USH E-news May 8, 2024

"Seeking, Sharing, Soaring"

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

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

Office Administrator Hours:
Sunday 9 a.m.– 1 p.m.
Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Virtual Hours: Monday – Thursday, 5 – 7 p.m.

Sunday Morning Service
10:30 a.m. May 12

"Those We Cannot Repay"

"The People We Can't Repay" (Mother's Day) On this mother's day, we think of all those people in our lives that do more for us than we can possibly do for them. What is it like to live in such topsy-turvy worlds of debts, obligations, and boundless gratitude?

Rev. Bob Janis, Minister
Peter Meny, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Music Director
Choir

Matters of the Heart

To have a Joy or Sorrow read from the pulpit on Sunday morning, e-mail **Matters of the Heart**

In person – use **Matters of Heart** basket for written cards on Sunday morning. Please provide concise information.

Religious Education: 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 follows via Zoom;

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:

May 19 – "To Boldly Go", Membership Sunday, Reverend Bob/Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate, Annual Meeting after the service

May 26 – "Guilt and Gratitude", Memorial Day, Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, pulpit guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate/ Choir/ Board Message

June 2 – Youth Sunday, **"How Do UU See the Future?"**, Middle and high-school RE participants/Annie Witzler, Worship Leader, Sue Smolski, Worship Consultant

June 6 - First Thursday Service in the Chapel with Reverend Bob, 6 –7 p.m.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Board of Directors of The Unitarian Society of Hartford calls an Annual Meeting on May 19, 2024 at noon. 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. Members may vote online if they are not able to do so in person. There will be three items up for vote: Vote on congregational advice to GA delegates about Article 2; appointing three delegates plus an alternate; and the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors.

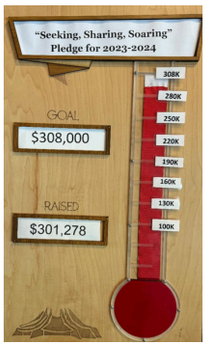
Gloria F. Mengual, Secretary
April 24, 2024

Thoughts From Rev. Bob...

Anne Lamott writes,

"I think this is how we are supposed to be in the world – present and in awe." ~ *Anne Lamott*

What are you present to today? And how are you practicing being present?



Stewardship Update

We've now passed the $300,000 mark — can we make it to $308K? **Your** support makes the difference. If you haven't yet made your pledge, call the office **today** and request a pledge form to be sent to you.

This is a wonderful response in support of USH and the revitalized spirit evident here... thank you, all!

~ Jim Venneman, Finance Chair

Become a member of USH...

A sense of belonging, a hope of warm welcome, a deep need for connection — to community, to purpose or to inspiration and maybe a touch of the divine... we come together at the Unitarian Society with so many different yearnings.

Membership offers further opportunities of connection in this vibrant community of liberal religious ideals, principled living, and simple friendship.

Life's passage is filled with twists and turns both joyful and somber, and living it in the midst of relationship smooths the voyage.

Become a member. **Rev. Bob**, **Laurie Kelliher**, and any number of friendly faces are excited to help your decision that can lead to the **May 19 New Member Ceremony**...and cake...

Is it Your Time?

Seeking: First-time or return lay pulpit speakers for the Fall and coming church year.

Qualifications: A willingness to speak your truth on a topic of your interest and to prepare with the guidance of one of our Worship Associates or our Minister.

What is it really like?: Comments from recent lay pulpit speakers who are not Worship Associates —

> "Our congregation is a very supportive and appreciative group."
>
> "It really is an opportunity to speak your truth."
>
> "The reflective process you go through is enriching and rewarding."
>
> "Relax, enjoy the opportunity as much as possible. You are talking to a friendly and forgiving group."
>
> "The Worship Associate/Minister will support you as a pulpit guest developing a service that brings out your authentic voice."

To explore further or to volunteer, contact any of our Worship Associates or **Reverend Bob**.

~ Sue Smolski

USH News

AMBULATORY ART GALLERY UPDATE

We hope you have been enjoying the wide variety of art and photography shows in the Ambulatory Gallery. Did you know that USH receives 30% of any sales? Since July 2023, that amounted to $450. All proceeds go into our treasury to support our congregation's activities.

Have a suggestion for future shows? We're open to new ideas. Contact **Diane Cadrain**, Chair, Ambulatory Art sub-council.

Robin Ruminations

What is all this I hear about Victor Lundy, USH Meeting House architect, one of the Modernists? We birds have been using all-natural materials with an emphasis on lack of ornamentation for years – eons, even – in our deign and construction techniques!

Nature lovers will recognize our Robin has been adding a new nest to older ones on our elevator vent for at least three years, using only sustainable materials....

Spring Choir Dates

Here are the choir dates for May and June. The choir is open to all USH members, friends, and guests interested in singing. Participation only requires **one** rehearsal at 9 a.m. on the morning of a choir performance. Dates the choir will be singing are:

May 12 and 26

June 2 and 16

Interested? Contact Sam at **smoffettuu@gmail.com** or (860) 371-8880.

USH Gatherings

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

SpiritChats

An Exploration of Nonduality

Upcoming SpiritChat Meetings: 5/3 & 17

Nonduality proposes that, despite appearances, none of us is really a separate entity; that everything arises from and is part of a fundamental Oneness. This is a radically different way of perceiving the world and our place in it. It is often considered an element of enlightenment. Most people first approach nonduality as an intellectual concept and then finally as a lived experience.

