



Photos by: Janice Newton March 2023

April 19, 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.



April 23, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

**"Talking to Trees, or Lessons from the
Overstory (and the Understory)"**

**Rev. Josh Pawelek, Pulpit Guest
Carol Simpson, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Members of Hartford Gay Men's Chorus**

**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](#)

Rev. Joshua Pawelek – Pulpit Guest

Rev. Josh Pawelek is currently serving in his 20th year as minister of the UU Society: East in Manchester. He is a faith leader with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance and the Recovery for All coalition. He has recently accepted the position of "Good Officer" with the Clara Barton chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. He lives in Glastonbury with his wife, two sons, three cats and three chickens.





Carol Simpson – Worship Associate

Carol and her husband Bob Hewey live in the Seabury Community in Bloomfield, CT and are members of both the Unitarian Society of Hartford and the Unitarian Universalist Society: East (UUS:E) in Manchester, CT.

Hartford Gay Men's Chorus

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Christopher Clark and Executive Director Robert Reader, the HGMC sings a wide

range of music as catalyst to inspire, impact, and enrich the lives of our members, patrons, and the community.

In addition to our concerts, we represent the LGBTQ+ community through partnerships with other gay and gay-affirming organizations, outreach within our community and beyond, and participation and performances at pride events, cultural celebrations, civic programs, sporting events, and other special occasions.

For more information, visit <https://hgmc.org/>



Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us in the sanctuary or online.

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

May 21- Title-pending, Rev. Aaron Payson, Pulpit Guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



Ben Mabrey – Guest Organist April 30

Benjamin Mabrey is a native of Western Massachusetts. He has performed at venues throughout the greater Pioneer Valley as a pianist/accompanist in chamber groups, a church pianist/organist/choir director, and musical director for numerous theater groups throughout the Northeast. Now residing in Connecticut, Benjamin is an active member at Saint John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford where he can be heard in the choir or as the Psalterer. He was recently a full-

time public school substitute teacher of music in East Windsor.

Become a Member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford

“You hardly knew how hungry you were to be gathered in, to receive the welcome that invited you to enter entirely...



You began to breathe again... You learned to sing”.

~ *Jan Richardson*

Spring... a time of renewal, of blossoming, of rebirth in the fullest sense of being alive. It is a season when USH enjoys welcoming new members into the embrace of our UU community. If you have been considering membership at the Meeting House please contact [Karolina Wojtysko](#) in the office, Laurie Kelliher (larkkelliher@gmail.com), or visit the Welcome Table in the lobby.

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 19, 2023:

\$238,500 Raised

The Stewardship Campaign is moving into the final quarter! **USH members have pledged 75% of our goal totaling \$238,500!**

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.

Congregational Matters

The USH Board wants to call to your attention the importance of attending our annual congregational meeting on **May 21**. There will be several important issues to review and vote on.

These include consideration of amendments to the USH Constitution recommended by our Governance Task Force to expand the Board to include 2 additional council chairs – one for a new Council on Finance that would include a Stewardship sub-council, and one for a new Membership Council. These changes would enhance the integration of these two very important functions with the existing Board

structure. The Governance Task Force has made a thoughtful review of our board structure, Constitution, and Church Governance over the past year and half. We appreciate their work and care in preparing recommendations for these changes to the USH constitution. Changes to our constitution require a three-quarter supermajority of members attending the annual meeting with a quorum of 25% of membership. There is a link at the top area of the USH website home page “2023 USH Proposed Constitution Revisions” with information about the proposed changes.

A second important topic for discussion and vote at our annual meeting concerns proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Article II is the section of the UUA Bylaws that contains the statement of purpose of the UUA, our Seven Principles, and Six Sources. The proposed changes are significant and have been widely discussed among UUA stakeholders.

Mark your calendars to ensure that you will attend the Annual Meeting on May 21 and to learn more about the USH governance changes and UUA changes to Article II so that you will be able to cast an informed vote.

