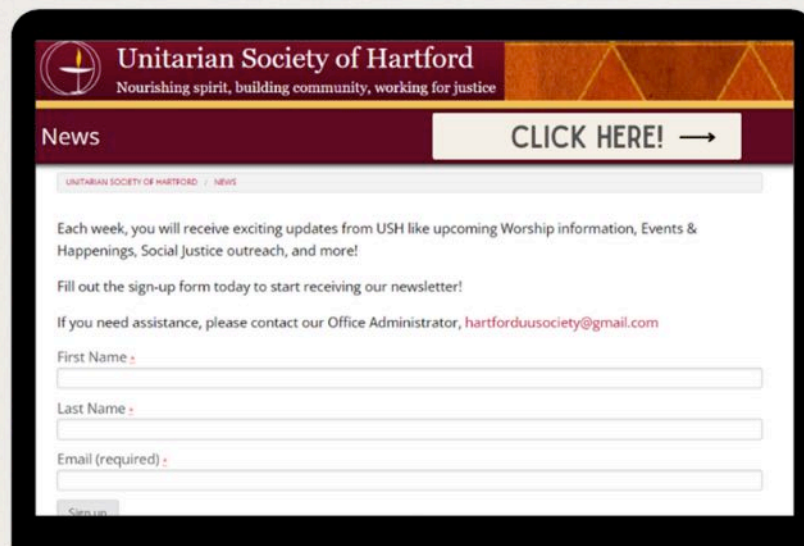


KEEP
UPDATED

Don't miss a thing!
Register for our NEW newsletter today



The screenshot shows a laptop displaying the Unitarian Society of Hartford website. The header includes the USH logo and the text "Unitarian Society of Hartford" and "Nourishing spirit, building community, working for justice". A "News" tab is selected, and a "CLICK HERE! →" button is visible. The main content area contains the following text:

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD / NEWS

Each week, you will receive exciting updates from USH like upcoming Worship information, Events & Happenings, Social Justice outreach, and more!

Fill out the sign-up form today to start receiving our newsletter!

If you need assistance, please contact our Office Administrator, hartforduussociety@gmail.com

First Name

Last Name

Email (required)

New E-news platform starting May 3rd!

April 26, 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.



JOY

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

"The Serious Business of Joy"

Rev. Stephen Kendrick, Pulpit Guest
Michael Michaud, Worship Associate
Guest Organist: Ben Mabrey

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. Stephen Kendrick – Pulpit Guest

Reverend Stephen G. Kendrick received his BA from Princeton, an MA from Hollins University, and his Masters in Divinity from Harvard. He has served congregations in Maryland and Pennsylvania, was minister of the Universalist Church in West Hartford and is now Minister Emeritus at First Church in Boston. Stephen and his wife, Liz, now live in Farmington CT. He is author of six books, most recently *Nine Days* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011).



Michael Michaud – Worship Associate

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.

Ben Mabrey – Guest Organist

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.



Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us in the sanctuary or online.

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 – “The Necessity of Imperfection”, Rev. Aaron Payson, Pulpit Guest/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

May 28 – Title pending; Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski Worship Associate Coordinator

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Unitarian Society of Hartford's Annual Meeting will be held **May 21, 2023**. It will be an in-person gathering at the Meeting House, following our service that Sunday. Those choosing to view from home will be able to do so via Zoom. There will be three items up for vote: Changes to the USH Constitution, How the Congregation votes on moving forward regarding the Article II changes to the UUA Constitution, and the following nominees for the Board of Directors:

The slate of nominees for open Board positions is as follows:

President, 1-year term – Dana Donovan

President-Elect, 1-year term – Nancy Kemmerer

Secretary, 2-year term – Gloria Francesca Mengual

Chair of Spiritual Life, 2-year term – Rick Tsukada
 Chair of Social Justice, 2-year term – Judy Sullivan
 *Chair of Membership, 2-year term – Laurie Kelliher
 *Chair of Finance, 2-year term – Open
 *If the USH Constitution changes pass

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.



NEWCOMERS Are you UU-curious?

Join an informal gathering Under
 the Stairs on May 7, 2023
 following our Sunday
 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 to our very special faith.

