



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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

Website: www.ushartford.org

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

July 21, 2021

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



July 25th, 2021, 10:00am

"How to Have Difficult Conversations"

"For millions of years, mankind lived just like the animals. Then something happened which unleashed the power of our imaginations- we learned to talk" ~Steven Hawking, introducing the Pink Floyd song "Keep talking".

Come explore the value of and the reluctance to have difficult conversations, especially with those who do not share common points of view. Reflect on how to approach initiating successful conversations. To engage in this reflection is to accept the challenge of participating in what is a difficult conversation in itself. Join us!

John Bengtson, Pulpit Guest
Sue Smolski, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director Music Ministries
Paul Cipriano, Zoom Master
TBD, 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.



Guest Speaker John Bengtson

John has been a self employed carpenter since 1993 in the Hartford area. He helped raise two wonderful daughters, both of whom were part of the youth group here at USH. He joined this congregation in 2006 and since 2007 began helping as a youth advisor, leading the group for a few years and still leads soup making once per month for the last 10 years,

continuing to make it from home and deliver even throughout the pandemic. An avid music fan, he is a regular presence of the local concert scene. Lots of weekends he is in the North East Kingdom of Vermont, where he has been building a house with friends.

[Unitarian Society of Hartford is on Vimeo](#)
Unitarian Society of Hartford is also on Vimeo, the home for high quality videos and the people who love them. See more at vimeo.com. Please note that closed captions are NOT available in Vimeo.



Sunday Welcome Volunteers

Though we're only in mid-July, 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.

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.

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

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

Story time with our DRE - <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



"It Took a Village"

Did you tune in to the service this past Sunday? To the *first-ever live-streamed service from our sanctuary??* This is the group of folks who made this possible; who blended a thoughtful and moving worship experience with the technical savvy to capture and stream it, live, on multiple platforms (*Vimeo*, Facebook Live, and Zoom). We would love to

know your thoughts and hear your reactions; how did it feel to see a real live worship service coming from our sanctuary? Send your comments to Buffie at hartfordusociety@gmail.com.

(Missing from photo but instrumental to this success: Kevin Girouard, Stu Spence, Buffie)



Live music returned to USH on July 18 — originally envisioned as a free lawn concert, an uncertain forecast dictated a prudent retreat indoors. And so, after 16 months of silence, the sanctuary resonated with musicians in **live** performance.

Long-time USH friends Patrice Fitzgerald and Richard Leslie gave us an assortment of familiar standards; Eric Paradine's set featured some creative improvisational blues numbers; Meetinghouse, the musical collaboration among USH, Universalist West Hartford, and UUS:E closed with energetic folk/rock classics.

It's rather an anthropomorphic fantasy, but if our building could think, I'd like to imagine it was deep-breathing this music and saying "thank you".
Photo: *Meetinghouse* (the band) rocking out in the sanctuary



WEEDERS NEEDED! The Memorial Garden and the Pet Memorial Garden need to be weeded. Can you stop by for 15 or 20 minutes? If you want to weed longer, please feel free to do that! If you have them, bring a bucket and trowel. The weeds can be dumped into the woods beyond the solar array to be recycled. If you are not sure if the targeted plant is a weed or treasure, call one of us on your cell phone (Janice 860/212-6923 or David 860/335-3742) and show us! If you let us know when you plan to weed, we will try to arrange to join you! The extreme heat and the rainy days have kept us from weeding as much as we would like. Also, when nobody was around last year

because of the pandemic, the weeds took advantage of our neglect. In addition, watch the Enews for the announcement of the September Building and Grounds Work-Day when you can join with other USH members and friends to get our building and the grounds ready for our return! **When the families entrusted the ashes of their loved ones to us, we promised to have a serene and well-cared-for resting place.** We need help keeping that promise! If you have any questions, please call us! If you do weed, please let us know so we can thank you! Thank you very much for your consideration of this need!

~Janice and David Newton

Meeting House Sing-Along – August 14, 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.

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.

We WELCOME Refreshments to be shared !

VAX protocol - OK to sing, socially spaced, if you are vaccinated; 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.



Transaction

USH Officially Acquires Solar Equipment Behind the Meeting House

At right, David Newton, Sole Proprietor, Presents USH Treasurer Bob Hewey, with Directions to the Solar System purchased by USH June 30, 2021, and Jim Venneman, Accountant Advisor for USH in the

On June 30th USH became the owner of the solar equipment located at the rear of the Meeting House. This ended a process first begun in 2015 when a group of USH members began a process to acquire the solar equipment and benefit by the then state and federal incentives for purchasing and installing such solar equipment. After studying tax law and assembling other relevant information, the group found it could only benefit from the incentives if a tax paying owner was involved. Consequently, David Newton became a Sole Proprietor and through a complex series of agreements with USH (Endowment) leased the land under the equipment from USH and provided solar electricity to USH at a cost slightly less than Eversource would charge for the same amount of electricity. In addition, ZREC (state incentive payments) for solar electricity generated onsite were paid to USH further reducing the cost of Kilowatts used in the building.

Member donations to the Endowment were loaned to the Sole Proprietor to finance the purchase and installation of the solar equipment while the Sole Proprietor paid interest on the funds benefitting the Endowment as would any other similar invested funds.

