



Image: Courtesy of Kevin Girouard January 2023

Unitarian Society of Hartford

January 25, 2023

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 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 Meeting House will be closed to the public on Monday February 6 and Tuesday February 7 as there will be no water service in the building. If for any reason you need access to the building, please contact Karolina in advance to discuss your need.**



Thich Nhat Hanh
October 11, 1926 – January 22, 2022

"It may be difficult for you to accept that the seed of Buddha is in you, but we all have the capacity for faith, awakening, understanding, and awareness, and that is what is meant by Buddha nature. There is no one who does not have the capacity to be a Buddha."
-Thich Nhat Hanh, The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching

January 29, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

"Peace is Every Step"

Fred Louis, Pulpit Guest
Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

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.**

Mask Update

Due to the uptick in Covid cases in Hartford county, the CDC is recommending wearing a mask in public indoor spaces. Our policy is to follow CDC Guidelines. Accordingly, we urge our congregants to wear masks during our Sunday services and we will have masks available for those who forget to bring them.



Fred Louis, Pulpit Guest

Fred Louis has been attending USH since 1998. He's served as Social Justice chair, was a worship associate for 5 years, is a Building & Grounds member, been a Small Group Ministry facilitator, co-led the meditation group, co-leads the MeetingHouse Sing-Along, and is on the Welcome Team. USH is one of his families.

Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

Margaret was baptized Methodist, raised Moravian, spent a few years as a Congregationalist, and then abstained for a few years. She discovered USH by sheer accident in the 80's and immediately knew she was 'home'. Her adult children and 2 grandchildren, agnostics all, happily attend USH with her when they are in the area.



Worship Services

Upcoming Services: Join us, in person or online.

February 5 – Reproductive Justice: “How It Matters to Unitarian Universalists”, Judy Sullivan & Dana Donovan, Louise Harmon, Pulpit Guests/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

February 12 – Textured, Rev Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate

February 26 – Love Will Guide Us, Sally Rogers, Pulpit Guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate



Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Coordinator



Twilight Fire Circle

Join us in celebrating *Imbolc*, the halfway point between Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. All are welcome!

Saturday, February 4: 3 – 7 p.m. in the Library

Looking for a few moments of spiritual pick-me-up?

Braver/Wiser, series of weekly inspirational messages from a variety of UU writers, may appeal to you. See this week's message [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.



And — More You Can Do on Sunday

Here are some other things you can do once and be done – see Rick Tsukada or Laurie Kelliher if you're interested.

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

UU Spirit Life

The SpiritLife Conversations winter/spring schedule is now posted at UUSpiritLife.org. The zoom meeting on Saturday morning, January 28, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. presents a rare chance for UUs to discuss a bible verse!



Read the short verse first at UUSpiritLife.org and then drop-in to a facilitated discussion with UUs from the three area churches, no registration required. For log-in instructions, go [here](#). These conversations are heartfelt opportunities to go deeper with other UUs!

Nominating Committee Request ~

Though only just past the halfway point of the year, we are thinking about next year's board and who will represent *you*, the membership. Our Constitution specifies term limits for board positions; Sarah McKenzie (Secretary) and Peter Meny (Spiritual Life Council Chair) are approaching the conclusions of their respective allotted consecutive terms. Also, Dana Donovan will be moving from his President-Elect post to that of the President.

Our Nominating Committee is chaired by **Rob Spector**, who will appreciate hearing from anyone potentially interested in serving on our board, or from those who may have someone in mind who would be a good candidate for one of these valued slots.

You may contact Rob through the new board email address: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com. Please specify "nominating committee" in the subject line, and your message will be forwarded to Rob.

Invitation to a Connecticut UU "Unconference"

Dear Connecticut Sibling Congregation —

YOU are invited...

COME UNCONFERENCE with the UU CHURCH IN MERIDEN,

CT! <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/506628869587>

Saturday, March 11, from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Congregational leaders and staff from around the state will gather to make connections, inspire each other, learn and teach leadership skills, and discuss Unitarian Universalism and congregational life. We'll use the UNCONFERENCE

Model, an open-space approach where those in attendance determine the teaching and learning opportunities. More info online at our Facebook Event: CT UU UNCONFERENCE at <https://fb.me/e/5GxrUJJqA> The event is FREE, but we'd appreciate people registering for the day via Eventbrite here: www.eventbrite.com/e/506628869587

We also request that all those attending bring something to share for the potluck lunch (how UU does this get??!) *If weather or Covid cancels the in-person event, it will move online and all those registered through Eventbrite will be sent the Zoom link via their registration email.*

~ The Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

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/>

Dear GHIAA Leaders and Friends,

1. Anti-racism training: Register now for April series!

GHIAA's winter training is currently in session and we are pleased to offer a **spring** introductory anti-racism training via zoom, beginning in April.

- Spring Training Series — **Tuesdays 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., April 25, May 2 and 9**
- For more information and to register visit: <https://cljct.org/ghiaa/trainings/racial-justice-registration/>

2. GHIAA Core Team Training: The next GHIAA core team training will be offered via Zoom in the evening on Thursdays, February 2, 9, 15, and 23, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This training is for those who want to join the core team at your congregation and/or for those who want to deepen their faith based organizing skills.

