USH E-news January 10, 2024

"Seeking, Sharing, Soaring"

Photo: Rev. Scott Kennedy, Unitarian Society of Hartford

Unitarian Society of Hartford
"Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice"
30 Woodchuck Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Tel: (860) 233-4827 • Email: **hartfordsocietyuu@gmail.com**
www.ushartford.org

Minister's Office Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
or by appointment

Office Administrator Hours:
Mondays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fridays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Office is Closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
January 14

"Beyond MLK"

Image Credit: C.R.M.L. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

"Beyond MLK." Probably we have all been moved and inspired by the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Probably we have all felt that we, in Dr. Dr. King still have a radical message for our time? How does King's stirring "Beyond Vietnam" speech and his contemplative teaches relate to our lives and our world? Join us for this service plus:

Rev. Rob Smith, Minister
Judy Robbins, Worship Associate
Sam Mallon, Director of Music Ministries

Matters of the Heart
To have a joy or heaviness and from the pulpit on Sunday morning, e-mail **ushearts@gmail.com**

In person – see the Bottom of Heart basket for written cards on Sunday morning.
"Please share with us what's on your heart, or just what's on your mind. We want to hear and from the people.

Religious Education: 10:30 a.m.
Joanie Schmitz, Interim RE Coordinator

Can't be here in person for worship?
Join us on Zoom at 10:30 a.m.
Meeting ID: 422 1388 7444
Passcode: 1234567
Or Dial in: 1 646 558 8656

Worship 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.

Worship Calendar

Join us, in person or online.

Upcoming Services:

January 21 – "Wind and Repetition: The Spiritual Practice of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
Guest Michael Richard, Worship Associate

January 28 – "Lessons in Bravery" Reverend Aaron Payson, pulpit guest Carol Simpson, Worship Associate.

February 4 – Reverend Rob, Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate.

Thoughts from Rev. Rob.....
A few epigrams from Martin Luther King Sunday, free soaring quotes from Dr. King:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

"I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values."

Do you believe we need to undergo a radical revolution of values, and what might that revolution look like? And, what are you doing for others?

Here's to dreams, and faith in a better world, and justice for everyone, Rev. Rob

NEWCOMERS – Are you UU curious?
Come to "First Connections", an informal gathering Under the Stairs on **January 14, 12:30 p.m.** Meet other newcomers and learn more about our congregation and our UU tradition. Bring your questions, your lunch, and your curiosity!

Interested or also considering membership, or just curious? Contact Rev. Rob Smith at **revrobsmith@uhartford.org** to let him know that you are coming.

Whether it is your first time or you've been coming and curious for a while, join us for a lively conversation with friends and always welcome and lunchtime delicacies to our regional hub!

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

USH News

Changes

Thanks to last Sunday's news sharing, there are a few changes for meetings and gatherings ...

Pizza/Movie Night, January 19: If you plan to come but haven't signed up, email ***Janice Dunkin*** *by* ***noon Thursday*** *with your pizza choice (cheese, meat, or veggie). Pag ends when you arrive.*

Security Preparedness Meetings*: Mon January 24, noon (Medical Emergencies) and monthly meeting (Inclusiveness) from 5:30?*

Coming Next Month —

Help with the Grounding, Tree Trimming, and Clean-up Crew. Watch sharing notes from Sunday's service for the dates and times on the way! **Sunday, February 4: Grounding Day.**

UUA, UCC, Reconciling Congregations Worship Planning, where we take our week (our and talk about things happened in our lives, our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our dreams. The Spirit moves. The Spirit moves. Bring your ideas for worship service.

USH Hosting Statewide Touch-In on the Article II Revision January 21

We're having an inter-congregational ***Touch-In on the Article II Revision*** to the Bylaws on January 21, noon – 1 p.m.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Join with other UUs from across Connecticut. Or attend by Zoom from anywhere. Bring your questions, your hopes, your concerns, your ideas, and your **Bylaws Number 2** from your last congregational meeting. Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/94722944772

This one-hour presentation looks at where Unitarian Universalism came from and where the Article II revision might take us. The proposed changes pose a sweeping revision to the purpose and structure of our Bylaws. Congregations, District Leaders, and Committees on Ministry are asked to discuss the revisions, and it is important to be informed. The meeting is open to any Connecticut UU. Presenters are Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Ogden, Senior Consultant for the UU Society, East in Manchester, CT.