After a five-year interval, USH has now purchased the equipment and the Sole Proprietor paid off the remaining balance on the outstanding loan as well as outstanding lease costs. In the end, this process resulted in a reduction in cost of electricity used by USH over the five-year interval and now, an annual reduction of the cost of electricity used in the Meeting House to close to zero for at least the next 15 years. On an annual basis, the Meeting House consumes about the same amount of electricity the solar equipment produces.

Submitted by USH member, David Newton



Summer Worship - "Embracing and Releasing"

Summer worship at USH is layed by thoughtful, observant, caring and committed members of our congregation. 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.

Most importantly, anticipate creative thoughtful summer worship services led by members of our congregation during July and until Ingathering Sunday in September.

August 1 - Lisa Galinski "Crossing the Edge"
August 8 - Sue Spaniol/Artists' Way Reflections on "The Gift of a Year"
August 15 - Title TBA - Judy Robbins/Rick Tsukada
August 22 - "Making Peace" - Margaret Leicach/ Sue Smolski
August 29 - "Happiness In the Midst of Chaos" - Rob Spector
Sept 5 - "You Can ('t) Go Home Again"- Laurie Kelliher

On July 18th, the worship team was **livestreamed** from our sanctuary using our new equipment for the first time. Currently, all other services are planned to remain in the on-line format we have been using until Ingathering Sunday, September 12th, when we plan to resume in-person worship at the Meeting House with livestreaming available.

View our most recent services at the links **below**.

July 11th "A Summers day with Mary Oliver"

<https://vimeo.com/575018634>

July 18th "A Requiem; We Are Sorrow, We Are Beauty, We Are Love"

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

~~ Updated - Sue Smolski, WA Coordinator 2021-23



RETURNING TO SCHOOL 2021-22

We can say with some degree of certainty that most children grow. Hartford students will be returning to in class instruction this fall – and will need to be in their required uniforms. Schools have their own dedicated colors, like the students below who must wear green tops and tan bottoms. Last years uniforms are likely to be too small. To help Hartford families that struggle to make ends meet, the Village for Families and Children is having its Annual Uniform Fundraiser. USH has contributed to this Fundraiser for eight years. Let's continue to support the children served by the Village by donating to this

fundraiser. Any amount is appreciated.

Please make your check out to The Unitarian Society of Hartford with Uniforms in the memo line. Mail them to Unitarian Society of Hartford, Attention Brian Mullen, 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT 06105

**Thank you~
 Joanne Orlando**

Email and Listservs to Change

The plan to move our USH Web to a new provider and change staff email addresses to Gmail services is progressing as expected. This will result in fewer outgoing emails not delivered to USH members because of suspicion of spam.

At this point, old ushartford.com email addresses to staff members are being sent to their new or continuing Gmail addresses. This will **not** continue after September 30.

The continuing or new addresses are:

Buffie Pinney <hartforduusociety@gmail.com>

Brian Mullen bmullen@ushartford.com

Rayla Mattson ctraylab@gmail.com

Sam Moffett smoffettuu@gmail.com

Dianne Daniels ushinterndd@gmail.com

You can help by recording these addresses in you contacts folder or equivalent and use them going forward.

Submitted by David Newton



Meetings at the Meeting House!

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:

The events calendar on the website is our central hub for all meetings and reserving space.

Assuming there are conflicts for day, time, and space you wish to reserve, contact Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com and copy Rayla at ctraylab@gmail.com to ensure no rental conflicts

If your gathering includes people participating virtually, arrange with Buffie to reserve one of USH's Zoom links. One of the benefits of the pandemic comes from broadening virtual connections; let's take advantage of this to continue including those unable to be here in person.

At the end of your gathering please 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.

Programs for Adults and Families



UU SpiritLife

UU SpiritLife offers spiritually-focused programs to members and friends of the three Hartford area UU churches.

Fall 2021 Offerings Include: Daytime

"Spirituality for UUs" - This course helps UUs to establish and deepen their spiritual lives in a religion without a creed. 12 weekly Zoom sessions; Sept 7-Nov 23; Tues, 10 am-noon with Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada

Evening - (Either "Living Your Faith" OR "Spiritual Practices for UUs" will be offered, depending on the sign-ups for the two programs)

"Living Your Faith" - participants articulate the tenets of their faith and explore how this faith is manifested in their daily lives. 12 Sessions; Tue: 7:00-8:30 pm; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

-- OR --

"Spiritual Practices for UUs" is a 9-month program in which participants experiment with different spiritual practices to explore how these practices can change how they experience and live life. 16 Sessions; Tue: 7:00-8:30 pm; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

Other Evening Offerings

"Tending Your Spiritual Garden" - participants explore how they might reap the bounty of a soulful spirituality.

2 Sessions; Thu 7:00-8:30 pm; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

"Being a Monk in the World" - finding and living from your inner monastery. Four conversational Zoom sessions, including a review of recent writings on the subject.

First Wed 7:00-8:30 pm; Sept-Dec. with David Gonci

"How Your Former Catholicism Can Expand Your UUism" - Ex-Catholic? No need to drop it all.

8 Zoom sessions on alternate Thurs starting Oct 14; 6-7:30 pm. With Rev Joy Christi Przeworski and Judy Robbins.

For more complete information including registration visit www.UUSpiritLife.org.

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 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**.

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.

News in the Larger Community

Stay Tuned~

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 **Nov-Dec 2020 & Jan-Feb 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **May & June 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.



Lost N Found

Does anyone know who this tray belongs to? If so please let me know? I'd like to adopt it if I am able!

Thank You All~

Buffie

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
dre@ushartford.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 | 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**](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

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/>.