Article II Revision — adding to the discussion

Last Sunday, wren Bellavance Grace was our pulpit guest. She is a UUA Congregational Consultant in the New England region, and joined us for the post-service conversation to share some insights concerning proposed changes to Article II of the UUA bylaws.

We received the following email from wren on Monday, in which she offers further comments about the relationship between the UUA, member congregations, and the UU Ministers Association.

"My thanks go out to you all, for your gracious hospitality – and for the delicious soup!!

I have a little regret that I didn't answer the final question well yesterday, and it's a worthy question to have been asked. It was the question about whether Todd Eklof lost his Fellowship because of opinions he held and I am afraid my final inexperienced words were something like, 'our money doesn't go to the UUMA.'

Because I know it's a question that has come up a lot, if others are wondering about it, I can clarify what I was intending to explain.

The UUMA is not part of the UUA – they have separate bylaws, separate boards of trustees, and separate funding sources. When your Annual Program Funds go to our UUA, none of them fund the UUMA.

The UU Ministers Association is a membership organization for UU Ministers, like any number of other professional organizations. It is affiliated with the UUA, most notably insofar that the Ministerial Fellowship Committee includes four members of UUA staff who act as non-voting members, providing administrative support to the sixteen members drawn from the UUMA's board and its general membership. All this "inside baseball" is to say that the revocation (and re-admission) to fellowship is decided by this committee of fellow ministers, on the basis of their conduct in accordance with their own code of ethics.

Also, after we officially ended the Q&A (thank you, Judy, for being such a good steward of our time!), I had a brief conversation with a woman who was wearing a red sweater, and a turquoise N95 mask. She seemed quite upset about words in the proposal that say: "We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values."

Our friend was very upset because "that share our values" is more exclusive than "we welcome all." She has a friend who might come worship with her and her husband on Sundays but if the delegates approve this proposal, she fears her friend will not be welcome here because her friend is homophobic. We had very little time and it was chaotic, and I confess I was quite tired and my brain wasn't firing on all cylinders. What I failed to say in answer to her concerns is that of course, her friend would be welcome to worship with you all any Sunday — because yours is an extraordinarily welcoming and hospitable congregation — I have no doubt she'd feel welcome! Article Two — neither in the present form or the proposed form — is not intended to be a doctrine of faith.

In this case, if her friend wanted to become a member of USH and become a Unitarian Universalist herself, it would be helpful for her to understand that she would be aligning herself to a faith tradition that supports LGBTQ liberation.

Others have done so, and manage to hold beliefs somewhat different from the denominational shared beliefs. This happens in many faith traditions — there are committed Catholics who do not believe in the doctrine of the virgin birth, for example.

I've strayed a bit down a rabbit hole. Thanks for indulging me. If you recognize my description of your fellow congregant in the red jacket / sweater, I do hope she will invite her friend to church! I know she'll find a welcome among you.

*with hope,
wren"*

A vote to advance the proposed changes in Article II will be taken at General Assembly in Pittsburgh this June. Please familiarize yourself with these issues at www.savethe7principles.org. You can also go to UUA.org and search “bylaws changes.” USH is allocated three voting delegates plus one alternate delegate; delegation size is governed by a formula linked to membership numbers. Typically, delegates are referred to the UUA by a minister for 'credentialing'; this year, the board asked (in the Enews) for those interested in serving to respond, and the slate of credentialed delegates was announced by Jon Covault in his April 16 "board minute". Our 2023 delegates are Laura Cipriano, Dana Donovan, and Judy Robbins, and Tina Davies will serve as an alternate should any of the other three be unable to fulfill their responsibilities.

Resources:

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.

Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon, in his blog page spiritbob.com, reflected on this discussion, on bylaws, and Unitarian-Universalism in general.

Judy Robbins suggests a YouTube video presentation by long-time UU, Ken Ing, as highly worthwhile. In just under one hour, Ken cogently walks us through his interpretation of potential consequences for our denomination and UU congregations should the proposed changes be implemented. There's much to consider. You can view the presentation [here](#):

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 will still require final approval at GA in 2024.

