



Spring Is Here

Photos by: Janice Newton March 2023

March 29, 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. – 3:00 p.m.

Please email/call for an appointment.



The Building and Grounds Committee usually deals with the many intricacies of our unique building, but occasionally our grounds present a dilemma. Join us for an exploration of UU ethics as we explore a real-life situation right outside our door.

April 2, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

"Our Pirate Ship Visitor Below Decks: What to do?"

David Newton, Pulpit Guest

Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

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

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.

Click Here for our [Congregational Recordings Archive](#) to view
Rev. Aaron Payson's Text Sermon from last Sunday's Service.

David Newton, Pulpit Guest

David Newton is a retired professor of biology, Faculty Union President and Vice President for Personnel for the former Connecticut State University System. He and his wife Janice joined USH in the mid '90s and became active in Building and Grounds, Caring Network and Communications. David edited the USH newsletter



and was web master from the mid 2000s until 2015. He has been Chair of the Administration Sub-Council. David and Janice have two daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren. Their cat, Nadia, is especially fond of David.



Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

Judy Robbins, a retired psychotherapist, delights in her role as a Worship Associate. As Sunday's service indicates, there is never a dull moment here at USH, presenting endless opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.



Are You UU-Curious?

Join an informal gathering Under the Stairs on **April 2, 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 into our very special faith.

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

Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us in the sanctuary or online.

April 9 – "Easter: Awakening The Sacred" – 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

April 23 – "Talking To Trees or Lessons from the Overstory (And the Understory)", Rev. Josh Pawelek, Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

April 30 - Title Pending, Rev. Stephen Kendrick, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate; Organist, Ben Mabrey.

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



Meet Our New Minister: Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon

USH rolls out the red carpet for our new minister, Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon. Bob is a native son. A lifelong UU, he grew up at the Universalist Church of West Hartford on Fern Street. He credits his childhood religious education program and high school youth group as being formative. He said that volunteering at the Fern Street church made it apparent how much congregations can be a place of

authenticity, meaning-making, and community – all things that Bob values highly.

Bob received a degree in English Literature and Philosophy from Birmingham University in England, a Masters in Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, and spiritual direction training from Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, PA. He's been a Unitarian Universalist minister since 2007, fully fellowshiped since 2011. He has served congregations in New Jersey and Merseyside, England and most recently in the Hudson Valley at the UU Congregation of the Catskills in Kingston, NY.

Bob is a devoted Dad with two kids who are 10 and 13 years old. He loves to spend time with his family, read, write, hike, and, by his own admission, play guitar badly. Bob is a published poet. You can read some of his devotional poetry and other musings [here](#). You'll also find lots of other information about Bob there and links to sermons he has given.

Bob has said, "Fundamentally, I believe the best ministry is shared ministry." Here at USH, having been on our own without a minister for over a year, we have, of necessity but also out of joy, developed strong lay leadership. We promise to go easy on Bob while he gets used to sharing his ministry with us!

Our Worship Associates have ably filled the pulpit Sunday after Sunday and this will continue twice a month during Bob's ministry. He will serve as a full-time minister while preaching two Sundays per month. Bob's approach to preaching is at the heart of his ministry. He said, "I believe that worship is something deeply significant: an affirmation of our most closely-held values; an evocation of gratitude and wonder; an embodiment of beloved community; or to put it in theological metaphor, a rehearsal for the kingdom of heaven."

He also enjoys pastoral care, believing in the value of showing up, being a gentle witness, and listening without judgment to the beloved other in the presence of the sacred.

Additionally, Bob is looking forward to getting to know the Greater Hartford community. He believes that a minister is a representative of his UU congregation and can transmit its message

of diversity and justice in a personal way to those who may never have dreamt of going into a church building, much less one that looks like a spaceship! He has been involved with interfaith groups as well as taking part in many secular, civil, government, and interfaith justice initiatives. When asked what he hopes is ahead for him, Bob said, "I am hoping to serve a church that is aware of its unique gifts and challenges. I want to be with people who are friendly, kind, and imperfect, and expect the same for myself. I want to be with people who are open to wonder and want to make a positive difference in the world."

That sounds like us: friendly, kind, and imperfect. We all look forward with great anticipation to Bob's start date in July.

~ Judy Robbins

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



Love In Action – Stewardship Testimonials

Here are some testimonials from our Church members about why they pledge, how important our Church community is to them, and how you can help make a difference!

Nancy Kemmerer Testimonial

Jim Venneman Testimonial



Stewardship Campaign

Goal: \$318,000

As of March 29, 2023:

\$197,144 Raised by 62 family units

This means 62% of our goal has been raised.

