

Unitarian Society of Hartford



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: hartforduussociety@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.

AUGUST 17, 2022



August 21, 2022: 10 a.m.

"The Importance of Aunts, Uncles, and Other Influential People"

John Bengtson, Pulpit Guest
Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

Annie Witzler, Interim RE Director, will meet with the children
in the Chapel today, though any young people wishing to hear John
are welcome to remain in Fellowship Hall.

Annie Witzler, Welcome Table
Laurel Goodgion, Greeter
Bill Simmons & Larry Lunden, Ushers

Matters of the Heart:
Electronically by 9 am Sunday: email HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com
In person – use MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning

10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

Summer Services held in Fellowship Hall

Join us in ZOOM [here](#)
See Order of Service [here](#)

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

**11:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour – 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.

Rev. Erica Baron, our August 14 pulpit guest, sent us the text of her reflection, ***Receiving Generously***. This has now been posted on the website, and you may read it [here](#).



John Bengtson, Pulpit Guest

John Bengtson has been involved with the youth group here at USH since 2006 in one capacity or another, & has led monthly soup making for various Hartford soup kitchens with our youth group since 2010. He has been a self employed carpenter in the Hartford area since 1993 & an avid fan of the local music scene. He has 2 daughters who were once active in the youth group, Ariana & Melissa.

Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

Laurie is a lifelong Unitarian, proud of her third generation UU children. She is a self-described proselytizer for the UU faith and views being a Worship Associate as one more avenue to spread the word.



Congregational Matters



New congregational directory is here!

Did you receive **yours**? If you haven't yet received your digital directory, or if there are needed changes to your information, let Buffie know. Email hartforduusociety@gmail.com, with 'directory' in the subject line. There have been many changes since the last directory was published; please help us make and keep this as continuously up-to-date as possible.

Summer Services

Still Living Fully

Summer Worship in Fellowship Hall, in person and livestreamed at 10 am

Pulpit Guests/Worship Associates:



August 21 – *The Importance of Aunts, Uncles, and Other Influential*

People John Bengtson/Laurie Kelliher

August 28 – *It's OK to Not Be OK*: Carol Simpson/Judy Robbins

September 4 – *Music in My Mother's House*: Fred Louis/Sue Smolski

INGATHERING SUNDAY is September 11.

We move back into the Sanctuary, for worship at **10:30**.



Ingathering and Water Ceremony

Our traditional Ingathering Service signals the start of the church year. This welcome-back service features a Water

Ceremony... water from years past is mixed with new water from your summer travels or, perhaps, your back yard.

Following the service — and we hope the weather cooperates — we'll have a cookout/pot luck gathering in and around the meditation room and Memorial Garden. Let's keep this simple: We'll provide the grillables; you bring finger foods, easy salads, single-serve dessert items. More on that to follow...

***Starting September 11th,
worship again begins at 10:30***

Welcome Team Sign-Up

Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or to staff the welcome table this fall. Simple, rewarding short-term commitments helping extend hospitality to members and visitors.

Use the Sign-Up Genius app [here](#) to be part of our Sunday Morning Welcome Team.



USH Community



Support The Village, and the Kids

THE VILLAGE FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN UNIFORM FUNDRAISER DEADLINE EXTENSION

The deadline for the 2022 Uniform Fundraiser HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL
NEXT WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24.

School is just around the corner-Hartford's first day is August 29. The Village for Families and Children still needs uniforms as the number of children served by The Village has grown.

Going back to school can be an anxious time for children. Having enough to buy uniforms for their children be a stretch for many families. Let us help children ,like those pictured above, go back to school with pride, in their school uniforms, by donating to The Village uniform fundraiser.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY GIVEN

Donations may be made until NEXT WEDNESDAY August 24th. Please give as you are able, no amount is too small.

Social Justice



Follow up on 'Libraries on the Attack'

Louise Harmon

Remember Kate Byroade's sermon in which she described her struggles over banning books at the Colchester Library where she is the Director? Judy Sullivan reported on it in the **August 3 USH enews**.

If you want to watch the video of Kate's sermon, here is the link:

<https://vimeo.com/721916454> (Video of sermon begins at 36 minutes.)

Recently, ***On the Media*** did a podcast on the assault on public libraries and school libraries. ***Reading the Room*** describes these attacks on the freedom of expression--and the rights of our children to learn about the world. It puts Kate's important advocacy into perspective. Here is a link to the podcast.

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/otm/episodes/on-the-media-reading-the-room>

You can also find it as a podcast from WNYC Studios, *On the Media*. The *Reading the Room* episode is dated Friday, August 12.

