



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Website: www.ushartford.com

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

JUNE 2, 2021

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



June 6th, 2021, 10:00am

**"Spread Your Arms Wide: Helping and Empowering
our Neighbors"**

"There are two kinds of people on earth today.

Just two kinds of people, no more, I say.

Not the rich and the poor, for to rate a man's wealth,

You must first know the state of his conscience and health.

**No; the two kinds of people on earth I mean,
Are the people who lift and the people who lean."
– Ella Wheeler Wilcox, "The Two Kinds of People"**

**Dianne Daniels, Intern-Minister
Rayla D. Mattson, DRE
Sam Moffett, DMM
Peter Meny, 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 immediately following services in Zoom. Coffee Hour will resume as usual next Sunday.

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>

Sunday June 20th we will have talk back with the DRE. All children, youth, parents, caregivers and RE volunteers are encouraged to attend as we discuss plans for the upcoming church year. [A link will appear in next weeks E-News to meet and discuss so please stay tuned for updates.](#)

**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.**



Personal News of the Congregation

We are sad to inform you of the death of USH member Paul Christie on March 26, 2021. Please see obituary [HERE](#).

There will be a USH Zoom memorial service on June 15th at 10am so please join us [HERE](#).

Notes of sympathy can be sent to his children, Cara Christie 75 Randolph Pl N, Washington DC 20001 and Kysa Christie 4349 Tuller Ave, Culver City, CA 90230

Interim Minister Updates

Interim Minister Update:

We have matched with our top preference and are very excited to be moving forward with our interim minister candidate! Contract/agreement negotiations are underway as well as a background check. We will provide more information soon, as we complete the required steps in the UUA process.

~Submitted by Lisa Galinski

Social Justice at USH

Please stay tuned for information ~

Church Community & Business News



The Artist's Way group celebrated the end of pandemic isolation with an outing at Hammonasset Beach State Park. We enjoyed a cool but sunny day, leisurely lunch, short walks in nature, and seeing one another. From one member: "It was so wonderful to be together again face to face and hug to hug!"

Artist's Way will be planning and leading the Sunday service on August 8. The group will resume regular meetings in late September/October 2021.

"

Image: Carol Lowbeer

USH Staff Transition & Update

Briana Bittel, USH Custodian for many years, has decided to step back from her custodial position at this time. She recently had shoulder surgery and will be continuing to mend at home. She appreciated her many hours working and

spending time at USH and sends everyone her good wishes and appreciation. If you'd like to send Briana a card wishing her well, please do so -- you can send a card to the USH Office and Buffie will gather them and get them to Briana. Thank you for all your energy & good cheer, Briana! And thanks to Kevin Girourard and others at USH who will attend to custodial tasks in the interim until the next Minister arrives.

--Rev. Heather, on behalf of the USH staff team

Stewardship Follow-up

Thanks to all who have pledged. If you haven't yet but intend to, please let Peter Meny, pimeny9@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

Summer Worship - "Embracing and Releasing"

Summer worship at USH is lay-led by thoughtful, observant, caring and committed members of our congregation. This year the theme of "Embracing and Releasing" will bring sermons opening us to contemplation of the array of emotions and insights we have encountered in the many months since March 2020. So much has happened; our lives, our sleep, our families and friends, the very structure of our days have been affected yet we keep on keeping on.

We will open with General Assembly on June 27 and on the 4th of July we are welcomed to All Souls UU, New London. The calendar for the lay services is currently a scaffold; titles will change and more information will develop as sermons and worship are written and revised but most importantly, take a look at our wonderful speakers and anticipate a summer of embracing and releasing.

June 27 - General Assembly: Live-streamed country-wide UU worship

July 4 - All Souls New London with Rev Carolyn Patierno

July 11 - Judy Robbins "A Summer's Day with Mary Oliver"

July 18 - Rick Tsukada "A Requiem: We are Sorrow, We are Beauty, We are Love"

July 25 - John Bengston "How to have hard conversations"

August 1 - Lisa Galinski "Crossing the Edge"

August 8 - Sue Spaniol/Artists' Way "The Gift of a Year"

August - Out interim minister will join us for a two year exploration

All services will remain on-line until Ingathering September 12th when, fingers crossed, we will resume in-person worship at the Meeting House with a live feed to your home.

~ Submitted by Laurie Kelliher, WA Coordinator



Meetings at the Meeting House!

It was a delight to see so many faces — some fully-vaccinated souls unmasked, even! — at our flower communion drive-through. There was a sense of emerging from a dark, lonely cave into sunlight and laughter, and a promise of more bright days to come.

Some of you have asked about whether in-person gatherings are happening at the Meeting House, and the answer is yes!

