



Unitarian Society of Hartford

Building Community Since 1830

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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

Website: www.ushartford.org

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

February 2, 2022



February 6th, 2022, 10:30am

"Here Comes the Sun"

This Sunday we will celebrate the mid-point between the winter solstice and the Spring Equinox. Rev. Terry's homily will reflect on hope, new life, and the promise of renewal in the year ahead.

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Lisa Galinski, Worship Associate
Tina Davies, Board Moment
Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess
Helen David & Ginny Hedrick, Greeters
Dana Donovan, Welcome Table
Evan Williams, Chancel Art
10:30am Hybrid Worship Service

Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).

Closed captions are available.
Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934
Passcode: 128493

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

You can also watch the Sunday service at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>



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

Thank you to those who joined our congregational meeting this past Sunday. I believe it was important for us to hear Rev. Terry's review of her first six months with us, and to begin exploring how we might proceed from here. Approximately 62 Zoom screens attended, which means at least 80 individuals were present. About 15 of you spoke.

I wanted to share with you the general consensus of the board, following a few months of informal discussion during board meetings and a mini-retreat, that it may be wise to delay our search for a new settled minister for at least one year. This means that any search would begin *no earlier than March 2023*, rather than next month. (*If we want our next settled minister to start when Rev. Terry's current two-year term expires next summer, we effectively need to begin right now.*)

There are several reasons to support this course:

- the pandemic has disrupted routines practically everywhere, including the ministerial search process; at USH, we continue to consider positivity rates and variants in assessing how and when to gather in-person;
- we also need to address critical needs to rebuild our Religious Education and choral music programs. The energy and volunteer power required for an effective search could well be better directed, for now, toward our own recovery; and
- it is important to take some time to consider what qualities we desire in our next settled minister, and how those qualities relate to our society's future.

Rev. Terry has also shared information, through her UUA contacts, that the number of ministers seeking a settled ministry is dwindling, compared with the number of congregations in search. What this means for us, is that we are likely to be faced with fewer prospects for a "good match". She further relates that the pandemic has caused many congregations which would have sought a settled minister to wait a year or, possibly, even two more years. This means that next spring, the ratio of congregations to ministers will be even tighter.

When you all contributed your thoughts, you seemed to have reached a similar conclusion. None who commented spoke in favor of moving directly into a search.

We also, briefly, listed various ministerial options open to us: interim ministry (our current arrangement with Rev. Terry) with the possibility of extending her contract for an additional year; a contract minister; a

developmental minister. These all are described in detail on the UUA's website. The search process is likewise fully outlined in The Settlement Handbook (www.uua.org/transitions). *Not* open to us is the possibility of either Rev. Terry or Dianne Daniels being eligible prospects as our next settled minister. The UUA has rules, which are seldom waived, that restrict ministers from accepting a called position with a congregation after a period of interim ministry or internship. Violating these rules would jeopardize their status with the UUA.

This has been only the first of many conversations around our future. I look forward to continuing these explorations, and welcome your questions and thoughts. Remember, also, our monthly board meetings are open to you: date, time, and a link are posted in the Enews. Please join us.

Again, thank you for participating in this important development for our church. Working together, we will continue to build a stronger congregation.

Rob Spector, President

Upcoming Service Here Comes the Sun

This Sunday we will celebrate the mid-point between the winter solstice and the Spring Equinox.

A time in the year that has been celebrated by ancient peoples in the pagan tradition of Imbolc. In Ireland, Imbolc coincides with the celebration of the pagan goddess Brigid and the Catholic saint, Saint Brigid.

In our service this Sunday we will honor the pagan tradition. We will also acknowledge the groundhog and his shadow.

Rev. Terry's homily will reflect on hope, new life, and the promise of renewal in the year ahead.

Once again, in-person attendance this Sunday will be limited to 25 people who have been fully vaccinated. Please let Rev. Terry know by email by the end of the day on Thursday if you plan to attend (revterryush@gmail.com).

