



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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

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MAY 12, 2021

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



May 16th, 2021, 10:00am

"Flower Communion and Annual Meeting"

May 15-16: Flower Communion & Annual Meeting

***From You I Receive, To You I Give: Flower Communion Saturday May 15th
12noon-1pm***

Celebrate nature's beauty and the interdependent web of giving and receiving at our annual Flower Communion. Flower Communion is a Unitarian Universalist tradition begun nearly a hundred years ago in which we exchange flowers to celebrate community and reflect on the resilience of nature's beauty.

Rev Cathy Rion Starr, Co- Minister
Rayla D. Mattson, DRE
Sam Moffett, DMM
Gretchen Spector, Worship Associate
Buffie, Coffee Hour Host

10:00am Worship Service - Join us [HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113
Passcode: 014277

11:00am - [Fellowship Time](#) will be open for the **Annual Meeting only with USH immediately following services in Zoom. Coffee Hour will resume as usual next Sunday.**

Opportunities to say Goodbye to Revs Heather & Cathy

WORSHIP

FLOWER COMMUNION DRIVE THRU
 Saturday, May 15th,
 12-1pm at USH
 Bring a flower, receive a flower, and say goodbye in person

ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS
 Sunday, May 23, 3-5pm
 on the USH Playground
 Wear your masks and have a playful goodbye with the Revs, Robin, and Braden

OR PICK YOUR OWN TIME
 May 16th, 10am
 Flower Communion & Celebration of these years together

May 30th, 10am
 Final worship service together

Please DO reach out to us to arrange a time to say goodbye and meet by phone, Zoom, or outside in person this month!

Rev Cathy: cccathy@unitarian.org or 541-399-7553 or use this scheduling link <https://RevCathyRionStarr.ussh.org/>
Rev Heather: revheather@unitarian.org or 541-399-6952

Opportunities to say Goodbye to the Revs prior to May 30th

May 15-16: Flower Communion & Annual Meeting

From You I Receive, To You I Give: Flower Communion

Celebrate nature's beauty and the interdependent web of giving and receiving at our annual Flower Communion. Flower Communion is a Unitarian Universalist tradition begun nearly a hundred years ago in which we exchange flowers to celebrate community and reflect on the resilience of nature's beauty.

Part I: Saturday, May 15th, 12-1pm, Drive-Thru Flower Communion

Come to our Meeting House with a flower to share and receive a flower from our outside altar. You'll also get a chance to see Revs. Cathy & Heather off-Zoom and feed your ears with music by Sam Moffett.

Part II: Sunday, May 16th, 10am, Flower Communion Worship

Join us for worship at our regular time and Zoom link to appreciate this community where back in the fall we recommitted to creating community in a time of isolation, justice in a time of repression, and spiritual nourishment in a time of grief, isolation, and fear. **Are you ending a time in a leadership position at USH? Let Rev. Cathy know so we can appreciate you during worship!**

See more UUA info [HERE](#).

Please join us for the USH Annual Meeting on May 16th

We have all been through a lot in the last year, both individually and collectively. We are approaching the time when we can gather in person again, and life can proceed in "new normal" mode, even as we search for new ministerial leadership.

Transition can feel exciting, scary, uncomfortable, but always better together. There are important decisions to be made.

What have we learned that can guide us? How might what we have experienced influence our vision for the future of USH? How do we celebrate our achievements? How do we adjust our course?

On May 16 after the service, the Board will share the current status of our community, and hear your thoughts and reflections for our future together. As usual, members can vote for officers and council chairs to fill open positions – this year our new President and President Elect, and Social Justice Council Chair. Please plan to attend this important meeting. All are welcome.

Update from the Interim Search Committee:

The Interim Search Committee is following the UUA process, guidelines and timelines for the interim minister search process. Key dates are listed below for your reference.

As of May 3, Interim Search Committee received names of seven interested candidates in Interim ministry at USH. Over the next 2 weeks, the Interim Search Committee will review their materials, reach out to speak with references, view their sermons online and conduct video interviews.

By May 17 we will submit our interest to the UUA in as many candidates as we are interested in. The matching process then takes place with the UUA based on the candidates' interest as well. Assuming there is a match, offers are made on May 19th!

Please watch e-News for more updates! We will share updates as they are available.

