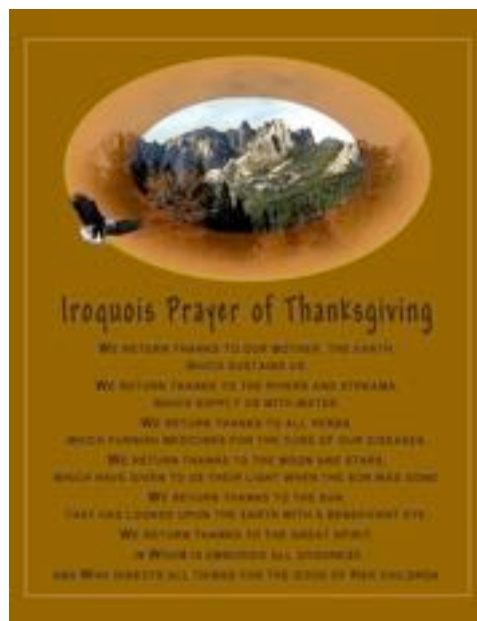




Unitarian Society of Hartford

Building Community Since 1830
Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartfordusociety@gmail.com
Website: www.ushartford.org
Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm, or email/call for an appointment.

November 17, 2021





November 21st, 2021, 10:30am

"Gratitude"

**Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Peter Meny, Worship Associate
Mike Covault, Zoom & Coffee Hour Host
Helen David & Deb Meny, Greeters
Ginny Hedrick & Peter Meny, Ushers
Dana Donovan, Welcome Table
Maggie Greene, Chancel Art
10:30am Worship Service**

**Also join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).
Closed captions are available.
Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113
Passcode: 014277**

11:30am - Fellowship Time will be immediately following services in Fellowship Hall.

For those that are on Zoom, please stay on Zoom to chat with any remaining members.

**You can also watch the Sunday service
at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford> or on the USH Facebook page.**



A Message from the Minister

I had never heard of the Thanksgiving Day holiday until I visited the U.S. for the first time in the late 1970s. It was a purely American tradition that had not been publicized in my small world.

We didn't have pumpkins or Jack O'Lanterns when I was kid growing up, although I understand that those things are now fairly commonplace in the land that I

used to call home.

My first exposure to Thanksgiving was with the American family that I eventually married into. Although I must say that I enjoyed it very much, I wasn't able to feel a connection with history, and the historical significance of the holiday was a bit lost on me.

Over the years Thanksgiving has become one of my favorite holidays. It doesn't come with all the pressure of gift-giving (aka shopping), and is mostly a time for families and friends to reassemble as kinship groups, to share stories, and check in with one another.

I have come to appreciate the ritual of sharing with others the things for which I am feeling the most gratitude, and hearing what others are feeling grateful for as well.

A couple of years ago I stumbled upon the wisdom of David Steindl-Rast, a Benedictine monk who has made the connection between gratitude and happiness. Br. David has made many videos on the subject, and I recommend that you check them out. Here's one that you can click on and watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UtBsl3j0YRQI>

in recent years the Thanksgiving holiday has become associated with the horrific injustices committed against indigenous people in North America. Coming from a country of origin where my ancestors perpetrated unspeakable crimes against defenseless peoples – like intentionally giving them blankets infected with smallpox – I feel shame and empathy. The time is long overdue for our society to do whatever it can to make amends for the past.

If we ignore the lessons of history, I believe we are certain to repeat the old mistakes and commit the old injustices once again. That is one reason I feel that teaching our country's history of racism in our schools is so important.

It is also important to acknowledge that past mistakes and misfortunes are part of our story. More now than ever we need to be comfortable sharing our complete story, especially as our country inevitably begins to pullback from being the world's policeman and occupy a different place in the family of nations.

Telling our story though, and sharing and acknowledging our history, does not mean that we should abandon the Thanksgiving holiday, nor condemn those who continue to celebrate it. Instead, we can feel and express gratitude, and be moved to share our good fortune with others.

For there are so many things to be grateful for, notwithstanding the pandemic and the political rivalries in our country today.