If you would like Rev. Terry to share a *Matter of the Heart* (a joy, a sorrow, or a concern) during the service, please email her by 9 a.m. on Sunday morning. If you are attending the service in person, cards will be

available for you to write any Matters of the Heart that you would like Rev. Terry to share during the service,

In addition, please be aware that until further notice all USH Staff and Volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated (two shots plus a booster, depending on the vaccine) in order to be in the Meeting House on Sunday.

We all look forward to seeing you in-person or online this Sunday.

**In faith, love, and gratitude,
Rev. Terry Cummings**

Did UU Know?



The February 2022 USH Members & Friends Photo Directory – How You Can Help in Less than 5 Minutes! ~by Brian Harvey

Our church directory is a **“living document”**. The world it reflects is always changing and the challenge for all of us is to keep up with those changes. Years ago, we had printed directories which were a big deal to produce. That meant they were only produced sporadically. Today, it is a simple matter to generate a new online version every couple of months in a matter of minutes, but that “timeliness” is only meaningful if the contact information is also reviewed “every couple of months”. COVID has added some complications to the task. It is harder to know if someone is an active member or friend when at least some of us are not meeting in person. Newcomers who are attending regularly are harder to identify and might not know they are eligible to be in the directory. Lastly, with our new broadcast capabilities, moving out of the area does not necessarily remove you from being connected – or included in the directory. These are more reasons the responsibility for the accuracy for the upcoming February 2022 directory is not up to one person – it is up to each of us. Here is how you can help.

The Basic Course – steps to follow:

- 1) Go to the USH website – www.ushartford.org Home Page,
- 2) click on the Members tab,
- 3) click on Member Directory,
- 4) click on open Part II (Members & Friends),
- 5) enter the username and password (contact Buffie Pinney <hartforduusociety@gmail.com> or Brian Harvey <bravey.b@comcast.net> if you need the username or password).

Voila! You are in! Start with your own individual or family entry. For each person: are the name, address and email address correct? Do you still use your home phone? Is your cell phone listed? – (this is your choice). What about spouse/partner information? (your choice). Are your non-adult children listed? (again, your choice). Do you still look anything like your photo – or is it time to be updated (your choice). All of this information can be updated in minutes by sending an email to **Buffie. Do it now.** ...and what does that “NN thing” mean? (see **Last Item** below).

Extra Credit – Browse the whole Members and Friends directory. Do you see obvious errors such as people you know have left the congregation or area. This one can be tricky because sometimes folks leave the area but still stop by on a fairly regular basis and consider themselves Friends. Likewise, there are some folks who don’t regularly attend services in person but may be a part of a periphery church activity and they too still consider themselves connected. If unsure, drop Buffie an email anyway and you and we will figure it out. On the other side of the coin, do you think we are missing some active members and friends? We will check that out and confirm one way or the other.

Extra Extra Credit – Go back to the Member Directory tab and open Part I (Organizational Information). Let us know of any personnel changes that you are sure of. Because of COVID, it is sometimes hard to be sure of a person’s or even a committee’s status. That is why it is extra extra credit. Notice: No credit given for identifying that Dianne Daniels or Rayla Mattson has left!

3 Ways to use the Directory during COVID – **1)** When you open Part II (Members and Friends) you can search on name, town, etc. by using your browser’s search (or find) functions. Not sure which Tom you met? Find every Tom or Thomas in the directory in seconds. Connect names to faces. This is a great way to expand your circle of contacts at USH. **2)** Don’t feel lonely during COVID. Browse through the directory and reach out to someone you haven’t talked to in a while. **3)** Can’t go out to the movies with your USH friends? Set up a watch party with others and enjoy a movie or TV show together virtually. All the contact information is at your fingertips.

Last Item: USH Neighborhood Networks were created over a decade ago with one purpose being to facilitate “churchwide discussions” in member’s homes. The concept was to cut down on meeting size and travel distance. You can see the diagram and explanation in the last page of the Organizational Information. The Networks have not been used for years and it is time to decide whether they still serve any purpose or is it time to retire the concept and move on. **We look forward to your feedback.**

USH Community & Business

Please take note that the next Board meeting will be on **February 8th at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#)**



[USH Calendar of Events](#) for February 2022 can be viewed [HERE](#). Please contact [Buffie](#) with any questions or concerns.

