



**Unitarian Society of Hartford**

**Building Community Since 1830**

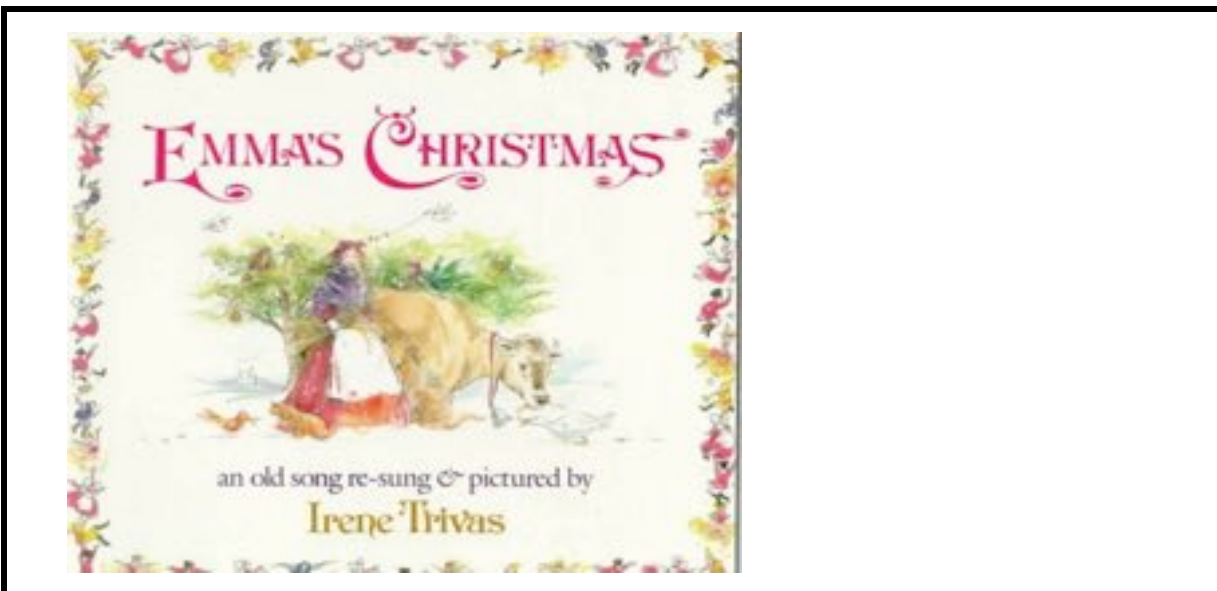
**Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister  
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**

**Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: [hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.ushartford.org](http://www.ushartford.org)**

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

**DECEMBER 15, 2021**



**December 19th, 2021, 10:30am**

## **"Christmas Pageant - Emma's Christmas"**

**Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister**  
**Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education**  
**Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**  
**John Brancato, Worship Associate**  
**Mike Covault, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess**  
**Dana Donovan, Greeter**  
**Laurel Goodgion, Usher**  
**Helen David, Welcome Table**  
**Martha Bradley, 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 attending by Zoom, please remain on Zoom to chat with others at the end of the service.**

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

#### **A Message from Rayla D. Mattson**

**Dear USH Members and Friends**

**I have been a staff member here at USH for 9 1/2 years and my family has been part of this community for about 12. So, it was not an easy decision but I have decided to resign my two positions here at USH.**

**I will miss you all greatly but this is what my family needs at this time. My last day will be Sunday January 2nd and I hope to see as many of you as possible before then. *All my love, Rayla***

**Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education**



**Dear members & friends of the  
Unitarian Society of Hartford,**

It is hard for me to believe that 2021 is already drawing to a close. It feels like it arrived just the other day. It has been a tumultuous year for the world, for our country, for your congregation and many of you personally. It has been a tumultuous year for me, too.

I didn't really know anything about the season of Advent before I entered the ministry. Since then, I have come to treasure an entire season for

acknowledging love, joy, hope, peace, and waiting in our lives. If we are wise, we will try hard to let those things walk beside us in the new year.

