

**March 15, 2023**

**Building Community Since 1830**

**50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**

**Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com)**

**[www.ushartford.org](http://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. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Please email/call for an appointment.**



*"People don't always need advice. Sometimes all they really need is a hand to hold,  
an ear to listen. and a heart to understand them."*

**March 19, 2023: 10:30 a.m.**

**"Through Each Other's Eyes"**

**Margaret Leicach, Pulpit Guest**

**Sue Smolski, Worship Associate**

**Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

**Matters of the Heart:**

**Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: email [HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com](mailto: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

**10:30 a.m. Religious Education in person**

**Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator**

**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.

**Margaret Leicach, Pulpit Guest**

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.





### **Sue Smolski, Worship Associate**

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Coordinator, is feeling grateful for being a part of this church community and the Spring flowers that are growing each day.

## ***Worship Calendar***

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

**March 26 – "On Change: Resistance Is Futile"**– Rev Aaron Payson/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

**April 2 – "Our Pirate Ship Visitor Below Decks: What to do?"** –David Newton, Pulpit Guest/Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

**April 9 – "Mystery, Myth, and Love"** – Michael Michaud, Pulpit guest/Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate.

**April 16 – "What Will We Risk For Love?"** -Wren Bellavance-Grace, UUA, New England Regional Congregation Consultant/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate



*Sue Smolski*

*Worship Associate Coordinator*

The text from David Newton's sermon on March 5 is now available on the web, [here](#). His accompanying slide show is expected to be available soon.

## **Welcome Team**

### **Sign-Up**

Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or to staff the welcome table. 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.



## **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
- Welcome Table
- Chancel Art

## ***Love In Action- UPDATE***

Stewardship Campaign

Goal: \$318,000

As of March 12, 2023:

**\$83,181 Raised by 34 family units**

This means 26% of our goal has been raised.

A big **thank you** to those who pledged!

**Don't forget to pledge by March 26th!**



Also, stop by the Stewardship Table in Fellowship Hall after services and post your examples of “Love in Action!”. Contact [Carolyn Carlson](#) for general questions. Contact [Jim Venneman](#) or [David Newton](#) to discuss donating stock, making a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD), or using a donor-advised fund.

Thank you!



## *General Assembly: 2023* "Faithfully Becoming"

This year's General Assembly (GA) will be held June 21 through 25, in Pittsburgh. Attendees will be able to participate either online or in person. As stated on the UUA's website, "The General

Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is the annual gathering of UUs where we conduct the business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean into our mission and principles."

Registration has now opened with a variety of rates posted through May 15, when some of the rate categories will increase.

Access [uua.org](https://uua.org), click on "menu", and select "General Assembly" for the details.

*~ contributed by Sue Smolski*

\* \* \* \* \*

Note: while anyone can register for, and attend, GA, only credentialed delegates nominated by their congregations are eligible to "conduct the business of the Association", including voting. In 2023, this business includes potentially advancing controversial changes in the UUA's bylaws (see Judy Robbins' piece, below). USH, with 136 certified members, is eligible to be represented by **three** credentialed delegates. USH members interested in attending GA **as an official, voting representative of our congregation** should email the board (which will be recommending its slate of delegates to the UUA), at [ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com](mailto:ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com), with the notation "GA" in the subject line. The board will then select three delegates and one alternate delegate as our representatives.

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## Important UUA Bylaws Revision —

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is proposing to change both the mission of the UUA and the purpose of our churches. These changes will affect all UU churches and Hartford is no exception. The linked article here is by Anne Schneider, Ph.D, a retired professor from Arizona State University and long-time UU. Anne gives both sides – the viewpoint of those who support the changes and those who oppose them. It's a good place to start. If you want to dig deeper, go [here](#) or to the UUA website [here](#).

The proposed revisions will make major changes to our Principles and Sources. Unitarian Universalism does not have a theology like mainstream religions, but we all honor the moral and ethical code outlined in our Principles and Sources (see below).