Register for Core Team Training here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5037056>

3. Next steps after GHIAA Power Summit: How to get involved! If you missed this email prior to the holidays, please read for details on how to engage with GHIAA moving forward if you are not already part of an issue team.

Many of you were present for the GHIAA Power Summit on December 7. In case you were not able to attend, the recording is available online: <https://vimeo.com/event/2691900>. It was a powerful evening of joy, lament, and shared commitment to the work of justice. Many thanks to everyone who had a role, large or small, in making it a successful action.

We want to invite you to take a next step with GHIAA if you are so inclined. GHIAA has launched issue campaigns in five areas (mental health, housing, education, environment, and gun violence). For each issue area we are building **rapid response teams** for the upcoming legislative session which begins in January and runs through June.

These teams allow people to plug into an issue campaign in more direct ways. Members of rapid response teams will receive more frequent updates on the campaign(s) they are interested in, and will be invited to contribute at key times, sometimes on short notice, to some of the following actions:

- Submit public testimony (written and/or oral)
- Attend press conferences and other smaller actions
- Participate in legislative visits
- Other action as needed!

If you want to be part of a rapid response team, please fill out this form: <https://cljct.org/ghiaa/action/>.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Cori Mackey
Executive Director
Center for Leadership and Justice
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47 Vine Street, Hartford, CT 06112

West Hartford Food Bank Information

The West Hartford Food Bank is located at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

Tuna – almost out!
Rice – 1 lb. packages
Pasta
Sauce

Check your local needs by going online. Some towns have multiple donation sites.

Please give as you are able! Thanks!

Grocery bags are now being collected outside the office door.

~Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse

E-News 1-25-2023:



It's a brand new year and the fun is here 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 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 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, our clubhouse goers celebrated Lunar New Year by reenacting one of the many stories about how the eastern zodiac came to be:

“Once upon a time, all the animals sought favor with the Jade Emperor, so to find out which was the best of them all, they held a great race. In first place place came the rat, then the ox, then the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the goat, the monkey, the rooster, the dog, and the pig. The Jade Emperor declared them all to be winners, and said that each would have an entire year in their honor in the order that they had all crossed the finish line.”

We held our own race, and while our results were a bit different, we all had plenty of fun! It was the perfect way to begin the Year of the Rabbit in 2023, which is said to be an especially lucky year for all.



Next weekend, January 29th, we will be having a special meditation-themed activity.

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

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



This weekend, Sunday, January 29th, our Youth Group will meet for their third session of 2023! (And there will be snacks!) They will be continuing to work on their new youth room, Classroom C in Fellowship Hall.

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

Events & Happenings

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday February 10**, 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 February feature,, just in time for Valentine's Day, is *I'm Your Man*: a 2021 release which might be categorized as a sci-fi-fantasy-rom-com. It's a German film, with English subtitles, and is rated "R" (with adult content). Sign up at the Caring Network table at coffee hour, or email [Janice Newton](mailto:JaniceNewton@gmail.com) to register. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference. Generally, we begin gathering at 5 for libations and conversation. The pizza arrives at 5:30; we aim to start the movie

Second Saturday Sing-Along – Looking Ahead to February 11

Depending on Hartford-area Covid statistics, February's Sing-Along Event will, we hope, take place. That hope is subject to change, so please stay tuned for updates.

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

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, FEBRUARY 21, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! We plan to talk about AI (artificial intelligence) and how its ubiquity is changing how educators are fashioning their classroom activities. Please contact janicecnewton@gmail.com to sign up so we can arrange enough places at the table.

Social Justice – Interested in justice work? Come meet with us to learn the latest about ongoing activities and discover new initiatives. Our next ZOOM meeting is **Tuesday, FEBRUARY 21, 7 – 8 p.m.** Everyone's invited... contact [Judy Sullivan](mailto:JudySullivan@gmail.com) for information.

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 860-904-7768.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

*Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our February selection – **The Premonition** by Michael Lewis (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, February 9th 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

*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 February selection:*

***The Premonition* by Michael Lewis**

For those who could read between the lines, the censored news out of China was terrifying. But the president insisted there was nothing to worry about.

Fortunately, we are still a nation of skeptics. Fortunately, there are those among us who study pandemics and are willing to look unflinchingly at worst-case scenarios.

Michael Lewis's taut and brilliant nonfiction thriller pits a band of medical visionaries against the wall of ignorance that was the official response of the Trump administration to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The characters you will meet in these pages are as fascinating as they are unexpected. Michael Lewis is not shy about calling these people heroes for their refusal to follow directives that they know to be based on misinformation and bad science.

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) 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

In and Around Greater Hartford



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 **November and December 2022, and January 2023** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and

other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Karolina Wojtyska 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 February 2023 board meeting is February 14, 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 note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be featured 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 February 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: hartforduusociety@gmail.com



www.ushartford.org