



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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

Website: www.ushartford.org

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

July 14, 2021

**Building Community Since 1830
Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister**



In Japan, a Torii Gate is the door between the ordinary and the sacred.

July 18th, 2021, 10:00am

"A Requiem: We are Sorrow, We are Beauty, We are Love"

Join us as we reflect, remember and celebrate these last eighteen months when our lives have been upended with changes that run the gamut: sadness and loneliness but also unexpected discoveries, many of which have gone unnamed yet are deeply meaningful. Come let us worship! The worship team will be in our sanctuary for this the **first** service live streamed using our new audio/visual equipment.

Rick Tsukada, Guest Speaker

Judy Robbins & Sue Smolski, Worship Associates

Sam Moffett, DMM

Paul Cipriano, Mike & Jon Covault, Media Team

Zoom Master & Coffee Hour Host, Buffie Pinney

Chancel Art, Kathie Ferguson

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

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113

Passcode: 014277

Please note that "chat" will be available during prelude only, and then will be available again for coffee hour.

**11:00am - [Fellowship Time](#)
will be immediately following services
in USH Zoom.**

Unitarian Society of Hartford is on Vimeo

Unitarian Society of Hartford is on Vimeo, the home for high quality videos and the people who love them. See more at vimeo.com.

Please note that closed captions are NOT available in Vimeo.

**You can also watch the Sunday service livestream
at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhrtford> or on the [USH Facebook page](#).**



**"I'll Be Seeing UU!" THIS
SUNDAY**

**A Porch Concert for a
Summer Evening**

**Unitarian Society of
Hartford and Universalist
Church of West Hartford
co-present: "A free porch
concert"**

*Patrice Fitzgerald & Richard Leslie, jazz & standards with
Alex Nakhimovsky on keyboard
Eric Paradine, blues infusions
MeetingHouse, eclectic folk and rock (see performer images below)*

**Unitarian Society of Hartford Meeting House
50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford
Sunday, July 18th at 6:00 - 7:30pm**

On the grounds of the USH Meeting House: bring your lawn chairs, a blanket, some snacks or a picnic. No smoking, no alcohol, please. Visit with friends! See people!! **Free, but donations appreciated**



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>

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.

USH Community & Business



USH Officially Acquires Solar Equipment Behind the Meeting House

At right, David Newton, Sole Proprietor, Presents USH Treasurer Bob Hewey, with Directions to the Solar System purchased by USH June 30, 2021, and Jim Venneman, Accountant Advisor for USH in the Transaction

On June 30th USH became the owner of the solar equipment located at the rear of the Meeting House. This ended a process first begun in 2015 when a group of USH members began a process to acquire the solar equipment and benefit by the then state and federal incentives for purchasing and installing such solar equipment. After studying tax law and assembling other relevant information, the group found it could only benefit from the incentives if a tax paying owner was

involved. Consequently, David Newton became a Sole Proprietor and through a complex series of agreements with USH (Endowment) leased the land under the equipment from USH and provided solar electricity to USH at a cost slightly less than Eversource would charge for the same amount of electricity. In addition, ZREC (state incentive payments) for solar electricity generated onsite were paid to USH further reducing the cost of Kilowatts used in the building.

Member donations to the Endowment were loaned to the Sole Proprietor to finance the purchase and installation of the solar equipment while the Sole Proprietor paid interest on the funds benefitting the Endowment as would any other similar invested funds.

After a five-year interval, USH has now purchased the equipment and the Sole Proprietor paid off the remaining balance on the outstanding loan as well as outstanding lease costs. In the end, this process resulted in a reduction in cost of electricity used by USH over the five-year interval and now, an annual reduction of the cost of electricity used in the Meeting House to close to zero for at least the next 15 years. On an annual basis, the Meeting House consumes about the same amount of electricity the solar equipment produces.

Submitted by USH member, David Newton



On July 18, the Sunday service will *livestreamed* from our sanctuary – the first time we'll be in our collective home in 18 months! We will be using our new audio/visual equipment in this "dress rehearsal" before in-gathering in September.

Rick Tsukada will be the pulpit guest.

Summer Worship - "Embracing and Releasing"

Summer worship at USH is lay-led by thoughtful, observant, caring and committed members of our congregation. 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.

Most importantly, anticipate creative thoughtful summer worship services led by members of our congregation during July and until Ingathering Sunday in September.

