



Image: Courtesy of Kevin Girouard December 2022

Unitarian Society of Hartford

December 14, 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 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and
Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Please feel free to email/call for an appointment.**



Universalist Church of West Hartford window

December 18, 2022: 10:30 a.m.

My UU Jesus

Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest

**Carol Simpson, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Carol Grazette, Guest Organist
Chancel Arts Sub-Council, Chancel Art
Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator**

**Dana Donovan, Welcome Table
Deb Meny & Peter Meny, Greeter
Susan Hope and Fred Louis, Usher**

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

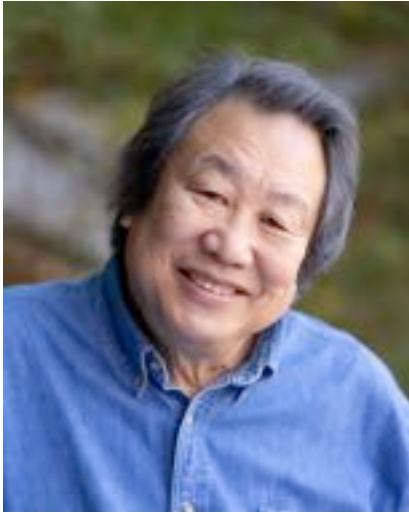
10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

**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.**



Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest

Rick is a Worship Associate at USH and has recently been a pulpit guest. The Worship Associates are wishing you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a joyous Kwanzaa along with good eats.

Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

Carol and her husband Bob Hewey live in the Seabury Community in Bloomfield, CT and are members of both the Unitarian Society of Hartford and the Unitarian Universalist Society: East (UUS:E) in Manchester, CT.



***Organ Music
Returns
Sunday***

~ Eve Pech ~

I was approached by two of our members in September; they wanted to talk to me about what we could do to hear our organ in the Sanctuary again. This is an experience many of our members sorely miss.

These members generously agreed to provide funding, so Sam Moffett, Sue Smolski, and I got together to make this happen. We are hoping that this Sunday's service will be followed by more chances to hear our organ and learn about its history. We thank Marilyn Stockton for making this Sunday's service, featuring guest organist **Carol Grazette**, possible.



Worship Services



The Winter Solstice link differs from the usual Sunday Service link.

Please join us for the December 21 Winter Solstice Service

[HERE](#).

The Christmas Eve link differs from the usual Sunday Service link.

Please join us for the Christmas Eve Service [HERE](#).



Upcoming Services: Join us, in person or online.



December 21 – Livestreamed — Wednesday, 7 p.m. ***Honoring the Light: A Winter Solstice.*** Dana Donovan, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud and Margaret Leicach, Worship Leaders

December 24 – Livestreamed – Saturday, 5 p.m. ***Christmas Eve Service,*** Peter Meny, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate. Instrumental Music by Sam Moffett from 4:30-5pm.

December 25 – ***A UU Christmas: “So Many Gifts...”*** Sue Smolski and Ron Friedman, Worship Leaders.

January 1, 2023 – ***"In The New Year: Forgiveness"*** – Sue Smolski, Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator

On Christmas Morning I will deliver a brief homily during our service at USH. The theme of the message will be ***GIFTS.*** Speaking from our pulpit isn't part of my comfort zone, so I have a favor to ask. It's a simple favor — please answer the following two questions and reply to me:

- 1) What are the best non-material gifts we can give to children?
- 2) What are the best non-material gifts we can give to friends, family, and community?

The answers I receive will be incorporated in the Christmas morning message. I look forward to your responses, and thank you in advance.

Best,
Ron Friedman
rsfriedman41@gmail.com

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.

Congregational Matters

Year-End (Tax) Planning

It is now December, and for a few this is a time to contemplate payouts from IRAs, Tax Deferred Annuities, and appreciated stocks or similar investments.

This presents opportunities for Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCDs). Making such contributions means there will be no tax due on the payout you would otherwise receive, and the full value of the contribution directed to the charity will benefit the charitable organization. Moreover, you will then have a charitable deduction for income tax due for 2022 as well.

Gifts from other sources may be eligible for a charitable deduction also.

May we politely note: USH is such a charitable organization!

Should you wish to pursue a QCD for 2022, it's recommended you consult with a fund advisor or accountant — they are familiar with such matters. In addition, your Endowment Committee members, currently David Newton, Chair and Jim Venneman, member, will welcome your inquiry. dcnewton999@gmail.com and ellieloncove@gmail.com will put you in touch.

Thank you for your interest; may your tax situation be optimized!
~ *David Newton and Jim Venneman*



Winter Weather Notifications

Monday's snow was a reminder that Connecticut is fully in the path of winter storm tracks, and anything from a dusting of snow to full-on blizzard conditions might be around the corner. It's been a few years since this has been a concern, and we thought it would be wise to revisit USH's approach to possible Sunday storm closings.

Our bias, historically, is to remain open if possible. Our snow contractor is reliable; the parking lot and walks are clear in time for Sunday services. However, that assumes snow has stopped in time for the plows to work effectively and for cleared areas to remain clear. Decisions on closing traditionally have fallen to the minister(s). In the absence of a minister at the moment, the board is adopting the practice outlined below regarding potential Sunday closures.

A decision will be made by board officers, by 9 p.m. Saturday. If the Sunday service are to be cancelled, the cancellation will be posted on ushartford.org and the decision communicated via email as well. Where programs or activities during the week are concerned and the building is otherwise open, the program leader or organizer may judge whether to meet, and then notify group members accordingly. In any event, please remain aware of potentially hazardous conditions, and place a high value on your own safety, and that of others.