Food Bank Information

Food donations for all area towns go down in the Spring and Summer months while hungry individuals and families remain. If you are a West Hartford resident, the Food Bank is at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

soups of any kind

canned pasta (spaghettios and other canned pasta)

If you live in another area town, you can check on your local needs by going online. Some towns like Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester have multiple sites from which to choose.

Please give as you are able! Thanks!

Grocery bags are now being collected by the office door rather than the main entrance.

~Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



**The
Chalice
Clubhouse**
at USH

The Chalice Clubhouse is a fun, child-centric curriculum fostering individuality and free-thinking, using the Seven Principles as our guiding compass. For summer, we will have a freeform classroom set up with different activities available from week to week for children and youth to participate in, including arts and crafts, opportunities for dramatic play, cooperative games, meditation sessions, and much more!

We hope to see you there!



Remember to Register for Fall RE!

It's that time of year again... time to register for the 2022-2023 Religious Education year at USH! We have exciting opportunities for every age range coming up this year!

Forms are available online for printing or **online completion**, and paper copies will be available at the welcome table throughout the summer! Only one form is required per family. Sign up today to be first in line for fun activities upcoming this fall and beyond!

There are also plenty of **opportunities for volunteering with the RE program** as well! Please contact Annie Witzler (re4ush@gmail.com) for additional information.

Programs & Events

Looking Ahead: Autumn Programs (and Beyond...)

Tina Davies, Chair, Council on Community Within

Just one year ago we came back into the Meeting House for the first time in, well, quite a while. Some of us still have not returned in person, and that is understandable. It can take a long time.

During the height of the pandemic, a number of programs transitioned quickly online and pretty much continued without a hitch. The Book Group and Artist's Way were successful in this regard. A couple of Connection Circles were facilitated on Zoom. When we could meet in person, the Lunch Bunch swung into its monthly meetings.

Here are a few more possibilities for this fall or, possibly, next spring. We're still in rebuilding mode, and how better to rebuild than to enjoy conversation, a movie, or a meditative practice. Here are a few programs we'd *love* to offer... new or re-activated... if there's sufficient interest and, in some cases, a few people to step up, help organize, and lead sessions.

Gentle Yoga

LU Giammatteo's ***Gentle Yoga*** group has coalesced quickly, and will be starting late Monday morning, September 12. There may be a few spots still available, so email LU [here](#) if you'd be interested (or if you 'd be interested in future groups). Maximum 10 participants.

A suggested modest offering to USH is requested of participants; details will be shared with those interested. (No one will be turned away on financial grounds.)

Pizza and a Movie

This monthly gathering of movie buffs was a pre-pandemic favorite. We would have started back up already, but our organizer and movie diva is, sadly, no longer with us. October through June, a group of folks gets together in Fellowship Hall to enjoy pizza, salad, dessert, movie, and

conversation (not simultaneously). There have typically a number of people willing to help out, but we need someone (or a small team) to organize this easy monthly happening. If you think this someone is you, email enewsush@gmail.com with “P&M” in the subject line and we’ll give you the lowdown. Gatherings are 2nd Fridays of the month, 5-ish to 9-ish.

Moviegoers chip in to cover the cost of food. Previously, the “tab” ran about \$12 per person, and we anticipated that will be adjusted to accommodate current prices.

What about SGM/Connection Circles?

We often hear how participating in a Small Group Ministry (later renamed Connection Circles) has been such a meaningful piece of your USH experience, and that these intimate gatherings of spiritual sharing would be welcomed anew. Is there a way to regroup our small groups? Would you be interested in helping plan, organize, host, or facilitate a group? Let’s see if there’s a nucleus willing to reimagine this opportunity for deep connection. Email enewsush@gmail.com with SGM in the subject line. (Note: we’re probably aiming for spring at the earliest, but let’s see whether the wheels can be put into motion now.)



Saturday Sing-Along August 20

We are Back ! Had Great Vacation !

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

Join us *this Saturday*, at the next MeetingHouse Sing-Along. Fred Louis and Ed Savage invite CT Singing families, singers, song-writers and audience members to join in song from 2 to 5 pm. We will have song-sheets and some loaner copies of 'Rise Up Singing' available. Bring along your own 'Rise Up Singing' if you have one, as we have used it a lot in other months. We will also use the NEW 'Rise Again' sequel – 1200 more songs to sample.

Given the events in Ukraine, let's bring forward songs of peace and solidarity with the victims of the war.

