

USH Sabbatical Brochure
A Guide to
Revs. Cathy and Heather Rion Starr's
Sabbatical
October 1 - December 31, 2019



Message from the Sabbatical Team

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Society of Hartford is joyfully sending our Co-Ministers off for a time of Sabbatical rest and renewal. Our congregation will continue a full and rich worship experience each Sunday as we open ourselves up to other UU ministers' voices and lay leaders' wisdom. We know we have the strength to sustain the vibrant life of this community in the spirit of collaboration and deepening connection. While the Revs are on sabbatical leave our congregation will continue to be active and thrive in all the activities of our various ministries and exercise full responsibility for our governance and shared ministries. We will continue our collective journey that reflects our mission statement of Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, and Working for Justice.

A sabbatical draws on the ancient notion of *sabbath*, a day of rest. In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, a sabbatical is an extended time out from professional responsibilities for rest, renewal, reading, and often writing and travel. Ministers hope to return with renewed energy, new ideas, and enhanced pastoral presence. We believe the wisdom and renewal gleaned from these experiences will extend to all of us through our Revs' ongoing ministry with this congregation, the larger UU world and our wider community.

Message from the Revs. Cathy & Heather



How grateful and excited we are to be taking our first sabbatical after a combined 23 years of ministry. We are your ministers not just when we are "at work" at USH but each day and each week—we hold you in our hearts, ruminate on

sermons and strategic planning, and are on-call as needed. This holding that ministry asks of us is sacred, special and...tiring, which is why sabbatical is so important for our renewal and sustainability.

For the month of October we have few plans—we look forward to simply living life and being together as a married couple and parents without the added layer of co-ministry. In November, we are going on a Big Trip as a family—first to Quezon City in the Philippines to visit our dear friend Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons and family as well as visit UU communities in the Philippines. Then we travel to Delhi, India and hopefully to visit large Unitarian communities in the Khasi Hills. In December, RevHeather will be working full time with the UU Congregation in Danbury and RevCathy will have the strange experience of being a minister not working in December.

We know not what stories, experiences and learnings we will bring back to you in January but we are sure there will be many. We wish you a positive and spiritually-rich time while we are away.

Pastoral Care and Rites of Passage



While our settled ministers are on sabbatical, congregational life will continue as does life with all its joys and concerns of living.

Celebrations and milestones, births and deaths, illness and rites of passage will occur even as our spiritual anchors are away. The Sabbatical Team and ministers have arranged that critical pastoral care and support will be delivered with compassion through the Caring Network in collaboration with our strong regional UU minister network.

If you have a pastoral need please contact Sabbatical Team Chair Marye Gail Harrison or Spiritual Life Chair Peter Meny. They will coordinate with Board President Joe Rubin and our Office Administrator Buffie Pinney to help direct you to assistance. Contact information is found at the end of this brochure.

In particular please contact them in the following situations, as on-call ministers will be available:

If you are facing life threatening surgery.

If you have received a critical diagnosis.

If you are facing a personal or family crisis.

For non-urgent pastoral issues or to share news of joys or concerns with the congregation, the Caring Network is available.

If there is a wedding we hope that you will wait for our Co-Ministers return, but if circumstances are more immediate please contact the USH liaisons noted herein. Child dedications can wait until after the ministers return. If a death occurs, Marye Gail Harrison or Peter Meny will inform our ministers.

Of course, our Co-Ministers and the Sabbatical Team wish you all three smooth months.

? Anticipated Questions



Who is on the Sabbatical Team?

Marye Gail Harrison (Chair), Peter Meny (Spiritual Life Chair), Laurie Kelliher, and Lisa Galinski.

Will Revs. Heather and Cathy communicate with us during their sabbatical?

Revs Heather and Cathy are relieved of all customary ministerial responsibilities during this time so that their sabbatical can truly be a time of renewal.

Revs Heather and Cathy will not be responding to any congregant emails, phone calls, texts or social media contact. If you have an issue that you believe warrants communication, please send it to Marye Gail Harrison or Peter Meny who will decide the best person to contact and will let you know.

Who will lead worship in the Revs' absence?

The Revs and the Worship Associates have planned all Sunday services throughout the Revs' absence. For general questions about worship, please contact Laurie Kelliher. Worship leaders and topics are listed in this brochure, including holiday and special occasion services.

Who do we go to with questions I would usually direct to the Revs?

You can reach out to any member of the Sabbatical Team. For building issues, call Joe Rubin.

Who is in charge of the congregation?

The Board, as elected representatives of the congregation, will maintain their usual responsibilities and governance of the church.

All lay leaders for committees remain the same during the Sabbatical. Please refer to the USH Directory as usual.

Who is supervising the staff?

Our dedicated and now longtime staff are accustomed to working independently and as a team, and will confer with Board President Joe Rubin as needed during the relatively short time the Revs are away.

Contacts

Sabbatical Team

Marye Gail Harrison, Chair
860-670-5875, maryegailh@gmail.com
Laurie Kelliher
860-597-6770, larkkelliher@gmail.com
Lisa Galinski
860-518-0197, lisa.galinski@gmail.com
Peter Meny, Board member
860-986-0100, plmeny9@gmail.com

Board President

Joe Rubin 860-233-8766, joerubin@snet.net

Office Administrator

Buffie Pinney 860-233-9897 ext. 100
hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Caring Network

Eve Pech 860-379-5035, elpech@sbcglobal.net

UU Ministers Supporting the Sabbatical

(availability and on-call responsibility will shift over the months of sabbatical)

Rev. Craig Nowak, UU Storrs & Brookfield MA
Rev Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Retired UU Meriden
Rev. Adam Robersmith, Fern Street UU
Rev. Josh Pawelek, Manchester UU

Worship Services October-December



October 6 – Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull

October 13 – Rochelle Ripley, Dir. of Hawkwing

October 20 – Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull

October 27 – Multigenerational Halloween Service

Worship Leaders: Rayla Mattson & Sam Moffett

NOTE: Turn clocks back 1 hour on Sat. night Nov. 2

November 3 – Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull

November 10 – “Reaching Inward to Find Stability”

Worship Leaders: 20s/30s Group

November 17 – Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull

November 24 – Annual Gratitude Service

December 1 – Jay Williams, President of Hartford Foundation of Public Giving

December 8 – Sarah Krippenstappel

December 15 – “Scott Joplin Music Sunday”

Worship Leader: Sam Moffett

December 19 – “Vespers Service”

Worship Leader: Sam Moffett

December 22 – “Cosmic Solstice”

(Multigenerational)

Worship Leader: Marye Gail Harrison

December 24 – “Christmas Eve Multigenerational Candlelight Service”

Worship Leader: Rev. Katie Lee Crane

December 29 – “Winter Poetry Service”

Worship Leaders: Artist’s Way Group

January 5 – Revs. Cathy and Heather return!