songwriting competitions, recordings, and the ability to sleep on any surface.



[One Wild Dove](#) video

Multi-instrumentalists all, **Hennebach** is classically trained in piano, **Jones** is self-taught on guitar and bass, and **Saunders** adds color with a vintage mandolin and subtle electronic processing on his guitar. The sound can be full as a concert hall or delicate as three voices singing a cappella.

Harmony-driven performance of contemporary singer-songwriter material influenced by classical, Celtic, folk/rock, PDQ Bach, and a touch of street theatre. Their lyrics, vocal intricacies and instrument prowess are unforgettable.

Seán Heely duo with bouzouki player Beth Patterson– May 20, 2022

50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

website <https://www.seanheely.com/>

video: <https://youtu.be/087oijDW8IM>

Magic and Myth: Music from the Old World and the New

Experience the magic music of Scotland and Ireland with Seán Heely and Beth Patterson. U.S National Scottish Fiddle champion Seán Heely and bouzouki player Beth Patterson perform fiery dance tunes and ancient, soaring melodies from Scotland and Ireland. Original compositions abound and they have rich vocal harmonies in their solid song repertoire that features ballads, sea shanties, and songs in Irish and Scottish folk tradition. Seán plays fiddle, mandocello, shruti box, and sings in English, Irish, and Scots Gaelic.

Multi-Genre violinist/fiddler Seán Heely is one of the most creatively versatile and captivating young artists of his generation.

He is a [U.S National Scottish Fiddle Champion](#) as well as an award-winning Irish Fiddler and singer in the folk traditions of Scotland and Ireland. Seán holds a degree from University of South Carolina in Classical Violin Performance and was a 2019 [Artist in Residence at Strathmore Music Center](#) in Maryland. An educator in demand, Seán is an [Adjunct Instructor at American University](#), he has also been on the faculty at several summer camps such as [Acadia Traditional School of Music and Arts](#), [Upper Potomac Fiddle Retreat](#), and [Fiddle Hell Festival](#). He was selected to compete in the prestigious Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann All-Ireland Senior Fiddle competition in Aug 2017. He has performed in Scotland, Ireland, and at venues in the U.S such as the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

Seán has performed with traditional music icons such as Liz Carroll, Bonnie Rideout, Natalie Haas, Cathy Jordan, Eamon O'Leary, Zan McLeod, and Paddy Keenan.

Along with his accolades in Traditional Music, Seán made his Classical solo debut with the Virginia Symphony in 2012 performing Mozart's 5th Violin Concerto. A composer and arranger, Seán has won national awards including the 2016 Scottish Fiddling Revival's Tune writing competition. Seán was a featured soloist with the Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk, VA in April 2017 and 2019. Recently, Sean was named the recipient of the first annual Claude Martin Memorial Life Membership Award from the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, an honor granted in recognition of his significant contributions to the local folk scene while still under age 30.

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

News in the Larger Community



Benjamin Dix

Hello everyone,
 Hope you all are well,
 So far it seems my Carnegie Hall Benefit Concert is still being held. Saturday, 10/16/2021 @ 2 PM. Weill Recital Hall @ Carnegie Hall (No intermission per the guidelines, so simple 90 min and then the reception!)
 Please see attached invitation.
 If you go on line-you can purchase a ticket and the tickets can be mailed to you so then you do not have to go to the box office. (It looks like proof of vaccination is required to attend). Click here for the link to see me and to buy a ticket:

<https://www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2021/10/16/Benjamin-Dix-Piano-0200PM>

Whether I see you or not, it is great that you have always supported me and the performing arts.

Figures the year I make it to Carnegie Hall, we have to follow the COVID concert rules and then I also just got a District level Administrator/Director job (at least only have September to have to practice and work all day long so not too bad, and then 2 weeks in October)

Oh well, music must continue one way or another,

Stay healthy everyone,
 Ben



NAMI Southwest CT is a community of people who have family members or friends with mental health conditions.

We offer free support groups, education, and advocacy opportunities. Our programs provide judgment-free spaces for people to share experiences and resources. We serve lower Fairfield County, Connecticut. See more info [here](#).

Email: namisouthwestct@gmail.com



Dear Friends at USH,
In the spirit of solidarity and support of those with disabilities, please find attached a letter and sponsorship form for the upcoming PATH CT first annual golf tournament [Sept 20th](#). If you are unable to sponsor or participate and would like to contribute to our silent auction please contact me.

