



Unitarian Society of Hartford

November 23, 2022

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. Please feel free to email/call for an appointment.



November 27, 2022: 10:30 a.m.

"The Courage to Hope"

Valarie Kaur writes in “A Sikh Prayer for America”, “The future is dark. But my faith dares me to ask: What if this darkness is not the darkness of the tomb, but the darkness of the womb? ... What if this is our Great Contraction before we birth a new future?” Join us this Sunday as we explore the relationship between courage and hope.

Rev. Aaron Payson, Pulpit Guest
Sue Smolski, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Chancel Arts Sub-Council, Chancel Art
Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

Helen David, Welcome Table
Tina Davies & Deb Meny, Ushers

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

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

See Order of Service [here](#)

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour immediately following the service, in person and ZOOM.

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



Pulpit Guest, Rev Aaron Payson

Rev. Aaron R. Payson is in his 31 year of ministry. A 2nd generation UU minister and a 4th generation Universalist Unitarian, Aaron credits his parents Rev. Robert & Marcia Payson, both of blessed memory, for his inspiration to enter the ministry. He has a BA in psychology with a minor in religion and philosophy from Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pa., and an MDiv from Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass. He is currently studying for his doctorate at Hartford Seminary. Aaron is a founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry Team and is active in a host of local, regional and national efforts within the UUA and the community at large. He lives in Worcester, MA, with his wife Kristen, who is editor of The Landmark newspaper. They have two young adult children, Morgaine and Charlie and a four-legged rough-collie child, Sophie Marie.



Worship Associate, Sue Smolski

Sue Smolski has been a Congregationalist and unchurched. A Memorial Service in our chapel in 1985 led to membership in this denomination and congregation. She is grateful for the unique opportunities that retirement can allow and that USH keeps providing.

Sunday Worship



Upcoming Sunday Services: Join us, in person or online.

December 4 – Forum: Title pending/Judy Robbins, Pulpit Guest/ Margaret Leicach and Michael Michaud, Worship Associates

December 11 – Music Sunday: Sam Moffett / Laurie Kelliher, Worship Leaders

December 18 – Title pending/ Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

December 21 – Wednesday, 7 p.m., Winter Solstice Service: Michael Michaud and Margaret Leicach, Worship Leaders

December 24 – Saturday, 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Service, Peter Meny, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate

December 25 – Sunday, "So Many Gifts..." Sue Smolski and Ron Friedman, Worship Leaders

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



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.

Denominational Concerns

Let Your Voice Be Heard About Sweeping Changes to UUA Bylaws *Judy Robbins*

The UUA is radically revising the Unitarian Universalist Bylaws this year. The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association has always been to support member congregations. The proposed new purpose of the UUA will be to “equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders...to heal historic inequities...” There is no mention of support for congregations.

The familiar Principles and Sources are gone in this proposal. Take a look at our current Principles and Sources here: [Principles and Sources | Faith like a River | Faith Like a River | Tapestry of Faith | UUA.org](#)

Then compare that with the proposed replacement. It seems that there have been several published drafts of this wording. The latest wording is [here](#):

You have until November 28 to share your opinions online here: [Article II November Draft Feedback](#)

Congregational Matters

NEWCOMERS ~

Are you UU-curious?

Join an informal gathering Under the Stairs on December 4, 2022 following our service. Bring your coffee or tea for conversation about Unitarian Universalism, the Unitarian Society of Hartford and most of all to consider the wondering question...What brought you here today?

Whether it is your first time or you've been coming and curious for a while, join us. Members and friends are always welcome and broaden the insights to our very special faith.

Cookies and fruit and conversation...and you...join us Under the Stairs.

~ Laurie Kelliher

Meeting House Presents





Friday, December 2, 2022 at 7:00

Oldies Rock & Roll Show with Rod Muck — “Remember When”

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Join the fun! Sing along, dance, or just tap your feet on a trip down memory lane with sounds from the good old days.

For Rod Muck, growing up in a musical family is the foundation of his performing career. From his father, Rudy Muck’s music stores on 48th Street NYC and upstate New York, to the influences of his dad’s specialty trumpet mouth pieces for such greats as Louis Armstrong, Rod started performing in the earlier 60’s.

