



Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice

Unitarian Society of Hartford
Building Community Since 1830
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com
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.

JUNE 1, 2022



June 5, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Intergenerational Flower Communion
“Beauty emerges when love takes root.”

Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest
Margaret Leicach & Carol Simpson, Worship Associates
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess

Annie Witzler, Welcome Table

Chancel Art by Paula Bleck

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. – Coffee Hour will be immediately following services, in person and ZOOM

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



Flower Communion Sunday

The Flower Communion is a cherished UU tradition dating back nearly 150 years, representing our giving to one another as symbolic of the beauty that emerges when love

takes root.

We invite those attending, to bring with them flowers — from your garden, front yard, local flower shop, grocery store, from your most recent hike (with permission of the property-owner) — to add to our collective bouquet.

During the service, there's a time for us all to come up and select a new flower, as a personal gift of interconnection and beauty.

Summer Services

Living Fully

Theme inspiration: From the poem,
"Urgency", by Rosemerry Wahtola
Trommer...

*"Again the chance
To do the work
To see the world exactly
as it is and still write
it a love letter."*



July 3 through September 4
10:00 a.m.
 Fellowship Hall, in person and livestreamed

Pulpit Guests/Worship Associates:

July 3 – Judy Robbins/Sue Smolski
 July 10 – Kate Byroade/Laurie Kelliher
 July 17 – Artists' Way/Carol Simpson
 July 24 – Judy Robbins/Rick Tsukada
 July 31 – Brian Harvey/ Rick Tsukada
 August 7 – Lucille Giammetteo and Michael Michaud/Sue Smolski
 August 14 – TBD/TBD
 August 21 – John Bengtson/Laurie Kelliher
 August 28 – Carol Simpson/Judy Robbins
 September 4 – Annie Witzler/Sue Smolski

As Laurie Kelliher described this year's Summer Services:
 "A celebration of the qualities that give our life 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."

This is Summer Worship at USH!

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Coordinator



**Are You Ready to
Join USH?**

We will be holding a New
Member Ceremony on
Sunday, June 12 during the
worship service.

Please contact Carolyn
Carlson

at carlsoncjc@gmail.com or 860-462-9757 if you would like to join our
congregation at this time.

USH Community

We imagine many of you would like to send a farewell and your good wishes to Reverend Terry, following her resignation. It's suggested you do so either via email or with a written card or letter. Her preferred email is Terryuu633@gmail.com. Written notes may be sent to the Meeting House; please indicate on the envelope that your item is for delivery to her.

Memorial Day ~ Roll of Honor

The chancel art last Sunday incorporated, in its theme of peace and remembrance, our society's World War II Roll of Honor, commemorating members who served in that conflagration. Gold stars alongside names testify that some never returned.

During wartime in the 1940s, the Unitarian Society was physically situated on Pearl Street; the move to what then was a rather rural location was a couple of decades away. The plaque was installed as a 'permanent' fixture in the congregation's Pearl Street Home. When the congregation did relocate, the Roll of Honor was brought along.

In recent years the honor roll was moved to a storage area adjoining Fellowship Hall. Reasons for that move are unclear. In the late "20-teens", though, the plaque mysteriously disappeared. It had previously spent so much time in a quiet, unobtrusive space, and its disappearance wasn't widely noticed; no alarms were raised.

Then...

During the ministry of Revs Heather and Cathy, Heather scheduled a Building and Grounds workday as a general clean up of the building, aiming particularly to discard stuff accumulated over the years and then abandoned. In this process, Rev.



Heather assembled a pile of objects to be discarded. The Building and Grounds folks noticed the plaque in damaged and deteriorated condition and set it aside. Subsequently, Paula and Aaron Bleck were searching in the storage areas, seeking scrap material for a project. They came across the plaque, scuffed and disheveled, and proceeded to rescue it, refinishing it with skill and care. It is now restored to its rightful place adjoining the Memorial Garden. Through recognizing the significance of these names, the sacrifices made and the imperative to remember, Aaron and Paula salvaged this piece of our history. Next time you walk out to the Memorial Garden, take a moment, look to the wall on your left, reflect, and remember.



Interested in a new form of meditation???

It's called **Weeding Meditation** and it can easily be performed solo or with a small group! The practice site is the **Labyrinth Garden** in the **KNOX COMMUNITY GARDEN** at the back of the USH parking lot.

The garden was started by a group led by Rev. Heather over 6 years ago and is **maintained by a few USH members** with assist from KNOX. If you hurry, you can still see the incredible **IRIS plants** that are in bloom — donated by Virginia DeLima a few years ago. Additional plants are always welcome if you're dividing any. The community garden is a gem, with lots of interesting people turning the soil and sharing

tips. Many of the people who tend plots in the garden have recently admitted to ringing the bell :)

If you don't feel like practicing **weeding meditation** and if you don't have mobility issues, you can simply **walk the path** on the concrete disks (little kids love to practice counting them — there are over a 100!) and **ring the bell** in the center, for peace and love, or just for fun!



