

USH E-News: February 5, 2025

*"Nourishing Spirit,
Building Community,
Working for Justice"*

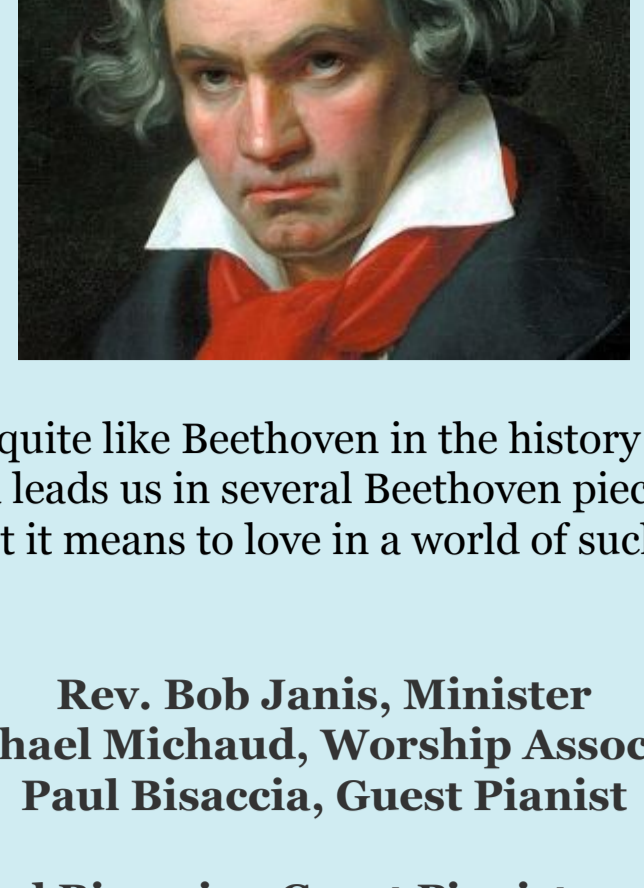
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
(860) 233-9897
Email: office@hartforduu.org
www.hartforduu.org

***Please check your email inbox for any weather-related cancellations. USH will send out an email if any scheduled USH services or USH events/gatherings are canceled.**

Minister Thursday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. – noon or by appointment.	Office Hours Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
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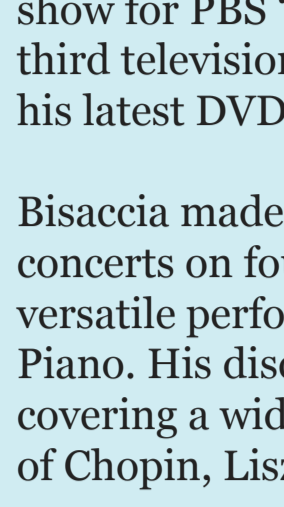
**Sunday Morning Service
February 9, 10:30**

"Love, Loss, and the Moonlight Sonata"



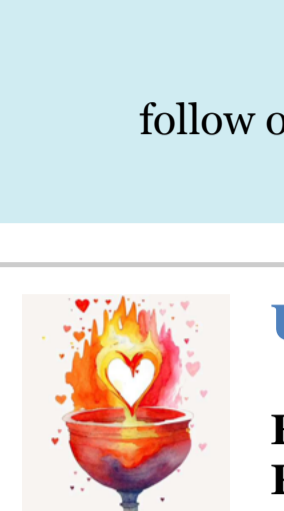
There is no one else quite like Beethoven in the history of music. As guest pianist Paul Bisaccia leads us in several Beethoven pieces, Rev. Bob leads a reflection about what it means to love in a world of such loss, and such beauty.

**Rev. Bob Janis, Minister
Michael Michaud, Worship Associate
Paul Bisaccia, Guest Pianist**



Paul Bisaccia – Guest Pianist
Paul Bisaccia is known for his virtuoso performances as well as his entertaining stories which delight his audiences and his devoted television fans. His vast repertoire includes the great piano classics as well as the complete solo piano music of George Gershwin. He was the first artist to record the complete solo piano music of Gershwin and his PBS television special, *Gershwin by Bisaccia*, has been broadcast throughout the U.S. and seen by millions. Michael Feinstein calls *Paul Bisaccia and the Great American Piano*, his second television show for PBS "imaginative, fun, well played and totally satisfying." His third television program, *Chopin by Bisaccia* is now available on his latest DVD release, *Bisaccia on Television!*

Bisaccia made his European debut in Romania at age 17 and has performed concerts on four continents. He is also a prolific recording artist and a versatile performer of both the great classics and Great American Piano. His discography includes over 450 individual compositions, covering a wide range of composers including huge segments of the music of Chopin, Liszt and Gershwin.



Michael Michaud – Worship Associate
Michael has been a Unitarian Spiritualist 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.