July 25 - John Bengtson "How to Have Difficult Conversations"

August 1 - Lisa Galinski "Crossing the Edge"

August 8 - Sue Spaniol/Artists' Way Reflections on "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 - "You Can ('t) Go Home Again"- Laurie Kelleher

On July 18th, the worship team will be **livestreamed** from our sanctuary using our new equipment for the first time. Currently, all other services are planned to remain in the on-line format we have been using until Ingathering Sunday, September 12th, when, fingers crossed, we will resume in-person worship at the Meeting House with livestreaming available.

~~ Updated - Sue Smolski, WA Coordinator 2021-23



RETURNING TO SCHOOL 2021-22

Returning to school in the Fall can be an anxious time for children and their families, never more than this year. Children are returning after a yearlong pandemic; classes have been in person, online or hybrid. The world around them has been chaotic, with lives lost to the pandemic, an

uncertain economy, and stress. School opening has become a flashpoint in the reopening of our country. For the past eight years the Unitarian Society of Hartford has helped children in Greater Hartford return to school by supporting the Uniform Fundraiser at The Village for Families and Children.

This Fall, Hartford Schools will be fully open, with all in-person classes. Hartford Public Schools require that students wear school uniforms - for example, students who attend Burns school must wear blue tops (tee shirts, sweaters) and black bottoms (pants, skirts, leggings). Uniforms help diminish visible inequalities between students - the pandemic has only increased these inequalities. Please support The Village for Families and Children's Uniform Fundraiser once again, so that that in the chaos of an especially stressful year children in Greater Hartford can return to school with more confidence.

No amount is too small. Please make your check out to The Unitarian Society of Hartford with Uniforms in the memo line. Mail them to Unitarian Society of Hartford, Attention Brian Mullen, 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT 06105

**Thank you~
Joanne Orlando**

When the Unitarian Society of Hartford Website Became a "Porn" Site

The Rest of the Story

Friday, April 11, 2003 On toward 7 PM the first call arrived. "Do you know, our website has porn on it?" After a quick check of the computer, website is normal, what is happening? Probably just some internet screw up. A few minutes later, another call, same concern, porn on the website. Time to check the home computer again. Wow, the normal website has been replaced with porn pages!

Quick, call the internet service provider. What on earth is happening? Delay, as usual, to finally contact a human. "Just a minute while we check.....Oh, your domain name has been purchased by a German outfit."

With mounting trepidation, "How can that be?"

"You never paid the bill to renew your ownership of the domain ushartford.org. We have been sending the bill (\$15) and nobody paid it after weeks of notice that the ownership would expire."

Fact check.. subsequently, we learned the USH office person at the time simply failed to worry about this minor bill that had arrived..

The internet was relatively undeveloped back then by today's standards. As it happened, the USH Communications Committee met with then Minister Terasa Cooley about creating our first website. The scheduled date for that meeting was 9/11, yes, the very day when the World Trade Center was aflame at the time the meeting was convened. The result of the meeting was a determination for David Newton to create a new USH website and associated email distribution lists for those who had computers a relatively small percentage of the congregation at that time.

Early development of the website involved purchase of a domain name. The domain name ushartford.org was selected as we were a charitable institution. And thereafter, we were off on the adventure of publishing the paper Messenger, print, fold mail, and off to the post office, for most of the congregation, and also sending USH-Enews to those few who had computers. But, band width was limited, however, you could include an occasional picture (just one) with your electronic news email.

By 2003 the readership of the USH-Enews by electronic means was increasing as the number of hard copies of the Messenger was going down, and the transition saved postage and printing costs as well!

Now, here is how domains work. If you create one that does not exist anywhere in the world, you can have it for the normal annual fee. And, if one previously owned is lapsed, you can buy it and use it. The normal convention is those ending with .org represent charitable organizations and those using .com represent businesses of various sorts. There are other alternatives as you probably have observed, .net for example.

Thus, on the evening of April 11, 2003, having lost our .org domain, we went shopping for a new one under emergency conditions. As it happened, .com was available and we purchased it immediately and set about changing the web assignment, and all associated email connections to the new domain, ushartford.com. This process was occurring even as the old address was being reassigned to the porn site all over the world. A process that takes from 20 minutes to a day or so. As the USH mailing lists were about to vanish forever, we sent one final email to all subscribers on various lists. We informed them that when you seek to work with ushartford electronic addresses and the web tomorrow, all addresses should be changed ushartford.com! And that was the last communication from the purchased domain, ushartford.org. This activity finished up around 4 AM on Saturday morning and related activity continued through that day.