Kindly share the letter below with colleagues and friends and maybe form a foursome! The KASA youth and staff will be there volunteering their time!

**Best regards,
Doris Maldonado**

Please allow this letter to introduce you to PATH CT and our inaugural PATH 2021 Charity Golf Tournament for which we are seeking your support and/or participation. For more than 30 years, families have turned to PATH CT for guidance and support through the uncertainty, confusion and worry of parenting a child with a disability. PATH CT provides services to families that have specialized healthcare needs and developmental needs including parent to parent support, educational advocacy and training. As the CT Family to Family Health Information Center, we provide support, information, resources and training around healthcare issues. PATH CT also facilitates CT Kids As Self Advocates (CT KASA), a group of youth and young adults with disabilities or chronic health conditions that promote youth leadership. My husband and I have personally witnessed our daughter, Sammi develop from a shy, quiet young lady into a confident, independent young woman who now Co-Chairs this amazing group of young leaders. On Monday, September 20, 2021 we will be holding our PATH 2021 Charity Golf Tournament at Brownson Country Club in Huntington, CT. We are hoping that you can donate either an item or gift certificate to the raffle that will be held that night. This golf tournament will help offset funding to our programs that are critical to CT families in need of help. Your business will be promoted on our website, newsletter and social media. Please have your items submitted by August 20, 2021. **See Sponsor Response Form [Here](#).**

Should you have any questions, feel free to call the Golf Tournament Director, Roy Nuss at 203-565-2475.

Sincerely,

Ruth Nuss President of the Board



It Starts With Faith: Organizing School 2021

The Organizing Strategy Team supports faith-aligned groups to empower leaders, provide training, political education and spiritual sustenance to show up to end oppression and build thriving communities.

This year's Organizing School for Teams was developed in response to volunteers, State Action Networks, and congregations' desire to deepen organizing skills, develop broader networks of folx doing faith-based organizing, and join in the work of our Side With Love campaign. Complete application by July 30th [HERE](#).

We are excited to support 20-30 cohorts for this years organizing school. This program is designed for teams that are currently engaged in social justice work. We are encouraging congregational social justice teams to apply as a cohort. Priority will be given to teams who are based in AZ, FL, GA, KY, MN, NC, PA, TX, and WI. You may apply as an individual. If admitted you will be placed in cohorts based on geographic location. All sessions are recorded and applicants regardless of acceptance into as a cohort, will have access to recorded sessions.

Cohorts will receive up to 10 hours of 1-1 organizing support following the completion of 80% of all sessions.

Sessions will take place on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm ET/3:30-5:30pm PT between Aug. 25 and Nov 3.

Session 1: Orientation

Session 2: Faithful Social Justice: Telling your story

Session 3: Finding Your Role: Building power in faith organizing

Session 4: Building Organizing Infrastructure: Leadership Development and Identification

Session 5: Facing Conflict: Covenant & Transformation

Session 6: Building for a liberated future: Campaigns and program design

Session 7: Partnerships in a pandemic and recovery

Session 8: Growing your impact: Tools for evaluation and growth

Session 9: Meet the Moment: Tactics for Mobilizing Supporters and Contesting Power

Join us to build power towards a world that affirms the worth and dignity of all.

In faith and solidarity,

Nicole Pressley

Field and Programs Director

UUA Organizing Strategy Teams

News from the USH Board of Directors

Your 2020-2021 USH Board

Rob Spector: President

Eve Pech: President-Elect

Bob Hewey: Treasurer

Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary

Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair
Jon Covault: Administration Council Chair
Dana Donovan: Social Justice Council Chair
Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair
Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister (ex-officio)

The latest financial reports for **FY 2021-2022** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **July 2021** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

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 coordinated by the Unitarian Society of Hartford: www.ushartford.com/events/
To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) click [HERE](#).

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.

USH Staff:

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

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
terryuu633@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)
USHInternDD@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager
ctraylab@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment brianmullenush@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns.
 Buffie is working Sunday through Thursday from 9am-2pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at **hartforduusociety@gmail.com**.
Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

**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. Consider the proposed 8th Principle as well! <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>.

[Back to top](#)

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is **Tuesday at 12 Noon.**

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Please note in the subject line "USH-Enews." Thank you for your submission!