If you haven't pledged yet, please do so as soon as possible. The form is on the website under ["Online Giving"](#) and you can mail it or put it in the Sunday Collection Plate. If you plan to pledge but need to delay, please let us know when you expect to pledge.

Thank you so much to 62 families and individual households that have pledged! Your commitment makes a big difference!

Please contact [Carolyn Carlson](#), Stewardship Chair, if you have any questions or concerns.



UU Spirit Life Conversations

SpiritLife Conversations meets on Zoom **Saturday morning, April 29, from 9 – 10:30** to consider **The Sacred Art of Listening**. We live in busy times. Are we always present for the people in our lives who mean the most to us? Our discussion on Listening will help provide the most important gift we can give.



Go to UUSpiritLife.org and click the link for April 29th 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 login 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



Remembering Stuart Spence

Stu Spence passed away on Monday, March 27 following a valiant battle with lung cancer. Stu was a longtime USH member and Chair of the Building and Grounds Sub-Council. He was also a member of the Book Club. He was active in many activities at the Meeting House. Stu's expertise, friendship, and kindness will be greatly missed. Details will follow.

Remembering Katie Doyle

Katherine (Katie) Doyle, a long-time member of USH passed away on Monday, March 20, after a long battle with cancer. Katie served on the Caring Network and other committees and will be missed by many members of our congregation. A memorial service and reception will be held at the Meetinghouse on **Saturday, April 22 at 11a.m.**

[Obituary](#)



Remembering Clara Horn

Help Desired in Remembering Clara Horn

Clara was an active member of the Unitarian church for most of her adult life. She dreamed of a world without religious conflicts. She attended church regularly with her husband when they were both in good health. Gordon and Clara moved to Connecticut from Croton, New York to be closer to their grandchildren. The family will have a small service in May or June where they will inter Gordon and Clara's ashes in the memorial garden at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. Clara's oldest

granddaughter Samantha is working on collecting memories of Clara (and her husband Gordon) to present to Clara's children at the time their ashes are interred. This is meant to be a surprise for them, so we ask that you contact Samantha directly at:

Samantha Carlson

3700 12th Ave SE, Apt. 1324

Norman, Oklahoma 73072.

Email: Spear.make.music@gmail.com (put Clara in the subject line.)

Be sure to include the apartment number. We are asking for emails, letters, or photos of anything you remember about Clara or her family. Thank you in advance. Please be sure your contributions for this project are **received by May 15.**

[Obituary](#)

Social Justice

*April
Good*



Neighbor Offering

Our Good Neighbor Offering for April is the [Wilson-Gray YMCA](#), located on Albany Avenue, just east of Garden Street in Hartford and less than two miles from USH.

For the past 14 years, the Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth & Family Center has worked to address immense educational, safety, and socioeconomic challenges facing Hartford's residents. During this time, it has evolved into a beacon for a brighter future for youth, adults, and families in the North Hartford community. Annually, it engages over 2,300 active members, over 475 children in summer camp and afterschool programs, and nearly 500 youth in sports programs. Signature mission-based programs include Y Achievers, Adaptive Fitness, Girls Creating a Future, Young Men with a Purpose, and the Best Buy Teen Tech Center.

You can meet Valencia Williams, the Executive Director of the Wilson-Gray YMCA, when she attends our service on **Sunday April 23**. Please give generously throughout the month of April.

Sign Up for GHIAA's Next Racial Justice Training:

Racial Justice Training – spring session via Zoom. [Register here](#)

- Tuesday 4/25, 6 – 9 p.m.
- Tuesday 5/2, 6 – 9 p.m.
- Tuesday 5/9, 6 – 9 p.m.

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 has sprung and we're planting the seeds of the fun at USH! We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18! Signup for Sundays [here](#) online or 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!

Special Event Announcement and Candy Donations Welcome:



Join us on Easter Sunday after the service for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 12:00 PM noon, rain or shine! We will also have games and crafts available during the service for those who arrive early and a DIY photo booth for Easter pictures in the Chapel after the service. This is a public event so be sure to tell your friends and family!

We are also looking for donations of small, individually wrapped candies for the festivities WITHOUT PEANUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER! There will be a bin for donations located at the Welcome Table in the Lobby.

Please contact Annie Witzler (re4ush@gmail.com) for any additional information!

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.