The congregation got an explanation on Sunday!

You might ask, could we have bargained with the new owner of ushartford.org to get the domain name back? Yes, I trust you understand ransomware, it would be sort of like that!

Time passed. You can always check on available domain names and we did so from time to time. "Our" domain in Germany latter showed up with an owner in Panama, and still later elsewhere in the Caribbean. After the porn first use lost its value, other sales-related uses occurred. Then, major excitement, a random check in 2008 found the domain available for purchase. With quick and trembling keystrokes, we purchased it and it has been back with us to date, but not used as it would be difficult to change all those .com users and uses to a different domain.

Now, because of spam issues, we are moving email boxes associated with USH to Gmail. Because it is a large provider of email services, communications are unlikely to be stopped because of spam suspicions by other companies' email software. And in connection with that and various related changes, **our web address has returned to ushartford.org** properly reflecting our institutional status.

However, if you were to request the web address as ushartford.com, net or certain other group designations, we now own some of them as well. You would be transferred immediately to ushartford.org.

What ever happened to ushartford.org and how come it is back?

Now you know, **and that, is the rest of the story.**

David Newton

Email and Listservs to Change

In recent months those who receive email from US Hartford email addresses have reported email not being received in a dependable way.

To deal with this 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.

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 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



Meetings at the Meeting House!

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:

The events calendar on the website is our central hub for all meetings and reserving space.

Assuming there are conflicts for day, time, and space you wish to reserve, contact Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com and copy Rayla at ctraylab@gmail.com to ensure no rental conflicts

If your gathering includes people participating virtually, arrange with Buffie to reserve one of USH's Zoom links. One of the benefits of the pandemic comes from broadening virtual connections; let's take

advantage of this to continue including those unable to be here in person.

At the end of your gathering please 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



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

"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 pm; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

-- OR --

"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 pm; Dates TBD. Zoom with Tom Gervais

Other Evening Offerings

"Tending Your Spiritual Garden" - participants explore how they might reap the bounty of a soulful spirituality.

2 Sessions; Thu 7:00-8:30 pm; 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 pm; 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.

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 meets 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**.

Caring Network

From the USH Caring Network:

Valerie Klokow, a long time member of USH, has been very ill for quite some time. Cards and notes would brighten her day. Her address is 44 Fairview Street, West Hartford, CT 06119. Home cooked meals for her 16 year old son, Xavier, would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to make and deliver a meal, please contact me at

janicecnewton@gmail.com or 860-212-6923 with the details so I can be sure there are not two meals delivered at the same time. I will inform Valerie of any scheduled deliveries.

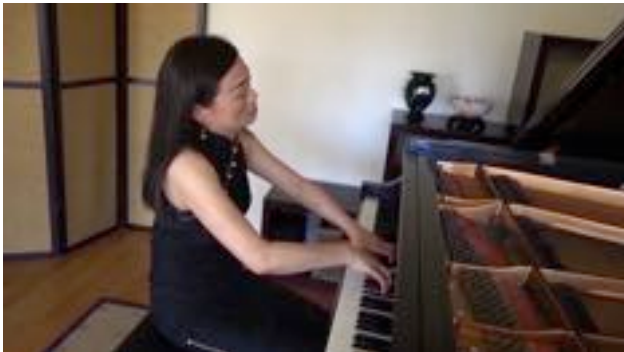
When you take a meal, you will be able to call Valerie's cell phone and Xavier will come out to get it so you will not have to take it up the stairs. There are no food restrictions.

We will also be needing folks to provide rides to Valerie's medical appointments. Please contact me, providing your contact information so I can reach out to you when rides are needed.

Thank you very much for any help you can provide. **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 **Janice Newton** 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



Enjoy new music from our former pianist, Pi-Hsun Shih.

Dear Friends, I hope you all had a wonderful 4th of July holiday.

As we are riding out the Pandemic and enjoying more outdoor activities, I just completed another mini video project from my home studio: Music and Food from the Beautiful Island-Taiwan.

It will be premiered on Youtube this coming Friday, July 9th at 7:30 p.m. ET. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/N51yjJDDLe0> If you miss the premiere time, you can still watch it any time after the premiere. It is there to stay.

