



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
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Website: www.ushartford.com
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 to 3:00
or call for an appointment.

February 6, 2019

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



**Worship Service: Sunday, February 10, 2019
10:30am**

“Answering the Call of Love”

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister and

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education

Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

When love of humanity and the earth calls us, how do we build our capacity to answer with joy, compassion, and energy? Come hear stories of Rev. Cathy’s recent trip to the borderlands near Tucson,

Arizona as we contemplate what it means to answer love's call. Join us after worship for a conversation about immigration and sanctuary here in Greater Hartford with Constanza Segovia of Hartford Deportation Defense, and Rhona Cohen and Cory Clark from UUS:E (our UU congregation in Manchester) who will speak about UUS:E's experience hosting an asylum seeker. (15 minutes after worship ends in the Library.)

In This Week's Enews:

[A Message from Stewardship](#) / [RE News You Can Use](#)
[News from the USH Board of Directors](#) / [Social Justice at USH](#) / [Spiritual Life at USH](#)

[Sunday Service Photos](#) / [Church Business News](#)
[Programs for Adults and Families](#) / [Connection Circles](#)
[Events & More Personal News of Our Community](#)

[Meeting House Presents: Friday Feb. 22 - Citizen U \(Antonio Alcorn and Chris Freeman\)](#)

[Get Involved at USH](#) / [Upcoming Events & News in the Larger Community](#)

[News from the UUA](#)

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/

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.

A Message From Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee is offering a webinar about congregational giving on Wed. Feb. 13 at 6:30pm in the Library

The webinar description is "Are you concerned about the distribution of giving in your congregation?" Join Rachel Maxwell & Kay Crider of *Stewardship for Us* for a webinar on skewed giving. We'll talk about the range of giving within our congregations, economic justice and the Fair Share Giving Guide, incentives for raising pledges, secrecy versus confidentiality, effective messaging and a congregational covenant about stewardship."

Caron Lanouette, Stewardship Chair, found this to be an interesting and enlightening look at how we, as congregation members, give financially, and why. And, how to make it more interesting and easy. Everyone is welcome. Contact Caron for more info at USHStewardship@gmail.com. -Submitted by Caron Lanouette

RE News You Can Use:

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education



the remainder of the service.

This Sunday, February 10, join us for our almost-all ages *Share The Love Service*. There will be childcare for nursery age children. All other children and youth will join us the sanctuary for the service. After a *Time For All Ages*, those **children under 10** are invited to join us downstairs for games and crafts for

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education
860-233-9897 ext. 104 | dre@ushartford.com

I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.



News from the USH Board of Directors

FY2019 USH Board Priorities

My New Year's resolution is to communicate more, so belatedly, below are the FY2019 Board priorities developed at the June Board retreat and subsequent board meetings. These objectives guide the Board's work.

Objective A: Leadership development/capacity building

This is an ongoing process of engaging members in the life of the congregation and building capacity for the good work that we do together. It also recognizes that many members would like to be involved, but in discrete activities where they have an interest vs. signing up for committees for a longer term. A few specific aspects of this effort:

- The Nominating Committee is in process of evaluating candidates for FY2020 open Board and various committee positions. The Nominating Committee itself could use more members.
- Council Chairs work with Sub-councils to engage members. The Council Fair recently was such a great opportunity to learn more.
- The Membership Sub-council is reevaluating its structure and how best to engage more members in welcoming newcomers and in the healthy growth of the congregation.

Objective B: Anti-racism

The focus this year is primarily on changing internal congregational culture and attitudes with respect to race through discussions and educational programming. These and/or other efforts will continue in future years:

- Race Matters discussions on Sundays after services during the first six months of the fiscal year.
- The Beloved Conversations class began January 18 and 19th with eight 2-hour sessions thereafter. The class is full for this year but will be offered again.

Objective C: Sustainable Financial Model

This is an ongoing effort to assure we have the funds necessary to operate effectively in the short-term and that we are assuring the long-term financial viability of USH. We continue to improve on the financial framework and put in place mechanisms for sound financial management. The focus is on budgeting, revenue growth and

diversification, and building staff capacity. We will begin planning for a capital campaign (which will consider financial needs in addition to those related to the building) and a legacy giving campaign.

