

## Unitarian Society of Hartford



**Unitarian Society of Hartford**

**Building Community Since 1830**

**Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister**

**50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**

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

**Website: [www.ushartford.org](http://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 27, 2022**



Image: <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/healing-strands-great-web>

May 1, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

**"The Big Bang...Whence Our Inner Starlight?"**

***"We are stardust brought to life, then empowered by the universe to figure itself out."***

Neil de Grasse Tyson

Laurie Kelliher, Pulpit Guest

Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

Annie Witzler, Interim Director of Religious Education

Sarah Harmon McKenzie, Board Moment

**Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess**

Fred Louis, Usher  
Dana Donovan, Welcome Table  
Chancel Art: Tina Davies

**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](mailto:MattersoftheheartUSH@gmail.com) by 9 a.m. Sunday.

**10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service**  
Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).

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

**11:30 a.m. – 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.**

***A Message from the USH Board***

We are continuing to prepare for our annual meeting on May 22, 2022, which will be an in-person gathering at the Meeting House following our service that Sunday. We hope to have food and refreshments, and Annie Witzler is planning family activities during that time, so childcare will be available.

We still need a nomination for next year's Board of Directors. Specifically, we need a nomination for the position of President-Elect. This individual would serve a one-year term as President-Elect, before taking over in July 2023 as our Board President. USH has been so fortunate to have such an incredibly supportive congregation. But we cannot function without a Board President. Now is the time, my friends. Please do not watch from the sidelines. We need your help; here is the call. So many of you have expressed strong opinions about our next steps in transition as we consider whether to seek a settled minister. **There is no better way to participate actively in this decision than to take on this role.**

We have also been asked about the progress of the personnel investigation and when USH might expect to know the results of this investigation. We can report that we expect to receive a written report from the fact-finding team in or about the first week in May 2022. Once the Board of Directors receives that report, it will move expeditiously to take the next steps, which will certainly be dictated by the contents of the report.

~ Rob Spector,

President

The next Board meeting will be on  
May 3, 6:30 pm, via Zoom [HERE](#)

## USH Community



### *A Call for New Worship Associates*

As the Pandemic morphs into an Endemic, lives are being adjusted accordingly.

There is an immediate need for at least two new Worship Associates (WAs), not to be confused with pulpit guests. Worship

Associates help lead worship. Pulpit Guests give the Reflection or Sermon. Please consider joining our long tradition of creating meaningful worship at USH.

**We know how to do this, and we are eager to mentor and guide you in the role.**

To be a Worship Associate requires that:

- \*you are a member of the church;
- \* you are comfortable with public speaking or willing to develop your comfort;
- \*you are able to bring your spiritual self to this sacred work;
- \*you will first learn how to be the WA with our minister;
- \*then, you will learn the WA role with other pulpit guests; and
- \*you will attend monthly WA meetings during the church year.

Let's talk...

Contact Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Coordinator: [Sue.smolski@gmail.com](mailto:Sue.smolski@gmail.com)

### Living Fully: A Summer Exploration

Each summer at USH our Sunday services are lay-led and explore a rich theme. This year the worship team has chosen to delve into the rewards as well as the struggles of “Living Fully”.

“Living Fully” for some may immediately conjure visions of travel, adventure, facing life and daring it to challenge us....for others the full life occurs in the companionship of serenity and contemplation. In the paths that we take we culture gratitude, seek relationship and honor creativity as some of the entry points to a full life. The theme is wonderfully broad and celebrates the qualities that give our lives meaning and joy as well as the solaces that hearten our soul even as we confront loss or disappointment or live in the face of suffering. As the poet [Rosemerry](#) Wahtola Trommer says in her poem “Urgency”“.....”Again the chance.....To do the work.....To see the world exactly as it is and still write it a love letter.”

Our recent USH summers have had a strong lay-led presence in the pulpit on Sundays when the minister has vacation and compliments abound for the speakers, most of whom come from the congregation. Several Sundays are still open and the worship team welcomes suggestions and volunteers for sermons. Perhaps you have a love letter to the world. Sue Smolski and any of the Worship Associates (WAs) would be happy to hear from you. The WAs are very practiced at developing a Sunday service and can share and mentor the crafting of a beautiful Sunday worship.



## ***"Workday" Defined: B&G Spring Clean-Up***

*by David Newton*

"Workday": a time of labor, at a job or around the house. "B and G workday": a time of work around the Meeting House, dedicated to grounds upkeep, repairs of various sorts, and general spring cleaning.

On Saturday April 23 an intrepid group of dedicated USH folks gathered for a joint workday, combining efforts with a team representing RE. The morning began with a light breakfast... coffee, juice, muffins, ham & cheese mini-biscuits... coordinated by Annie Witzler. The grounds crew was thus fortified for various ensuing good works.