And I will never forget the first time I attended a Christmas Eve service at my "home" congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, New Jersey, and experienced the passing of candles during the singing of *Silent Night*. Christmas Eve services without *Silent Night* would not be the same for me, and we will continue that tradition here at the Unitarian Society of Hartford during our service a week from Friday.

As we transition into the New Year, my work as your interim minister is set to enter a new phase. I have spent the last few months getting to know you, and you me.

I have asked lots of questions, listened as much as I am able, and worked with your board and committees to understand some of the systems and history that contribute to the character of the congregation. Recently, an experienced interim minister shared with a group of us colleagues that an interim minister has one congregant to serve in addition to all of the members of the church, and that congregant is the institution itself. It is for that reason that I will spend time reviewing in some depth the congregational structure of governance, policies and procedures.

There will be a space for all of us to contribute to the future of the Society in the months ahead. There will be choices presented and

decisions to be made. And if past is prologue, there will be more changes to navigate.

In the Narthex of our Meeting House there is a visual history of the congregation. It tells a story of the Society that ends at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Recently I was struck by the fact that from 1880 to 1924 the Society's name was Unity Church. I wonder what our, your, ancestors were thinking, 15 years after the Civil War, when they chose to emphasize unity in the name?

One of my hopes for the congregation as we go into the new year is that unity will remain at its heart. It wasn't always so, and members were lost as a result. Unity is deeply important, even, perhaps especially, if there is disagreement.

One of the broader changes that is taking place within Unitarian Universalism is the sincere denominational commitment to welcome and embrace human diversity in our congregations and in our pulpits; to dismantle systems and structures of supremacy that have been barriers to individuals with marginalized identities.

In June of 2020 the UUA Commission on Institutional Change published an important report, *Widening the Circle of Concern*, that lays the ground for the work to which all of us can contribute in ways both large and small. The report calls for a commitment to hospitality, compassion, empathy, self-awareness and mindfulness, humility and restoration. The COVID 19 pandemic, as well as the events of November 2020 to January of 2021 may have distracted attention from this work, but if our denomination is to thrive and grow in the decades ahead the recommendations of the Commission need to become familiar to UUs everywhere. I will be sharing more about the report in the months ahead.

Speaking of COVID, I learned recently that we have had 8,000 new cases in Connecticut in the last few days, including 3,000 on one day. More than ever, it is important that we follow the Board's guidelines for wearing masks and observing social distancing in the Meeting House. I have been one of those who has gotten too relaxed over the past couple of months, and I intend to be more diligent in the weeks ahead. I have asked our staff to be more diligent as well, and I

request that we all continue to be mindful of the guidelines on Sundays and other times when we are in the Meeting House.

This Sunday we will again make space for sharing “Matters of the Heart” during our Christmas Season pageant service. We would love to share your joys and concerns, and acknowledge any life passages or events that you would like to share with others.

**Here is how Matters of the Heart will be shared -**

- Please send me an email with any Matters of the Heart that you would like to share with the congregation by 9:15 a.m. on Sunday ([revterryush@gmail.com](mailto:revterryush@gmail.com)); or
- If you are attending the service in-person, index cards and pencils will be provided at the welcome table for you to write them down when you arrive at the Meeting House; or
- Write them in the chat if you are attending the service by Zoom.

I will share your Matters of the Heart from the pulpit immediately before our customary candle ritual.

**Please mark on your calendar the following services:**

Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., *Emma’s Christmas* – the twelve days of Christmas that went haywire;

Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. – a winter solstice celebration in Fellowship Hall;

Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., our Christmas Eve service;

Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., - Dianne Daniels will lead her last service at USH with a celebration of Kwanzaa.

**With love and blessings for the holiday season.**

**In faith, Rev. Terry Cummings**

### **Board Accepts Bid for Construction of Long Delayed Sanctuary Lighting Project**

According to Jon Covault, Chair of the Council on Administration, the Board voted at its Tuesday December 14th meeting to accept a bid from Lighthouse Enterprises out of Cromwell Connecticut for the electrical and preparatory work to install new Sanctuary lighting for the David Venneman Memorial Lighting Project.

Arrangements for bids and related architectural work continues under the direction of USH member Hugh Schweitzer, Partner in the Firm CHK LLC, who did the preparatory work of soliciting bids for specified construction services and does not charge USH for his services.