Objective D: Adult Religious Education

During FY2019, we will better define and address Adult Religious Education needs. We have initiated a search for an intern minister to start January 2020 with a focus on Adult RE. We have also begun to look at life cycle curriculums used by other UU congregations such as "Faith Forward" <https://faithforwarduu.org/about/>

Objective E: Congregational Covenant—Right Relations

This involves two initiatives in FY2019:

- A Co-Minister evaluation process established
- Safer Congregation policy and implementation team formalized

As a reminder, the Semi-annual Congregational meeting will be Sunday February 24th immediately following the service. Please plan to attend to learn more or contact a Board member, Co-Minister, or Council or Sub-Council chairs. —Submitted by Sherry Manetta, USH Board President

Social Justice at USH

Social Justice Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 19 @ 6:30, USH Library

Wondering what Social Justice activities and issues USH is undertaking? Come learn about new interests and on-going projects. And of course bring your own ideas and suggestions! Contact Judy Sullivan for more info at jasullivan57@gmail.com.



Americans of Conscience Checklist

These checklists feature clear, well-researched actions for Americans who value democracy, equality, voting, and decency. We also practice gratitude, self-care, and

celebration to stay engaged. Click [HERE](#) for past checklists. - Submitted by Judy Sullivan, USH Social Justice Chair

Americans of Conscience Checklist, Week of February 3, 2019

By [Jen Hofmann](#)

116 weeks down, **91 weeks** to the presidential election.

I value equality. *Support the dignity of your rainbow of neighbors from every religion, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, and ability.*

Action: Speak up with our neighbors with disabilities. [h/t [ADAPT](#)]

Write: Or call your two Senators and one House rep ([look up](#)).

Script: Hi. I'm calling from [ZIP] to support the right of people with disabilities to [receive long-term care services at home](#) rather than an institution. To support humane and cost-effective strategies, I'm asking [NAME] to co-sponsor the bipartisan Disability Integration Act (H.R. 555/S. 117) so decision-making rests with those needing care. Thank you.

Action: Support civil rights for all. Oppose Barr. [h/t [Lambda Legal](#), [NAACP](#)]

Call: Your two Senators ([look up](#)).

Script: Hi. I'm from [ZIP] and I'm calling to oppose William Barr for Attorney General. The country needs a Justice Department dedicated to protecting civil rights for all Americans. William Barr's [track record shows he won't](#). I'm asking [NAME] to vote against his nomination.

Action: Close the gender pay gap. [h/t [National Women's Law Center](#)]

Call: Your two Senators and one House rep ([look up](#)).

Script: Hi. I'm from [ZIP] and I'm calling because I believe in equal pay for equal work. All women, but especially women of color, [still make less than men](#) in the same jobs despite existing legal protections. The Paycheck Fairness Act would [close remaining loopholes](#). Can I count on [NAME] to co-sponsor [H.R. 7/S. 270](#) ...to read more click [HERE](#).

Spiritual Life at the Unitarian Society of Hartford



Spiritual Life blog February 6 2019

Life calls us in some moments to more deeply search our hearts. At USH there are people who will witness our journey with love. This past Saturday I had 3 experiences that caused me to look back at my own history and that of my family in a deep way. These raised spiritual questions on which I am still reflecting: Who am I really? What is the meaning of my life? Am I living from my best self? 1) Beloved Conversations

took me back to my experiences and my family's with race relations. In a 1834 Will my great, great, great grandfather had slaves to be sold as "negro stock" and also provided for a "free woman of colour and her son" residing with him to receive assets from his estate at his death. I assume the young man was his son. My father and mother chose not to share much of their southern views on race as having moved from TN to Baltimore, which they regarded as "the north". They thought they'd make it easier for me. They did. Long after, in her last 16 years, removed from her southern environment by moving to CT, my mom became very close friends with a Jamaican woman who then spoke at mom's memorial service at USH. How do I carry their gift of growing openness to all humanity forward? 2) Talking to USH member Tom Gervais, I thought of my years in Spiritual Direction training and as a spiritual director. Is this something I want to start to do again? 3) At Theater Works' play "The Doll House-part 2," I recalled my own decision to divorce my husband and leave our young children with him. I thought of all the pain of those choices and the consequences for everyone. Is there more healing work to do there? Thank you, USH, for witnessing my spiritual journey in love. / To read past blogs, click [HERE](#).

Sunday Service Recap

Worship Service: Sunday, February 3, 2019

10:30am

"How We Choose to Be"

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister

Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

"Trust has been the through-line that has emerged from it all. Trust in myself, trust in the fundamental goodness of people, trust that as a solo female traveler, I could watch my back without walling myself off from experiences."