Spiritual Teacher, Nicholas Bartoli, a former monk, is offering Friday morning SpiritChats at the Unitarian Society of Hartford on May 3 and 17 to explore nonduality. Sessions are open to all on a drop-in basis, 10:00–11:30. A free will offering of $20 or whatever fits your means is suggested. For more information go to **https://nicholasbartoli.com**

UU SpiritLife
www.uuspiritlife.org

SpiritLife Conversations are monthly zoom drop-in sessions open to members of all three area churches to discuss spiritual topics. On May 18, we will meet from 9 – 10:30 to talk about themes that have come up this year. You need not have attended previous sessions to participate. We will consider the importance of being in the Now; what is Presence; what happens during meditation or prayer and why these practices are a part of many disparate spiritual systems. Facilitated by Judy Robbins. Go to **uuspiritlife.org** for the zoom link.

Save The Date! June 9, USH Picnic!

Borrowing Rev. Bob's recent sermon title, "the end is nigh" — the end of this program year, that is. **Much** good stuff came into being, and we are going to celebrate on June 9 with a pot-luck-style picnic.

Weather's always a factor, so the plan's to grill some burgers, dogs, and veggieburgers outside but probably eat in Fellowship Hall. (If it's a nice day, take a chair or blanket outside, and enjoy some sun.)

As always, we'll be looking for folks to help with set-up, moving things around, taking down — and, if anyone's up for organizing some games or activities, that'd be great!

If you're able to help, let Karolina know your ability and availability. (We'll provide stuff to grill, and you can bring your summer picnic specialty.) More info to come, closer to June 9...

Social Justice

April Social Justice Meeting Minutes have been posted **here**

KEEP THE PROMISE COALITION

May Good Neighbor Offering: Keep The Promise Coalition

Our Good Neighbor Offering recipient for May is Keep the Promise Coalition (ktpcoalition.org). Since 1999 Keep the Promise Coalition has worked to improve Connecticut's mental health system by protecting the rights of all people who require provided services. " We strengthen voices, share lived experiences and build the leadership needed to create change and affect policies on all levels."

Horace Bushnell Food Pantry

REMEMBER HORACE BUSHNELL CHLDRENS' FOOD PANTRY NEEDS PROTEIN LIKE

- Peanut Butter (and of course, jelly!)
- Canned tuna
- Shelf stable milks (dairy and non-d
- Broth

Thank you for remembering to add these items to your shopping list!

Join us for the Sum of Us May 16

The next **Sum of Us** podcast on **Thursday. May 16, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** on Zoom.

Dallas, TX to Albuquerque, NM –Journey of Faith for Reproductive Rights – How faith leaders were a linchpin of abortion access before Roe vs. Wade, and how attacks on abortion rights are being addressed today.

Zoom Link for **Sum of Us** discussions.

THE VILLAGE FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The Village for Families and Children is supported by four Second Chance thrift shops, located in Glastonbury, Simsbury, West Hartford, and Suffield. The photo above is of the Second Chance Shop at 175 Park Road in West Hartford. The Shops are run by all volunteer Village Auxiliaries. Auxilians spend a few hours a month pricing, sorting, and selling donations, enjoy social events in their area and educational sessions at The Village. Donations of new or gently used clothes, house wares, toys, books, and jewelry are welcome when the Shops are open. Volunteers are always needed and are the face of The Village in their communities. Becoming a Village Auxilian is an enjoyable way members of USH can serve The Village. You can find hours of operation for donations, shopping, and information about how to volunteer **here**

RE and Chalice Clubhouse

Join the fun at USH —

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.

Join us on June 2nd for our annual Youth Service led by USH's middle and high school RE participants! Our theme this year is: How Do UU See the Future? Don't miss this glimpse into the next generation of UU's!

Click HERE for this week's RE Newsletter

HGMC Concert

Have you ever felt alone, isolated, or different? Come join the Hartford Gay Men's Chorus for our spring show, "Never Alone". Witness through song, the power of singing together in a GALA chorus and the joy of acceptance and strength through music and others. You are "Never Alone"

USH Resources

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Tuesday, May 14

6:30 p.m. Hybrid

Zoom Link HERE

2023 – 2024 USH Board of Directors

Dana Donovan: President
Nancy Kemmerer: President-Elect
Jon Covault: Treasurer
Gloria Mengual: Secretary
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
Rick Tsukada: Spiritual Life Council Chair

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

The latest financial reports for FY 2023-2024 have been posted; click **HERE** to view.

See the 2022/23 Annual Report **HERE**

The **Board Meeting Minutes** for March 2024 have been posted.

Click **HERE** to view the USH Directory, Reports, and other church business information online. Contact **Karolina Wojtysko** for the username and password.

Link for Welcome Team Sign-Up Genius

USH Staff:

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

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

Sam Moffett, Director of Music
smoffettuu@gmail.com

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com

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

The deadline for USH E-news submissions is
noon Tuesday

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.

When forwarding information concerning an "outside" event or organization, **please pre-edit your copy** in order to keep the piece to 200 words or less. Note that all material is subject to editing prior to publication.

Articles should be sent as email file attachments, (MS Word preferred) and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thank you for your cooperation.
Editor-in-Chief: Tina Davies
Production and Technology Manager: Karolina Wojtysko

Email Your Submission

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click HERE

Want to Donate Online? Click Here

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for **May 2024** 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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