

E-news June 28, 2023

Note: As of 6/28, at 1 p.m., USH is without Internet service... you will be alerted via subsequent email when Internet service is restored.



Unitarian Society of Hartford
"Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, and Working for Justice"
 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
 Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduniversity@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.

***Office Closed Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day**

**** The Meeting House will be closed Wednesday, July 5 for necessary maintenance. See below for information.**



Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.

July 2, 2023

“Independence Day: The Courage to Change”

Sue Smolski, Pulpit Guest
Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

[View this Sunday's Order of Service](#)

Matters of the Heart

Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: [Matters of the Heart Email](#)
In person – use the MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning

Religious Education in person 10:30 a.m.
[Annie Witzler](#), Interim RE Coordinator

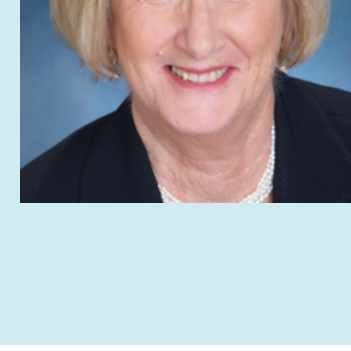
Reverend Bob Janis will join us in worship Sunday – come, meet him beforehand, or during Coffee Hour following the service

Can't be here in person for worship?
[Join us on ZOOM 10:30 a.m.](#)
 Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934
 Passcode: 128493

Virtual Coffee Hour to follow!

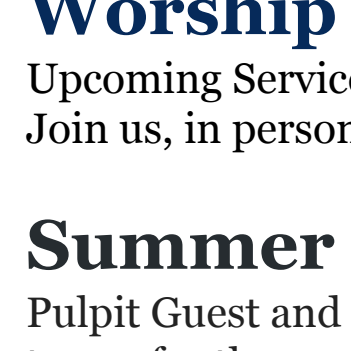
The service is also streamed on [Facebook](#) – Follow our page and receive notifications every time we go live.

Couldn't make it to USH, and missed the livestream?
 Watch any service, anytime, here on [Vimeo](#)



Sue Smolski – Pulpit Guest

Sue Smolski, a member since 1981, is currently Coordinator of the Worship Associates and a member of the Archives Committee.



Margaret Leicach – Worship Associate

Margaret was baptized Methodist, raised Moravian, spent a few years as a Congregationalist, and then abandoned for a few years. She discovered USH by sheer accident in the 80's and immediately knew she was 'home'. Her adult children and 2 grandchildren, agnostics all, happily attend USH with her when they are in the area.

Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services:
 Join us, in person or online.

Summer Services

Pulpit Guest and Worship Associate teams for the summer:

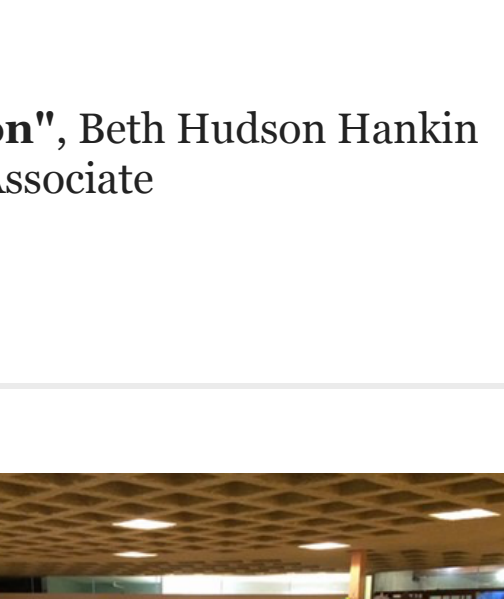
July 9 – “Great To Be Here”, Rev. Bob Janis, Pulpit Guest/Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

July 16 – “Living in Art: Into the Flow We Go”, Artist's Way, Pulpit Guests/Rick Tsukada Worship Associate

July 23 – Title Pending, Rev. Bob Janis, Pulpit Guest/Margaret Leicach Worship Associate

July 30 – “The Spiritual Art of Imperfection”, Beth Hudson Hankin (UUS:E) Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

*Sue Smolski
 Worship Associate Coordinator*



Will you help with Gary's Memorial Reception?

On **Saturday, July 8**, we have a Memorial Service and Reception for Gary Bent. The service is at **2 p.m.**, and the reception follow in Fellowship Hall.

Finger foods (crackers/cheese, quick breads, cookies, bars, other munchies) are needed. A fruit and a veggie platter would be helpful. Food should be brought on plates ready to serve. **Please label the plate with your name and include a list of ingredients.** We will supply the sandwiches and punch.

We could also use a couple of helpers during the reception. Please contact Janice Newton 860/212-6923 or janicewnewton@signgmail.com to sign up for a food contribution or to help. Thank you in advance... we can't do this without you!