~Jada Yuan, "1 Woman, 12 Months, 52 Places





Photos by Harriet Gardner.

Sunday Service Recap

If anyone is interested in writing a regular or occasional synopsis of Sunday Services, please contact Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com. Thank you.

Church Business News

The latest financial reports for **Oct.-Dec. 2018** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **January** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

To view the USH Directory, reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark(at)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.

Programs

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\(at\)drmarkafriedman.com](mailto:drmarkafriedman(at)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: ed(at)thesavagees.com.

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

Dinner and a Movie at USH: Meets the second Friday of the month September-June. Contact Nita for more information at 860-693-4269 (no texts).

USH Book Club: Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 14. Topic: [*Fahrenheit 451*](#) by Ray Bradbury. Off-site, contact Richard Groothuis for location: rgroopofus@icloud.com or 860-748-3532.

Beloved Conversations: An experiential curriculum that provides a space to heal the spiritual and organizational wounds that racism causes in our faith community. The program aims to foster cross-cultural relationships that nurture the spiritual health of program participants, congregations and communities beyond their walls. Registrations are full and we plan to repeat this program next church year. Contact Judy Sullivan to be added to the waiting list.

Death Cafe at USH: February 23, Time: 6-8pm; Contact: Miriam Byroade: byroade@gmail.com. A Death Cafe is a scheduled non-profit get-together for the purpose of talking about death. There will be light snacks, contact Miriam for info on if they will be provided or if folks should bring something light to share if they are able. There is no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. Childcare to be determined.



Living Your Faith!

Living Your Faith is an intensive 12-session program that invites participants to define and practice their own sacred lives of faith. This is currently a closed group, but the program is offered annually. For more information on this program, please contact Tom Gervais - 860-558-3000 or tom.j.gervais(at)gmail.com.



Save-the-Date: On Sunday morning, March 24, 2019, during Women's History Month, RevHeather will speak about the significance of Harriet Beecher Stowe's message for our

tumultuous times today. Following the morning's service and a little time for coffee & nourishment, all who sign up in advance are invited to join in a group tour of the newly-remodeled and substantively-revised [Harriet Beecher Stowe Center](#). The tour, or tours (depending on the size of our group), will begin at the Stowe Center in Hartford around 12:30 or 1pm. Please RSVP to RevHeather at RevHeatherRionStarr(at)gmail.com with "Stowe Center Visit" in the subject line if you know you'd like to join in this community-building outing, drawing upon sources of wisdom in our own Hartford-area. The Stowe Center has graciously agreed to have USH'rs tour by free-will donation to the Center--contribute what you are able. All are welcome, of all ages. Letting RevHeather know soon that you're excited about this outing and able to participate will help with the collaborative organizational planning. Thanks so much! ~RevHeather

Connection Circles (formerly known as Small Group Ministries)



There are two new [Connection Circles](#) planned for 2019. The first will be on Thursday evenings beginning February 21 at the home of Martha Bradley in West Hartford. The second will meet on Tuesday evenings at the home of Bruce Robbins, in Hartford. Sign up sheets are now available after Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall at the Visitors Table. For more information or to reserve a spot, text or email Martha Bradley at 860-305-3307 or marthabradley49(at)yahoo.com.

What are Connection Circles?

This is a unique opportunity to strengthen your connections with USH members and friends by sharing your life experiences with them in a safe, confidential space—a covenant group. Get to know others better and you may also get to know *yourself* better too! A trained facilitator will have special readings and questions to guide your sharing and deep listening experience. Watch for announcements of Small Group Ministry (now called Connection Circles) offerings in E-News, during coffee hour after the service at the Programs Table (when available) in Fellowship Hall, or at the Welcome Table in the main lobby.

Events and Personal News of Our Community



Lunch Bunch ~ We will be meeting on Tuesday, February 19. If you plan to attend, please let me know by noon on **Wednesday, February 13**. Please call me at 860/677-1121 or email me at janicecnewton(at)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 this year are: 2/19, 3/19, 4/16, 5/21, and 6/18. 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 Maggie Greene at turtlepoem(at sign)[yahoo.com](mailto:turtlepoem@meetinghouse.org). Reservations are necessary! Hope to see you on the 19th! ~Janice Newton

Meeting House Presents!



