



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Website: www.ushartford.com

**Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm,
or email/call for an appointment.**

JUNE 16, 2021

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



June 20th, 2021, 10:00am

“Roses in Concrete”

"When is a community garden more than a community garden? When it's a tool of very slow, very relational revolution, or what Grace Lee Boss called [r]evolution. Come for a dose of inspiration, a little bit of nature and a lot of hope for the world we can build if we're just a little brave and a lot loving. Based on a chapter from Sandhya's book Transforming Communities: How People Like You Are Healing Their Neighborhoods."

Rev. Sandhya Rani Jha, Guest Speaker

Rayla D. Mattson, DRE

Sam Moffett, DMM

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

Buffie, Coffee Hour Host

10:00am Worship Service - Join us [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113

Passcode: 014277

11:00am - [Fellowship Time](#) will be immediately following services in Zoom. Coffee Hour will resume as usual next Sunday.



Sandhya Jha (she/they) is an equity and anti-oppression consultant with years of experience in the field. Sandhya continues to work part-time at the Oakland Peace Center, a collective of 40 organizations working to create equity, access and dignity as the means of creating peace in Oakland and the Bay Area, which they founded in 2012.

An ordained Disciple of Christ minister with a masters in public policy, Sandhya is comfortable in the pulpit, on the picket line or hanging out with friends and friends-to-be over a good cup of tea and a good story. She is a passionate reader, author, and has a Podcast, Hope from the Hood.

Read full Bio here: <https://sandhyajha.com/about-me/>

Email and Related Listserv Arrangements to Change

In recent months those who receive email from US Hartford email addresses have reported email not being received in a dependable way. Certain large providers such as AOL, Comcast, Hotmail and a few others have become very picky about emails they will accept and deliver to their customers. This results in some USH email being labeled spam or simply deleted to the frustration of the senders and receivers.

To deal with this increasingly frustrating issue, email addresses associated with USH will be migrating to Gmail, a large provider of services likely to be accepted by all other service providers. Associated with these changes, we will be moving our web servers to a new service provider and terminating use of listservs. Board members have been briefed on the contemplated changes approved by the Chairs of Community Within and Administration.

For those who wish to obtain a listing of the email addresses on a particular listserv, either Buffie Pinney or David Newton can provide the current and probably a little outdated listing of addresses, which can be further edited for individual use.

During this period of migration, email directed to old addresses will be forwarded to the new ones established by staff members. This forwarding is contemplated to continue until October 1st.

You can help by recording any new email address that appear in use and exercising the usual Unitarian understanding of diversity in problems of digital life.

Submitted by David Newton

RE News You Can Use: Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education

HELLO USH FAMILY!!

Story time with our DRE - <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianSocietyOfHartford>

Please join the DRE on Sunday, June 20th for a discussion on plans and ideas for RE next year. I'd love to hear from you. Everyone is welcomed. You don't have to have children in the program to participate. Rayla Mattson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Rayla Mattson's Zoom Meeting
Time: Jun 20, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[JOIN ZOOM MEETING HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 920 5277 1201
Passcode: 294245

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/avL74fPz5>

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education
860-233-9897 ext. 104 | ctraylab@gmail.com
I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

BRAYER/WISER
COURAGE AND COMPASSION FOR LIFE AS IT IS



Preparing to Let Go Rayla Mattson

"It has long been an axiom of mine that the little things are infinitely the most important."

—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in *"A Case of Identity"*

The year I graduated from college, I got a job and moved in with family friends. They were more family than friends, so when they bought a house, they got one with an in-law apartment so I could move in with them. It was great! I had my own entrance and bathroom and living space, but what I didn't have was a kitchen.

One month the grandmother came to visit and noticed me going in and out of their kitchen. Shortly after she left, I received an electric tea kettle in the mail. (At that time, I didn't know an electric tea kettle was even a thing!) She said she thought I might enjoy being able to make my own tea in my little apartment. I loved the fact that I could plug it in and make my tea.

My kettle has traveled with me to several states. It's been with me through marriage and divorce and the birth of my three children. That little tea kettle is the only way my children have ever made tea.