Our congregational listening circles over the last few weeks have brought many stories to light. Stories that help to inform us who we are as a congregation.

The lessons from these stories will help the congregation in its search for its next minister.

And, the mistakes and misfortunes can be shared without incurring judgement. There's very little to be gained from attributing blame, and nothing to be gained in the long term by excluding what happened in the past from our history books. As it goes for our country, so it goes with our congregation.

We celebrate our history not only by lifting up its glory and its accomplishments, but also by owning up to our mistakes and misfortunes, and sharing all with gratitude, and pride, and hope, and joy.

So please, celebrate Thanksgiving. Don't feel that you shouldn't celebrate the things for which you should be grateful.

Nor sweep under the rug those things you would rather not want to talk about. These things are a call to action, not shame.

I sincerely hope that all of our members and friends enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving holiday. That you can see in your hearts and your lives the things for which you should feel gratitude. As well as remembering what came before that made us who we are, so that we can all move forward together to bring about justice, and change.

Happy Thanksgiving.

With love and gratitude, Rev. Terry Cummings



USH Welcomes 4 New and Returning Members (in-person).

On Sunday, November 11th, USH held its first in-person, in-sanctuary New Member ceremony since December of 2019. (That was prior to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which forced our congregation to suspend in-person worship until it resumed in September of this year.)



After worship we enjoyed the beautiful sunny fall day outdoors and officially welcomed (from left to right) **Evan Williams, Lucille Giamatteo, David Borrino** and **Kathy Lee** to our congregation.

An informal reception included having the new and returning members sign the membership book, receive a rose and being

treated to some cake and other refreshments as they had a chance to meet existing members. **(Photos by Harriet Gardner)**

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



Hello USH Family!!

This is the enews for the 17th. I will send you the story in a separate email.

3rd Principle - Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

Week 1: I hope you all were able to fully engage in our first two UU principles. I know I have done a lot of reflecting lately on what they mean to me and my family and how we can live more fully into them. As a reminder, the good thing about each of our principles is that every day is a new chance to incorporate them into our lives.

The book for our 3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations is a classic story *Frederick* by Leo Lionni. It's a beautiful story of accepting others and their gifts and journey even if you don't understand it. For me, it causes me to pause before judging and try to get a better understanding. It also teaches me that I may not ever understand and that it's not a requirement for acceptance. I hope you and your family enjoy this story as we move into our next four weeks of reflection.

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.
<https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianSocietyOfHartford>

USH Community & Business

Please take note that the next Board meeting will be on **December 14th** at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#)

Director of Religious Education Leave of Absence

The USH Board of Directors has approved a leave of absence for our Director of Religious Education, Rayla D. Mattson.

Rayla will be on leave from October 26th through November 26th. We will provide information regarding our religious education program in her absence in future announcements.

In the meantime, please direct any inquiries to Rev. Terry via email, revterryush@gmail.com.



USH November 2021 Auction

A Big Thank you to all of the auction donors and bidders. Together we had 72 items or services sold this past Sunday to 23 successful bidders – for a sales total of \$6,770 to support the good work of USH. If you hadn't taken your auction item with you on Nov 14th it is either in the office waiting for you or the donor has not yet made arrangements.

We will be e-mailing auction statements this week to donors and buyers. Many people settled up their account on Sunday – Thank you. If not your statement will show a balance to pay by check to USH with auction in memo line. You can also review your statement by signing into the auction website <http://www.togetherauction.com/ushartford> Special thanks to Bob Hewey our live auctioneer, Laura Cipriano our credit card and payment specialist on auction day, John

Bengston and youth for great soup and biscuits, Janice Newton and Evan Williams for baked treats, to all those that helped set up and take down chairs and tables. Ginny Hedrick, Mike and Jon Covault, and Buffie Pinny did a great job soliciting donations and organizing the auction.

There were 21 un sold items after rhe Auction. We have reopened the online site for entering bids on these until Dec 10th.

togetherauction.com/ushartford

You must log in to bid

Using phone # without 860 ie xxx-yyyy

Your pin is last 4 didgits of phone number

Send questions to ush.auction2020@gmail.com

Thanks – auction team Mike Covault, Ginny Hendrick, Jon Covault Bob Hewey and Buffie Pinney

A Message to Our USH Community.

