

# 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: [hartforduossociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduossociety@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.**

**MAY 18, 2022**

**May 22, 2022 10:30 a.m.**

**"In the Beginning: Let There Be Music... and the Music Is Good"**

**Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest**

**Carol Simpson, Worship Associate**

**Sarah Harmon-McKenzie and John Harmon, Musicians**

**Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

**Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator**

**Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess  
Ginny Hedrick & Larry Lunden, Ushers  
Sue Smolski, Greeter  
Annie Witzler, Welcome Table  
Chancel Art by Susan Hope**

**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. – Annual Meeting with lunch 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.**

*Notice of USH Annual Meeting*

**Unitarian Society of Hartford**

Annual Meeting – May 22, 2022, 11:00am  
In Person and via Zoom

AGENDA

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*Introduction*

Eve Pech, President-Elect

*Opening Words, Greeting, and Update on Personnel*

Robert Spector, President

*Report from our Secretary, Approval of Last Year's Minutes*

Sarah Harmon McKenzie, Secretary

*Our Summer Schedule of Services*

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Coordinator

*Highlights from 2021-22*

David Newton, Buildings and Grounds

Jon Covault, Chair of the Council on Administration

Laura Cipriano, Communications

*Good Neighbor Offering*

Dana Donovan, Chair of the Council on Social Justice

*Volunteer Recognition Awards*

Robert Spector, President

*Stewardship and Our Budget*

Joe Rubin, Stewardship Chair and Bob Hewey, Treasurer

*Voting on our new slate of Board Members*

Congregation

Eve Pech – President

Dana Donovan – President Elect

Jon Covault – Treasurer

Christina Davies – Chair of the Council on Community Within

Judy Sullivan – Chair of the Council on Social Justice

Paul Cipriano – Chair of the Council on Administration

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*President's Update*

I would like to provide you with an update regarding the confidential personnel matter that the Board has been addressing for the past several weeks. The Board received a written report from the Fact-Finding Team on Thursday, May 12, 2022. The report contained factual findings and recommendations and represented the diligent and incredibly hard work of some dedicated members of this congregation. The Board has met twice in Executive Session on May 12, 2022 and May 17, 2022 and has unanimously agreed on a way forward. The Board has also received helpful guidance through several meetings with members of the UUA. Though we cannot share the details of the confidential report, we do hope to bring this personnel matter to a conclusion in the very near future.

~ **Rob Spector, President**

**Annual Meeting Lunch Menu**

(Provided by The Little Oak Café in Canton, CT)

Green salad, tomatoes, cucumbers, onion, with balsamic dressing  
(Gluten Free)

Chicken and quinoa salad, hummus, and pickled onion  
(Gluten Free)

Tray of quinoa salad, hummus, chopped tomato, and mixed greens (Vegan)

Potato salad, chopped eggs, mayo, and celery  
(Gluten Free)

Pasta salad, basil pesto  
(No nuts; vegetarian)

Vegetable lasagna with roasted red peppers  
(Vegetarian)

Penne a' la vodka with chicken

Dinner rolls with soft butter

**And sweets for dessert provided by Janice Newton, Evan Williams, and  
maybe some others**

### *Sharing "The Shared Ministry of Listening"*

Last Sunday's sermon was written by member Rev Dr Jan Carlson-Bull. A number of in-person and online worshippers have asked for copies. It is my pleasure to announce that "The Shared Ministry of Listening" is available to be shared. It will reside in the sermon section of our website and is available by clicking [here](#). Read it, reread it, and be open to it's many messages.



In gratitude and hope,  
Sue Smolski  
Worship Associate Coordinator

## *USH Community*



### **Soup Summary Stats**

*from John Bengtson's Facebook musings, with permission*

Last soup week of the season; we were caught up in the mix. Another 12 gallons delivered to 2 different soup kitchens. Church St Eats alone has 24 gallons of our soup in their freezer, which should last until we resume in September. This year we made 108 gallons total. That's alotta meals on the

streets of Hartford. I am going to print a bunch of pics to put on the bulletin boards of the youth room. I want them to be proud. They should be. They are awesome kids, like most of the kids I've seen come through this youth group since 2006.

One of them is about to build a pedestrian bridge for his Eagle Scout project. I told him I wished I had done that when I was his age, but I quit scouts after earning Star. I gave him some pointers about building proper railings. I think he's gonna ace this bridge like he mastered the art of onion chopping. He fillets them like a Hibachi chef would. I haven't missed a soup Sunday myself since 2008. I hope I can continue this streak next season. Sometimes it's 12 kids, sometimes 3, but always interesting. I hope I have an assistant next year, it's actually alotta work also in many ways, much easier with 2 adults. One of the awesome moms helped today. This ongoing USH youth group has been a blessing in so many ways.

Keep the faith. Love is real.

### ***And more poetry from Mother's Day...***

There wasn't space enough last week for full presentation of our poets-in-residence ... this week, we have two more very different reflections, one each from Bev Spence and Heidi McCloskey (writing as H. Victoria Morgan). You can find these, and poetry from last week, at our website [here](#)

### Grief

I cry; I cry; I cry.  
I cry for the mother who was.

I cry; I cry; I cry.  
I cry for the mother who wasn't.

H. Victoria Morgan

### BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE

I go to the Boy Scout Jamboree  
because my two sons like scouting.  
I want to be supportive, and  
each troop has a booth to earn money.

I stop at one that says "Fortunes 25 Cents."  
I sit down in front of a second-grade boy  
wearing a poster board magician's hat,  
an upside down fishbowl as his crystal ball.