Mysterious disease that kills birds spreading

By Christopher Arnott Hartford Courant

Whatever has been killing thousands of birds in the Southern and Midwestern states has now spread to the East Coast. The cause is unknown, and the threat so severe that the Connecticut Audubon Society, working closely with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, is recommending that residents remove birdfeeders from their yards.

The unnamed menace, currently best described as a "potential disease," has killed thousands of birds, starting in some Southern states, then in the Midwest and now toward the East Coast. It is uncertain whether the disease has spread to Connecticut yet. The Audubon Society says there have been reports of dead birds, including in Hartford, but that many of them don't line up with the symptoms found elsewhere.

The society itself has removed birdfeeders at its own centers, something it has rarely done; the last time was during the spread of House Finch eye disease several years ago.

Asking that feeders be taken down is not a decision that was made lightly, says Connecticut Audubon Society's Executive Director Patrick Comins. "It's detrimental to us. We sell a lot of bird seed. It's an important source of revenue for us."

Bird baths, hummingbird feeders and other objects which attracts birds should also be removed.

The Audubon Society suggests you bring the feeders and baths indoors and clean them thoroughly with a 10% bleach solution.

Removing feeders lessens the amount of contact among birds of different species and can slow the spread of a fatal problem about which very little is known. Otherwise, with the fall migratory season approaching, the mystery ailment would spread must faster and further — even from Connecticut to the tropics, Comins fears.

The condition is so far limited to songbirds, but "migration is starting now, with shore birds coming toward us. It will be very troubling if we start to see this in shore birds."

Comins says hummingbirds may be affected, but it is difficult to locate dead hummingbirds because they are easy prey for other birds and animals.

Audubon and DEEP follow Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, all of which advised the removal of birdfeeders.

Dead birds found in other states have been tested for "every known pathogen of birds," Comins says, "and nothing has been found. Toxicology tests are also being done, and those can take longer."

Among the known bird diseases and viruses that have been ruled out so far are salmonella, avian influenza, West Nile virus, Newcastle disease viruses, herpes and pox viruses and Trichomonas parasites. "We haven't ruled out pesticides," Comins says. "One of the initial hypotheses was that the

deaths corresponded with cicadas that had been sprayed. Or this could be a novel pathogen that we haven't seen before."

Whatever the cause, "it's terribly worrisome," Comins says. "We don't know how it's being spread. A novel disease that takes time to isolate and cure or contain could have a sharp and immediate impact, since the affected birds eat and control pests that might breed more heartily otherwise."

What to look for:

The birds most commonly affected include the American robin, blue jay, common grackle, yellowtail flicker, European starling, northern cardinal, house finch, house sparrow, Eastern bluebird, red-bellied woodpecker, and Carolina wren.

When you see a dead bird, check its eyes. If the eyes look swollen or cloudy or have a crusty discharge, notify DEEP.

If you see more dead birds than usual in a certain location, notify DEEP.

What to do if you find an infected bird

If the bird is alive, contact a state appointed rehabilitator. Information on rehabbers in various parts of the state is at portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Rehabilitator/Dealing-with-Distressed-Wildlife.

Take a photograph of a dead bird from a safe distance, focusing the camera on the bird's eyes. Send the photo to the DEEP.

Dispose of the bird. Don't touch it with your hands: use disposable gloves or cover your hands with a plastic bag. Double-bag it so that it can not affect other birds or animals, then put it in the trash.

For further guidance, contact the DEEP Wildlife Division at 860-424-3011.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

News from the USH Board of Directors

Your 2020-2021 USH Board

Rob Spector: President

Eve Pech: 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. Terry Cummings, Interim 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 **May and June 2021** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at hartfordusociety@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. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
terryuu633@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

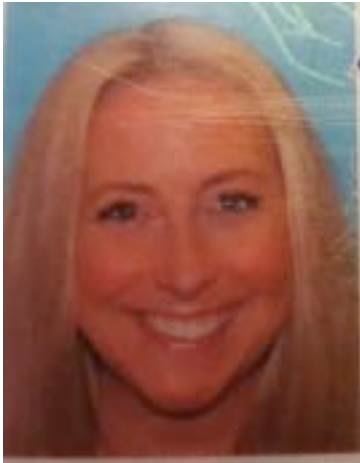
Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)
USHInternDD@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

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
hartfordusociety@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/>.