During the pandemic, the tea kettle came in handy. It spent time in all our bedrooms and in my office. It's easy to grab and plug in just before a meeting, and ensures warm beverages during long Zoom calls. The other day during one such meeting, I prepared everything for my meeting and my tea and plugged in the kettle. Partway through the meeting, I noticed the kettle was still cold. Later I checked in with my daughter who said that most days, the kettle no longer works.

This little tea kettle has seen me through so much of my adult life. I know it's okay to let it go but I can't—because I feel sad to lose a spiritual practice that I didn't even realize I had; a practice I took for granted but that I can now recognize, honor, and appreciate. So for now, the kettle sits cold and unused in my room.

As I let it go (or try to let it go), I wonder if there are other things I must say goodbye to that I'm not quite ready to let go of.

Rayla D. Mattson (she/her/hers) serves as the Director of Religious Education for the Unitarian Society of Hartford (CT). Outside of congregational life, she is raising her three beautiful children as a single mom.

Social Justice at USH



Hello Beloved Ones,

The 2021 Pride season is upon us bringing joy, celebration, grief, anger, and so many other emotions along with it. There is no one way to be during Pride, and that's OK. And as always, there is so much beauty and courage to celebrate, alongside the mighty work left to do to ensure all who exist within our LGBTQIA+ community can thrive and flourish.

To these ends, the Welcoming Congregations of Unitarian Universalism have been invited to join [Inclusive Justice of Michigan](#), [The National LGBTQ Task Force](#), and other national equality organizations for **The Colors of Pride** during the month of June to offer activities focused on the liberation of people targeted by unjust legislation, oppressive public policies, and harmful policing practices.

By engaging the faith community around these activities, we are acknowledging that many people hide behind their religious convictions as reasons for opposing the LGBTQ community and the legislation that would provide for their safety and support. Many of these same people of faith are silent when it comes supporting efforts for racial justice and the Black Lives Matter movement.

The Colors of Pride is an opportunity for congregations to publicly support equality during Pride month and commemorate Juneteenth. **Our goal is to create opportunities for allyship with the queer community, Black and Brown communities, and congregations by engaging at least 300 congregations nationwide to agree to participate in our pro-equality actions during Pride month.**

THERE ARE THREE EASY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

1) SHOW A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE: Throughout Pride Month, during your weekly service or on your website and Facebook page, show a pre-recorded message from national religious leaders speaking about the

importance of supporting Intersectional Equality by supporting the [Equality Act](#). Each message is 6 minutes or less.

Introduction to the Colors of Pride - [Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow](#) (Detroit)

[Rabbi Denise Eger](#) (Los Angeles)

[Bishop Karen Oliveto](#) (Denver)

[Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti](#) - (Ann Arbor)

2) SIGN UP FOR PRIDE WEEK ACTIONS: Sign up to participate in a variety of opportunities during our Pride Week (June 11-19) to educate your congregation on upcoming equality legislation from [the Equality Act](#) to the [George Floyd Policing Act](#) to our national Juneteenth Celebration!

Wednesday June 16th @ 8pm ET - "[Schedule, Script and Speak](#)" training

Saturday June 19th @ 12pm ET [The Juneteenth Celebration on YouTube](#)

[CLICK HERE to join Pride Week Actions](#)

3) ACCESS THE TOOLKIT: Use [The Colors of Pride Tool Kit](#) assembled by national equality organizations to provide your congregation with the latest information on legislation and how to support the LGBTQ community this Pride Month and beyond! You may share information and resources on social media and local print media.

Will you partner with us in this "pride outside of the box" celebration?

We know that Pride is a busy time for many congregation. All the information you need to participate in **The Colors of Pride** can be found in the [Action Toolkit](#). You are free to participate in as many actions as time permits.

If you have any questions about involving your Welcoming Congregation in **The Colors of Pride** celebration and actions, please email lgbtq@uua.org.

Thank You ... and HAPPY PRIDE!

