

Unitarian Society of Hartford



Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice

**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.
March 23rd, 2022**

Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess

Ginny Hedrick, Usher

Deb Meny, Greeter

Virginia deLima, Welcome Table

Chancel Art created by Susan Hope and affirmed by Tina Davies

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 both
in person and ZOOM**

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

**Please join us for a Zoom meeting about
Stewardship this Wednesday, March 23rd, at 7:30
p.m.**

[Join At This Link](#)

Meeting ID: 846 5739 2485

Passcode: 460842

**All are invited! Sorry, but bring your own
refreshments!**

Stewardship Campaign 2022

Welcome to our streamlined 2022-23 Stewardship Campaign, *Peace and Renewal*.

Here's what you need to know

WHY?

USH is **our community and spiritual home**, offering unique opportunities for personal relationships, spiritual growth, and service — a combination we don't get find anywhere else. And we've expanded our capabilities, returning to in-person worship and other gatherings while continuing to offer virtual options.

WHEN?

March is Stewardship Month at USH. We kicked off with a service and sermon by Rev. Terry on March 6, with continuing pulpit testimonials from members through the month. We ask you to **make your pledge by March 31**, so we can plan for the coming year.

HOW MUCH?

This may be the \$64,000 question, but \$64,000 isn't (necessarily) the answer. Of course the amount of your pledge is up to you, but **the best way to start is with our Fair Share pledge guide.**

If you're a newer member, you may want to start at the lower range of your fair share bracket. If you're a longer-time committed member, we hope you'll move as far up your fair share range as you're able, or even beyond, if that's comfortable for you. For everyone: **please give as generously as you are able!**

Now, here are a few critical points to consider — our Stewardship success this year will be a **key element that potential candidates to be our next permanent minister will see** when they consider where to apply. The best candidates will look for evidence that USH is on a sound financial footing. While we *are* on a sound footing in our current fiscal year, we face several important challenges for the year ahead. Those challenges include the members we've lost because of the pandemic and the change in ministers, the end of federal stimulus funding, the end of savings from having a mostly closed building, and our hope that we won't have continued savings from staff vacancies. These are reasons we ask you to give, and increase your pledge, **as generously as you are able.** As Rev. Terry said, we hope you'll pledge

the right amount for you, the amount that gives you joy!

HOW DO I PLEDGE?

It's easier than ever. The simplest way is to go to the new Stewardship button on our website (click on Give Online, then on USH Online Giving Portal), and make your pledge. Or you can fill out a pledge card and leave it in the collection basket by March 31. Or you may simply email or call Stewardship Chair Joe Rubin, JoeRubin@snet.net, or call Joe at 860-539-3586 to make your pledge by email or voicemail.

QUESTIONS? *Call or email Joe Rubin, above, or any USH Board member*



Stewardship Testimonial

by Diane Cadrain

Diane Cadrain has been a member of USH for 40+ years.

Our first daughter, Julia, was born about 40 years ago. Joe had been raised as a Jew and I as a Catholic, so the dogma-free Unitarian-Universalist denomination gave us a comfortable home and a questioning spiritual environment for our children. All three of our girls came of age in this congregation.

Over those years, I've been active here. I've been the secretary of the board, a substitute religious education teacher, a chancel artisan, and, very significantly to me, a member of the choir for many, many years.

I loved being in the choir. It introduced me to a broad range of music, from Hildegard of Bingen to Bobby McFerrin, and also improved my voice and sharpened my sight-reading skills. I believe that my singing to my children was one catalyst that prompted our daughter Julia to major in vocal performance at the New England Conservatory of Music. Today, she is an ordained cantor in the Jewish faith.

The choir was so important to me that the only force strong enough to pull me away from it was The Artist's Way, a program that three of us started in late 2004. The Artist's Way program is based on a book by Julia Cameron, and aims to free the inner artist locked deep inside. It encourages participants to release their creative force and silence their inner critic.

In that first season we had about 10 participants and we covered one chapter of the book each week. Before beginning our discussions, though, we had a check-in period during which each member shared her joys and sorrows. Through our check-ins, the group bonded with one another in a trustful, respectful, and affectionate way, and deep friendships started to form. I think that bonding had something to do with Cameron's idea that our inner artist is a child, a beginner, whose vulnerability calls forth a protective kindness whose first hesitant efforts are to be praised and encouraged.