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**
*** Note: Zoom Coffee Hour ends at noon**

Worship is also streamed on **Facebook** – follow our page and receive notifications every time we go live.
[2025 Services](#)

Upcoming Worship Services, 10:30 a.m.

February 6, Thursday, 6 p.m. – Chapel Service with Reverend Bob/Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

February 9 – "Love, Loss, and the Moonlight Sonata", Reverend Bob/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate/Paul Bisaccia, guest pianist returns

February 16 – "Put Love In the Center", Reverend Andrew Millard, pulpit guest/ Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

February 23 – "The Possibility of Forgiveness", Reverend Bob/Ben Harvey & Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associates

March 2 - "Moving Forward Together: Women's History Month", Sue Smolski, Margaret Leicach & Miriam Byrdoe, Worship Leaders/Marye Gail Harrison, poet/ Sarah McKenzie, singer.

This Sunday, February 9: Virtuoso performer of classics and Americana, Paul Bisaccia, will be back at our piano on February 9th for a collaborative worship service with Rev. Bob on Ludwig van Beethoven entitled *Love, Loss and the Moonlight Sonata*. Paul is a prolific recording artist whose discography includes over 450 individual compositions, covering a wide range of composers including huge segments of the music of Chopin, Liszt and Gershwin.

Message from Reverend Bob...

Keep an eye on your inbox for an email in the next few days, asking for your input on how we might act as a congregation in these extraordinary times.

You've probably been watching the news. There's a good chance your head is spinning. With every day, there's some new attention-grabbing headline about what the administration is doing next.

We are a religious, not a political, organization. We are a diverse group; we don't align exactly with any political party, nor do we attempt to. We do, however, do what progressive religious organizations have tried to do throughout the history of humankind: speak up for our values, be there for the most vulnerable, and work for a better world.

Being out there in the world isn't just an imperative for the sake of the world – it's what we are called to do as well. In his very moving sermon, Carl Shields spoke of engagement as one of the Four Pillars, helping us live meaningfully in the world (if you need a reminder of what the four pillars are, you can find them explained at <https://centerforworldandfaith.org/article/item/the-four-pillars-to-happines-at-work> As Marye Gail Harrison reminded me the other day, engagement is a spiritual necessity and a requirement to our personal health. We need to do something.

You may be already doing something individually, but we will be asking you for your input on what we might do collectively. Please respond this month, or come to a service and congregational meeting about this on Sunday, February 23.

Speaking of someone doing something, check out this sterling editorial by USH member Doris Maldonado Mendez. <https://ctmirror.org/2025/02/03/ded-programs-are-essential-to-tackle-systemic-barriers/>. Thank you for speaking up, Doris!

*Blessings,
Rev. Bob*

USH General Interest

**"Resilience" –
A Message for Our Time**



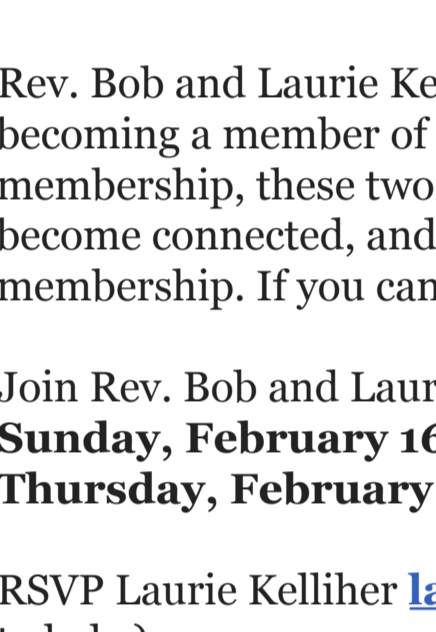
If you were at the Meeting House last Sunday, the spectacular painting at left undoubtedly caught your eye. There are stories in this painting, and they will unfold through the spring...and beyond?

Some basic information, though, comes from Reverend Bob: "The JCC has an annual program called *Under One Roof*, that brings together artworks from a variety of institutions on one theme. This year's theme is *Resilience*. I was given a blank canvas but learned about it (the program) late... Barbara Alex and Helen David worked tirelessly (I think over 50 hours!) to make that beautiful painting."

Barbara and Helen brought the just-completed art to USH on its way to the Mandell Jewish Community Center (JCC) so it could meet the entry deadline, giving us a 'sneak preview' in advance of the exhibit. The full show opens May 6, runs through most of June, and is open to the public.

More on that later, and we hope to hear from Helen and Barbara on their inspiration in creating *Resilience*.

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

Rev. Bob and Laurie Kelliher will have two sessions for those interested in becoming a member of the USH congregation. Though not a requirement for membership, these two meetings explore the UU religion, USH history, ways to become connected, and an opportunity to meet with others interested in membership. If you can only attend one session, you are more than welcome.