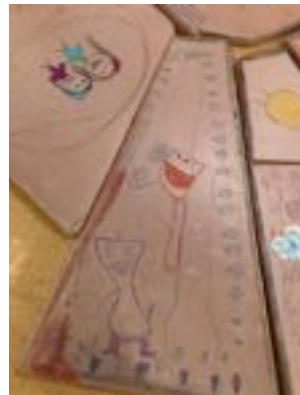
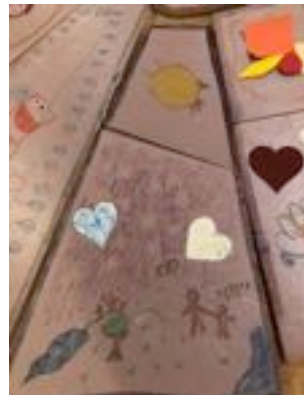


The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K-6th):

Last weekend, to celebrate the end of our stewardship drive, our clubhouse participants completed a special USH puzzle project which was on display in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Everyone was given their own puzzle piece to decorate with their own idea of what USH is all about, which were then put together into the shape of our building! This reflects the core concept of stewardship - that we all bring something to the congregation that makes it whole.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped decorate and put our puzzle together!





This weekend, Sunday, April 2nd, we will be having a special outdoor activity (weather permitting; it can be done indoors), telling a unique UU story about our pirate ship!

It all begins at 10:30 am downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

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



This weekend, Sunday, April 2nd, our Youth Group will meet for their ninth session of 2023! (And there will be snacks!)

They will be planning their upcoming youth service.

The Youth Group will meet and participate in the first fifteen minutes of the main service upstairs this weekend, then report downstairs to Classroom D.

We hope to see you there!

Events & Happenings

April 2 marks the third year that JoAnne Bauer, USH member and beloved friend, passed away. In her memory and spirit, let's come together in person, virtually or just cosmically, to remember her energy and passion. We hope to gather near the bandshell at Elizabeth Park on **Sunday, April 2 at 2 p.m.**, to reminisce, share poetry, flash some orange and eat chocolate – free spirits may also sing and dance! There will be a nearby indoor gathering if weather conditions are discouraging for the park.



Please RSVP to nrbowden@comcast.net if you are interested in joining the gathering and so we can communicate changes due to weather. We hope to livestream the gathering on FB for those interested in participating that way. If you are so moved and able, please consider donating generously to her fund. Contributions (tax deductible) can be made confidentially and directly via HFPG using [this link](#).

AMBULATORY ART NEWS

Starting **April 4th**, we have a new art show by our own multi-talented fabric artist, Diane Cadrain. This show is hot off the CT art circuit having

just been hung at Town and County Club. Please enjoy these works themed from nature when you are in the Meeting House.



Meet The Artist – Diane Cadrain

I have retired from my work as a lawyer and free-lance writer, but I've been sewing all my life, starting with hand embroidery as taught by my grandmother at our home in Hamden, Connecticut. The Hamden public school system taught me machine sewing, and with that skill, I proceeded to construct my own clothes and costumes. As a law student at Georgetown

University Law Center, I learned to knit, and later, in my early 30s, as a new mother, I began quilting.

The natural world inspires my work by offering constantly-refreshed images of arresting loveliness. Tolstoy said, "Love all creation...love every leaf." In that spirit, I attempt to create images that combine fragility with strength, the evanescent with the eternal. My work includes machine piecing and quilting, hand painting, felting, hand embroidery, and knitting.

My husband, Joe Rubin, is retired from the Connecticut Attorney General's office. We have three daughters: Julia, Leah, and Lucia, and two standard poodles, Java and Mocha.

Monthly Gatherings

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**.

Pizza and Movie Night – 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](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 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) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, APRIL 18, 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 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, April 18**, 7 p.m. Everyone's invited... contact [Judy Sullivan](#) for information.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our April selection

– ***Power** by Richard Heinbergs (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 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 mont

*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*

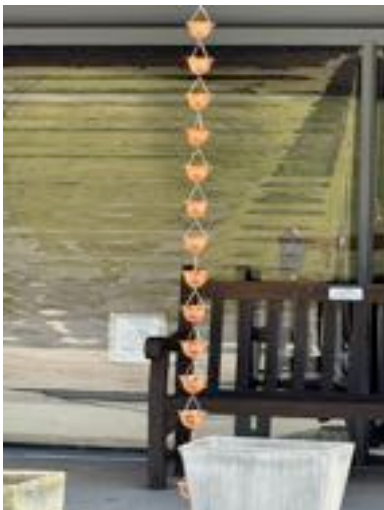
Has Homo sapiens — one species among millions — become powerful enough to threaten a mass extinction and disrupt the Earth's climate? Why have we developed so many ways of oppressing one another? Can we change our relationship with power to avert ecological catastrophe, reduce social inequality, and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



Rain Chain

The north, south, and west entrances to the Meeting House feature roof drainage into “catch basins.” We thought we would brighten up, and hopefully eliminate some of the splashings, with a rain chain. Let us know what you think!

-Janice & David Newton

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 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.

Missed Last Week's E-news? 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 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 Wojtylko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100



USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for April 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



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