He began his adventures with the likes of composer and recording artists Billy Vera and the Beaters, known for great hits such as “At This Moment”. Rod is well-known in the tri-state area, with a six-decade performing career playing keyboards along with his smooth vocals. From the roots of Rock & Roll, Rod leads you through the great hits you remember from the 40’s to the 60s.



Keith Toohey

Bass & Backup Vocals



Frank Busse

Drums & Backup Vocals



Kevin Gallagher

Guitar

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

Scam Alert Update

At this time of year we always have some members of our congregation scammed by various hackers, etc. We have already learned of one. Below is an article that should help.

Be Aware!

So, you just heard from Friendofthefamily that there is a sudden need for a little financial help. You think about it for a minute, then determine perhaps she is reaching out for some minor help with shopping, or a bill of some kind given her age and social security income. You glance at the email address to make sure it is hers, it is. You write back and she explains the situation in a return email. So, you send some money or perhaps a gift card.

You have been scammed!

You see, Friendofthefamily had her email account hacked. Perhaps she heard from her “email provider” that she needed to make adjustments to her account. And she did. What happened was the hacker, Nastyperson, now uses her account to write to her contacts and may even read their responses coming back, or simply forward her incoming mail to his own address, thereafter, he is able to answer your kind email response and soon relieve you of excess funds, gift cards, etc.

Regrettably, at this time of year scams of all sorts are prevalent and successful. Friendofthefamily is stuck at the airport and lost wallet and is desperate to pay for a ticket home. The electric bill has not been paid and the power will be turned off if... The Minister, or worship associated, or caring network needs a little help with a situation in the congregation.

You get the point. If it has to do with your email account, never respond giving out your password. Suspicious, call the Friendofthefamily by phone. Look up the number of your email provider and confirm the communication. Verify and never send cash. Use a credit card.

Social Justice

GHIAA Information

GHIAA is excited to share that we now have our **December 7 GHIAA ASSEMBLY** at *Weaver High School on Granby Street in Hartford.*

Date: December 7

Time: 7 p.m.

See Power Summit Flyer [HERE](#).

Weaver has a beautiful new auditorium with the same capacity as did Welty Hall in New Britain, with much better parking.

This is our large action where we officially launch campaigns, negotiate with legislators and other power brokers, and welcome new congregations.

More details coming shortly.



The November Good Neighbor Offering supports Connecticut Foodshare, whose mission is to provide nutritious food to people in need throughout the state. They partner with food retailers, growers, financial donors, and volunteers to source food and distribute it through a network of 500 food access points that include community-based pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, as well as their Mobile Pantries, Dairy Express, and Senior Supplemental Food Program.

According to estimates from Feeding America, more than 490,000 Connecticut residents struggle with hunger; and more than 131,000 children are food insecure.

These are people from all walks of life – children, working parents, seniors, or people living with disabilities. They are our neighbors.

Last year, Connecticut Foodshare distributed enough food to prepare nearly 37 million meals to people in need in Connecticut.

We can help fulfill their mission by:

- Donating in November at USH
- Volunteering your time
- Advocate – learn about the issues affecting hunger in our communities and help share the message with our representatives

Learn more at: <https://ctfoodshare.org/>

West Hartford Food Bank Information

If you are a West Hartford resident, the Food Bank is at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

Pasta Sauce (almost out)

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Baked Beans

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 temperature is dropping, but our fun levels are off the charts at USH!

We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18! Signup online [here](#) or on Sundays in person at the welcome table!

Please note that we will not be holding Time for All Ages this weekend, so children and youth who wish to participate in RE programming should report directly to their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category!

The Sprouts Nursery (Ages Infant-Pre-K):

Our nursery is open to all infants, young children, and their families. There are toys, books, art supplies, and plenty of room for imagination to grow free!

We have dedicated personnel and volunteers there to supervise every week and the best part? You can now listen and participate in the service while you're there! Nursery go-ers can listen to the service and even participate in our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual!