This force of loving bonding remained with the group and has become one of its strongest and most vital characteristics...that, and its encouragement of artistic efforts among its members.

The program has been such an important catalyst for me that I credit it with my journey toward taking myself seriously as a person who creates art: I'm now a full-time artist, working in the medium of fiber and have been recognized regionally* for my work. I owe all of this to the power of the Artist's Way program, which brought me to life as an artist, and which itself was brought to life in this congregation.

This congregation, the people in it, the rich variety of programs it generates, and its vibrant energy, have given me so much. So to me, it's natural to contribute generously to keep it going. Joe and I are increasing our pledge this year, even though Joe will be retiring and our income will be falling.

Our financial contribution, and yours, enable us to continue to come together with a roof over our heads, and now, improved lighting, and opens up opportunities for creative and spiritual exploration which nourishes us.

We've been given so much. Now we can give back.

*Diane is an elected artist member of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts and the West Hartford Art League. She's currently participating in two group shows, and has three solo shows coming up. She is co-president of Connecticut Women Artists, an organization of over 150 members which is approaching its 100th year.

Matters of the Heart

On Sunday we will also make space for sharing "Matters of the Heart" with one another (often referred to as "Joys and Sorrows" in other congregations). We would love to hear about recent births of new family members, or share your sorrow at a recent bereavement, and lift up any meaningful life passages or events that you would like to share with others.

Here is how Matters of the Heart will be shared —

- Online participants: please send me an email with any Matters of the Heart that you would like to share with the congregation by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday (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.

I will share your Matters of the Heart from the pulpit immediately before our customary candle ritual. (Please do not share announcements about upcoming meetings or other events, as this will not be a time for general announcements.)

In Faith, Reverend Terry

USH Community & Business



Chalice Clubhouse & Youth Group

Last Sunday we all pitched in, chopping and cooking to prepare delicious soup (chicken or vegetarian). Thanks to all of you who bought soup and biscuits; you're helping us continue donating to the food programs at Church Street Eats and South Park Inn. Thanks also to John Bengtson

for guiding the Soup Crew in its culinary pursuits.

This Sunday, March 27, our theme is personal safety and the importance of boundaries. We'll demonstrate by having a personal safety relay race.



USH Calendar of Events for March 2022
can be viewed **HERE**.

Please
contact **Buffie** with any
questions or concerns.

Social Justice News



March GNO Dedicated to Ukrainian Relief

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is the focus of our Good Neighbor Offering for the month of March. The Social Justice Council has chosen UUARC, The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc., as the beneficiary of our Sunday collection on March 27. UUARC has been supporting Ukrainians since 1944 when

it was started to assist Ukrainian refugees after World War II. Today, with over 3 million refugees (as of this writing) having crossed the border into neighboring countries in the past few weeks, and millions more isolated within Ukraine without basic necessities, UUARC is helping to fund vital medical supplies, shelter assistance and food, and care for the injured and refugees.

They are working closely with other organizations in coordinating aid in Europe, including Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Hungary.

Please give generously this Sunday to support this urgent cause. Help provide humanitarian aid for the Ukrainian people.

How to donate: If donating by check (checks should be made out to USH) this Sunday (March 27) your donation will go to UUARC unless you indicate another purpose in the memo line. If donating online using the "Sunday Offering" button, your donation will go to UUARC unless you indicate another purpose in the "Note" box. Note that you can donate at any time during the month of March by writing UUARC in the check memo line (checks should be made out to USH) or in the online Note box.

Despite the "UU" in their name, UUARC is not affiliated with Unitarian Universalism. It is a highly rated non-profit 501(c)(3) charity and is registered with USAID.

[United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc.](#)

Did UU Know?

Ambulatory Luminaries

Have you noticed that the numerous rooms off the Ambulatory of our church are named after (you might have guessed) various Unitarian or Universalist Luminaries? This is the fourth of several articles that will attempt to shine a light on who these Ambulatory Luminaries were and why they merit the honor of being named to these locations. Recently we have learned about the origin of our named ambulatory rooms.