We'll put some chairs in a circle and take turns singing or playing, with those who know the tune or words joining in as they wish. You can come early or come late, whatever fits your family schedule. The UU MeetingHouse is at 50 Bloomfield Avenue in Hartford. Some of us bring snacks, but that is not required (or organized) Look for a sign near the door if you can't see or hear us right away. We will be around to the right of the main entrance, down the hall.

VAX protocol — OK to sing, socially spaced, if you are vaccinated AND boosted; even so, if anyone is uncomfortable about singing unmasked, we should all wear masks. Please feel free to express your caution about COVID contagion by contacting Fred and Ed (above).

We will have some KN95s for sale if you come without any mask. If you have NOT completed a COVID Vaccination regime, please skip the Sing-Alongs for now, to protect you from US.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our September selection – Search, by Michelle Huneven. This novel focuses on a

fictional search for a Unitarian minister. Because we will soon be going through this process “in real life,” you will find this book educational as well as entertaining.

One reviewer says this of the book: “It’s a front row seat to a juicy in-fight that’s all too familiar to anyone who’s ever tried to get something done by committee... The narrator of Search reflects that ministry... is about asking, ‘How do we live in this world?’ and this novel suggests many possible answers, touching on friendships, food, charisma, gossip, the notion of home, and the challenge of making all those things meaningful.” (Sanjena Sarhian).

Another reviewer comments: “The wondrous Search tells the story of a group of people whose task is to unify around an important decision, and... rest assured that this droll novel will demonstrate in hilarious and painful detail all the ways in which our best intentions run afoul of how powerfully we want what we want.” (Ann Packer)

Enjoy the reading.

If you want to participate in (or listen to) a discussion of the book and related issues, join us on Thursday, September 8 at 2:30, by Zoom or a hybrid meeting.

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 2022/23

Second Thursday of each month

September 8 – Search by Michelle Huneven

October 13 – Tasha: A Son’s Memoir by Brian Morton

*November 10 – Girls of Tender Age by Mary-Ann
Tyrone Smith*

December. 8 – Midnight Library by Matt Haig

January 12 – Things We Lost in the Water by Eric Nguyen

February 9 – The Premonition by Michael Lewis

March 9 – The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

*April 13 – Power: The limits and prospects for human survival
by Richard Heinberg*

May 11 – Beloved by Toni Morrison

June 8 – The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

July 13 – Matrix by Lauren Groff

August 10 – Mismeasure of Man by Stephen J Gould

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**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.

**And** — are you aware of the new Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline? If someone close to you... or you, yourself... are experiencing a crisis, you can call *or text* **988** and talk with a counselor. In 2020, the Lifeline answered more than 2.1 million calls and over 200,000 chats. Officials said they hope the three-digit number will be easier to remember than the old 1-800 number, making emergency mental health care more accessible.

## *Around Greater Hartford: UCONN's "ALP"*

*Lifelong Learners — Do you know **ALP**?*

*by Carol Simpson*

**ALP** is the UCONN Adult Learning Program. It offers courses in the fall and spring of each year that are a wonderful way to expand your mind and to meet other lifelong learners. Most courses are held at Seabury Retirement Community in Bloomfield. They range from a single two-hour session to several sessions, usually a week apart. The cost, whether you sign up for one or ten courses, is the same -- \$55. This fall, you can choose from 16 multi-session courses and 9 single-session courses. They include: a series of local hikes, a movie discussion, a Great Courses seminar on the American Revolution, Neonatology, Abstract Art, and a History of Witches! The Fall Preview meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, September 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Seabury Chapel where presenters will be introduced, questions will be answered, and you may win a raffle for free tuition. For more information, go to [alp.uconn.edu](http://alp.uconn.edu). Paper copies of the ALP-Horn, the ALP newsletter listing all courses, will be available in mid-August. Watch for it!

(Fun fact: our own Flo Grieb has a long-time involvement with ALP, having just retired from a years of service on their board.)

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 **May and June 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.

### 2022-2023 USH Board of Directors

**Eve Pech: President**

**Dana Donovan: President-Elect**

**Jon Covault: Treasurer**

**Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary**

**Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair**

**Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair**

**Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair**

**Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair**

**The September board meeting will be 9/13, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**  
link [HERE](#) and in the USH calendar via this [LINK](#)

**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/>



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Patty Peck, Bookkeeper – Office or Phone by Appointment  
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Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals  
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## USH Calendar of Events

**calendar for August 2022 can  
 be viewed HERE.  
 Please contact Buffie with any  
 questions or concerns.**

### *From Buffie's Desk*



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns.

Buffie works Sunday through Thursday,  
 from 9am – 2pm.

Please email her at

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

**Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!**

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is

**Tuesday at 12 Noon.**

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

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