



Spring Is Here

Photos by: Janice Newton March 2023

April 5, 2023

Building Community Since 1830

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartfordusociety@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.



“We’re so engaged with doing things to achieve purposes of outer value that we forget that the inner value, the rapture that is associated with being alive, is what it’s all about.”

– Joseph Campbell

April 9, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

"Easter: Awakening The Sacred"

Michael Michaud, Pulpit Guest

Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

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](#)

Michael Michaud, Pulpit Guest

Michael has been a Unitarian Universalist since 2001. He practices yogic and Buddhist spiritualities and is a yoga teacher. Michael has a deep appreciation for mindfulness, meditation, sacred chanting, and Earth-centered spirituality.



Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

Annie Witzler was born in Pensacola, Florida, raised in Athens, Georgia, and moved to Connecticut at the age of 16. She found Unitarian Universalism when she was 12 years old at The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens, where she went through Coming of Age and OWL programs. Annie also discovered a love of working with children during her time at the Athens congregation, volunteering in their

summer camps and Sunday school classrooms — something which she continued here at USH. Currently, she is studying early childhood education at Charter Oak State College and hopes to have a career in that field.

Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

Ruby-throated hummingbirds are almost here, along with warm spring rain, and mud.



Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us in the sanctuary or online.

April 16 – "Loving, Learning, Leaping" – Wren Bellavance-Grace, UUA New England Regional Congregation

Consultant/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate/ USH Choir

April 23 – "Talking To Trees or Lessons from the Overstory (And the Understory)", Rev. Josh Pawelek, Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate/ Members of the Hartford Gay Men's Chorus

April 30 – "The Serious Business of Joy", Rev Stephen Kendrick, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate; Organist, Ben Mabrey.

May 7 – Title-pending, Rev Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest/Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



Love In Action – Update

I love spring. The days are getting longer and warmer, and the air is filled with the fragrance of spring flowers. The earth is awakening from a long New England winter. There is joy everywhere.

Exciting things are happening at USH too. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new minister, Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon. New lights cast a warm glow on our magnificent sanctuary.

Attendance is growing. Snow birds are returning while others are coming for the first time. Zoom allows more and more to stay connected. We even have a resident turkey trying to open the front door.

Soon we will be listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Imagine how proud the members of the first congregation in this building would be. They had a vision which we are keeping alive today.

USH is important to our community. We are able to support many local organizations doing remarkable works. Our youth make delicious soup for Church Street Eats and others. Some members volunteer at food banks while others promote our social justice values with the Legislature. We provide aid and comfort to those in need.

And how do we do all these things? By contributing our time, talent, and treasure. We have fallen very short of our goal of \$318,000. Please search your hearts. If you have made a pledge, thank you. If you can increase your pledge, double thanks. If you haven't made a pledge, what



are you waiting for? We need everyone's commitment to keep us on track to do even more Love in Action.

Nancy Kemmerer

Stewardship Campaign

Goal: \$318,000

As of April 4, 2023:

\$234,094 Raised

This means 74% 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 the 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.

Have We No Principles? (Part 2)

Many of us have been Unitarian Universalists for decades. In all this time, we probably didn't pay much attention to our Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston. The UUA was there, in the background, to serve the needs of its member churches.

But now is the time to pay attention to what is going on in Boston. The bylaws of the UUA are being drastically changed. This will change the fundamental nature of Unitarian Universalism as we know it.

The current proposal:

- Eliminates the 4th Principle: *a free and responsible search for truth and meaning*. This curtails our individual freedom of belief in favor of a set of beliefs to which we all will be expected to covenant.
- Alters the other 6 Principles, reducing them to *values and covenants*.