Friday, February 22, 2019: [Citizen U \(Antonio Alcorn and Chris Freeman\)](#)



Antonio Alcorn and Chris Freeman

The duo met in a folk club at the University of Connecticut where they founded a five-piece folk/rock band known for its rich harmonies and high energy performances. Freeman and Alcorn have spent the past six years touring across North America, releasing albums, scoring the music for and

performing in an original play, and composing a live score to a silent film. Though their musical taste is broad, it's the old songs that Alcorn and Freeman connect to.

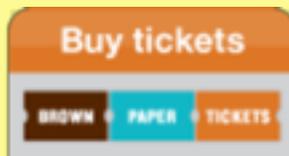
Come for the music, camaraderie and an all-around good time. Come for the cookies. Bring friends. Bring family. Bring neighbors. What the heck—bring strangers. Everyone will have a great time. Promise. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

- Buy tickets at [Brown Paper Tickets](#) or at the door if the show is not sold out

- Email us at MeetingHousePresents(at)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/

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(at)gmail.com. Put "subscribe" in the subject line. We send one or two emails each month.



\$20 general admission. \$14 for students with ID.

Children under age 12 are free with paying parent.

To buy tickets online click [HERE](#).

Meeting House Presents is 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 to volunteer. Come be part of the fun.

Save the dates for 2019 Upcoming Meeting House Presents Concerts (We are still in negotiations with performers. We can't tell you who they all are yet, but this will continue to be an exciting season.) Click [HERE](#) to see what's coming up.

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. Click [HERE](#) to read more...

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.

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
WORLDWIDE

New England
Region

~ Invitation to Register ~

Centering the Margins in Outreach
~Webinar~
February 13, 2019 at 7pm-8:30pm

Presented by:
Marchaé Grair (left) & Anna Bethea (right)

PRESENTERS: Marchaé Grair & Anna Bethea, UUA

Date/Time: Wed., February 13, 2019; 7:00pm – 8:30pm. Click [HERE](#) to register.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$15 per individual or \$30 per team attending together

New England Region UUA

Contact: (617) 948-6415 | <https://www.uua.org/new-england>

Upcoming Special Events and News in the Larger Community



Black History Month at the [Stowe Center](#)

Click [HERE](#) for a list of upcoming events.

"We preserve and interpret Stowe's [Hartford home](#) and the center's [historic collections](#), promote vibrant discussion of her *life and work*, and inspire

commitment to *social justice and positive change*."



The Village Opens Thrift Boutique in Former Clothes Horse Location

For over 50 years, The Village for Families & Children's volunteer Auxiliaries in Glastonbury, Simsbury and Suffield have run thrift boutiques (called Second Chance Shops) that benefit The Village.

Now, The Village will open a fourth shop (the Second Chance Boutique) on Park Road in West Hartford, in the space formerly occupied by the Clothes Horse. For more info click [HERE](#). -Submitted by Joanne Orlando

For Access to the Members Only Section on the Web Page:

For the username and password for the Members Only section of our USH website, please email Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com. It's easy and if you're interested, please say so.

To submit a **Calendar Event Request**, cut and paste the text below into an email and send to: calendarchanges@ushartford.com. Please look at the calendar the day you email a request to make sure the space is available; this will help to avoid double booking rooms. Double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Email any corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com. Please make sure you also coordinate with our Rentals Manager, Rayla Mattson, if this is a one-time-open-to-the-public event. Thank you! ~Linda

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Also: Cc Rayla Mattson requests: [dre\(at\)ushartford.com](mailto:dre(at)ushartford.com)

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Is This A Private Event?

Include in Happenings/Enews?

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

Is Childcare Provided?: (Note if childcare will be provided you must arrange it with the DRE.)



Lost and Found

There is a 'Lost & Found' box in the office on the bottom shelf of a storage rack near Linda Clark's desk. Items found in the building will be placed there. Please check in the office if you have misplaced something. **Please note: Items will be donated or recycled if no one claims them after a few weeks.** Thank

you.

USH Staff:

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

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revcathy@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext 103

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister
RevHeatherRionStarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext 103

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

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

Linda Clark, Office Administrator
ushlindaclark@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper
Office Hours by Appointment | bmullen@ushartford.com

Rev. Cathy has an online scheduler:

If you'd like to set up a meeting, pastoral visit, or other conversation with me, you can see my availability and sign up for a time here: <https://RevCathyRionStarr.as.me>. Try it out, and let me know if you have any trouble!
-RevCathy

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

**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.