USH News

A Valedictory from Eve

I've been asked to write a short reflection on this past year and the year ahead. When I began my stint as president of the Society, our members and friends shared concerns with me. Some asked if I thought USH would survive, though I never considered that scenario myself. Others felt that the board was not transparent enough despite our best efforts: there were personnel and legal issues that we could not share without compromising USH. Everyone was working hard to find a minister, keep Sunday services going, create and staff an office administrator position, and support existing staff – all while seeing to the usual tasks of running a church. And we did it! USH found a new minister, hired an office administrator, offered inspiring Sunday services (thanks to the Herculean efforts of our Worship Associate team), and board and sub-council members undertook responsibility for staff supervision. In addition, grants for security and safety and the preservation of our historic building were secured. There is no reason for anyone to question at this point whether we will survive or not. I think there is a real spirit of optimism as we move forward.

But there are important issues to deal with for the next year. We need to recruit volunteers to explore what our religious education might look like and we need to grow our music program. So many people have asked me if I am happy my year as president is over and I have responded by acknowledging that it was not what I expected it would be – that there were challenges that I had not anticipated. But after reading UUA president Susan Frederick Gray's words as she steps down I want to say that I recognize that it is an honor and a privilege to be asked to serve a religious community that you believe in. People put their faith in you and it motivates you to do your best and see it through.

As we begin this new church year, we look forward to welcoming Reverend Bob Janis, who will undoubtedly bring a fresh perspective and new energy. Please greet him warmly, and I ask that if you're invited to serve USH, please say **“YES”!**

~ Eve Pech, Outgoing President

Meeting House Closed July 5 — Plumbing Maintenance Scheduled

Here are some things you've probably not known about our Meeting House:

Turns out we have a storage room off Fellowship Hall with a seven-foot sewage ejection tank below the floor. This tank receives all the drainage from various sinks, toilets, and some drains throughout the building.

Inside the tank there are two electric motors attached to high pressure pumps. Each motor and pump can pump the contents of the tank periodically upward and out to the sewer main, located in the parking lot by the berm grassy area. Because of the importance of the pumping action caused when a float indicates the tank is full, there are two motor/pump units. If one fails, the other will function as it should. The units function alternately, promoting approximately equal wear.

Recently we discovered a red reset button on one of the electrical circuits to a pump had popped out, and a reset was not possible. Further study indicates the problem is not with the electrical connection; rather, the associated motor/pump inside the tank has failed.

You can understand this is very important – if the second pump were to fail as well (and it is of the same age and usage history) then we face a serious difficulty with overflow, etc., likely causing closure of the building until repairs could be completed.

A suitable, experienced plumbing contractor has been identified; the company visited, confirmed all observations and conclusions deduced by the B&G team, and has been given a green light to proceed with Phase One of remediation on **Wednesday, July 5**.

This entails removing, first, the inoperative pump unit, which is approximately 60 years old (original equipment, circa 1964 or so) and very heavy. This, large equipment (similar to an automotive shop lift) is brought in, to support the pump during disconnection and removal, thereby preventing damage to the remainder of the system. During this process, cables, pipes, and other large, obstructive gear will be run through Fellowship Hall, rendering it unusable for the day. Further, we expect water will be shut off for the duration. It will be most practical to close the building to all but contractors and involved B&G personnel.

Once the defunct pump is removed and power restored, the system should function normally. Until the pump can be replaced, it is impossible to know what replacement equipment will be required: there are several known options for that equipment. The contractor will order two pumps, replacing both the currently inoperative unit as well as its twin, which (given its age and usage) could be anticipated to fail at a not-distant time. You will be notified in advance of that anticipated closure.

Swift action to reestablish a dual-functioning motor/pump arrangement is a matter of high priority. We are acting on that basis, and thank you all for your understanding and cooperation.

~ contributed by David Newton, Building and Grounds SubCouncil Chair

Social Justice

USH at West Hartford Pride Festival



Last Saturday USH shared a table with the Universalist Church of West Hartford, at that town's annual PrideFest. Despite uncertain weather, it was great to get out in the community and represent our experience of UU with friendly and curious passers-by. From left to right: Deb Nardi, Julie Smith, Vicki Sklar and Krystal (both from Fern Street), Dana Donovan and Aaliyah. Photo by Judy Sullivan.

Social Justice Council

Interested in justice work? Come meet with us to learn the latest about ongoing activities and discover new initiatives. Our next ZOOM meeting is **July 20, at 7 p.m.** Everyone's invited. Contact [Judy Sullivan](mailto:Judy.Sullivan@ush.org) for information.