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

Building and Grounds Workday Scheduled

The spring workday for Building and Grounds will occur **Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to Noon.**



This year we especially need diggers, so bring your favorite shovel. Others may care to participate in distributing mulch in the Memorial Garden and general clean up of the grounds. All help appreciated.

David Newton
Chair, Building and Grounds



Mother

Banner Celebration — This 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.

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

Banner created by Natalie Williams, Evan's

Love In Action

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.

Denominational Matters

Have We No Principles? Recap with Links, Including the Q&A Session

On April 16, wren Bellavance-Grace, a UUA representative, joined us for a Q&A about the proposed change to the purpose of the UUA and changes to our UU Principles and Sources. The hour-long session held in Fellowship Hall was moderated by Judy Robbins. An audio recording is now available [here](#), and here's a [link](#) to the handout for that session.

Many of you found Ken Ing's video informative as you consider your position on the UUA's Revision to Article II. (That's the part of the UUA ByLaws that deals with the mission, the Principles, and the Sources.) Ken is a retired engineer from Washington State and a tireless advocate for UUism. His concern is how *accountability* could change the religion as we know it. For those who have not seen this video, the link is [here](#).

The [savethe7principles.org](#) site has a side-by-side comparison of the existing wording and the changes along with other articles and information. Many UUs across the country are concerned about these proposed changes. A new video by Susan McWethy is linked [here](#).

The UUA materials supporting this change are a bit of a slog to get through. The easiest way to access the UUA's talking points is to read their Frequently Asked Questions, linked [here](#).

These important changes to the UUA ByLaws are not minor changes that congregations can ignore. They will affect us all. They will be voted on at

this June's General Assembly (GA). At our USH Annual Meeting May 21, you will have a chance to let your opinion be known to your delegates who will serve as your representatives at GA. The delegates to this year's GA are Judy Robbins, Dana Donovan, and Laura Cipriano.

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.



Remembering Memphis

Memphis, born on December 24, 2012, passed away early Tuesday, April 24, 2023 at home in peaceful sleep on his bed. Memphis was Briana Bittel's service dog for years before recently transitioning to his new role as her steadfast, gentle companion. He was a kind, loving dog, and enjoyed watching the birds outside his window at home, or here in the Church Office. He will be missed dearly by all of us here at USH.

UU Spirit Life Conversations

SpiritLife Conversations meets on Zoom this **Saturday, 4/29, from 9 – 10:30 a.m.** 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 login instructions, go [here](#).

Facilitator: Nancy Kemmerer

Visitors to the Meeting House

Recently, USH received a request from an Introduction to Architecture class at the University of Hartford: the instructor asked if she might bring her group over to tour our building and, if possible, hear about the architect's inspiration for creating this unique worship space. We, naturally, were happy to help educate the next generation of architects, and a time for the field trip was quickly arranged. David Newton, Chair of Building and Grounds, was asked if he would step in as host and docent for the students. Last week, a sizeable group of students arrived with their instructor. David greeted them and consulted with Professor Fernandes on the desired objectives for the tour. Could David possibly speak to how the religion may have informed the building's design? Of course he could. During the following hour the class heard of Victor Lundy's ambitious design, and of the oft-necessary compromises between

initial vision and ultimate reality. They learned a bit about Unitarian Universalism, our Principles, and the Sources from which we draw. Using natural materials in construction emphasized living in harmony with the earth. The students could draw parallels from the central interior sanctuary to one's inner spiritual life, and visualize how the surrounding class and office spaces serve as places of interaction with the wider world. Iconic pillars differ in size and shape, yet work together providing support. Students were encouraged to blend imagination and design principles with consideration of the client's vision when approaching a project. The class responded enthusiastically. Several days later, we received this letter:

Dear Mr. Newton,

On behalf of the architecture students of the University of Hartford, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for giving us a wonderful tour of your church.

The tour was truly enlightening and inspiring for all of us. We were amazed by the stunning architecture of the meeting house, and we learned so much about the intricate details and design elements that make your church such a beautiful and unique place of worship.

We also appreciate the time and effort that you put into making the tour possible. This group of students is especially grateful to have the opportunity to go on field trips together, having spent the last few years being so limited by COVID restrictions. Your hospitality and willingness to share your knowledge with us made the experience even more meaningful and unforgettable.