Susan Hope



Memorial Service to Honor the Life and Memory of JoAnne McClurg

Date and Time: Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 11 AM

Location: Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Event Room: Chapel

A light lunch with coffee and juice in the library will follow the service

DETAILS: We will gather to honor JoAnne's memory at USH, where JoAnne and her husband, Chris, were members for more than 50 years and raised their children, Jarrett and Sarah.

We'll gather in the chapel for the service led by Rev. Dianne Daniels. The service will include a chance to share memories, readings, and the lighting of the UU chalice.

After the service, please join us in the library on the first floor for refreshments and a light lunch. A special thanks to the USH Caring Network for hosting the event and baking homemade cookies!

Download her obituary [HERE](#).

Did UU Know?

A History of Our Meeting House Memorial Gardens

By Janice and David Newton

5/31/22



When the Meeting House was constructed, a memorial garden was contemplated outside of the South entrance. As with other items not finished at the time, the contemplated landscaping and plantings existed in

plans, but had not been completed. What did exist was established in 1991 consisting of the Azaleas and White Birch trees seen in the photograph. A Memorial Garden Committee established the rules for use including burial of ashes only without markers, tags in the entry way listing the names of those whose ashes were interred, and a Book of Remembrance with notes and some programs from services of those who were buried elsewhere as well as those whose ashes were placed the “new” memorial garden.

Among others, the committee at the time included Bill and Louise Willett, long active members of USH. They had buried the ashes of their son, Mark, under the birch tree shown to the right. Bill expressed the strong desire that someday the garden be completed as designed to better serve as a memorial spot for additional families and their relatives. Today we have memorial tags for 61 individuals recorded on the memorial plaques.

As it happened, an anonymous gift was received in 1999 to further develop the original concept with some departures for the original plans and designs. A patio area with benches was also added, providing a comfortable place to mediate and remember. Plantings in the Garden were selected to produce blooming through most of the season. The Garden currently has an automatic watering system. In the adjacent entry from the Meeting House is a wall plaque commemorating those whose ashes are interred in the Garden.

Subsequently, a Tree of Life created by John Stowe and a Memorial Garden plaque were added on the buttress.

Over the years the plantings have matured and been replaced. The pictures below show some of the varying views. The original white birches are long gone. Of the two river birches only one remains. The Mimosa tree, a relatively fast grower, has come and gone. The Hellebores have proved to be very successful, while peonies, roses and daisies do well. For such a garden, volunteer gardeners are and remain essential!

Beginning in 2000:



2006

2007





2008



2009



2019

So, there you have our evolving, every changing Memorial Garden, a place for remembrance, interment of loved ones' ashes, and on occasion, an outdoor space for events with pleasant surroundings.

But, wait, there is more.

About the time the Memorial Garden was well established, our member, Helen Skinner, wondered if we might find a place for a Pet Memorial

Garden. She thought it would be meaningful for our children and their pets and offered to finance the construction of such a garden. Perhaps rashly, the Newtons said they would build it if she would finance it, and she did! Later the ashes of her beloved pet Barney were interred there. At the time, there was a construction project underway to pave the now accessible parking area in front of the West Meeting House door.

The construction personnel were persuaded to pave a short path and scoop out the soil and dump sand in the location of the new Pet Memorial Garden. In the following pictures you can see what was added.

The year, 2007:



And, in ensuing years we have had pet-related services near the garden, and a book of Pet Remembrance is maintained in the office for pictures and words children, their parents, and the rest of us may write recording memories of our loved companion pets on our journey through life.

Denominational Matters



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

Meet the Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community JUNE 22 – 26, 2022

At General Assembly, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, "attendees worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the Association through democratic process."

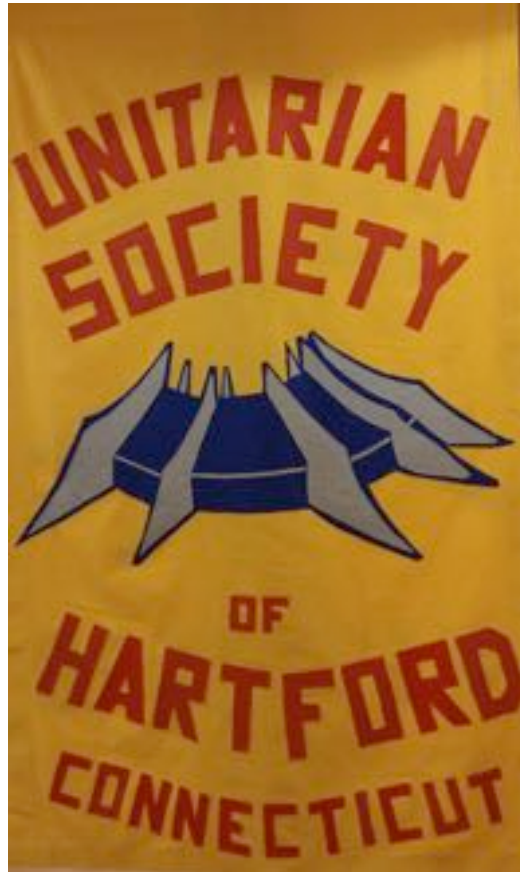
After two years a virtual GA, this year, there is an option to meet in person or online. To learn more and register, visit the UUA's website at uua.org and click on General Assembly.