A few guidelines are in order, none of which are new. If you're like me, though, you might notice that some of the personal software-- which allows functioning as a civilized person--has been overwritten during the pandemic. I, for one, have gone rather feral. Thus, I need some gentle reminders when it comes to real human interactions.

Here's what to do if your group wants to meet in person at USH. The list isn't exhaustive... someone always comes up with some additions... but it'll get us started:

Check the events calendar on the website. The calendar is your friend. Any planned usage of space should be included here.

Assuming you see no conflicts for day, time, and space, contact Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com to schedule the space and get your event onto the calendar. Copy Rayla in as well at ctraylab@gmail.com; she may be dealing with a rental prospect, and needs to know how our space is being utilized.

If your gathering includes some people participating from home, arrange for one of USH's Zoom links to be reserved. One of the

benefits (?) of this pandemic comes from broadening virtual connections; let's take advantage of this to continue including those unable to be here in person.

When you do meet, at the end of your gathering please take a few minutes to tidy up and leave things organized for the next group. (You know... re-set the thermostat; turn lights out; don't leave dirty dishes, etc.)

These basic acts of courtesy and consideration once were second nature and will be so again once we reacclimate. Be gentle with yourselves and with each other, and enjoy being together again.

Making Progress: Upgrading Tech to Stream Services from the Sanctuary

A small group of Buildings & Grounds folks and friend 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~



Programs for Adults and Families

Adult Programs:

Artist's Way Group: Meets on Mondays 6:30 – 8 p.m. via [Zoom](#). 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.

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 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 or call at **860 463 7982**.

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 - STAY TUNED FOR IN PERSON DATES!

In the meantime, here are links to some concerts by performers we plan to feature when we reopen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIUGgAOa-gQ&fbclid=IwAR2pxqwDinKQD_10X5akC5-9QzdB_tZAPnD5HGgWXmtxJYe86Mb1JVrDPUc

Join us for another Maestro Bistro followed by a presentation on New England Barn Dances, part of the Winter VMFC weekend! This month's bistro features Chris Brinn, Julia Plumb, and Mark Roberts & Andrea Cooper. Donations welcome to [paypal.me/MaineFiddleCamp](https://www.paypal.com/don?to=MaineFiddleCamp)

Scott Cook https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSOPgrXf_X8 (online on demand)

<https://www.scottcook.net/> "As good a modern folkie as we have these days. A voice perfect for the genre. An understanding beyond the norm."

SUSIE ON SUNDAY! Susan Werner every Sunday eve 7 PM Eastern watch with [YouTube](#) or [Facebook Live](#)

**We hope to see you soon,
Laura and Paul Cipriano**

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

Caring Network

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

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.

Church Community Celebrations and Memorials

New Member Update

Please Join us in welcoming Lee Townsend and Kathleen Lee as our newest members here at USH. Please see their bio info below.



Lee Townsend has been a Unitarian for more than 30 years. She tells her story this way:

I grew up as an Episcopalian. I loved the hymns but couldn't buy the belief system. When I was 16, I realized I just wasn't Christian. When I was in my early forties, a friend told me I was a UU. A what?? I became a member of UUS:E and was there until I moved to West Hartford from Manchester. I became a member of UCWH. It worked for a while then I realized the church's philosophies were no longer mine. I had changed. Last November I tried USH. I loved it. For the first time in my life, I listened to the sermons. They worked for me. So - here I am.

My professional life consisted of twenty years in industry where I modeled industrial lasers. After 17 years UTC decided it was time to lay me off. I then started my own company with three other people. We designed a laser that worked! I designed it

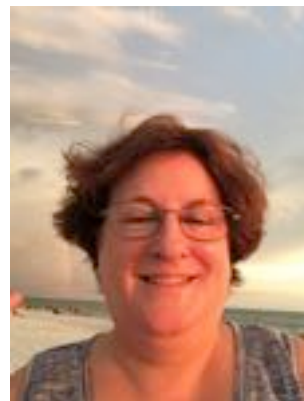
using Excel. Then we were done. Since then I have been teaching math and physics at the University of Hartford. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I wrote Excel codes for the administration and colleagues. I have six patents in lasers and was made a senior member of the Optical Society of America. That was quite an honor.

As I glided into age 76, I realized it was time to get back to music. I love early anglo- and afro- American traditional music. I also have sung in choirs since fourth grade. I really love early music as well.

I am retiring at the end of June, 2021. Retirement means it's time to clean off all my computers and devices, clean up the mess in the house, and return to being a musician. I am really looking forward to my new life.