~Submitted by Lisa Galinski

The search for an interim minister takes place in April and May of each year for an **August 1 start**

Date	Activity
March	UUA liaison conducted exit interview with the Board and a separate exit interview with the Revs.
April 20th	USH submitted our posting for an Interim Minister submitted to the UUA Ministry system
May 3	Names of interested ministers released to Interim Search Committee
May 3-16	Internal process among Interim Search Committee to review submissions, interview candidates, check references
May 17	USH Interim Search Committee submits Yes/ <u>Nos</u> /Maybes to UUA
May 19	Offer Day
May 24	<i>(If needed) Round 2 names released to Interim Search Committee</i>
June 9	<i>(If needed) Round 2 - Offer Day</i>

Stewardship Follow-up

Thanks to all who have pledged. If you haven't yet but intend to, please let Peter Meny, plmeny9@gmail.com, our pledge follow up lead, know your intentions re: pledging so he won't need to call.

As always, you can give by check, credit card, or automatic withdrawal from your checking account – either monthly or in a lump sum. Gifts are tax deductible. If you encounter difficulties or have questions, contact me or our accountant Brian Mullen. Please give as generously as you can to help to maintain USH as a vital and caring community for all of us. Thank you.

~Submitted By Martha Bradley, Board President

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

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

Story time with the DRE - <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianSocietyOfHartford>

May 16th at 3:00pm come take a walk with the DRE, her family and Tara Cote. After the Annual Meeting we are hoping as many children and youth can come walk with us at Wadsworth Mansion at 421 Wadsworth St., Middletown. Please make sure to wear your mask.

May 23rd from 3:00-5:00pm will we have the children and youth coe say goodbye to
Revs Heather and Cathy, Braden and Robin.

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.

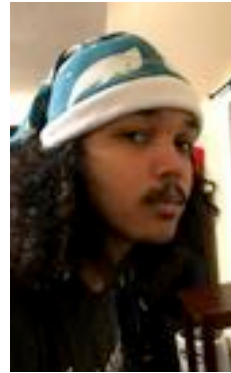


**Please help me congratulate
Kennedy Mattson!**

She will be the youth participant at the Sophia Fahs
Lecture at GA this year June 25th at 5:00pm. She
will be speaking along with two college students as
they center the voices of BIPOC youth and young
adults.

**We also congratulate
Bradshaw Mattson!**

He was hired to be one of the youth of color staff on
the GA planning team this year. I hope many of our
youth will attend and support him as he moved into a
national leadership role.



Programs for Adults and Families

Chomp-n-Chat

Meets every last Wednesday of the month. Please join us for the next
chat with Rev Cathy on **May 26th, 12noon** [here](#).

Adult Programs:

Artist's Way Group: Meets on Mondays 6:30 – 8 p.m. via Zoom using Mira Kirschenbaum's book *The Gift of A Year* as the basis for our conversation. We focus on living creatively, with the appreciative eye of an artist; creative expression of all types and stripes is celebrated, though not required. If you're interested in joining us, mark your calendar now, and look for contact info here in early September. Contact Tina Davies for more info at [**daviesush@gmail.com**](mailto:daviesush@gmail.com).

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**](mailto: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.

MAY 13 – The Way of Gratitude: A New Spirituality for Today – Galen Guengerich 20's/30's Group: If you would like to join, please email Tara Cote at [**tcote11@gmail.com**](mailto:tcote11@gmail.com).

Disability Support Group: This group has moved its gathering online. Please reach out to the facilitators for more info. 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 room stays in the group. Email **Don Hope** for more information at [**donhope48@gmail.com**](mailto:donhope48@gmail.com) or call at **860 463 7982**.

Church Community & Business News

Making Progress

Last Saturday, as small group of Buildings & Grounds folks and friends spent a full morning at the Meeting House, helping our incipient live-streaming project move further along. At this time, all the mounted camera feeds are hardwired into a digital mixer, and we now can select among four video images from the sanctuary. There's yet much to be done: audio synch, graphics, learning the system. But we've taken the leap from idea/concept to real time video, and it looks amazingly good! Even with low lighting, details are clear.

At USH's Annual Meeting this Sunday, you can see an extremely brief clip, thanks to the combined talents of the Covaults, of what's been accomplished. It looks simple, but it wasn't all that easy. Please take the opportunity to thank our B&G/Video team for fast-tracking this project and following through on countless details in its birth.

Here are a few candid shots from Saturday below:

1. Who are these masked men?
(Paul Cipriano, Stu Spence, and Kevin Girouard, running cables into the office)
 2. Jon Covault painstakingly attaching cable terminals
 3. Each cable houses 8 color-coded wires; each wire has a specific function
 4. Hooked up, and trouble-shooting on the monitor
- Submitted by Tina Davies, Chair, Community Within~**



Are YOU Interested in Becoming a Member of USH?