We are putting together a Governance Task Force of congregants to meet regularly and develop a Strategic Plan for the Unitarian Society of Hartford as part of our vision for the future of our congregation. This is a project that should result in a plan for governance, a design for personnel management, a revised organizational chart and a discussion of your vision for the future of this church and this congregation. The work of this task force will also help us prepare for beginning our search for a settled minister. Please join us for this exciting project. All meetings will be via Zoom.

Contact Reverend Terry (revterryush@gmail.com), Rob Spector (rspector0317@yahoo.com) or Eve Pech (elpech@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in joining the Task Force.



LUNCH BUNCH~

The Lunch Bunch will meet at Concetta's, Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Ave., Bloomfield. 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 (except December) through

June. The remaining dates for 2021-2022 are: 12/14/21 (to avoid Christmas week), 1/18/22, 2/15/22, 3/15/22, 4/19/22, 5/17/22, and 6/21/22. 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 me. Reservations are necessary! Please call me at 860-212-6923 (Leave a message if I don't answer.) or email me at janicecnewton@gmail.com.



Holiday Regifting Sale - The Joy of Buying Used!

Treasures in your drawers and closets can now be donated to the USH Holiday Regifting Sale. Get ready for the holidays by clearing out the old and making way for something more meaningful.

Regifting has been a holiday tradition of the USH Green Sanctuary group for a decade, and it's back this season! Please help us out by only donating items in good condition that others would be pleased to gift a family member or friend.

As you bag up your treasures, please attach a note with a suggested price for your items. This will help us when we set up for the sale!

Place your donations in the Regifting Bin in the lobby of the Meetinghouse now through Sunday, November 29. Volunteers are welcome to help sort, finish pricing, and stage gift items on sale tables starting Monday, November 30. To volunteer, please contact Mary Sherwin at **mary.sherwin@gmail.com** or 860-874-6399.

The sale will take place after Sunday services on December 5 and December 12 after the service. A special sale for children and their families will be held on Saturday morning, December 11 from 10 am to noon.



Book Table at Coffee Hour!

Please bring your dollars and find great books that your USH friends have chosen to share with you! AND please continue to cull your bookshelves and donate books that YOU really liked and want to pass on. Fiction, non fiction, cookbooks, mysteries, spiritual, nature, art, self help and also books for kids and youth—let's get into the spirit of sharing with one another! Books can be left in the office in a plastic container labeled for book collection. We have a good group of volunteers for this activity. **Any questions, contact Susan at susanhope51@gmail.com or 860 463 6407.**



we are back to singing on Second Saturdays

Hi folks,

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 maroon/purple "Rise Again" sequel – 1200 more songs to sample, plus any song-sheets you care to contribute (bring about 20 copies for the group). If the October weather holds, we will meet to the right of the building, in the Memorial Garden patio. 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 Meeting House is at 50 Bloomfield Avenue in Hartford. Some of us bring snacks, but that is not required (or organized). Donations to defray building expenses are encouraged. Look for a sign near the front door if you can't see or hear us right away. We will be around to the right of the main entrance, down the (rough) path to the patio. VAX protocol - OK to sing, socially spaced, if you are vaccinated; even so, 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.

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) with questions and suggestions.

Next month, we will probably be inside; let's discuss how that will work during our 3:30 break on Saturday (or via e-mails).

[Unitarian Society of Hartford is on Vimeo](#)

We are asking for volunteers: Live streaming video team needs volunteers. We will teach you how to operate our live streaming equipment so that you join in rotation to produce our Sunday service. Please email jon Covault - jncovault@hotmail.com.

Many Thanks, Staff at USH



Sunday Welcome Volunteers

**See Sign Up Genius Link
[HERE](#). Please contact Buffie at
hartforduusociety@gmail.com
for any assistance or
additional questions.**

Programs for Adults and Families

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.