Rev. Michael J. Crumpler (He/Him/His)

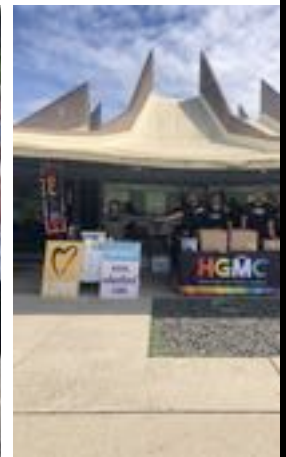
LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director

Ministries and Faith Development

USH Community & Business



USH & The Hartford Gay Men's Chorus (HGMC) would like to thank everyone who supported the food drive !!



UU SpiritLife

UU SpiritLife offers spiritually-focused programs to members and friends of the three Hartford area UU churches.

Fall 2021 Offerings Include:

Daytime

Spirituality for UUs - This course helps UUs to establish and deepen their spiritual lives in a religion without a creed. 12 weekly Zoom sessions; Sept 7-Nov 23; Tues, 10 am-noon with Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada

Evening

Living Your Faith - participants articulate the tenets of their faith and explore how this faith is manifested in their daily lives. 12 Sessions; Tue: 7:00-8:30; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

-- OR -- (Either Living Your Faith OR Spiritual Practices for UUs will be offered, depending on the sign-ups for the two programs)

Spiritual Practices for UUs is a 9-month program in which participants experiment with different spiritual practices to explore how these practices can change how they experience and live life. 16 Sessions; Tue: 7:00-8:30; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

Tending Your Spiritual Garden - participants explore how they might reap the bounty of a soulful spirituality. 2 Sessions; Thu 7:00-8:30; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

Being a Monk in the World - finding and living from your inner monastery. Four conversational Zoom sessions, including a review of recent writings on the subject. First Wed 7:00-8:30; Sept-Dec. with David Gonci

How Your Former Catholicism Can Expand Your UUism - Ex-Catholic? No need to drop it all. 8 Zoom sessions on alternate Thurs starting Oct 14; 6-7:30 pm. With Rev Joy Christi Przeworski and Judy Robbins.

For more complete information including registration visit

www.UUSpiritLife.org.



Summer Worship - "Embracing and Releasing"

Summer worship at USH is lay-led by thoughtful, observant, caring and committed members of our congregation. This year the theme of "Embracing and Releasing" will bring sermons opening us to contemplation of the array of emotions and insights we have encountered in the many months since March 2020. So much has happened; our lives, our sleep, our families and friends, the very structure of our days have been affected yet we keep on keeping on.

We will open with General Assembly on June 27 and on the 4th of July we are welcomed to All Souls UU, New London. The calendar for the lay services is currently a scaffold; titles will change and more information will develop as sermons and worship are written and revised but most importantly, take a look at our wonderful speakers and anticipate a summer of embracing and releasing.

June 27 - General Assembly: Live-streamed country-wide UU worship

July 4 - All Souls New London with Rev Carolyn Patierno

July 11 - Judy Robbins "A Summer's Day with Mary Oliver"

July 18 - Rick Tsukada "A Requiem: We are Sorrow, We are Beauty, We are Love"

July 25 - John Bengtson "How to have hard conversations"

August 1 - Lisa Galinski "Crossing the Edge"

August 8 - Sue Spaniol/Artists' Way "The Gift of a Year"

August 15 - Title TBA - Judy Robbins/Rick Tsukada

August 22 - "Making Peace" - Margaret Leicach/ Sue Smolski
August 29 - "Happiness In the Midst of Chaos" - Rob Spector
Sept 5 - TBD

All services will remain on-line until Ingathering September 12th when, fingers crossed, we will resume in-person worship at the Meeting House with a live feed to your home.

~ **Submitted by Laurie Kelliher, WA Coordinator**

~~ **Updated - Sue Smolski, WA Coordinator 2020-22**

Stewardship Follow-up

Thanks to all who have pledged. If you haven't yet but intend to, please let Peter Meny, plmeny9@gmail.com, our pledge follow up lead, know your intentions re: pledging so he won't need to call.