~ *Judy Robbins*

### ***Unitarian Universalist Principles —***

There are seven Principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### ***Unitarian Universalist Sources —***

Unitarian Universalism draws from many Sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



## ***UU Spirit Life Conversations***

SpiritLife Conversations meets on Zoom Saturday morning, March 25, 9:00 – 10:30 to consider Opening Up to the Mystery. Inspired by the words of the late UU minister Forrest Church, we will take up the idea of God as the Great Mystery.

What is your idea of God?

Whether you have a definite

concept of God or if you are just curious, join us for a lively discussion. Go to UUSpiritLife.org and click the link for March 25 to read a short article. Jot a few notes and then drop into a facilitated discussion with UUs from the three area churches, no pre-registration is required. For log-in instructions, go [here](#).

These conversations are heartfelt opportunities to go deeper with other UUs. The

winter/spring schedule is posted at UUSpiritLife.org. Facilitator: Judy Robbins



## **Spring Connection Circles Forming Now**

Connection Circle regulars and those who've been meaning to try a Connection Circle group: now's the time. There are two evening groups (Tuesday and Thursday) and one daytime (Tuesday afternoon) **group starting the week of March 27**. If you are interested in joining a circle, **please contact Martha Bradley; email [marthabradley49@yahoo.com](mailto:marthabradley49@yahoo.com), text 860-305-3307, or sign up in Fellowship Hall after service on Sunday.**



Groups are limited to ten members each, so don't delay. Participation in a Connection Circle is a commitment. Signing up means you expect to attend every session unless you are ill or have an emergency. Sessions are generally for two hours once a week for eight weeks, with breaks for holidays or weeks when two or more participants must be absent. Facilitators try to coordinate session dates as much as possible based on member availability.



### ***Remembering Gary Bent***

Gary Bent passed away on March 3, 2023 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, and his children, Geoff, Rebecca, Meagan, and John.

Gary was a beloved member of our USH Book Group. His wisdom and insights always added so much to our discussions. Gary enriched our lives in so many ways.

The USH Book Group is making a donation to the USH Endowment in Gary's name. If you would like to join in this tribute, checks can be made out to "USH" — and it's important to write "Endowment, Gary Bent Memorial" in the memo line. Gary's full obituary, published in the *Hartford Courant*, can be read [here](#).

~ Nancy Kemmerer

Meeting House presents

# SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

## CÉLTIC MELODY

### IRISH DANCE MUSIC AND SONGS!

EILEEN JANET TOM BRENT AARON LIZ  
BURKE MORGAN MORGAN MORGAN BITTEL RAYMOND

WITH SPECIAL GUEST STARS DURING INTERMISSION

JERRY JACQUES & NANCY FIGHTLIN

**\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION**  
**7:00 MARCH 17TH @ MEETING HOUSE**

50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06105  
unitarianmeetinghouse.org

## ***Social Justice***



### **March Good Neighbor Offering:**

The Village for Families and Children was one of the first agencies to provide care for neglected children. What began over 200 years ago as The female Beneficent Society to help children, grew over many iterations to become

The Village for Families and Children in 1993. The mission of The Village is “to build a community of strong healthy families to support and nurture children.”

The Village works in collaboration with local and state agencies and relies on supporters and donors. In response to growing needs, The Village now has three campuses. The main, original campus is on Albany Avenue, next to USH. There are two other campuses in Hartford, on Wethersfield Avenue and Spring Street. Programming has also changed to include more resources for adults.

The Village for Families and Children has adapted to the increasing need for mental health services in a complex world.

<https://thevillage.org/>

### ***Social Justice Committee ~***

Our next Social Justice Committee Meeting is **March 21, 7 – 8:30 p.m.** in the Library and Zoom.

