

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, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00
p.m. or email/call for an appointment.
APRIL 13, 2022**



April 17, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

"Easter Sunday – Intergenerational Service"
Easter is Springtime: It Is What We Make of It

Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest
Sue Smolski, Worship Associate
Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess
Annie Witzler, Usher
Dana Donovan & Kathy Lee, Greeter(s)
Virginia de Lima, Welcome Table
Chancel Art created by Martha Bradley

MATTERS OF THE HEART are shared from the pulpit each Sunday.
In person: Index cards and pencils are located at the entrance to the sanctuary.
Online: Access MattersoftheheartUSH@gmail.com by 9 a.m. Sunday.

Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).

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

11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour

Please join us for Easter Enhanced Coffee Hour immediately following services in Fellowship Hall and online gathering via ZOOM

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

Unitarian Society of Hartford – Religious Education



*Easter Sunday at USH ~
and an Easter Egg Hunt!*

Rejoice with us, in the many traditions of spring... feel the warmth of each other's presence anew after so long in isolation from our friends, neighbors, and community. Our intergenerational service will begin at 10:30 am, and an Easter Egg Hunt will occur following the service for all children and teens under the age of 19. If weather permits, the hunt will occur outdoors. If it is raining or there is too much mud, it will occur indoors. There will also be coffee hour refreshments — light snacks, cookies — after the service. And, we'll have a photoshoot area available to any families looking for the perfect spot to take Easter photos. The photoshoot area will be open for an hour, both before and after the worship service. Special thanks to our pulpit guest Rick Tsukada for preparing an uplifting and inspiring service for us all to enjoy. See you here! (And maybe you'll see the Easter Bunny here, too!).

Message from the Board

We are preparing for our annual meeting on May 22, 2022, which will be an in-person gathering at the Meeting House following our service on that Sunday. Weather permitting, we will plan to be outside.

We still need nominations for next year's Board. Please contact Martha Bradley as soon as possible; consider nominating yourself or someone else. Please reach out to any Board member if you have

questions about service on the Board, the kind of commitment involved, and the support that will be available to you.

Also, the Board has put in place a plan for Staff support and supervision during this time while Rev. Terry is on paid administrative leave. Several leaders in the congregation have volunteered to take on roles to help the staff, and we held a staff meeting via Zoom last week to introduce and discuss the plan.

~ Rob Spector, President

Stewardship

Following Up and Finishing Up!

We've accomplished a lot of progress with our annual pledge drive which *was* scheduled to end on 3/31. Many thanks to you who have pledged so far, and special thanks to those who were able to increase their pledges.

We have yet to hear from some of you, though, and have gathered a team who will follow up through phone calls, letters, or emails. If you've been holding off because of concerns about USH, you might view this as an opportunity to talk about your experiences here and share what you've valued... and also, what might worry you. Ups and downs are part of any congregation and every endeavor. It's how we deal with these vicissitudes, and how we treat each other, that's important. There is so much exciting activity happening at USH, as we move past the pandemic. Let's support each other and celebrate our endurance over the past two years.

If you've already pledged and haven't received an acknowledgement yet, you will. If you have any questions or concerns about that, email joerubin@snet.net. **If you haven't yet pledged, please do it now.** You can email Joe, mail your pledge to USH, use the "Giving Online" tab on our website, or leave a voicemail.

Note: Joe just retired and is enjoying a 2 week road trip with Diane. He'd love to come back to discover a completed pledge campaign, with firm income projections so we can develop our budget for next year. So please, just finalize your pledge today! Thanks!

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. 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.

Did UU Know?***Ambulatory Luminaries***

Have you notice that the numerous rooms off the Ambulatory are named after (you might have guessed) various Unitarian or Universalist luminaries? This is the fifth 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. Read about the Ambulatory [here](#).

Joseph Priestly, 1733-1805**(Room 5)**

by Toni Gold



We leave Transylvania and Poland to go to England for our fourth Unitarian Luminary, Joseph Priestly. Priestly was reared in a Calvinist home in the wake of the turmoil of the Protestant Reformation and educated by dissenting ministers at Daventry Academy. However, he was refused admission to the Calvinist church because of his rejection of its teachings on predestination and original sin. Writing and publishing, Priestly steadily grew more radical in his views. In 1767 he accepted a call to serve the congregation at Leeds and became the leader of a revitalized Unitarianism in England. During this time, he formed a friendship with Benjamin Franklin.

But his career was interrupted by the French Revolution that was happening across the Channel. A supporter of the American Revolution a few years earlier, Priestly also supported the French Revolution, which frightened England; Priestly and the Unitarians were denounced as enemies of church and state. In 1791 a mob attacked and burned his church, laboratory, and library. He fled to London, and three years later sailed for America. While there, Priestley gave a series of sermons in Philadelphia leading to the founding of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia.

Priestley would spend the remaining years of his life in the new United States. He continued his educational projects,

helping to establish the Northumberland Academy in Massachusetts, donating his library to the fledgling institution. He exchanged letters with Thomas Jefferson regarding the proper structure of a university, advice Jefferson used when founding the University of Virginia. Jefferson and Priestley became close, and when the latter had completed his General History of the Christian Church, he dedicated it to President Jefferson, writing that "It is now only that I can say I see nothing to fear from the hand of power, the government under which I live being for the first time truly favourable to me."

Despite his formidable theological career, the world best remembers Priestly as a scientist, although he himself thought of his science merely as a "theologian's pastime." He viewed his chief calling as a religious writer, thinker, and pastor; he began a study of chemistry as a diversion. Priestly was also a natural philosopher, separatist theologian, grammarian, multi-subject educator, and liberal political theorist who published over 150 works. His considerable scientific reputation rested on his invention of carbonated water, his writings on electricity, and his discovery of several "airs" (gases), the most significant being what Priestley dubbed "dephlogisticated air" (oxygen). Sadly, Priestley's determination to defend "phlogiston theory" and to reject what would become the chemical revolution eventually left him isolated within the scientific community.