Join Rev. Bob and Laurie Kelliher for these two meetings:
Sunday, February 16, 11:45 – 1:00 (Soup Sunday)
Thursday, February 20, 7–9 p.m.

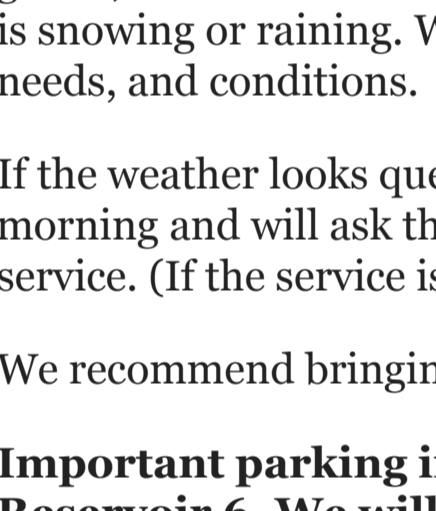
RSVP Laurie Kelliher larkkelliher@gmail.com (so I know how many cookies to bake)

**"The Mids" (20s/30s/40s) meeting
Saturday, February 8, 7:00 p.m. @ USH**



Our first young (-ish) adult meet-up of 2025! If you are at or around the age range 20-50, come on by for a social meet and greet, in the library of USH. As well as getting to know each other, we'll also be sharing thoughts about life in the current administration, and justice initiatives we might be interested in pursuing, individually or collectively. No RSVP necessary but feel free to email Rev. Bob at minister@hartforduu.org with any questions. Thanks!

**USH hiking group offers a winter walk!
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9 at 2 p.m.**



It's time to get outside for a walk in the woods - to make use of one of the four pillars spoken of during the wonderful sermon on Sunday. The USH hiking group will host a winter walk at the West Hartford Reservoir known as Reservoir Six, which is located on the north side of Route 44 as Route 44 proceeds up Avon Mountain.

The walk will take place at **2 p.m. on Sunday, February 9**. It will be flat, gentle, and fun. We will go ahead even if there is snow on the ground, but not if it is snowing or raining. We will also adjust the length depending on interest, needs, and conditions.

If the weather looks questionable, we will make a final decision on Sunday morning and will ask that it be announced from the pulpit on Sunday at the service. (If the service is cancelled due to snow, we will not proceed.)


We recommend bringing walking sticks if you have them.

Important parking information: There are two public parking lots at Reservoir 6. We will meet at the lot located at the water plant, which is accessible from the paved road that runs through the entrance parking lot and then proceeds around the east side of the lake. Follow that road until its end, where you will see the water plant itself; the road then turns briefly uphill to your left, where you will see a parking lot that overlooks the plant and also offers views of downtown Hartford.

IF THE GATE AT THE FAR END OF THE ENTRANCE LOT IS CLOSED, which will be obvious when you enter from Route 44, then we will meet at the entrance lot.

We look forward to seeing you!

**PIZZA AND MOVIE NIGHT
Friday, FEBRUARY 14
FELLOWSHIP HALL**




5:00 p.m. – Gather for popcorn, soda, & socializing
5:30 – Pizza's delivered; sit and EAT
6:30 – Movie and discussion

\$15, for PIZZA, SALAD, AND DESSERT (or \$5/slice)

Join us for an evening of conversation, pizza, salad, dessert and movie, plus sharing impressions following the movie. Our February movie will be *Past Lives*... this little-seen 2022 release (Korean, with English subtitles when necessary) offers a reflection on complications presenting themselves when childhood friends reconnect in adulthood amid other commitments.

Sign up at Fellowship Hour at the Caring Network table, or email [Janice Newton](mailto:JaniceNewton). \$15* covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference.
*Or \$5/slice, for the light eaters.

**LUNCH BUNCH:
Tuesday, February 18: Noon – 2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**



Join us in Fellowship Hall for camaraderie and conversation while enjoying your brown-bag lunch. Bring what you like – there's a microwave, if heating's required – and please bring your own beverage, too.

Sign up at Fellowship Hour at the Caring Network table, or email [Janice Newton](mailto:JaniceNewton) so we know how many places to set up.

**Meeting House Presents:
Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters**



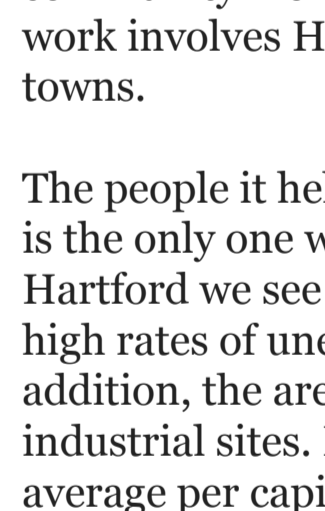
Fridy, February 21, 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$20 at the door

The powerhouse duo of Amy Gallatin and renowned resophonic guitarist Roger Williams – 20 and 40 year veterans of the New England music scene – joined forces a few years ago to explore their mutual love of country standards, served up with an acoustic treatment in the bluegrass vein.