At USH, it's been our practice to 'join' the worship service at General Assembly on that Sunday morning.

In previous years, we'd done so by setting up our largest-screen TV in Fellowship Hall, drawing our folding chairs close to the screen, and viewing the live service as it was happening at the Assembly site. Now, we can do this from the air-conditioned comfort of our homes: a particularly attractive option at noon, EDT, on the final Sunday in June. (Worship at GA, in Portland, OR, is scheduled for 9 a.m. local time.)

Therefore, we will *not* be holding worship at the Meeting House June 26, presenting you with multitudinous options for spiritual communion in the manner you choose.

USH GA Trivia: Pictured below is the USH Banner that has been carried by one of our members or delegates in the Banner Parade of Congregations, which ends the Opening Ceremony of the General Assembly.





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

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

Social Justice

Food Bank Information

Here are this week's West Hartford Food Bank needs. Food donations for all area towns go down in the Spring and Summer months while hungry individuals and families remain. You can check on your local town's needs by going to any number of online sites for information. Some towns like Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester have multiple sites from which to choose

Please give as you are able!

West Hartford Food Bank needs for the week of 5/31/22:

Canned fruit/applesauce

Baked beans

Canned pasta

Pasta and sauce

Rice - 1 lb. Packages.

Thank you, Diana Heymann



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](https://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 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.

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 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.

In & Around Greater Hartford



Music at the Red Door's

2022-2023 Season: *Join us!*

The 2022-2023 season is planned and ready! Building on St. John's strengths of wonderful acoustics, the magnificent Austin organ, and a strong choral music tradition, we will present a new slate of organists at the **Pipes Alive!** series of half-hour recitals, regular **Choral Evensong** experiences with our own choirs and guests, the beloved **Festival of Lessons & Carols**, and a **choir and orchestra** concert featuring the Fauré *Requiem* and Saint-Saëns *Organ Symphony* performed with the Farmington Valley Symphony. Our jazz and chamber music series features the return of **Nat Reeves & Friends**, the **Boyd Meets Girl** duo, and what promises to be an electrifying concert by the Grammy™-winning **Catalyst String Quartet**. Three concerts by our ensemble-in-residence, the **New World Trio**, round out a full year of beauty and grace – our gift to the surrounding community.

Every 2022-2023 event, with date and time, are in our season brochure below.

We also are very excited about the **Kids' Community Music Camp**, a week-long day camp that invites a diverse group of children to explore the joys of music at St. John's by learning to sing, play violin, dance, and drum. The camp takes place in August, and is a natural extension of the St. John's Choir School, fostering music, leadership, and faith in a supportive community.

As we approach the new season, we are very grateful for the generosity of our supporters. Your generous donation will help us continue to open our big red doors to those who seek connection and community along with great music. Please make your donation online or by clicking [**HERE**](#)

St. John's Episcopal Church

679 Farmington Avenue - West Hartford, CT

06119 <https://www.reddoormusic.org/>

Music at the Red Door - Austin Pipe Organ - PDF Brochure



The Elizabeth Park Conservancy will present four free outdoor summer concerts on the **Rose Lawn**. In collaboration with the West End Civic Association, the Park presents three outdoor movies during the summer, and the

Connecticut Ballet presents the annual Marge Wilder Tribute Performance on a Saturday in July. See event information [HERE](#)

Image: elizabethparkct.org



Holcomb Farm

A historic New England Farm — A Place to Grow Since 1756

Holcomb Farm is a nonprofit CSA that farms without chemicals or pesticides. It is located at 111 Simsbury Road, West Granby, CT 06090. For events and program information,

see www.holcombfarm.org



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

The next board meeting, currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 14 via ZOOM, will probably be changing to a date later in June. That date will be published when determined.

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

The **2021/22 Annual Report** is available [HERE](#)

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 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. 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/>

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re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Bob Hewey, acting Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.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 works Sunday through Thursday from 9 am – 2 pm. Please email her

at hartforduusociety@gmail.com.

Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!

Sunday Welcome Volunteers STILL Needed!!

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 is

Tuesday at 12 Noon.

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

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