Articles, full or continued, are found in their entirety [here](#).

USH Community & Business



Book Cart "Special Deals"!

The used book cart is available for browsing and buying in Fellowship Hall during Sunday coffee hour. We received an **abundance** of book donations this winter and would like to move the books through the congregation.

Starting **now**, all books are **free** and will remain so through the summer. Please help yourself!! Stock up for your summer reads!

And please, no returns — pass them along when you're done :)



"Love is our Spirit... and Service is our Law"

Ever notice how much more connected you feel to a group, or organization, when you volunteer to help with a project or committee or even (gasp!) *a board*?? Here are a few ways you might consider, in becoming more closely involved with USH and the many inner workings that help us remain engaged with one another and with the larger community. Spring is here, and along with her annual promise of hope and renewal comes an invitation to reflect on how you might more closely and richly involved in our Meeting House.

In coming weeks, we will highlight a number of opportunities for you to ponder,

along with people to ask if you'd like more information. Right now, though, here are a few imminent possibilities ...

1. Building & Grounds' Spring Work Day — Saturday April 23 — come in the morning to dig, plant, spiff up, clean up! Bring gardening tools if you have them. There's a light breakfast at 8:00, and work starts at 9:00. If you can't stay for the full four hours, even an hour or two is appreciated. Let Annie Witzler or David Newton know you're coming, so they can plan.

2. Religious Education Support Team — RE is back, and would love *your* help in helping plan and carry out activities for kids and sometimes even grown-ups! Annie Witzler can give you more information... please ask her how you might get involved.

3. USH Board of Directors — we have a couple of openings on the 2022/23 board. Our Board has, according to our Constitution, fiscal responsibility for the Society, and for setting policy and making or delegating decisions necessary in day-to-day operations. Monthly Board meetings are open for any interested congregant to attend. Board members are elected by the congregation at the annual general meeting, scheduled on May 22 this year. The slate of officers up for election must be posted for the congregation at least 25 days before that meeting. Candidates must be members of USH and over 18. If you might be interested in (or if you would like to recommend another member for) board service... or as a possible participant in another governance-related committee... please contact Martha Bradley, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at marthabradley49@yahoo.com as soon as possible.



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

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

Meeting House Presents

Meeting House Presents Save these Dates!

Meeting House Presents three top-notch shows this spring; two are part of our Friday night season, and the Saturday show is an exciting addition beyond our regular season!

NEXT UP :

Mad Agnes – Friday, Apr. 22, 2022 Back from a ten-year lunch break, Mad Agnes has reunited to bring you the intricate harmonies and compelling songwriting that have always been their signature. **Margo Hennebach, Adrienne Jones** and **Mark Saunders** have been singing and playing together since there were dinosaurs, performing across the U.S. and overseas. While dodging labels and mixing styles (Folk, classical, or Celtic? Soaring vocals, incisive lyrics or giggly repartee?), the genre-bending trio has won hearts on two continents, and individually and collectively have amassed a body of work which comprises **13 CDs** and a **concert DVD**. \$20 general admission and \$14 for students with ID.
tickets: <https://madagnes.bpt.me>

AND THEN, A SPECIAL SATURDAY EVENT:

Susan Werner concert Saturday, April 30, 2022: Celebrated performing songwriter Susan Werner has made a name for herself coast to coast. From her 1995 major label folk/rock debut *Last of the Good Straight Girls* to her 2007 collection of agnostic gospel hymns *The Gospel Truth* to her 2017 travelogue *An American In Havana*, Werner writes ambitious concept albums with subject matter and sounds to match. This special Meeting House Presents Saturday concert was a late booking. Season ticket holders get a \$5 discount. Ticket price \$25, \$20 for season ticket holders.

tickets: <https://susanwerner.bpt.me>

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

(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



April Lunch Bunch —

Join Us For Lunch!

Come join us on Tuesday, April 19 at 12 Noon. Fred Louis will speak. If you plan to attend, please let Janice Newton know by noon on Thursday, April 14. Please call her (860-212-6923); leave a message if there's no answer. You may also send email tot janicecnewton@gmail.com.

The Lunch Bunch meets monthly at Concetta's Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Ave., Bloomfield. You can order off the menu. Separate checks are provided. There is convenient parking. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month; for the remainder of this program year, meetings are scheduled 5/17/22 and 6//21/22. We are looking for speakers. If you're interested, or know someone who would be interested, in speaking to the group, please contact Janice. Reservations are necessary! Hope to see you on the 19th!



SpiritLife Conversations is a series of facilitated zoom conversations on spiritual topics offered on fourth Saturday mornings through April, 9 –10:30 AM. The topic for April 23 will be Mirabai Starr *Wild Mercy* focusing on women mystics, facilitated by Dave Gonci. Please go to uuspiritlife.org for the zoom link; click the program title to access an article to read prior to this session.

SpiritLife Conversations is open to 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. Questions can be directed to Judy Robbins at judyrobb2@gmail.com.

More Meetings and 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

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* – Jake 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, May 3, 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/>

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
revterryush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

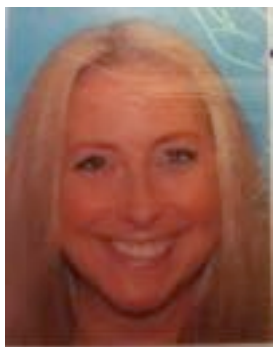
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Annie Witzler, Acting Coordinator of Religious Education
re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

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

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@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 hartforduusociety@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!

