



Photos by: Janice Newton March 2023

April 12, 2023

Building Community Since 1830

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

**Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com
www.ushartford.org**

Office Administrator's Hours:

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please email/call for an appointment.



Love is the spirit of this church.

We hope, we pray, we believe that Love is at the center of religious community. Keeping Love at the center is not always easy. Sometimes Love calls us to learn new things. Sometimes changes in our world ask us to take a leap of faith. We are the same people of faith we have been for centuries, and yet we are born anew in every generation. We have learned and adapted to the world around us, and always kept love in the center.

April 16, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

"Love, Learning, Leaping"

**wren Bellavance-Grace, 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

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

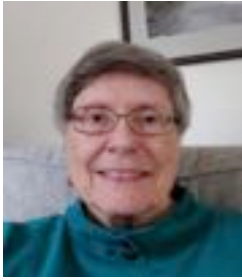
You can also watch the Sunday service
at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>
or on the USH [Facebook](#) page.

Click Here for our [Congregational Recordings Archive](#)

wren Bellavance-Grace, Pulpit Guest

Wren Bellavance-Grace has been serving as one of our denomination's Congregational Consultants in New England for twelve years. Prior to joining the Unitarian Universalist Association, she served as a religious educator and an active lay leader.





Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski, prior Congregationalist, member since the 1980s, has had her times of comings and goings. Attending Small Group Ministries, becoming a Worship Associate, and participating in Artists' Way fostered a sense of fully belonging to this church community. In retirement, this connection continues to grow.

Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us in the sanctuary or online.

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 - "The Balance of Our Own Days", Rev Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest/Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

May 14 - "Mothers' Day: Environment and Other Myths", Jeff Howard, pulpit guest/Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate
Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator

Love In Action – Update

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!



[Brian Harvey Testimonial](#)

[Nancy Kemmerer Testimonial](#)

[Jim Venneman Testimonial](#)

Stewardship Campaign

Goal: \$318,000

As of April 11, 2023:

\$235,284 Raised

The Stewardship Campaign is moving into the final quarter! **USH members have pledged 74% of our goal totaling \$235,284!**

We need every pledge to meet our goal of \$318,000.

If you haven't pledged yet, please make it a priority. Pick up a pledge form at the Welcome Desk or in Fellowship Hall if you need one, or contact meet with [Carolyn Carlson](#) at Coffee Hour on Sunday.

Celebration of Life and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual+ Liberation Stained Glass Memorial Saturday, April 15, 1:00 p.m.

A Celebration of Life for Crispin Hollings will be held on April 15 at the USH. Crispin was a key leader in the LGBTQI+ civil rights movement in Connecticut and served two terms as Co-Director for the then Connecticut Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. His work contributed to the passage of Connecticut's first comprehensive civil rights law for the lesbian and gay community. He was a key player in Hartford's progressive activism.

Crispin passed away unexpectedly on November 10, 2022, in San Francisco where he had lived for many years. A memorial service has already been held at the San Francisco City Hall.

A Stained Glass Memorial (artist: Dennis Peabody), now resides over the window by the front entrance of USH. The stained glass has been donated by John Bonelli in loving memory of Victor D'Lugin, Crispin Hollings, Shawn Lang, and all those who came before and continue the struggle for freedom and love.

USH has been an ardent supporter of LGBTQI+ rights. We hope that, as a religious organization, hosting this memorial will inspire other institutions, both civic and spiritual, to embrace the cause. The memorial will provide a physical symbol for the struggles and challenges experienced by LGBTQI+ individuals. It will serve as a reminder about how individuals and communities can rise up and speak truth to ignorance and bias. The memorial will showcase a movement which, past and continuing currently, has organized and mobilized for equality, freedom, justice, and liberation.

~ *Michael Michaud*



Have We No Principles? A Call For Questions

On Sunday, April 16, Wren Bellavance Grace will be our pulpit guest. She is currently serving as a UUA Congregational Consultant. She will join us in Fellowship Hall after the service for our monthly Soup Sunday. Wren has agreed to answer questions about the proposed changes to Article II of the bylaws.

Please forward your questions to Judy Robbins. To maximize our time with Wren, Judy will relay your questions, consolidating those with similar content. Please put **Questions** in the subject line and send to judyrobb2@gmail.com.

The issue at stake is substantial. Article II is the section of the UUA Bylaws that contains the purpose of the UUA, our Seven Principles, and Six Sources.

The proposal:

- **Changes the purpose of the UUA.** The current purpose of the UUA is *to serve the needs of member congregations*. The proposed purpose of the UUA is *to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love...to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world*.
- **Alters the other 7 Principles** reducing them to *values and covenants*.
- **Reduces the 6 Sources** to a short paragraph of “inspirations.”
- **Emphasizes covenants and accountability** without clearly stating what this actually means.

