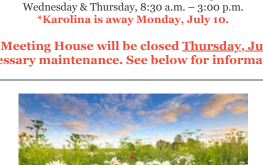
E-news July 5, 2023

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

Minister's Office Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
or by **appointment**.

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.
***Karolina is away Monday, July 10.**

**** The Meeting House will be closed Thursday, July 6 for necessary maintenance. See below for information.**



"Great to Be Here". In his first sermon here at USH, Rev. Bob Janis talks about gratitude, community, the flow of life, and his Connecticut snow shoveling expectations.

Sunday Morning Service, 10:30 a.m.
July 9, 2023

"Great To Be Here"

Rev. Bob Janis, Minister
Judy Robbins, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

View this Sunday's Order of Service

Judy Robbins – Worship Associate

Judy Robbins is a retired psychotherapist and co-founder of the UUSpiritLife program. She relishes her role as a Worship Associate and sometimes pulpit guest at USH.

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

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!

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**

Weekly Jottings with Rev. Bob

"Waking up this morning, I smile," writes the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh.

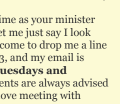
Seems like a good idea!

I'm smiling today, as it happens. from the wonderfully warm reception you gave me at my first Sunday here at USH. If we manage to be as abundantly hospitable to every person who crosses our door, I have no doubt it will shift our corner of the world a little bit closer to kindness and beauty. May we be a cause for someone's smile today!

I am delighted, humbled, and honored to begin my time as your minister here. I'll say more about that on Sunday – for now, let me just say I look forward to getting to know you, and you are very welcome to drop me a line anytime. My phone number is 860-233-9897 ext. 103, and my email is **USHMinister@gmail.com**. My office hours are **Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 – 3**, and by appointment (appointments are always advised as I tend to practice a rather peripatetic ministry). I love meeting with congregants and would love to set up a meeting to get to know you. Your patience is appreciated, as there is only so much I can fit into any given week and we may need to schedule a good deal in advance – but I want to get to know everyone, so do feel free to reach out! Thank you for your trust in me and for your hospitality, and here's to our time together.

Kind regards,
Rev. Bob

Worship Calendar



Upcoming Services:
Join us, in person or online.

Summer Services

Pulpit Guest and Worship Associate teams for the summer:

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/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

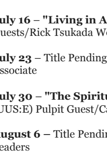
July 30 – "The Spiritual Art of Imperfection", Beth Hudson Hankin (UUS:E) Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

August 6 – Title Pending, Margaret Leicach & Michael Michaud, Worship Leaders

Sue Smolski
Worship Associate Coordinator

USH News

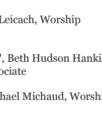
Our Newest Members



Laura Friedman
Am I the oldest UU in this church? My mother and father were Methodist and Baptist respectively. While living in Washington DC, they explored the Unitarian Church. The minister was very popular, powerful, and well known. So, Mother, Father, Sister Carlene and I became Unitarians.

When my husband, Harry, and I were contemplating our choice of religion, we set upon Unitarian. Our four children were raised there and Harry and I were active members of Murray UU, Attleboro, MA. We will be buried in their memorial garden.

As a widow I immediately moved to Florida. I found a great church nearby and enjoyed 20 years there. I moved up to Connecticut to be near my daughter and family. I wanted a UU connection, so here I am.



Michael Lettick
I've always been more of a spiritual one than religious. After 4 years at U of H,

I bowled professionally for 8 years and proceeded into a career management role in the sports entertainment field. Today I am an avid sports fan, semi-retired and help other senior citizens with their chores.

I've enjoyed my visits to USH with Phyllis Hall the past year and am happy joining as a new member of the congregation.

USH Board Meeting —

The next meeting of the USH Board of Directors will be held on **Thursday, July 20, at 6:30 p.m.** The meeting is public and anyone is welcome to attend. If anyone has a topic they wish discussed at the meeting please submit it by **July 12** to **Dana Donovan**, so that it may be added to the agenda. There will not be a Board meeting in August unless some urgent business should arise.

Eve Pech, Sarah McKenzie, and Peter Meny have now ended their tenure on the Board of Directors. The new Board thanks them for their strong and faithful service to the Board. Eve was president during this last difficult year. Sarah was the secretary for the last six years! And Peter was the Spiritual Life Chair for the last four years. In addition, Peter has served on the board several other times over the years holding various positions, including twice as president.

– Dana Donovan, President

Building & Grounds

Meeting House Closed July 6 –
Plumbing Maintenance Re-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 functions 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.