I hand him my quarter and ask him  
to tell me my fortune please.  
He looks into his fishbowl crystal ball,  
then looks up at me and says:

*You will be dead within a year.*

I say to myself, *Too bad for the Boy Scouts.*  
*They won't get any more of my money.*

And for a full year I'm very careful.

Beverly Spence



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

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

### *Social Justice*

#### **A Look Into our Social Justice Activities** *by Dana Donovan and Joanne Orlando*

The Social Justice Council has been a part of The Unitarian Society of Hartford for many years. At one time it was known as the Social Activities Council. The Social Justice Council strives to reflect the 6th principle of Unitarian Universalism: *The goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.*

This Council is made up of several sub-councils, reflecting a wide range of efforts to effect social change and improvement. These sub-councils include: The Village for Families and Children, The Noah Webster Partnership which is a tutoring program with Noah Webster school, Food Pantry donations, relations with the Upper Albany NRZ (Neighborhood Revitalization Zone), Race Matters programs and activities, Refugee Resettlement programs, Knox Inc. (the community gardens



and improvement programs), GHIAA (The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance), Green Sanctuary dealing with climate change and sustainability etc., and the EqUUal Access Program which seeks to improve accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Perhaps the best known of the SJ activities is The Good Neighbor Offering (GNO). The GNO is a monthly donation from USH to a specific charity. Historically, there have been a number of ways to choose the recipients of the GNO. For the last year the Social Justice Council has been nominating organizations that reflect our commitment to Greater Hartford and pressing global needs in Ukraine. It is the belief of the current Social Justice Council that the entire congregation should be involved in the selection of the GNO recipients. At this year's annual congregational meeting we will present an opportunity for congregants to be involved in the GNO selection process. We also will present a new way of donating to GNOs.

For several years now, The GNO funds donated during the months of July and August have been contributed to the Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser. As the Village is our closest neighbor and we want to support the vital work that they do, The SJ Council recommends that we continue this annual collection each summer.

Please continue to donate to our Good Neighbor Offerings. You can donate in person via the offering plate during service, or you can mail a check to USH at 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT 06105. Please write GNO or the name of the organization in the memo line. You can also donate online at the USH website: On our home page, click on Give Online. On the next page click on USH Online Giving Portal. On that page you will see the button for the Good Neighbor Offering. When filling out your donation please include the name of the organization that you want your donation applied to (i.e. The Village). That can be typed in the box marked Give To.

Anyone is welcome to attend the Social Justice Council's monthly meeting held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We gladly welcome anyone interested in any aspect of social justice.

**OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS**

USH'S Good Neighbor Offering in May will be donated to the Hartford chapter of PFLAG — a support group for parents, families, friends, and allies united with LGBTQ+ people for support, education and advocacy. Monthly meetings in Harford are held on the third Wednesday, and in Manchester they're held on the first Tuesday of the month.



"Through support, education, and advocacy, PFLAG Hartford works to make our community a healthier, more well-informed, safer, fairer, and happier place for LGBTQ+ people, their families, and their loved ones." You can learn more about PFLAG Hartford on Facebook.

On Sunday, May 29th, Lindsey Pasqual will join us, representing PFLAG, and will give a brief overview of their work. Since May 29th is Memorial weekend, it is possible that there will be a small turnout for service. For that reason we will be collecting for the GNO both on May 22 and May 29... half the proceeds from the collection on each Sunday will be donated to PFLAG and the other half will go to USH. As always, you can designate the total amount of your check or online donation for your pledge here, or to the Good Neighbor Offering as you choose... simply write "pledge" or "PFLAG" in the memo line to indicate your preferred destination. Undesignated offerings will be split evenly between the two recipients. Please be a generous as you are able to support this valuable and worthy cause.



GHIAA invites you to participate in a racial justice training on May 24 and 25, via **Zoom**. A daytime training will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon, and then the training will be repeated in the evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The training explores a framework to help unmask and dismantle racism wherever it appears. The training is designed for both BIPOC and white individuals looking to explore the ways our multiple identities and experiences inform how we show up in multi-racial spaces with compassion and a commitment to anti-oppression.

Please register **HERE**. Any questions, please contact me.

**Judy Sullivan**  
 860-719-9886  
[jasullivan57@gmail.com](mailto:jasullivan57@gmail.com)

### *Meeting House Presents*

**Thank you all for joining our Spring Series at USH.**

**Please see the latest spring concert videos at the links below and be sure to stay tuned for our next engaging series of talented artists!**

**[Irish Jigs ~ Sean Heely & Beth Patterson - YouTube](#)**

**[Oran eile don Phrionnsa - Sean Heely & Beth Patterson - YouTube](#)**

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

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford

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

## *Programs & Events*

### Meetings, Events, Programs

#### **HARTFORD GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

presents Singing From the Heart of Hartford, Saturday June 4, 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, 3 p.m. AEtna Theater at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Tickets: \$45 and \$30. Purchase tickets online at: [HGMC.ORG/EVENTS-TICKETS](http://HGMC.ORG/EVENTS-TICKETS)

**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**

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. A 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, June 14, 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 **April 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](mailto: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/](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. Announcements about upcoming events typically appear for two consecutive weeks maximum, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team.**

**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

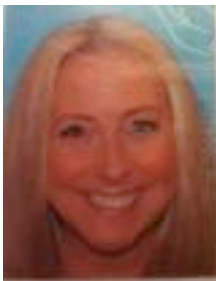
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Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals  
**[hartforduociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduociety@gmail.com)** | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

*News from Buffie's Desk*



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns.  
Buffie works Sunday through Thursday from 9 am – 2 pm.  
Please email her at **[hartforduociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduociety@gmail.com)**.  
**Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!**

**Sunday Welcome Volunteers Needed!!  
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!**