Article II of the UUA Bylaws details the purpose of the Association that covered among its member congregations. It also describes the Sources and Principles we articulated. The proposed revision would change the purpose of the Association to "Supporting Congregations Thrive. The Touch-In will help you understand the proposed revision and provide a chance to share your ideas about it.

More information here: https://uuhartford.org/news/touch-article-ii-revision/

CT Spotlight
www.ctspotlight.org

Spiritual Life Conversations are 90 minutes monthly drop-in Zoom conversations on a variety of three area churches to discuss spiritual topics.

On January 20, we consider Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and *Beyond Vietnam*! A great way to kick off our new theology is to open our minds to it's and listen to others's beliefs.

Sign up for Beyond Vietnam and for more related information.

Join us on Zoom here by 6 or – 10:30 a.m. January 20

Judy Robbins facilitates this month.

Announcing ***SpiritChat Conversations***

Regularly scheduled, drop-in, open-to-all, no-RSVP, 90-minute conversations, meet at 6 or 10:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning with January 9, 2024. Topics will be announced at the preceding meeting. Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/94722944772

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About the Article

Action was born and raised in Connecticut, and has been active in the UU and Unitarian. Upon retiring to the USA, she settled in Vermont, where she was a member of the Unitarian Society of Burlington. Upon her return to Connecticut, she joined the Unitarian Society of Hartford. She now lives in Bloomfield with her husband.

First Thursday in the Chapel, starting February 1, 6 p.m.

On the first Thursday each month, come to the Chapel for a time of reflection, sharing and quiet music. Featuring gentle music from Hilliard Greene, guitarist and composer, and Jeffrey Ogden, reflections and philosophies, and gentle meditation practices. First Thursdays are an opportunity just to be in nature, breathe, and take the time to be with friends. Hilliard Greene is a guitarist and composer. Rev. Thursday nights at Unitarian Society of Hartford: First Thursday Nature Walks, Second Thursday Meditation, Third Thursday Yoga, and Fourth Thursday Yoga, and Fourth around 6:30 p.m. 1746.

Meeting House Presents

Friday, January 19, 7 p.m.
Joe Crookston
Best Donation at the door

Email Meetinghouse@uhartford.org for Zoom connection – per Joe Crookston reservation" is the subject line.

Joe Crookston is a force of nature on the Folk Music Scene. He has been headlined Aunger CT festivals, received Folk Alliance International "Album of the Year" and

Read more about Joe and his music in **USH Meeting House Presents** on the website: https://www.joecrookston.com/

Best Eye quote: "I hate folk music, but I absolutely LOVE Joe Crookston's music."

Thank You!

Thank you everyone for your donations! The kitchen will be well-fed this weekend! Stay tuned for photos and reports on the success of our Social Spaces after the Meeting House!

USH Gatherings

For information on our weekly and monthly gatherings, click here.

Social Justice

**Please note Social Justice meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the January 16 due to Martin Luther King Day.*

January GNO: Operation Food Operation Food is the country's oldest food bank, serving as a model across the United States. Our primary purpose is to provide year-round emergency food assistance to people in need in Connecticut, aided by our statewide network of local food pantries. Our secondary purpose is to provide nutritious food and education to low to moderate income households who are struggling financially and have exhausted other options.

Operation Food fills the gap for our state's most vulnerable residents – those who are food insecure, including children, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. We help people bring their families and their lights on, prevent cooking appliances and medical equipment, store medicine and food safely, and provide a pathway to nutrition and access to training center for drinking, bathing, and laundry services.

Free Zoom Discussion Series The Sum of Us: Podcasts – Conversations on the Pursuit of Hope, Collaboration & Encouragement

The Sum of Us is a podcast and conversation series that brings together a diverse group of guests to discuss issues of hope, collaboration and encouragement. Hosted on social media, home to the largest collaborative community of people who are passionate about hope and collaboration. **The Sum of Us** is a free, no-strict dues-based community that meets every Friday at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. Our group will talk about what white Americans already have. Hartland Zoom Meeting ID: 863 4 7 9 2 0 0 Password: 1 2 3 4 5 6 Dial in: 1 646 558 8656. The first session is January 26, 2024 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time.