We will be hosting a New Member Ceremony during the first week of June. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we will have a small, safe, and simple in-person gathering outside at the Unitarian Society of Hartford (USH) Meeting House. At this time, you sign the USH Membership Book which means that you are making a conscious choice to join our congregation with all the rights and

responsibilities that come with membership. Once you officially become a new member, we will announce it in the E-news and during a Sunday service. We will also post a short biography and photo introducing you to the congregation.

Prior to joining, we hope you will have been attending some of our Sunday services, participated in the "Inquirers Series" and explored Unitarian Universalism through reading and other activities. We also ask potential members to meet with one of our ministers or other lay leadership. When you feel you have all the information you need to make an informed decision, you are ready to sign the Membership Book.

Here are some things you can receive by being a member of the USH community:

- A supportive community, open to meeting your spiritual, social, and emotional needs
 - A place to continue your spiritual journey in safety
- A place to be renewed and inspired each week in the company of friends
- A place where you may join with others to do good works in the larger community.

Here are some things YOU can give to the USH community, as you are able:

- Your presence in our worshipping community
- Your participation in small group activities where you can meet other members and continue your spiritual journey.
- Your commitment to some form of service within and beyond our society
 - Your gifts of money, time, and talents.

Please contact Carolyn Carlson if you are interested in becoming a member in June or if you have questions. The deadline for joining in June is May 24, 2021. Carlsoncjc@gmail.com

From the USH Caring Network:

Valerie Klokow would like some help with meals. Standing and cooking have become very difficult for her. She does not feel it is safe for any of us to bring meals to her home. She would welcome gift cards from GRUB HUB, or from restaurants

that deliver meals. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE RESTAURANTS DELIVER THE MEALS.** Thank you for any help you can give. ~Janice Newton



Hispanic Women Leaders Award

Please join us in congratulating USH Member, Doris Maldonado for receiving this prestigious award.



Personal News of the Congregation

Obituary information for USH member, JoAnne McClurg may be viewed [HERE](#).

Please feel free to send notes of sympathy to family members here: 321 Avery Heights - Apt. 300, Hartford, CT, 06106

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.

Social Justice at USH

Refugee Resettlement and Co-Sponsorship Training

As most of us know, USH has been helping with a Syrian family in refugee resettlement over the last several years. Richard Groothuis has been the lead person in this effort and continues to keep in contact with the family. While there has not been a lot of activity recently, there is still the possibility of more need in the future. It would be good if one or two more individuals could help Richard out in this effort.

One way to start would be to take the upcoming training being offered by IRIS, Integrated Refugee & Settlement Services. Please see the information and sign up dates **below**.

Thank you,
Dana Donovan

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Dear Co-Sponsors,

We'll be offering our Virtual Co-Sponsorship Training again May 25-27. As with the April training, it will be in 3 sessions, from 10am-12pm, on three consecutive days. It's fine for people to attend one or two days if they can't make all three days. We can make recordings of these trainings available, but we encourage all who haven't done our training, or all who need a refresher, to attend, for the benefit of live Q&A with IRIS staff. I've listed the session dates & times, with the agenda for each day below. Just click on the blue link to register. Please spread the word among all of your volunteers. We are so glad & grateful to be partnering with you in the joyful, challenging mission of refugee resettlement!

[Tuesday, May 25, 10am-12pm](#)

Update on Refugee Resettlement & Community Co-Sponsorship  
Putting Co-Sponsorship in Perspective  
Case Management

[Wednesday, May 26, 10am-12pm](#)

Problems & Conflicts  
Boundaries & Cross-Cultural Communication  
Education  
Employment

[Thursday, May 27, 10am-12pm](#)

Healthcare/Mental Health  
Moving Towards Self-Sufficiency

Immigration Legal Services  
Co-Sponsor Roles & Responsibilities  
Going Forward

Just a note of clarification: This is our virtual adaptation of the day-long training we used to do at IRIS, which we have revised in response to feedback from participants. This is separate from the brand-NEW "deep-dive" sessions Greg is offering with veteran co-sponsorship leaders. (You should have received an invitation to those sessions from Greg.)

Warm Regards,  
Ashley Makar & the IRIS Community Co-Sponsorship Team  
Ashley Makar  
Community Liaison  
IRIS — Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services [www.irisct.org](http://www.irisct.org)

**For anyone interested in becoming more involved with GHIAA, The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance**

They are offering a 6-week Leadership Training Institute this spring via zoom. Please note that participating in an Orientation session is REQUIRED. They are offering two orientation options below.