The winning bid of \$25,650 submitted by Lighthouse Enterprises is part of a total cost anticipated to be approximately \$41,800 when the costs to USH of the individual lighting units are added. Individual donations in hand to support the David Venneman Memorial Lighting Project total \$37,438 leaving a balance to be contributed from the USH Endowment or other USH resources of approximately \$4,330, a sum the Board appropriated in addition to providing approval if expenses exceeded estimates by a reasonable amount.

The anticipated window for construction will be between January 1, 2022, and March 30th. During that period the carpentry sub-contractor and Lighthouse Enterprises will erect staging to complete the necessary wiring and controls. During this construction period, it is expected services may need to be held in Fellowship Hall at times when staging is in place for workers to complete ceiling construction. As you can imagine, our unique Sanctuary ceiling presents unusual issues for any kind of construction because, among other factors, it is suspended by cables with a unique layered roof architecture.

The need for better lighting has been outstanding for years. When the Meeting House was constructed in 1964, some building goals were not finished for lack of money. For example, the kitchen was without equipment. The plan had been to place lights in canisters set in the roof. However, these were not subsequently added as roofing issues prevented them ever being constructed as planned. The late Roy Cook designed the "hockey puck" to improve lighting. It was an improvement, but not adequate for current needs. The current lighting plan was delayed multiple times, most recently by the COVID-19 pandemic, but is about to take form! Yes!

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



### Hello USH Family!!

We are full of holiday cheer here at the Meeting House but we still need your help! We need a few more gifts for our 4th to 5th graders at SAND school. So if you're able to help purchase a gift or even have some extra wrapping paper or gift bags, that would be great! Please let me know. All items need to be here by Sunday the 19th! Thanks so much!

We also plan to have a fun and exciting interactive service this week as we reenact the children's story, Emma's Christmas by Irene Trivas. There will be props for anyone who is happy to join in. I also need a little extra help finalizing some props and some key actors to bring some extra cheer in the pews. I can't wait to see you all there!

**Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education**  
 860-233-9897 ext. 104 | [ctraylab@gmail.com](mailto: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 **January 11th** at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#)**



### **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](mailto:susanhope51@gmail.com) or 860 463 6407.**



### **Hi folks, we are still singing on Second Saturdays !**

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). Until further notice, we will be meeting in the Meditation space (Emerson room) around the ambulatory to the right.

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.

**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](mailto:FLouis@yahoo.com)) with questions and suggestions.**





**Sunday Welcome Volunteers**  
**See Sign Up Genius Link**  
**[HERE](#). Please contact Buffie at**  
**[hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.**

#### **Book Selections 2021-2022**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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/meeting-april/musical-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.

**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/>

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

**Dec. 17, 2021**

**Reggie Harris and Pat Wictor**

**Apr. 22, 2022**

**Mad Agnes (4th Friday)**

**May 20, 2022**

**Seán Heely**

Tickets are available in advance from [brownpapertickets.com](http://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/aiYmt2V3ao>

**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/087ojjDW8IM>

Laura and Paul Cipriano  
 Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT  
<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/>

## 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](mailto: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/](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. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister  
[revterryush@gmail.com](mailto:revterryush@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

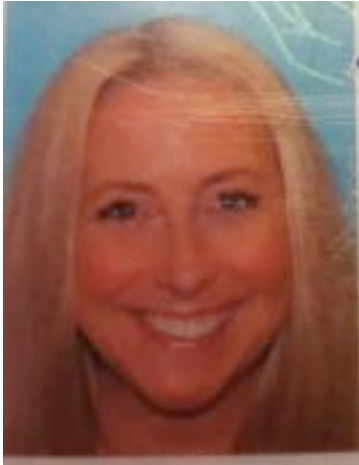
Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)  
[USHInternDD@gmail.com](mailto:USHInternDD@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager  
[ctraylab@gmail.com](mailto:ctraylab@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries  
[smoffettuu@gmail.com](mailto:smoffettuu@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator  
[hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment  
[brianmullenush@gmail.com](mailto: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. Please email at her at **[hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@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: [hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com)**

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