Zoom Link [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 819 3540 3837

Passcode: 026862

### **West Hartford Food Bank Information**

The following is a list of all the food groups and foods provided for individuals and families. Please choose those items that you are able to collect and drop off at the West Hartford Town Hall:

• **Proteins:** Canned tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, canned beans, bean-based soups

- Grains:** Pasta, one-pound bags of rice, cereal
- Comfort foods:** Macaroni and cheese, chicken noodle soup
- Fruits and Veggies:** Canned fruits, applesauce, jelly, tomato, and vegetable soups

**Grocery bags are now being collected outside the office door.  
Food can be dropped off in the bin to the right located in the  
lobby/entryway.**

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

Thank You!  
~*Diana Heymann*

### *RE and Chalice Clubhouse*



Spring will be here soon and we're planting the seeds of the fun at USH!  
We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18! Signup 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!**

## **USH Youth Serve the Community:**

Last weekend, eight of our teenage RE participants and their youth leaders visited Church Street Eats in Hartford to assist with prepping and serving lunch for around fifty of those in need of a hearty meal.



After washing their hands and donning their hairnets, gloves, masks, and aprons, our Youth set about making sandwiches, slicing fruit, mixing hot chocolate, and simmering some of our very own soup!









They then assisted with service and cleanup, along with running the adjacent boutique that provided clothing, toiletries, and hand warmers.







After four hours of hard work, we headed out to lunch together at The Cheesecake Factory for good food and fellowship!