Once again, thank you for opening your doors to us and for providing us with a valuable learning opportunity. Your kindness and generosity will always be remembered by our students.

*Kindly,
Candace*

*Candace DeFelice Fernandes
Adjunct Professor
University of Hartford*



Social Justice

*April
Good*



Neighbor Offering

This is the final Sunday on which we channel Good Neighbor contributions to the [Wilson-Gray YMCA](#), located on Albany Avenue, just east of Garden Street in Hartford.

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Our food donations are now going to [The Horace Bushnell Food Pantry](#) on the corner of Albany Ave. and Vine St, Hartford neighbors

about two 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

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

GLASTONBURY MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (GMLKCI)

PRESENTS **SOCIAL JUSTICE:
A POETIC CONVERSATION**

The connections between poetry and social justice

Friday, April 28

6:00 pm Reception
6:30 pm Poetry Readings/Performances
Roundtable Discussion to Follow
until 8:00 pm

Congregational Church in South Glastonbury
949 Main Street, South Glastonbury

Jose B. Gonzalez Maryam Parhizkar Rhonda Ward Ryan Parker

GLASTONBURY MLK
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVE
glastonburymlk.org

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.

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!

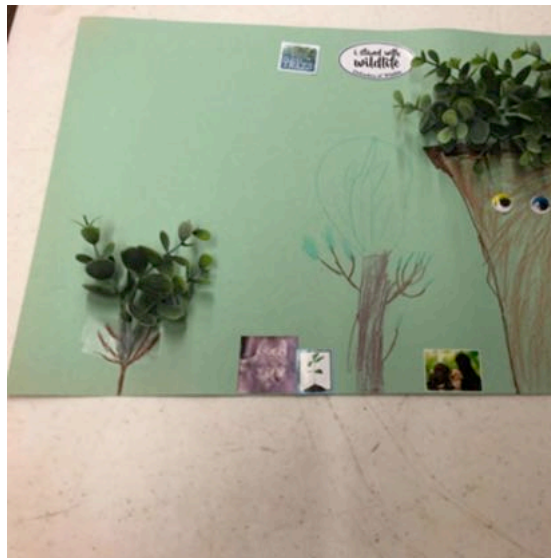
Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.



The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K-6th)

Last weekend, our clubhouse goes read the book *The Busy Tree* by Jennifer Ward with illustrations by Lisa Falkenstern in observation of Earth Day. It beautifully describes all the lives a single tree helps support from beneath its roots to the tops of its branches. We then created our very own “busy trees” with art supplies and our imaginations!

This story and activity are reflective of our 7th UU principle: we believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things. Understanding the lives of our fellow living things helps cultivate empathy, which is the basis for understanding and cooperation in every kind of relationship.



Join us this weekend for another story and activity! **It all begins at 10:30 am downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!**

USH Youth Group (Grades 6 – 12)

This weekend, Sunday, April 23rd, our Youth Group will meet for their twelfth session of 2023!

(And there will be snacks!) They will be playing a special game to help them brainstorm for 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!

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](#).

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Sergei Rachmaninoff's birth, Pi-Hsun Shih created the video, *Solo Symphonic Dance*, from her home studio. It is released on her YouTube channel. You are invited to visit, and may subscribe to the channel. The link is <https://youtu.be/LTfIxFGhpak> Thank you so much for your support!



Hartford Quaker Meeting Invites You to Attend Resilience and Recovery in Ukraine:

A Presentation by Ukrainian Therapist Olha Lychko-Parubocha

Monday, May 8, 2023: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Hartford Quaker Meeting South Quaker Lane, West Hartford

Olha Lychko-Parubocha is a Ukrainian psychologist who works in the Ukrainian city of Lviv with people displaced from their homes because of the war. She is assisting them with trauma resilience and recovery, coping with their losses and finding a way forward in their lives.

All are Welcome to Attend

Olha Lychko-Parubocha's presentation will be accessible on Zoom as well as at the Hartford Quaker Meeting.

To Register for Zoom Attendance

contact: tomcameronphoto@gmail.com

Team-Europe are greatly appreciated.

Events and Happenings

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/>

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smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
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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 May
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



www.ushartford.org