(You can read about it [here](#):)

The Protestant Reformation

by Toni Gold

Let us pause in the recitation of Luminaries for a word about the Protestant Reformation, one of the greatest upheavals in Western history and a profound force in shaping Unitarianism, not to mention in the creation of all Protestant denominations of Christianity that we know today.

The Reformation is often said to have ended the Middle Ages and sparked the Renaissance. The first three of our Luminaries — Michael Servetus, Francis David, and Faustus Socinus — as we have seen, were major actors in the Reformation, on the radical end of it, inspired in part by the Arian (that is, non-Trinitarian) tradition stretching back almost a thousand years.

The Reformation began in 1517 when Martin Luther, a Catholic priest, nailed 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany challenging the Catholic Church, which many regarded as corrupt. The end of the Reformation is often placed to the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia. In other words, almost 150 years of religious wars, which engulfed all of Europe, where Roman Catholicism had reigned unchallenged for more than 1000 years (no wonder it was corrupt).

In England, Protestant reform began with Henry VIII in 1534, not for any compelling religious reason, but because the Pope would not grant the king an annulment of his marriage to his wife, Catherine of Aragon (the first of six). Spurred by the burgeoning Protestant Reformation, King Henry rejected the Pope's authority, instead creating and assuming authority himself over the Church of England, an established church that became a sort of hybrid that combined some Catholic doctrine and some Protestant ideals. Needless to say, the new Church of England gave King Henry his divorce.

The Church of England had its own dissenters, which fell into two groups. Both played a profound part in the earliest American

history. The first group, known as separatists, believed the Church of England remained so corrupt that their only choice was to leave England, separate from the church, and start a new church. In 1620, members of the English Separatist Church set sail aboard the Mayflower for America and eventually landed near Plymouth, Massachusetts. They would, in time, become known in America as The Pilgrims.

The other group of English citizens, while they did not believe the reform efforts of Queen Elizabeth (the daughter of Henry VIII) went far enough; they did not seek to leave the Church of England. They wanted only to purify it by eliminating the remnants of Catholicism. In terms of theology, most of them were Calvinists. They immigrated to Massachusetts Bay in 1630.

From these two strands of Anglican dissenters grew a variety of ever-expanding sects that accommodated radicalism. Thus, American Unitarianism took root in New England, a consequence of the same religious conflicts that shaped the Protestant Reformation in England. Indeed, American Unitarianism and English Unitarianism developed simultaneously but were largely independent of each other. This diversity of religious thought has also become a core part of the identity of the United States: The Bill of Rights explicitly forbids "establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Four hundred years in the making, this belief in personal empowerment and independence in religious matters, with its roots in the Protestant Reformation, has become an enduring part of the American mind.

Articles, full or continued, are found in their entirety here:

<https://ushartford.org/did-uu-know/>

Meeting House Presents

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Save the Dates!

\$20 general admission and \$14 for students with ID

Mad Agnes Friday, Apr. 22, 2022

Seán Heely and Beth Patterson Friday, May 13, 2022

Susan Werner concert **Saturday, April 30, 2022**

(This special MHP Saturday concert isn't included with season tickets, but season ticket holders get a \$5 discount. Ticket price \$25)

Programs for Adults and Families



UU SpiritLife Conversations March Topic

SpiritLife Conversations meet on the fourth Saturday mornings monthly through May, 9 – 10:30 AM to discuss spiritual topics. The topic for March 26 is "Redefining Prayer for UUs". Please go to uuspiritlife.org, where you'll find four short articles to read in preparation for this session. The zoom link is also available on that site.

Programs are open to members of the three Hartford area UU congregations on a drop-in basis — you don't need to register or commit to the whole series.

Questions can be directed to the March facilitator, Judy Robbins, at judyrobb2@gmail.com.

More Meetings and Programs

The USH Book Club: Meets monthly, on the 2nd Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30pm, 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

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

From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member or friend experiencing some difficulty, please contact **Janice Newton** at janicecnewton@gmail.com 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.

Your 2021-2022 USH Board of Directors

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 next board meeting is Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM.

The latest financial reports for **FY Nov-Dec 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **January 2022** 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](#).

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/staff-members/>

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Bob Hewey, acting Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment
boltonbob@aol.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

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

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



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

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

Email to: hartfordusociety@gmail.com OR
enewsush@gmail.com

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