For more information, see the podcast, please listen to the podcast. Send questions to **Lynn Lundquist** – or, your ever-in-progress host, Rev. Rob.

For more information, talk with Judy Robbins or Gloria Sergeant, during coffee hour, and your USH Social Justice Team.

The Horace Bushnell Fund Poetry Mill Needs Contributions

It will be wonderful to see a bunch of healthy, happy people at the Poetry Mill, 1 Albany Ave, Prior St. neighborhood, site of the Horace Bushnell Congregational Fund Poetry. When making your shopping list, check "U" rather than "I" to mean quantity of poetry needed. Thanks! The Poetry Mill is a drop-off site for every week!

"Food Pantry" is fill up the every week!

Coat Drive Extended: All Winter

All sizes for men, women, and children are needed ...

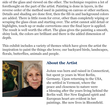
Donate new or gently used coats to support the Hartford Community Outreach Center. Please place donations in the bin located in the lobby.

RE and Chalice Clubhouse

Join the fun at USH —

Looking for a supportive, inclusive, non-judgmental place to raise your children? Perfect for UU parents! Sign up and learn about our RE program, our Unitarian Universalist congregation, and how USH can foster your family's religious or spiritual journeys.

Sign up for Sunday Series online or in person. Questions? Contact Joanie Schmitz, Interim RE Coordinator. Zoom Website for more information.



Parent only Meeting
Sunday, January 21 at 2 p.m.
Ukrainian Society of Hartford

O.W.L.S.
Our Worship Leaders
Ms & Mr Lisa Lewis
Sensitivity Education
Chaos Begin February 4th

Click HERE for this week's RE Newsletter!

USH Resources

Pie and Good Cheer – Every Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Check with departments after vacation. Please protect yourself and those around you.

Masks are available at the Welcome Table for anyone who wants one. We have both children and adult sizes.

Please be mindful of those who are at best positive for Covid in the week following, and use hand sanitizer in the office, or Rev. Rob, Sam. These things happen – we to know, many of us have had the virus once or twice – and we want to keep people informed and safe and healthy.

2023 – 2024 USH Board of Directors

Dana Donovan, President
Nancy Kemmerer, President Elect
Sam Mallon, Treasurer
Gloria Sergeant, Secretary
Lynn Lundquist, Immediately Within Council Chair
Laurie Kelliher, Membership Council Chair
Joanie Schmitz, RE Council Chair
Rob Tondreau, Spiritual Life Council Chair
Paul Clapham, Administration Council Chair
Judy Robbins, Social Justice Council Chair

Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email to ushboard@uhartford.org

Reach out to our Interim Religious Education Coordinator Joanie Schmitz for more information.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Tuesday, February 13
6:30 p.m. Hybrid
(Zoom Link HERE)

The latest financial reports for FY 2023-2024 have been posted: Click HERE to view.

See the 2023-24 Annual Report HERE.

The Board Meeting Minutes for November 2023 have been posted.

Click HERE to view the USH Directory, Reports, and Committee information online. Contact Karolina Wojtyalska for the username and password.

USH Staff:

Rev. Rob Smith, Minister
ushministers@gmail.com | 860-233-4827 ext. 103

Joanie Schmitz, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
respite@gmail.com | 860-232-9867 ext. 104

Sam Mallon, Director of Music
sam@mallonmusic.com

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper
uoh@comcast.net

Karolina Wojtyalska, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartfordsocietyuu@gmail.com | 860-233-4827 ext. 101

The deadline for USH E-news submissions is noon Tuesday.

Please write in the 'Subject' field "USH News", and include the dates that your contribution should be featured. Announcements and upcoming events appear for two consecutive weeks **maximum**, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team.

When forwarding information concerning an "outside" event or organization, please clearly state why you think it is of interest to our congregation. Please keep in mind that all material is subject to editing prior to publication.

Articles should be sent as email file attachments. (MS Word preferred) and should be in a simple format (no tabs, no jpg, jpg, gif, png, etc.) and no gifs. Thank you for your cooperation.
Editor: Tim Dailey
Production and Technology Manager: Karolina Wojtyalska

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USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for January **2024** can be viewed HERE.

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for updates and changes to events coordinated by the Unitarian Society of Hartford

To submit a Calendar Request Form for an online USH Zoom Meeting click HERE.