(**Note:** this practice does not supercede the policy adopted in 2016 and published on the web [HERE](#): it is merely a temporary adaptation of that policy to our present situation.)

Needs for Pastoral Care...

The Caring Network has had a number of requests for Pastoral Care during the past few months. Generally, we have been able to reach out to the individuals and meet their needs. However, there are situations when contact with a minister is preferred. If you wish to speak to a minister, please contact me and I will give you the contact information. You can reach me by phone (860/212-6923), by email (janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com) or see me on Sunday. I will usually be at the Caring Network table at the entrance to Fellowship Hall Janice Newton, Chair



Book Cart News!

Settle in for a snug winter's night of reading with a new-to-you book from the USH book cart. 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

Social Justice

Social Justice Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 7 – 8 p.m. via Zoom

Open to all – join us to catch up on our ongoing and new activities.

We will have a guest from the Fern Street Food Ministries joining us to discuss the 5 food scarcity programs at the West Hartford Universalist Church and opportunities for USH to get involved.

Zoom link:

[_https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81935403837?pwd=M2VTbVY3WX~~Y~~velMvOCtDdksvWWJPUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81935403837?pwd=M2VTbVY3WXYvelMvOCtDdksvWWJPUT09)

Questions? Contact Judy Sullivan

jasullivan57@gmail.com



December Good Neighbor Offering

[Blue Hills Civic Association](#) has been selected for our December GNO. They have been working in the North Hartford communities of Blue Hills, Upper Albany, Clay Arsenal, and others for the past 60 years.

BHCA is a catalyst to inspire Hartford to be vibrant with civically engaged residents and leaders, strong schools and thriving economies. They offer programs for youth development, community organizing and senior services.

See how they empower people living and working in the Blue Hills and surrounding communities by following the link below to a short (51 seconds) video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLyEC1npdk0&t=1s>

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:

Cereal

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Soups

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 holiday season is here, and USH RE is here to spread cheer to all ages!

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

Please note that 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.

A Quick Announcement:



Our RE department is aware of the rise of RSV and influenza (and the persistent Covid-19) cases among children and youth this season here in Connecticut and around the country. There is also a worry of a further increase in cases as many are traveling for the holiday season.

To do our part in promoting a safe and healthy environment for our children and youth, we are disinfecting all used surfaces and materials (tables, toys, books, etc) both before and after RE on Sundays.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out any time via email or phone (text messaging works best) at re4ush@gmail.com or 706-248-9438.

Thank you and happy holidays!

-Annie Witzler, Interim Coordinator of RE.



Join us on December 24 for an evening filled with warmth, love, and light. A DIY holiday photo area will open for all, our holiday service will begin at 5 p.m. with singing and stories, and a holiday reception with food and drink will follow afterward the service in Fellowship Hall. Children and youth present will be able to receive small age-appropriate gifts from the RE department, as well.

Please fill out [this form](#) if you and your family plan on attending, so we might plan accordingly (and be able to personalize your child or youth's gift!).

The deadline for personalized gifts for children and youth is December 20.

Please contact Annie Witzler (re4ush@gmail.com) with any additional questions. We hope to see you there!

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–6):

Last weekend, our clubhouse goers continued their UU advent experience with the lighting of the third pink candle, representing joy.



We discussed what joy means to us and all agreed we thought music brought us all joy! Our clubhouse goers split their time between being downstairs participating in a free dance party and listening to the jazz-themed service upstairs being led by our very own Sam Moffet.

This Sunday on December 18, the Chalice Clubhouse participants will be able to participate in fun, age-appropriate activities to help The Youth Group prepare for their Soup Sunday. This will give participants a chance to discover what they like to do, how they best work in a team,

and how being part of a community can be a fun and rewarding experience. Whether they like decorating, sorting, washing, selling, counting, or just having fun - they'll have a unique role in our RE community this Sunday!

It all begins at 10:30 am downstairs in Fellowship Hall. There will also be a sweet treat for all participants. We hope to see you there!



USH Youth Group (Grades 6–12):



The USH Youth Group is making soup this Sunday, and it will be available for purchase after the service during coffee hour. Chicken Veggie and Hearty Veggie varieties will be available for \$3.00 a cup. All proceeds go to support the USH Youth Group! All leftovers will be

delivered to local soup kitchens around the city of Hartford. Come hungry!

Youth wishing to help with the soup preparation should arrive roughly an hour before service at 9:30 am in the kitchen adjacent to Fellowship Hall.

We hope to see you there!

Events & Happenings

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday January 13**, 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 January feature is ***Pride***, based on true events surrounding Britain's mid-1980s coal miners' strike and an unlikely (at the time) alliance between Welsh miners and gay-rights activists. Sign up, starting on January 1, 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: January 14**.
Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com).

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, JANUARY 17, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Please sign-up either at Fellowship Hour or by contacting me at 860/212-6923 or

janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com so we know how many tables to set up.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our January selection – *Things We Lost to the Water* by Eric Nguyen (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, January 12 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

January 12 – *Things We Lost to 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 January selection:***

***Things We Lost to the Water* by Eric Nguyen**

A captivating novel about an immigrant Vietnamese family who settles in New Orleans and struggles to remain connected to one another as their lives are inextricably reshaped. This stunning debut is "vast in scale and ambition, while luscious and inviting ... in its intimacy" (The New York Times Book Review).

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 [**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 January 2023 board meeting is January 10, 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

Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100



USH Calendar of Events

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

**Please contact the office 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



An Early Winter - Bill Cannon

www.ushartford.org