News from The Artist’s Way – Our program is so successful that we’re splitting into two groups!

Due to high demand and the continued growth of the existing Artist’s Way group, which has been active in our congregation since 2004, we will be starting a second Artist’s Way group on *February 1, 2022*. This group will meet on Mondays at the same time as the original, existing Artist’s Way group, but in a separate room. Both meetings will take place on Zoom for now, but will be held in person once possible again. The new Artist’s Way

will be based on Julia Cameron's book, *The Artist's Way*, and will be limited to 12 people, as that is the number of chapters in her book.

Many in our congregation have voiced interest in learning about and participating in this program. We welcome members of the congregation to join us. Although non-members are welcome, we will give preference to members in the first-come-first-served sign up process.

The group will study *The Artist's Way* on a chapter-by-chapter basis, and each participant is expected to cover one chapter with the group and to assign tasks from that chapter a week ahead of covering it. That way the group will delve into the chapters more fully. Weekly meetings will start with a check in and candle lighting.

Maggie Greene will be the facilitator of this group, which already taken in 7 people from the original, existing group. New participants will be accepted on a first come-first served basis, with preference given to those in the original group.

Maggie's contact information is ismisemairread1@outlook.com and 860-913-5745. Please put "Membership" in the subject line and NOT Artist's Way. Texting is the preferred way to reach her. Please put your name first so she will know it's not spam or a hack. Any inquiries can be addressed to her.



"Chalice" ZOOM Room Password Change

Please note that the password for the ZOOM room named "Chalice" has been changed. Please contact either **Buffie** or **any Board member** to receive the new

password.

Any attempts to login in as "host" while using the old password will result in a "lock out".



LUNCH BUNCH~

Decisions about future Lunch Bunch gatherings will be made on a month-to-month basis. Watch the USH-Enews for further developments.

I hope to see you all in February. Stay well!

Janice Newton at janicecnewton@gmail.com



Announcing ***UU SpiritLife Conversations***

Our spring program, ***UU SpiritLife Conversations***, is a series of facilitated zoom conversations on spiritual topics, offered on the fourth Saturday mornings, January through May, 9-10:30 AM.

SpiritLife Conversations open to all members of the three Hartford area UU churches on a drop-in basis – you don't need to register or commit to the whole series. The topic for January 29 will be *Finding Balance In An Unstable World*. Please go to uuspiritlife.org and click the Programs tab for complete information. Questions can be directed to Judy Robbins at judyrobb2@gmail.com.

Meeting House Sing-Along update

We will postpone second Saturday Sing- Alongs until COVID contagion rates drop back at least below 5%. Watch for a monthly update from us.

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com).

Social Justice News

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 2022

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**.

Caring Network

Tara Cote and Paul Jacob welcomed their son, Rowan on January 10th. They have set up a Meal Train website to help them with meals.

Here is the link to get to the Meal Train website: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/9022w5>

Once you are on the site choose SIGN IN. Choose "sign in with your [MealTrain.com](https://www.mealtrain.com) account." You will need to log in using my email address and password. They are: janicecnewton@gmail.com and this password: USH1958! Please be sure to log out when you leave.

If you have trouble signing in, email or call Janice.

Tara and Paul's address is:
31 Magnolia Hill CT. Cromwell, CT 06416 #860-748-7046

Thank you, Janice Newton

News from the USH Board of Directors

Your 2021-2022 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 Nov-Dec 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **December 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.org/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.org/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.org/about-us/staff/>

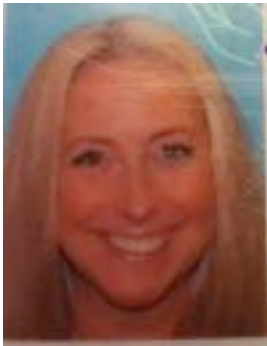
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smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartfordusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper – Office or Phone by Appointment
brianmullenush@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

News from Buffie's Desk



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 hartforduusociety@gmail.com.
Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!



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

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions to Buffie is by
[Tuesday at 12 Noon.](#)

[Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com)

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



Groundhog Day
2022
Wednesday,
February 2