Click the button below to Join!
 Meeting ID: 819 3540 3837
 Passcode: 026862

[ZOOM Link Social Justice Meeting Click Here](#)

Food Pantry News

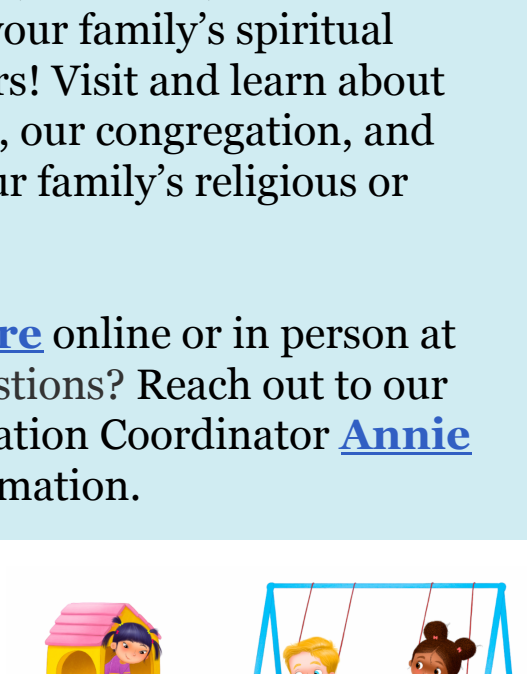
Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you is never enough for the food you've donated over the past few months.

Lots of programs slow down or stop over the summer but hunger and food insecurity never take a vacation.

Please continue to fill our bins in the Lobby with food for our neighbors in need. They are incredibly grateful for all you do.

~Diana Heymann



RE and Chalice Clubhouse

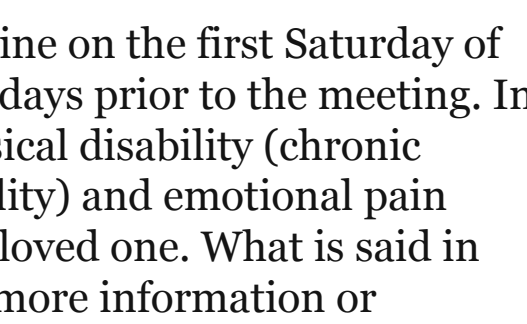


Looking for a supportive, inclusive, non-judgmental home for your family's spiritual needs? Let USH be yours! Visit and learn about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, and how USH can foster your family's religious or spiritual journeys.

Sign up for Sundays [here](#) online or in person at the welcome table. Questions? Reach out to our Interim Religious Education Coordinator [Annie Witzler](#) for more information.

Want to play a role in helping guide the spiritual growth of the UUs of tomorrow? Consider volunteering in RE for the 2023-2024 church year!

Signup will begin in the coming weeks; if you're interested, email re@ush.org in the subject line "Next Year's RE" with the subject line.



[Click HERE](#) for this week's RE Newsletter

Monthly Gatherings

***Artist's Way, Gentle Yoga, Lunch Bunch, Pizza and Movie Night, and the USH Book Club will not meet July/August. These groups will resume in September or October.**

Disability Support Group – This group meets online on 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](mailto:Gloria.Bent@ush.org) for more information or call 860-904-7768.

Second Saturday Sing-Along – July 8

Join us at the next MeetingHouse Sing-Along! Fred Louis and Ed Savage invite CT Singing families, singers, songwriters and audience members 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 or "Rise Again" are available.

Come early or come late, whatever fits your family schedule. Singing starts at 2 p.m. Some of us bring snacks, but that is not required (or organized). If the weather is good, we meet outside around to the right of the building, in the Memorial Garden. If you feel unwell, we ask that you postpone your visit.

Contact: [Fred Louis](#) or [Ed Savage](#) for more information.

USH Resources

2023 – 2024 USH Board of Directors (effective 7/1/23)

Dana Donovan: President
Nancy Kenner: President-Elect
Jon Covault: Treasurer
Gloria Mengual: Secretary
Rick Tsukada: Spiritual Life Council Chair
Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair
Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair
Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair
Laurie Keliber: Membership Council Chair
Jim Venneman: Finance Council Chair

Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email to: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

June Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 28: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. In person, Library

[ZOOM Link for Board Meeting](#)

The latest financial reports for FY 2022-2023 have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The 2022/23 Annual Report is available [HERE](#)

The Board Meeting Minutes for April 2023 have been posted. Click [HERE](#) to view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes, and other church business information online. Contact [Karolina Wojtylko](mailto:Karolina.Wojtylko@ush.org) for the username and password.

USH Staff:

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

Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
rc4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper
ushrcasurers0@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Karolina Wojtylko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduniversity@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is **Tuesday at Noon.**

Please write in the 'Subject' field "USH Enews", and include the dates that your submission should be featured. Announcements about upcoming events 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.

Thank you for your submission!

[Email Your Submission](#)

[Missed Last Week's Enews? Click HERE](#)

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for July 2023 can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the Unitarian Society of Hartford

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) click [HERE](#).