Book Selections 2021-2022

Dec 9 The Signal Flame- Andrew Krivak

Jan 13. Mansfield Park- Jane Austin

Feb 10- A Promised Land- Barack Obama

March 10- Finding Higher Ground: An Adaption in the Age of Warming- Amy Seidel

Apr 14- First Friends: The Powerful Unsung (and Unelected) People Who Shaped Our Presidents- Gary Ginsberg

May 12- The Extended Mind: Thinking Outside Your Brain- Anne Murphy Paul

June 9- The Hellfire Club- Jay Tapper

July 14- Hamnet- Maggie O'Farrell

Aug 11- The Vanishing Half- Brit Bennett

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 on line the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. 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 group stays in the group.

Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call at **860 904-7768**.

Social Justice

STAY TUNED~

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.

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/>

Thank you for your support of Meeting House Presents!! If you are receiving this email you have signed up to be on our mailing list or you have purchased tickets online through brown paper tickets and given us your email address.

We are back with live in person concerts!! On Friday November 19 we are bringing Vance Gilbert and on December 17 Reggie Harris and Pat Wictor.

Regarding covid we are currently following CDC guidelines and require masks and proof of vaccination for all those in attendance. Bring and wear your mask; if you forget, we have a supply and will give you one. The sanctuary is large enough to comfortably accommodate all who are likely to come. We can spread out, maintaining reasonable distance from each other. Seating is every-other pew to facilitate separation. We do this for the safety of our volunteers, performers and fellow concert goers.

We hope you understand. Feel free to contact us with comments or questions. Thank you for supporting independent musicians, live music and Meeting House Presents!
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/>



Vance Gilbert
November
19, 2021
50
Bloomfield
Ave. at 7:30
p.m.

Tickets: <https://vancegilbert.bpt.me>
[Vance Gilbert's website](#)

Listen: <https://vimeo.com/377104057>

"I'm black, I sing, I play an acoustic guitar, and I don't play the blues," Gilbert insists. That may be a broad statement, but it rings with truth. His remarkable rapport with his audiences and his free spirited performances inspired one critic to hail him as "a folkie trapped in a vaudevillian body," with "a voice that could have been on the opera stage, a wit that could have been on a comedy stage and a songwriting talent that's thrust him on the folk stage for decades."

Meeting House Presents 2021-22 Season
 Concerts are the third Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. at the
 Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Avenue Hartford, CT
 06105

Nov. 19, 2021
Dec. 17, 2021
Apr. 22, 2022
May 20, 2022

Vance Gilbert
Reggie Harris and Pat Wictor
Mad Agnes (4th Friday)
Seán Heely

Tickets are available in advance from brownpapertickets.com and at the door for \$20.

Season tickets are available for \$100 for all six concerts and can be purchased at the door or after church services.

Reggie Harris and Pat Wictor – December 17, 2021
50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Websites: <https://reggieharrismusic.com/>
<https://www.patwictor.com/>

Tickets: <https://reggieharris.bpt.me>

listen: <https://youtu.be/aiYrnt2V3ao>

Save the dates for spring 2022 concerts. Tickets will be available next year.

Mad Agnes – April 22, 2022 50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.



Mad Agnes is Margo Hennebach, Adrienne Jones and Mark Saunders. Each member arrived at the trio from a staggering list of solo accomplishments, including songwriting competitions, recordings, and the ability to sleep on any surface.



[One Wild Dove](#) video

**Seán Heely duo with bouzouki player Beth Patterson– May 20, 2022
50 Bloomfield Ave. at 7:30 p.m.**

website <https://www.seanheely.com/>

video: <https://youtu.be/087oijDW8IM>

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

News in the Larger Community

More to come~

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 **FY July-Aug 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **July 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. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
terryuu633@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

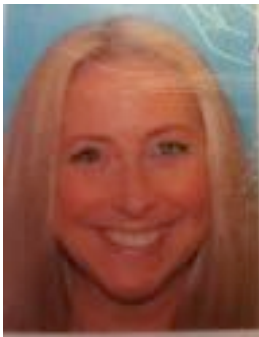
Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)
USHInternDD@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager
ctraylab@gmail.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
brianmullenush@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102



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 is always happy to hear from you!

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

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Please note in the subject line "USH-Enews." Thank you for your submission!