Come visit any Sunday and never miss a single sermon! **Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.**



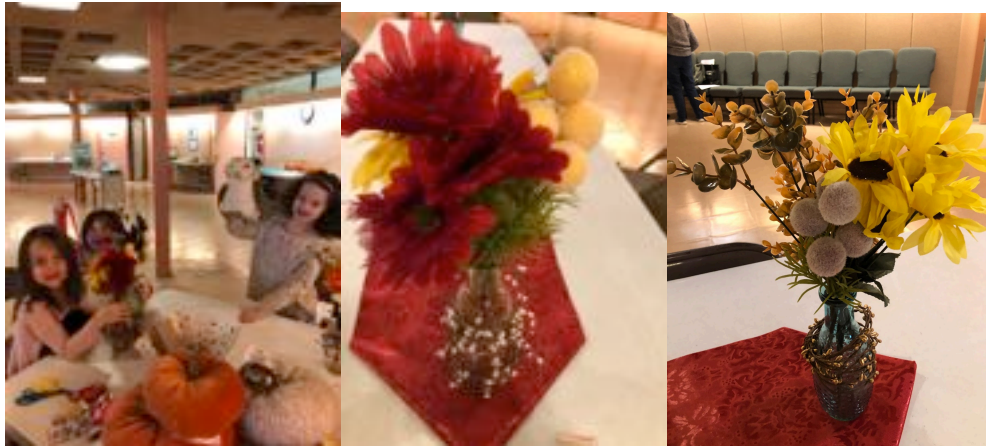
In The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K-6th):

Last weekend, for our Community Sunday, our clubhouse goers helped clean and decorate Fellowship Hall for our Soup Sunday and congregational meeting. They scrubbed tables, dried them, and then chose colorful table clothes and floral arrangements to bring the spirit of the season into our humble meeting house. A huge thank you to everyone who helped out!

This monthly activity is reflective of our great covenant: “Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law. This is our great covenant. To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.” Our church is strongest when we work together. Things are more beautiful, there is enough to share with all, and we feel connected to our fellow congregants.

Next weekend, November 27th, we will begin our UU advent season with a new story and craft!

We hope to see you in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am!



USH Youth Group (Grades 6th-12th):



This past weekend, our youth group (and a visiting alumni Arianna Bengtson) made a delicious beef stew for the first time ever thanks to a generous donation of tenderloin! It, along with our fan-favorite hearty vegetable, will bring warmth and holiday cheer to soup kitchens across Hartford. Thank you to all who assisted or supported the youth group this weekend. May your holiday be full of love and gratitude!

This weekend, Sunday, November 27, our Youth Group will meet for their sixth fall session. (And there will be snacks!) They will be

discussing their upcoming move to a new meeting room downstairs, and their thoughts on future projects.

Any youth who wishes to participate should report directly to The Youth Room (also known as Faustus Socinus) when they arrive. We hope to see you there!

Events & Happenings

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday December 9**, for conversation, pizza, a movie, and more conversation (about the movie). Movies are recommended by your friends at USH who have found them interesting, perhaps provocative, and worth seeing. The December feature is ***Made in Dagenham***, based on true events: women working at the Ford plant in Dagenham, U.K. mobilize for equal pay and treatment. Sally Hawkins, Bob Hoskins, and Miranda Richardson lead the cast. Sign up at Coffee Hour, at the Caring Network table. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference.

Second Saturday Sing-Along –

Sing-Alongs, 2nd Saturday each month: NEXT UP: **December 10**.

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

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, DECEMBER 13, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag ***your own*** lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Sue Smolski will be speaking.



Book Cart News!

Our summer of giveaways has ended—we are now putting out new donations—look for some great nature books as well as award winning novels, mysteries, political and historical non-fiction, spiritual guides, and more. **We can use new books to replenish our supply.**

We **encourage donations of books that you enjoyed** and want to share with others in our community. Leave them in the office in the “Book Cart” bin.

All books just \$1.00

—your book cart team

Susan, Laurel, Ginny, Evan & Deb

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

*Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our December selection – **Midnight Library by Matt Haig** (see preview* below).*

Enjoy the reading.

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

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

*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***

**Our December selection:*

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

Nora Seed, faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one; following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist, finds she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

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. The Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988** to talk with a counselor.

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 **July, August and September 2022** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [**HERE**](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at [**hartforduussociety@gmail.com**](mailto:hartforduussociety@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 December board meeting will be 12/13, 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/

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. Articles should be sent as email file attachments, and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thanks for cooperating.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.org/staff-members/>

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

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

Patty Peck, 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

From Buffie's Desk



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

Buffie works Sunday through Thursday,
from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m..

Please email her at

hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!



USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for November 2022 can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please contact Buffie with any questions or concerns.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is

Tuesday at 12 Noon.

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

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com