As always, you can give by check, credit card, or automatic withdrawal from your checking account – either monthly or in a lump sum. Gifts are tax deductible. If you encounter difficulties or have questions, contact me or our accountant Brian Mullen. Please give as generously as you can to help to maintain USH as a vital and caring community for all of us. Thank you.

~**Submitted By Martha Bradley, Board President**



Meetings at the Meeting House!

It was a delight to see so many faces — some fully-vaccinated souls unmasked, even! — at our flower communion drive-through. There was a sense of emerging from a dark, lonely cave into sunlight and laughter, and a promise of more bright days to come.

Some of you have asked about whether in-person gatherings are happening at the Meeting House, and the answer is yes!

A few guidelines are in order, none of which are new. If you're like me, though, you might notice that some of the personal software-- which allows functioning as a civilized person--has been overwritten during the pandemic. I, for one, have gone rather feral. Thus, I need some gentle reminders when it comes to real human interactions.

Here's what to do if your group wants to meet in person at USH. The list isn't exhaustive... someone always comes up with some additions... but it'll get us started:

Check the events calendar on the website. The calendar is your friend. Any planned usage of space should be included here. Assuming you see no conflicts for day, time, and space, contact Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com to schedule the space and get your event onto the calendar. Copy Rayla in as well at ctraylab@gmail.com; she may be dealing with a rental prospect, and needs to know how our space is being utilized.

If your gathering includes some people participating from home, arrange for one of USH's Zoom links to be reserved. One of the benefits (?) of this pandemic comes from broadening virtual connections; let's take advantage of this to continue including those unable to be here in person.

When you do meet, at the end of your gathering please take a few minutes to tidy up and leave things organized for the next group. (You know... re-set the thermostat; turn lights out; don't leave dirty dishes, etc.)

These basic acts of courtesy and consideration once were second nature and will be so again once we reacclimate. Be gentle with yourselves and with each other, and enjoy being together again.

Programs for Adults and Families



Introduction to the Enneagram

This free 3-session summer program will introduce you to the Enneagram, a system of personality types that many find reliable and useful for both personal and spiritual growth. You'll be provided with the official test to learn your type and many resources and handouts to explore further, both in the group and on your own. Sessions will be scheduled 10:30am to noon on 3 dates in July and August, to be selected by the group. First and third sessions will be on Zoom, the second (hopefully) in person. For a link to a concise description of the

enneagram, go to Wikipedia or text the facilitator, Anne Bailey, at 860-798-4765. For more information or to register, contact Anne at 860-379-7740 or abailey379@gmail.com. Registration will be open through June 26.

About your facilitator: Anne Bailey is a lifelong UU and member of UC West Hartford who has a knack for research and finding resources. She has been acquainted with the Enneagram for more than 20 years and has found it an invaluable tool for better self-understanding and improving relationships with others.

Submitted by USH member, Judy Robbins

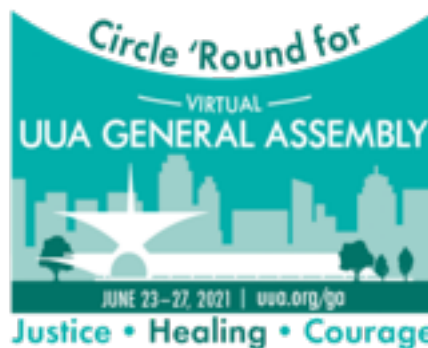
Adult Programs:

The USH Book Club: Meets **monthly**, on the **2nd Thursday**, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, via Zoom. All adults in the USH community are welcome. Please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

20's/30's Group: If you would like to join, please email Tara Cote at tcote11@gmail.com.

Disability Support Group: This group has moved its gathering online. Please reach out to the facilitators for more info. 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 room stays in the group. Email **Don Hope** for more information at donhope48@gmail.com or call at **860 463 7982**.