Kathleen "Kathy" Lee decided to check out USH when services came online and stayed for the past year. She's been a UU since the 80's, starting in the small fellowship in Storrs, then as a member of congregations in the Pacific NW - Portland and Seattle - through the 90's. She has been a member of UUSE in Manchester (where she lives with her dear pup, Maybelle) since returning to CT in 1999 to be with her family. Kathy enjoys cooking (a lot!) and spending time near the ocean - she "glamps" in the summer at Hammonasset.

She was drawn to USH because she is at a place in her life where she would like to make new friends and be open to some new experiences. She's enjoyed getting to know the USH congregation and has been amazed at how "zooming" with USH members has given her an opportunity to get to know people more deeply than might have happened from going to Coffee Hour in person for a whole year. She's looking forward to Volunteering during the online GA - acting as a Zoom Host - and meeting other UU's from all over - and can't wait until she can meet everyone at USH in person!



USH Child Dedication

Please join us in welcoming our newest member Marie Lorén Maldonado-Rivera, who was dedicated to the Unitarian Society of Hartford, along with Reverend Cathy Rion Starr, and family this past Friday, May 21st, 2021.

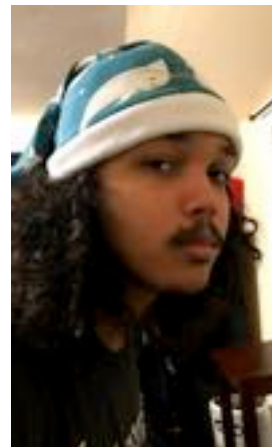


Our very special Sunday Sexton, Jaz Perez-Acevedo, graduated from St. Joseph University on Saturday, May 15 with a degree in Public Policy. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and successful future, Jaz.



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.





Hispanic Women Leaders Award

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

News in the Larger Community

Virtual Nonprofit Workshop Series JUNE 2021

Upcoming Events

****Please note: registration is required for each individual workshop in advance***

MOBILIZE YOUR BOARD TO RAISE FUNDS

Thursday, June 10, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Presenter: Judith Margolin, www.needagrants.org

In these challenging economic times, nonprofit board members no longer have the luxury of saying, "I don't raise funds." This webinar delivers the tools to both incentivize board members and to help them become more comfortable with the fundraising process. It provides an ideal opportunity for nonprofit staffers to participate with their board members. Topics covered include: who should and should not be on the board, what policies and structures need to be in place to facilitate board fundraising, how to achieve a state of grantseeking readiness, and how to develop an action plan to move toward a fully engaged board. Specific attention is paid to the various roles board members can and should play vis a vis your organization's prospects and donors. [Click here to register](#)

BOARD MEMBER BOOTCAMP

Wednesday, June 23, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Presenter: Mae Maloney, Leadership Greater Hartford

Newly appointed nonprofit board members or serving board members that have never received formal board training will learn about the ten basic responsibilities of nonprofit boards as well as the duties of individual board members, relationship between board and staff, and common issues facing nonprofit boards. PowerPoint presentation and other handouts will be emailed to participants. [Click here to register](#)

All workshops are offered at no cost to participants through a partnership between Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Hartford Public Library

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL WORKSHOP IN ADVANCE

If you have any questions, please email nonprofitslearn@hplct.org.



The Hartford Gay Men's Chorus (HGMC) will partner with the Unitarian Society of Hartford to co-host its first drive-thru food drive on Saturday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All food donations from "Provide with Pride!" will benefit the pantries of Hands On Hartford and Chrysalis

Center. The chorus is going to meet outside in the church parking lot tomorrow 5/19 and 5/26 from 7-8 pm to rehearse the National Anthem for Pride Night on Friday, June 4th at the Hartford Yard Goats. I apologize for the short notice.

Here is the link to our spring show: ["Love Can Build a Bridge"](#).

**Thank you and best,
Robert Reader**

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 the pandemic, we have moved nearly everything on the 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



”

We know collaboration among congregations matters because our theology is communal, because our principles center on interdependence, because remaining in our geographical area now keeps us small and parochial at a time when we are called to love both globally with our message of love, compassion, and justice.

Rev. Josh Pawelek,
GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader



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Advice for first time attendees to a virtual General Assembly:
Try something new!
Meet someone new!
It's OK to be afraid.
What if it turns out really well!


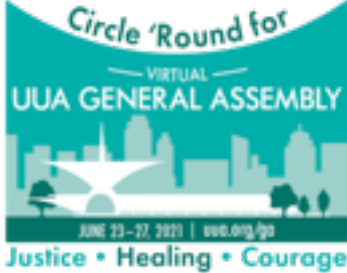
Rayla D. Maltson,
GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader

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](#)

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 **March & April 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. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revheatherionstarr@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
dre@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffett@ushartford.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 | bmullen@ushartford.com



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!

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!

**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/>.

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Image: Marye Gail Harrison