The result is a toe-tapping blend of heartfelt vocals, soaring harmonies and red-hot picking, traditional yet modern and distinct.

Social Justice

The Brother Carl Hardrick Institute (BCHI) is February's Good Neighbor Offering



Brother Carl Hardrick is now in his eighties. For over 50 years he worked with the youth in Hartford's North End to mitigate gang and other violence. His work received national recognition. When the Hartford Police were asked what could be done to suppress violence, they said "Give us more Brother Carls." The **BCHI** was created to meet this need, for it trains community members on how to diffuse tense situations. While most of its work involves Hartford residents, it also works with groups in surrounding towns.

The people it helps are our neighbors. The Hartford Promise Zone, which is the only one with Federal recognition in New England, is the part of Hartford we see when we look out our Chapel's windows. It has alarmingly high rates of unemployment, violent crime, and food insecurity. In addition, the area is marked with several blighted commercial and industrial sites. It is also one of the poorest in the country. The zone's average per capita income is \$12,099 and only 38.3% of residents have a high school degree. Such areas noted and only 38.3% of BCHI works to mitigate.

The institute's work can be best summed up by Brother Carl's words, which are: "When you say you're going to help them, they're going to call you at 2 o'clock in the morning. The question is, are you going to respond? So every time they called me, I was always there, whether it was a school issue, whether it was a fight, because everybody fails. The question is picking yourself up."

Horace Bushnell Food Pantry and Coat Drive



Yes, Horace Bushnell is in the "Promise Zone": "One of the poorest areas in our country with an average per capita income of \$12,099 and just 38.3% of residents have a high school diploma".

Please help provide Healthy Food and good Warm Coats to the folks in this area *we see when we look out our Chapel windows

*In gratitude,
Diana Heymann*

Religious Education

TEACHER NEEDED FOR FEBRUARY 9:
The February 9 Explorer class will be about nature, sounds of nature (and love). We need a teacher for the group.

SUNDAY MOVIE: BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM There was a good crowd for this and everyone loved the film.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY: The UUA General Assembly is in Baltimore on June 18-22. (see attached [101th General Assembly flyer](#)) Youth are encouraged to attend. Kindly see: <https://www.uua.org/usa>. Let's have a great showing and meet youth from other congregations across the USA and beyond!

YOUTH GROUP FEBRUARY 9: Will ask for a discussion about another Con (last one was great!) and I will seek suggestions about what should be on the website UUYWN.ORG.

SEEKING TO START YOUNG ADULT GROUP: We have a few terrific former youth who have aged out of the program. Sometimes we also have young college students visit. From this small group we will try to form a young adult group. Kindly watch this space. If you know potential candidates, please let me know.

USH Resources

**February 2025 Board Meeting:
Tuesday, 2/10, 6:30 p.m.
Zoom Link**

2024 – 2025 USH Board of Directors –

- Nancy Kemmerer:** President
- Nina Elgo:** President-Elect
- Jon Covault:** Treasurer
- Gloria Mengual:** Secretary
- Laura Cipriano:** Community Within Council Chair
- Laurie Kelliher:** Membership Council Chair
- Jim Veneman:** Finance Council Chair
- Rick Tsukada:** Spiritual Life Council Chair
- Paul Cipriano:** Administration Council Chair
- Judy Sullivan:** Social Justice Council Chair

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

The latest financial reports for FY 2024-2025 have been posted; click [HERE](#) to view.

See the **2023/24 Annual Report** [HERE](#)

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

Click [HERE](#) to view the USH Directory, Reports, and other church business information online. Contact [Karolina Wojtylko](mailto:Karolina.Wojtylko) for the username and password.

[Link for Welcome Team Sign-Up](#) [Join Us](#) Quarter 1 2025

USH Staff:

Rev. Bob Janis, Minister
ministers@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Karolina Wojtylko, Church Operations Manager
office@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Shahan Islam, Director of Religious Education
shahan@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music
music@hartforduu.org

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper
ushtreasurer20@gmail.com

**The deadline for USH E-news submissions is
noon Tuesday!**

Dates write in the 'Subject' field "USH Enews", and include the date 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. **Also, please submit editable material** (text and images separately from or as a "poster" format).

Articles should be sent as email file attachments, (MS Word preferred) and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, png, gif, tiff, bmp, or gif files.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Editor-in-Chief: Tina Davies
Production and Technical Expertise: Karolina Wojtylko

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for February 2025 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 or Zoom Meeting click [HERE](#).

Try email marketing for free today!