These tasks included digging out the drains above classroom A (off Fellowship Hall) to diagnose and, then, to prevent leakage into the storeroom. Another team cleaned up the Memorial Gardens after winter's dormancy, preparing for growth renewal. Debris was picked up in the nearby adjacent areas below the parking lot... debris deposited there by, how shall we say this, those who do not clean up after themselves.

New myrtle plants were installed in the west entrance garden area, and a memorial garden bench received a lift from a new coat of paint., and various other good works. Raking and weeding were popular activities — or, at least, activities where one could count on being useful.

Participating were: Ginny Hedrick, Ron Sexton, Kevin Girouard, Jim Venneman, Martha Bradley, David and Janice Newton, Lucille Giannimatteo, Toni Snow, Richard and Jean Groothuis, Noah and Colin McKenzie, Annie Witzler, Tina Davies, John Bengtson, Laura Stewart, Sue Tenorio, Susan Hope, and Evan Williams. Thanks to all who contributed their time and energy!







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1 SATURDAY	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

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



### **Farmer's Market**

This is a reminder that the Regional Farmer's Market is **ALIVE & WELL** — Saturday and Sunday mornings from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Please try to visit at least once this year, to support Connecticut's farmers and this vital public outlet for fresh, locally-grown food!



## **NEW SPAM ALERT!!**

Please be on the lookout and **DO NOT** respond to the new spam attempts with the following message:

***"Hello (member name), are you available? I need a favor, text me back when you get my text/email. Rev. Terry Cummings. Sent from my iPhone."***

## **Meeting House Presents**

[Meeting House Presents](#)

### ***Susan Werner Saturday, April 30***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbDq5Zgf29o>

"Free Your A\*\* and your mind will follow" made us laugh, we hope you do too.

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.

"Susan Werner has always been a remarkably perceptive artist, one who's able to tap into the current climate and share sentiments that ought to be expressed. Her new album, and her 14th studio set to date, *Flyover Country*, is no exception. While it's grounded in a specific theme — that is, her love of the heartland sounds that inspired her early on, the sentiment goes far deeper, a reflection of the absolute uncertainty that's plagued the nation since the beginning of the year and, in reality, further back than that." — Lee

Zimmerman, [AmericanSongwriter.com](http://AmericanSongwriter.com)

Link for podcast of [Susan Werner NPR appearances](#)

**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.**

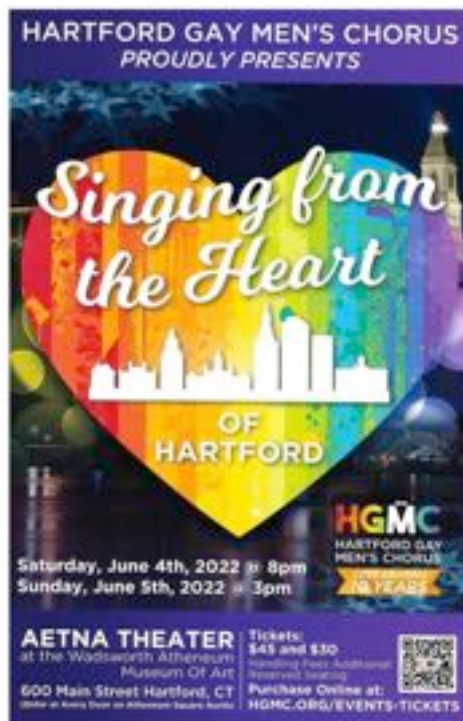
tickets: <https://susanwerner.bpt.me>

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

## *Programs & Events for Adults and Families*



### 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](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 2022**

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

August 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 online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 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.

### ***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](mailto: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 [hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@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/](http://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](mailto:revterryush@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries  
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Annie Witzler, Acting Coordinator of Religious Education  
[re4ush@gmail.com](mailto:re4ush@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Bob Hewey, acting Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment  
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Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals  
[hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) for any assistance or additional questions.**

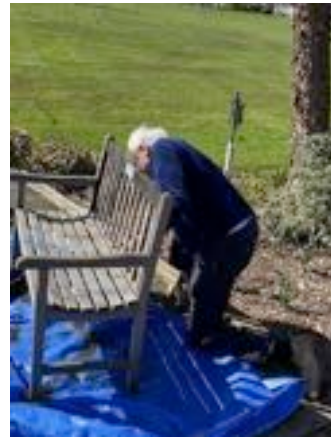
The deadline for USH Enews submissions is

**Tuesday at 12 Noon.**

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

[enewsush@gmail.com](mailto:enewsush@gmail.com)

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



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