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

Social Justice



***Good News for
March GNO***

Thank you to our USH family for continued generosity — we raised \$1,158.74 for The Village last month. Our fund raising efforts are more than collecting money — we

are building and strengthening relationships with local organizations and living our covenant "Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law".

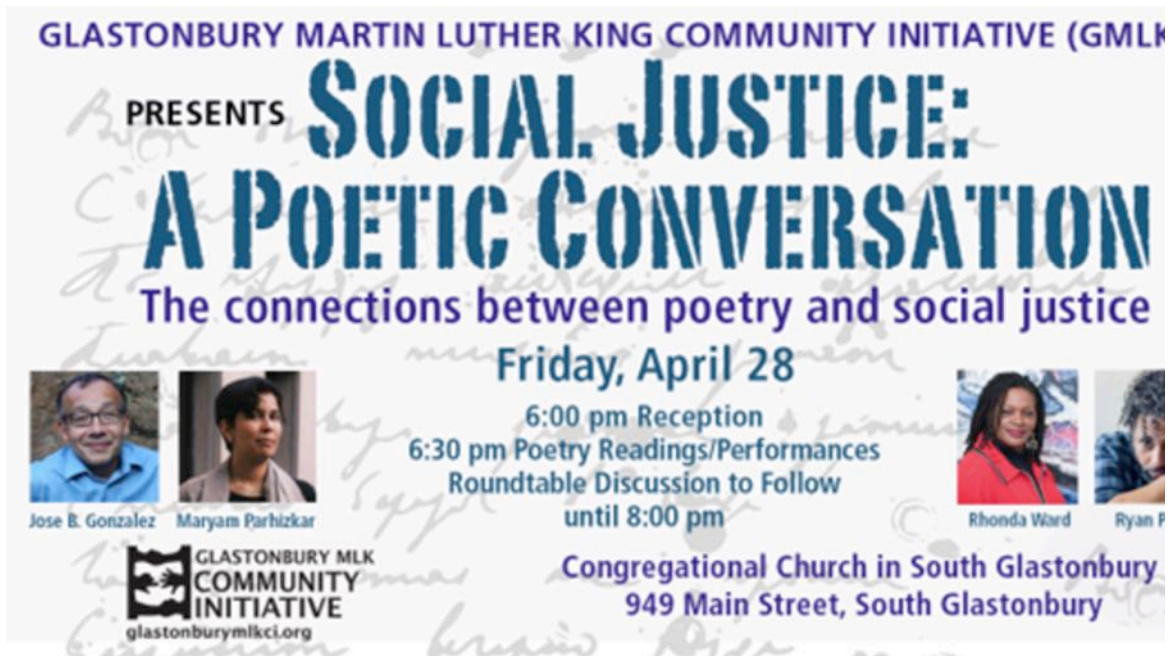
Volunteering for The Village

During the worsening mental health crisis among children and youth, the Village for Families and Children has been an important mental health provider in Greater Hartford. The severity of illness among the children at The Village is so high that volunteer opportunities are reduced. Children from The Village are not allowed to attend off site events – as they did in 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 volunteers to read to preschoolers at The Early Learning Center on Spring Street in Hartford on a weekday morning – date and time TBD. Please contact me at jrporlando@cox.net or 860 657-3711 if you would like to be a reader, and live out our U.U. beliefs in action. Thank you for thinking of the children.

~ Joanne Orlando

An Invitation for a Community Conversation
Social Justice: A Poetic Conversation
6 p.m. April 28



Participating poets include:

Dr. Jose B. Gonzalez, poet and scholar recognized for his efforts in improving access to education for Latinos and his poetic style that mixes humor and social commentary

Maryam Ivette Parhizkar, poet, interdisciplinary scholar, teacher, Ph.D. candidate in American Studies and African American Studies at Yale University, and member of the US Central American collective Tierra Narrative

Ryan Parker, Poet Laureate of Manchester (2019-2022), educator and empowerment activist, who focuses on race in education and seeks to challenge and disrupt educational norms

Rhonda M. Ward, inaugural Poet Laureate for the City of New London (2017-2021) and current co-host of the annual Langston Hughes Community Poetry Reading at the Mystic Museum of Art.

