



Image: Courtesy of Kevin Girouard December 2022

Unitarian Society of Hartford

January 4, 2023

**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.
Monday & Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Please email/call for an appointment.**



The Poet Mary Oliver and Percy in 2005

January 8, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

Mary Oliver in Relationship

**Judy Robbins, Pulpit Guest
Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

Chancel Arts Sub-Council, Chancel Art

Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

**Sue Smoleski, Welcome Table
Dana Donovan & Michael Michaud, Greeters
Tina Davies & Fred Louis, 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.

In Fellowship Hall: join us in thanking Buffie Pinney and honoring her time with USH

**You can also watch the Sunday service
at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>
or on the USH **Facebook** page.**



Judy Robbins, Pulpit Guest

Judy Robbins is a retired psychotherapist who is blessed with a love of reading and cursed with a houseful of books. A long-time UU, she is co-founder of the *UUSpiritLife* programs and a defender of UU's Seven Principles. She lives in Glastonbury and is married to Rick Tsukada.

Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

Rick is a worship associate for USH.



Worship Services

Upcoming Services: Join us, in person or online.

January 15, 2023 – Title pending: Rev Stephen Kendrick, pulpit guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

January 22, 2023 – "I'm In Charge of Celebrations": Martha Bradley, pulpit guest/Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

January 29, 2023 – "Buddhism": Fred Louis, pulpit guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate



FOUR SERVICES IN EIGHT DAYS!

Two weeks ago, we had four Worship services in eight days — "My UU Jesus", Winter Solstice, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day Services. Appreciating everyone who made that possible!

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator

Sue Smolski has made her New Year's Day pulpit message, "In the New Year: Forgiveness", available in our website's sermon archive [here](#):

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.

**Something To Do On Sunday**

Here are some things that you can do once and be done.

See [Rick Tsukada](#) or [Laurie Kelliher](#) if you're interested.

- Usher
- Greeter
- Candle Bowl Lifter
- Chalice Lighter
- Sermon
- Reflection
- Welcome Desk
- Summer Service Pulpit Desk
- Chancel Art

A New Year's Message From the Board

The USH Board of Directors wishes everyone a very Happy New Year. We are glad to say that the state of the Unitarian Society is sound. We know that the first thing on everyone's minds is our

search for minister. We have submitted our application to the UUA through its Ministry Search portal, and its receipt has been acknowledged:

"Record is Awaiting Approval

Regional Staff have been notified your ministerial opportunity is awaiting approval. They will review it soon, and may be in contact with your search committee about any questions or clarifications they have. You will be notified via email when it has been approved, and it will then appear automatically on the jobs board page."

We are searching for a one year contract minister beginning as soon as Spring 2023. The contract can be renewed after a year. Our submission runs a full 26 pages and makes for very interesting and informative reading. (We anticipate being able to share a link to the online post once it has been made accessible.) The first part of the document describes several aspects of USH: our members come from a cross section of Connecticut's counties; our church is beautifully distinctive; our Hartford location affords access to cultural and religious affiliations; our history has been long standing and influential and we are financially sound supported by a healthy endowment. It is important that our membership understand, however, that the pool of potential ministers is very small and that we may have to be patient till we find the right candidate.

There is no denying that 2022 has been a year that posed big challenges to USH but thanks to the support of so many in our church community, our worship associates have continued to provide inspiration and solace from the pulpit and thanks to the efforts of our Caring Network, USH has been able to secure pastoral support. An expanded office administrator position has been filled. We have secured a grant to gain historic building status, and have begun to improve security measures at the Meeting House.

In our efforts to respond to members' requests for greater Board transparency we have revived some former practices and

initiated some new ones: board members will be available to meet with members "under the stairs" on the fourth Sunday of each month; Board minutes will be made more quickly available to our membership before the next meeting; and a draft agenda will be posted the week before regularly scheduled board meetings.

As we move forward into the new year, let us focus on our strengths and talk up our successes. We must face the challenges of the future with a collective allegiance to our great covenant – to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

~ *Eve Pech, President*

Draft Agenda: January 10 Board Meeting

- Report on ministerial search
- Worship Associates update
- Theme for stewardship drive
- Security Task Force update
- Info on Interfaith Power and Light grant
- Cressy Goodwin (security advisor) recognition
- Acceptance of Council Reports

Social Justice



January Good Neighbor Offering

Error! Filename not specified.

Operation Fuel ensures equitable access to energy for all by providing year-round energy and utility

assistance, promoting energy independence, and advocating for affordable energy. <https://operationfuel.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

Tomato Sauce

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Baked Beans

Canned Chicken

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

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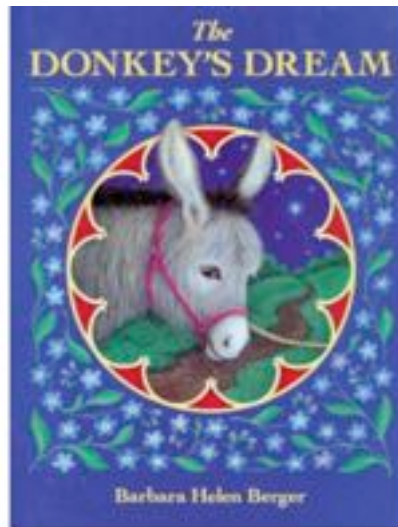


It's a brand new year, and fun is here at USH! After a short winter break, we are resuming our RE services beginning on Sunday, January 8! We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0–18... Sign up online [here](#) or on Sundays in person at the welcome table.

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 Thank You:

On Christmas Eve, over a dozen children, youth, and their families joined us for a magical evening. We heard a different version of the Christmas story we all know with the assistance of a new puppet friend, Dominic the Donkey! You can find the story, *The Donkey's Dream* by Barbara Helen Berger online or at your local library.



After an inspirational message and a heartwarming candle ceremony, we gathered for refreshments and good company with our Christmas tree brightening up the space. Children and youth received gifts left by Santa Claus earlier that evening and were able to take photos with their families in the chapel, which had been decorated for the occasion.

Thank you to all who attended, assisted, and experienced this wonderful night with us!





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 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.



The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K – 6):



It's a new year and the Chalice Clubhouse will be meeting for a brand new story and winter-themed craft this Sunday with our puppet friends joining us!

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



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, this week, 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! We don't have a speaker this month but can enjoy conversation with our lunch. Or, perhaps *you* might volunteer to speak?? Please contact janicecnewton@gmail.com to sign up so we can arrange enough places at the table.

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** or call at 860-904-7768.

NEWCOMERS – Are you UU-curious?

Join an informal gathering 'Under the Stairs' on January 8, 2023 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!

Caring Network

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](mailto:janicecnewton@signgmail.com)) or see me on Sunday. I will usually be at the Caring Network table at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Please also know there is a wide range of community services available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at **211**, and the Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988**, where you can speak with a counselor.

~ Janice Newton, Chair

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 **September, October and November 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.

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

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



USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for January 2023 can be viewed **[HERE](#)**.

Please contact the office with any questions or concerns.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is
Tuesday at Noon.
Please note in the subject line "USH Enews." Thank you for your
submission!
Email to: hartfordusociety@gmail.com



*Photo courtesy of Martha Child
December, 2022*

www.ushartford.org