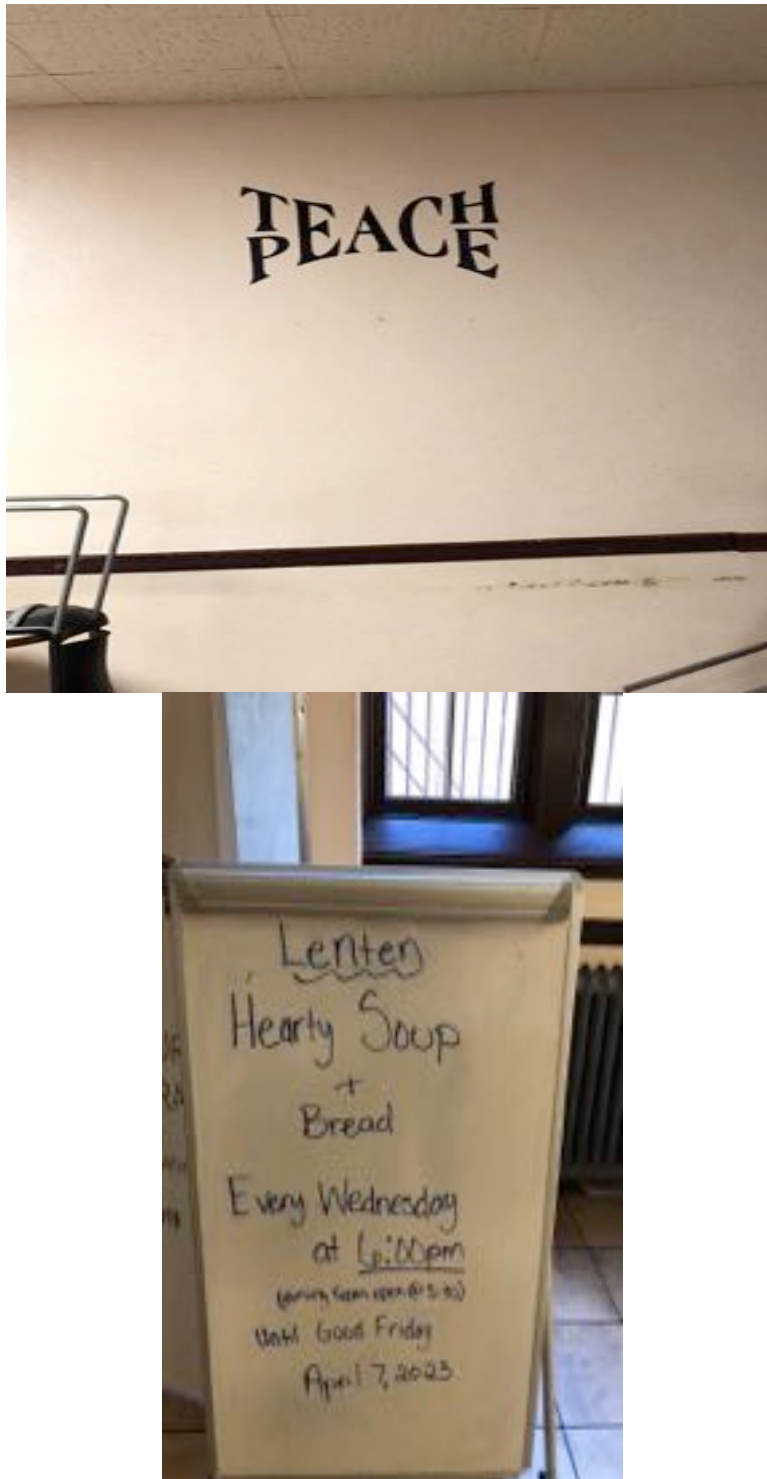






As our great covenant states: “Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law”. Our youth lived out not just our covenant but our principles as well by taking time out of their busy lives to make the lives of others a bit brighter.





A huge thanks to all our youth, their leaders, Michael and Therase from Church Street Eats, as well as to **YOU** the USH congregant for supporting this project.





## **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-6th):**



This Sunday, March 19th, 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. We hope to see you there!**

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



**THE YOUTH GROUP IS MAKING SOUP THIS  
SUNDAY!**

The USH Youth Group is making soup this Sunday, and it will be available for purchase after the service during coffee hour. Meatlovers and Vegetarian varieties will be available with biscuits. **Please remember to bring small denominations of cash (\$1, \$5, etc)! All proceeds go to support the USH Youth Group! All leftovers will be delivered to local soup kitchens around the city of Hartford, including Church Street Eats. Come hungry!**

**Youth wishing to help with the soup preparation should arrive roughly an hour before service at 9:30 am.**

**We hope to see you there!**

## *Events & Happenings*

### **Monthly Gatherings**

**The Lunch Bunch** – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, MARCH 21, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Whatever direction the conversation takes, it should be interesting. Please contact [janicecnewton@gmail.com](mailto: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, March 21, 7 p.m.** Everyone's invited... contact [Judy Sullivan](#) 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](mailto:bentgloria@gmail.com) or call **860-904-7768**.

**Pizza and Movie Nights** – Join us, **Friday April 14**, 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. Our April selection celebrates the start of baseball season: ***Bull Durham***. An adult comedy, it stars

Kevin Costner, Tim Robbins, and Susan Sarandon in the role which earned her a place in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Sign up at the Caring Network table at coffee hour, or email [Janice Newton](#) 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 for a 6:15 'showtime'.

### **Second Saturday Sing-Along – April 15**

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along — Fred Louis and Ed Savage offer an opportunity to join in song on the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 p.m. Song sheets and some loaner copies of Rise Up Singing will be available. Bring 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. Let's see if we can find some songs to celebrate the coming of spring!

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

### **INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP**

*Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our March selection – The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles (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, April 13 at 2:30, by Zoom.*

*Please contact Ginny Allen at [fiddlenurse1@gmail.com](mailto: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*

*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 April selection:

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

Has Homo sapiens — one species among millions — become powerful enough to threaten a mass extinction and disrupt the Earth's climate? Why have we developed so many ways of oppressing one another? Can we change our relationship with power to avert ecological catastrophe, reduce social inequality, and stave off collapse? These questions — and their answers — will determine our fate.

## *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*

### *New World Trio*

**“Self-invention”**: Sunday, March 19, 2 p.m., St. John’s Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. Works by Amy Beach, Ravel, and Schubert with Anhared Stowe, violin, Peter Zay, cello, and David Ballena, piano. Meet the artists following their performance. Suggested donation \$20. For more information, [www.newworldtrio.org](http://www.newworldtrio.org) or 860 586-8579.



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 **February 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](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**

**Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email to: [ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com](mailto:ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com).**

**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 note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 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](mailto: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 March 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**



*Photo by: Kevin Girouard January 2023*

[www.ushartford.org](http://www.ushartford.org)