Leadership Institute Training Dates/Times: Six Tuesday Evenings from 7:00pm – 9:00pm:

1. April 27, 2021 **Completed**
2. May 4, 2021 **Completed**
3. May 11, 2021 **Completed**
4. May 18, 2021
5. May 25, 2021
6. June 1, 2021

This is an excellent training for anyone interested in social justice work, not just related to GHIAA. If you are interested in taking this Core training please contact Dana Donovan, [danadonovan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danadonovan@sbcglobal.net), or Rev Cathy, [revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com](mailto:revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com) and we will send you the link to sign up.

**News from the USH Board of Directors**

**Your 2020-2021 USH Board**

**Martha Bradley: President**  
**Rob Spector: 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. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)**  
**Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)**

The latest financial reports for **Nov-Dec 2020 & Jan-Feb 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.  
 The Board Meeting minutes for **Oct 2020** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#).  
 Contact Buffie Pinney at [hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com) for the username and password.

## News in the Larger Community

### UUA General Assembly & Conference Services

We are pleased to announce that our Saturday Morning Worship will be led by a collaborative team from three congregations in the Greater Hartford, CT area. The congregations have been growing in collaboration and covenant for years. A huge welcome to our worship leaders: Rev. Adam Robersmith, Dianne Daniels, Rev. Dr. Josh Pawelek, and Rayla D. Mattson, DRE of USH. In their intergenerational service, that share with you how they learn, practice, pray and dream. #UUConnect #UUAGA



During this pandemic, we have moved nearly everything we do online. As we open up, many congregations will be maintaining online options to participate, too. No matter where you are in the world, you can be a part of a Unitarian Universalist community.

**Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith,**  
 GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader



Imagine a church that encourages members and friends to embrace and honor each other's beliefs and provides opportunities to worship together as one faith. We are a loving, diverse, and open-minded religious community that encourages and empowers you to seek your own spiritual path, wherever it leads.

**Dianne M. Daniels,**  
 GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|  <p>”</p> <p>We know collaboration among congregations matters because our theology is covenantal, because our principles center our interdependence, because remaining in our geographical silos now keeps us small and parochial at a time when we are called to burst forth proudly with our message of love, compassion, and justice.</p> <p><b>Rev. Josh Pawelek,</b><br/>GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader</p> | <p>Advice for first time attendees to a virtual General Assembly:</p> <p>”</p> <p>Try something new!<br/>Meet someone new!<br/>It's OK to be afraid.<br/>What if it turns out really well?</p> <p><b>Rayla D. Mattson,</b><br/>GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader</p> |
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**Unitarian Universalists everywhere: it's that time again!**

Mark your calendars for the annual national denominational conference of Unitarian Universalists, June 23-27, 2021. It will again be all-online this year which means that everyone will be online together. Participating online makes it more affordable and accessible for everyone. Please consider whether this is the year you can join in!

"General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable."

**All information, including registration, is here: <https://www.uua.org/ga>**



Here is the link for GA information and registration: General Assembly: [The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting](#)



new programs [here!](#)

**CommunityNOW:** Please see this online calendar compiling what other UU churches and organizations are doing during this pandemic. Check out some

**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/](http://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. 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, & not in July or August)

[USHInternDD@gmail.com](mailto:USHInternDD@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

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

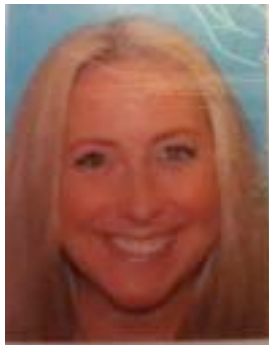
[smoffett@ushartford.com](mailto:smoffett@ushartford.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator

[hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper

Office or Phone by Appointment | [bmullen@ushartford.com](mailto:bmullen@ushartford.com)



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns.

As of May 1st, 2021, Buffie is working Sunday through Thursday from 9am-2pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at **[hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com)**.

**Buffie's always happy to hear from you!**

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

***Email to: [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.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. Consider the proposed 8th Principle as well! <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>.





**I shall  
Gather up  
All the lost souls  
That wander this earth  
All the ones that are alone  
All the ones that are broken  
All the ones that never really fitted in  
I shall gather them all up  
And together we shall find our home**

**Poem written by Athey Thompson  
*Tales of the old forest faeries*  
Photograph from "Through the back door" by J Pickford and A Green  
~ Submitted by Fred Louis, USH member**