2021 General Assembly



Here is the link for GA information and

registration: General Assembly: [The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting](https://uua.org/go)

UUA General Assembly & Conference Services

We are pleased to announce that our Saturday Morning Worship will be led by a collaborative team from three congregations in the Greater Hartford, CT area. The congregations have been growing in collaboration and covenant for years. A huge welcome to our worship leaders: Rev. Adam Robersmith, Dianne Daniels, Rev. Dr. Josh Pawelek, and Rayla D. Mattson, DRE of USH. In their intergenerational service, that share with you how they learn, practice, pray and dream. #UUConnect # UUAGA



During this pandemic, we have moved nearly everything we do online. As we open up, many congregations will be maintaining online options to participate, too. No matter where you are in the world, you can be a part of a Unitarian Universalist community.

Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith,
GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader



Imagine a church that encourages members and friends to embrace and honor each other's beliefs and provides opportunities to worship together as one faith. We are a loving, diverse, and open-minded religious community that encourages and empowers you to seek your own spiritual path, wherever it leads.

Dianne M. Daniels,
GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader



We know collaboration among congregations matters because our theology is sacramental, because our principles center our interdependence, because remaining in our geographical silos now keeps us small and parochial at a time when we are called to burst forth proudly with our messages of love, compassion, and justice.

Rev. Josh Pawelek,
GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader



Advice for first time attendees to a virtual General Assembly:

Try something new!
Meet someone new!
It's OK to be afraid.
What if it turns out really well?

Rayla D. Mattson,
GA Saturday Morning Worship Leader

Caring Network

From the USH Caring Network:

Valerie Klokow would like some help with meals. Standing and cooking have become very difficult for her. She does not feel it is safe for any of us to bring meals to her home. She would welcome gift cards from GRUB HUB, or from restaurants that deliver meals. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE RESTAURANTS DELIVER THE MEALS.** Thank you for any help you can give.
~Janice Newton

From the USH Caring Network: Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member experiencing some difficulty, please contact Eve Pech or any member of the Caring Network so we can provide some assistance. A wide range of community services is also available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at 211.

News in the Larger Community

Virtual Nonprofit Workshop Series JUNE 2021

Upcoming Events

****Please note: registration is required for each individual workshop in advance***

BOARD MEMBER BOOTCAMP

Wednesday, June 23, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Presenter: Mae Maloney, Leadership Greater Hartford

Newly appointed nonprofit board members or serving board members that have never received formal board training will learn about the ten basic responsibilities of nonprofit boards as well as the duties of individual board members, relationship between board and staff, and common issues facing nonprofit boards. PowerPoint presentation and other handouts will be emailed to participants. [Click here to register](#)

All workshops are offered at no cost to participants through a partnership between Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Hartford Public Library

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL WORKSHOP IN ADVANCE

If you have any questions, please email nonprofitslearn@hplct.org.

News from the USH Board of Directors

Your 2020-2021 USH Board

Martha Bradley: President

Rob Spector: President-Elect

Bob Hewey: Treasurer

Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary

Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair

Jon Covault: Administration Council Chair

Dana Donovan: Social Justice Council Chair

Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

The latest financial reports for **Nov-Dec 2020 & Jan-Feb 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **March & April 2021** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may have missed or find a link to the USH Facebook Page [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the

Unitarian Society of Hartford: www.ushartford.com/events/

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

To read the USH Blog click [HERE](#).

E-News Contributors please take note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be included in the 'Subject' field.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister

revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revheatherrionstarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

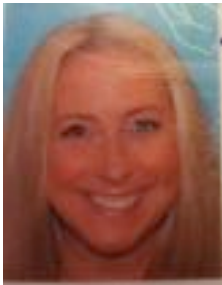
Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)
USHInternDD@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager
dre@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

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

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper
 Office or Phone by Appointment | bmullen@ushartford.com



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie is working Sunday through Thursday from 9am-2pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at **hartforduusociety@gmail.com**.
Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon.

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Please note in the subject line "USH-Enews." Thank you for your submission!

**Peace – as we come to the close of the USH-Enews week.
 Be kind to others – and to yourself.**

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles: The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to affirm and promote: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process, within our congregations and in society at large; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. Consider the proposed 8th Principle as well! <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>.