The 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. You can also go to UUA.org and search “bylaws changes.”

Click these links for:

- 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 long well-written [case for retaining the Principles](#), and
- A [detailed line-by-line analysis](#) of the proposal.

The UUA has given us until April 30 to suggest amendments to these changes. We are being allowed to change wording *only*, not to change the actual 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.

Mark your calendars to attend the special after-church meeting on April 16 starting at noon in Fellowship Hall. Send your questions ahead to Judy Robbins at the above email.

~ 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's 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, OK 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



Volunteering for The Village

During the worsening mental health crisis among children and youth, the Village for Families and Children has served as an important mental health provider in Greater Hartford. The severity of illness among the children is so high that The Village has had to strictly reduce volunteer

opportunities. Children from The Village are not allowed to attend off-site events – as they did at the past at USH. The Unitarian Society of Hartford has supported The Village for almost fourteen years, by donating to the annual Uniform Fundraiser and by designating The Village as a recipient of our Good Neighbor Offering.

As long-term supporters, The Village has asked for a few volunteers to read to a small group of preschoolers at The Early Learning on Spring Street in Hartford on a weekday morning. Please contact me at jrporlando@cox.net if you would like to be a reader, and live out our UU beliefs in action. Thank you for thinking of the children

~ Joanne Orlando

***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.

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



Sign up for Sundays [here](#) online or in person at the welcome table.

Children and youth participating in RE programs should report directly to their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category.

USH Reaches Dozens for Easter —

This past weekend, we welcomed over 100 guests, including about 60 children (*15 times our turnout last year!*), into our building for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt!





We played games, made art, and enjoyed the delightful service put together by Michael Michaud and Rick Tsukada. We also had a beautiful rea in the chapel for Easter photos to be taken.





At 12 noon, we gathered on the field outside the Memorial Gardens and had the fastest egg-based dash in history. **400 eggs were gathered in about a single minute!**





Everyone left with baskets full of goodies and smiles on their faces... we are so thankful to have shared such a beautiful Sunday with so many - old friends and new neighbors alike! A huge thanks to all our staff, volunteers, and fellow congregants who helped make the event a smashing success!

A special thank you to Karolina Wojtysko, Nani Perez, Jazaira Perez-Acevedo, Bryant Moore, Paula and Brian Matzke, Dana Donovan, Peter Meny, Carolyn Carlson, Amelia and Jonathan Bleck, Sophie Johnson, Aaliyah Cinique, Buffie and Kingston Pinney, our amazing neighbors at The Village for Families and Children for letting us use the field, and all the parents and children who visited.



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, April 16, Chalice Clubhouse participants will be able to participate in fun, age-appropriate activities to help The Youth Group prepare for Soup Sunday. This gives 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 a.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall.
We hope to see you there!**

USH Youth Group (Grades 6 –12):



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. We make enough soup to supply local soup kitchens around the city of Hartford. Come hungry!

Youth wishing to help with the soup preparation should arrive roughly an hour before service — about 9:30 a.m.

We hope to see you there!

Meeting House Presents

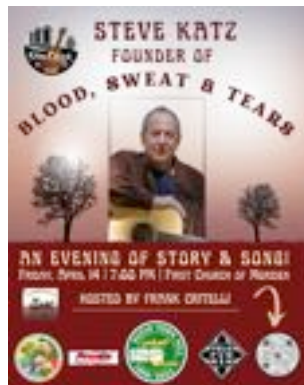


Meetinghouse is a folk/rock/bluegrass/r&b musical group that serendipitously happens to be made up of Unitarian Universalists.

Join us for our next concert, **Friday, April 28, 2023** at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting House Presents
Unitarian Society of Hartford
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Around Central Connecticut



Guitarist Steve Katz, founder of iconic 1960's bands **The Blues Project** and **Blood Sweat & Tears**, shares compelling stories, photos, and songs in this unique event, covering his amazing career working with legends of folk, rock & roll, and beyond.

Friday, April 14, 7 p.m. at First Church of Meriden, 62 Colony Street, Meriden

For more info, see www.oldechurhacoustic.com

Free-will donation for admission; whatever you can afford. FREE parking in the large garage adjacent to the church.

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](#).



Events and Happenings

Monthly Gatherings

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](#) 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 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**.

Second Saturday Sing-Along – May 13

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)

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 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@

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

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 **March 2023** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes, and other church business information online, click **[HERE](#)**. Contact Karolina Wojtysko at **hartforduussociety@gmail.com** for the username and password.

Save The Date!

Annual Meeting: May 21, 2023, following worship.

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/>

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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 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**