- Reduces the 6 Sources of our Living Tradition to a short paragraph of “inspirations.”
 - **Changes the purpose of the UUA.** The current purpose of the UUA is *to serve the needs of member congregations*. Instead, the proposal would transform the UUA into a top-down political action organization primarily focused on dismantling racism. These changes will be voted on at General Assembly in Pittsburgh this June. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these issues at www.savethe7principles.org. This site includes:
 - A **side-by-side markup of the changes** (just the facts, no opinions),
 - A **balanced Pro/Con Review** that is a good introduction,
 - A brief **Summary Commentary** on the proposal,
 - A longer well-written **case for retaining the Principles**, and
 - A **detailed line-by-line analysis** of the proposal.
 - You can also go to UUA.org and search “bylaws changes.”
- The UUA has given us until April 30 to suggest amendments to these changes. We are being allowed only to change wording, not to change the basis of the proposal. To weigh in with your word changes, go here: [link](#).
- If these proposed bylaws changes are approved, they still need final approval at GA in 2024.

On April 16, our pulpit guest will be wren Bellavance Grace, a representative from the New England Region, UUA. Plan to stay after the service for our traditional Soup Sunday. Wren will join us and give us a chance to ask questions.

~ Submitted by 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.



UU Spirit Life Conversations

SpiritLife Conversations meets on Zoom **Saturday morning, April 29, from 9 – 10:30** to consider The Sacred Art of Listening. It's easy to say we know how to listen, but like any fitness exercise, there is always more to learn. Listening is the greatest gift we can give and we can give it even when our pockets are empty.



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 log-in instructions, go [here](#).

Facilitator: Nancy Kemmerer



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](#)



Help Remember Clara Horn

Clara was an active Unitarian 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. 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 USH. 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](#)

Seeking Information —

The Archives Sub-Council has received a request for information about **Dr. Alan L. Hart**, who was a member from 1947 – 1962, dying at age 71. Please contact Larry Lunden or Sue Smolski if you knew him.

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. 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.

Valencia Williams, the Executive Director of the Wilson-Gray YMCA, will attend 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.

Donations to Village for Families & Children

There is a request for donations of clothing and household goods (non-electric) for the Village for Families & Children. If you are "spring cleaning" and find some items looking for a new home, this is a great way to support a wonderful organization.

More information can be found [here at Second Chance Thrift Shop](#).

Donations can be brought to the thrift shop on 175 Park Road, West Hartford, CT 06119 Thursdays & Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., or to the USH lobby. **You may leave your donations in the donation bin to the left.**

– Diana Heymann

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

RE and Chalice Clubhouse

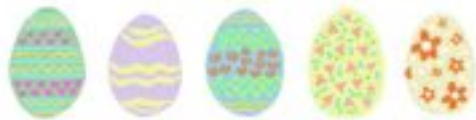


Multigenerational Service This Sunday!

There will be no formal RE classes this weekend in celebration of Easter. The nursery will be open and there will be activities downstairs for those who may not wish to sit in the service. Classes will resume Sunday, April 16.



**EASTER EGG HUNT
THIS WEEKEND
AFTER THE SERVICE!**



**Join us after the service for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 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.

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

Events & Happenings

AMBULATORY ART NEWS

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 displayed at Town and County Club. 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 one standard poodle.

Save the Date: April 28 Peter Mayer in concert at UUS:E

Singer/songwriter Peter Mayer (*Blue Boat Home, Where Is the Light?, Holy Now*) comes to UUS:E in Manchester to perform his much-loved-by-UUs songs. More info next week.



Tickets: \$25 at the door or \$20 in advance. Purchase online [here](#).

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**.

Second Saturday Sing-Along – April 8

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 (FILouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

Pizza and Movie Night — Friday, April 14

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) to register. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, and 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'.

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](mailto: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](mailto:janicecnewton@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

Board Matters

The April USH board meeting is next Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom [here](#). A preliminary agenda includes updates on finance (including stewardship), summer worship, and council reports, as well as planning business to be undertaken at the annual meeting. Other topics may be discussed – frequently, the agenda is finalized only shortly before the meeting. All members are welcome to observe, and there is a short period during which guest comments are invited.

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.

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.

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 Wojtyško, 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: hartfordusociety@gmail.com