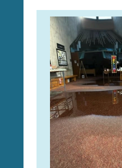
A suitable, experienced plumbing contractor has been identified; the company visited, confirmed all observations and conclusions deduced by the B&G team, and has been given a green light to proceed with Phase One of remediation **on Thursday, July 6.**

This entails removing, first, the inoperative pump unit, which is approximately 60 years old (original equipment, circa 1964 or so) and *very* heavy. Thus, 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 extracted, 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



July 4th at the Meeting House

The forecast was for heavy rain in spots.

And this is the rest of the story...

It was a relaxed day for many. A little gardening in the morning, pleasant lunch, and...

A message on the phone, "this is Morgan from Church Mutual. We received a water leak alert from your water leak sensor... Please respond...

Knowing the leak sensor is at the front west entrance, a quick look at the functioning camera of the area followed immediately. Oh *** there is water pooling on the inside on the rug. It is a full leak alert. Tell Church Mutual Morgan we are investigating....

How can this be?? We have had recent rain amounts of up to 2 inches and no problems!

The drive to the Meeting House confirmed our suspicions. Enormous rain on the way included road flooding on Trout Brook causing diversion to the opposite lane, etc.

At the Meeting House, the berm was full, and the front drain working fine with continuous heavy rain. The rain gauge, however, said 5 inches of rain.

Immediate thought — ***rush*** in and get equipment to vacuum up all the water...

The Office is fine, but the front lobby to the Sanctuary and downstairs had standing water. No water came into Fellowship Hall. Most of the standing water was cleaned up by 5 p.m.

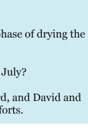
An Emergency call to Bill Simmons and Peter Meney resulted in much-needed help to address the cleanup.

The fans and dehumidifier were left running as the final phase of drying the carpet.

And that's the rest of this story. How was ***your*** Fourth of July?

Many thanks to Bill Simmons, Peter Meny, Kevin Girouard, and David and Janice Newton for their prompt response and clean-up efforts.

Do you have a key?



The Meeting House will be installing a new keyless entry system this month. This is part of USH's ongoing effort to upgrade security around our Meeting House.

The keyless entry pad will be installed on the main entrance to the lobby. During regular business hours there will be doorbell access to the building for visitors or others without codes.

After normal office hours, entry to the Meeting House will require a code to gain access to the building. To obtain a code, see Karolina Wojtysko, in the office, during regular business hours (shown above).

After this keyless entry system is installed and tested, keys will no longer be functional. We expect to have the keypad system fully in use by Ingathering in September, when Sunday services move back into the sanctuary.

– Paul Cipriano, Chair, Administrative Council

Social Justice

The Village — Where real change happens

The Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser 2023

The Village for Families and Children is holding its Annual Uniform Fundraiser this summer. The money raised is used by approximately 1,000 families in Greater Hartford to help buy required school-specific uniforms for their children. For the past ten years, the Unitarian Society of Hartford has donated to The Village Uniform Fundraiser. This July and August USH will continue its tradition of supporting The Village. Each uniform, one top and one bottom, costs about $30. Checks may be mailed to The Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT. 06015, with uniforms in the memo line. Donations may also be made using our **online giving portal**. Any amount is welcome.

Thank you for continuing to show your commitment to The Village for Families and Children.

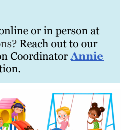
Social Justice Council

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 for information.

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

ZOOM Link Social Justice Meeting Click Here

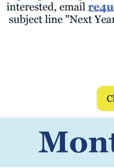
Food Pantry News



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

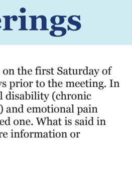


Looking for a supportive, inclusive, non-judgemental home for your family's spiritual needs? Let USH be yours! Visit and learn about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, and how USH can foster your family's religious or spiritual journeys.

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 2023/24 church year!

Sign-up will begin in the coming weeks; if you're interested, email **re4ush@gmail.com** with the subject line "Next Year's RE" in the subject line.



Click HERE for this week's RE Newsletter

Monthly Gatherings

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** 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 families, singers, songwriters, and audience members to join us 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 Kemmerer: 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 Kelliher: Membership Council Chair
Jim Venneman: Finance Council Chair

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

July Board Meeting

Thursday, July 20: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Hybrid, 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 and May 2023 have been posted. Click **HERE** to view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes, and other church business information online. Contact **Karolina Wojtysko** for the username and password.

USH Staff:

Rev. Bob Janis, Minister
ushminister@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

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
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Karolina Wojtysko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartfordusociety@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**.

Unitarian Society of Hartford | 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 Phone: 860-233-9897

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