This is a free event open to all. For more information, contact glastonburyMLKCI@gmail.com.

*April
Good*



Neighbor Offering

Our Good Neighbor recipient 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 this Sunday.

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Social Justice is happy to report that all of our food donations will now be going to [The Horace Bushnell Food Pantry](#) on the corner of Albany Ave. and Vine St., Hartford neighbors about 2 miles from us. It is set up so that people shop for what they need/want.

The organizers have requested HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES. Here are some examples, all shelf-stable packaged, canned, dried:

1. Oatmeal and other breakfast cereals and bars
2. Milk and alternative milks and fruit juices
3. Vegetables, tomatoes, peas, beans/ legumes
4. Fruits, applesauce, jelly and preserves
- 5 .Chicken, tuna, and other meats and fish
- 6 .Peanuts, nuts, seeds, nut butters and alternatives
6. Soups and stews

PLEASE CHECK DATES FOR EACH ITEM. Food donations can only be accepted with the current month and all future dates."

-Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



Spring has sprung and we have exciting opportunities available for ages 0–18! Sign up for Sundays [here](#) online or in person at the welcome table.

Children and youth who wish to participate in RE should report directly to

their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category.

The Sprouts Nursery (Ages Infant–Pre-K)

Our nursery is open to all infants, young children, and their families. There are toys, books, art supplies, and plenty of room for imagination to grow free.



We have dedicated personnel and volunteers to supervise every week and the best part? You can now listen and participate in the service while you're there! Nursery go-ers can listen to the service and even participate in our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual.

Come visit any Sunday and never miss a single sermon!

Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.



The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K-6th)

Last weekend, our clubhouse goers helped decorate Fellowship Hall for Soup Sunday and for a special meeting. To celebrate the return of all the insect life with the coming of spring we put out paper butterflies around the room. We also took a field trip to the kitchen to watch the Youth Group in action making

their delicious soup!

This weekend, **April 23**, we will have a story and activity to celebrate Earth Day with our puppet friends.

**It all begins at 10:30 am downstairs in Fellowship Hall.
See you there!**

USH Youth Group (Grades 6 – 12)

This Sunday, our Youth Group will meet for their eleventh session of 2023 (and there will be snacks!) They will play a special game to help brainstorm for their upcoming youth service in June.



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

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

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



Banner Celebration Next Sunday

You are cordially invited to **COFFEE HOUR on April 30** to CELEBRATE the COMPLETION of our USH BANNER PROJECT, 2022 – 2023.

All of our banners will be on display in the front lobby, sanctuary, throughout the first floor, and in Fellowship Hall. The paper catalogues, one for the Archives and one for the Chancel Artists, will be on display in Fellowship Hall. The digital version will be available on our website in the near future. Most importantly, the cake has been ordered!

~ Evan Williams, Sue Smolski, and the Chancel Art Committee

Banner created by Natalie Williams, Evan's Mother

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Night — Friday, May 12

For May, we have a classic from the 1960s — *King of Hearts*. Alan Bates and Genevieve Bujold lead the cast. Plot synopsis: During World War I, a British private, sent ahead to a French town to scout for

enemy presence, is mistaken for a King by the colorful patients of a mental hospital. 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, MAY 16, 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, May 16, 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 meets from 2:30 - 4 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through June, either on Zoom or occasionally as a hybrid meeting. If you would like to participate in a discussion of the book and related issues, please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com. An email with the Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

Our selection for May 11 is: "Beloved" by Toni Morrison. Brief overview: Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. Sethe has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.

Looking ahead:

***June 8 – The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate
The books selected for September and onward will be posted during the summer.***

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 hartforduusociety@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/>**

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper, Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Karolina Wojtysko, Office Administrator & Building
 Rentals **hartforduusociety@gmail.com** | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

**USH Calendar of Events**

The calendar
 for 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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