



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.**

AUGUST 11, 2021

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



August 15th, 2021, 10:00am

"At the Threshold"

**USH is at a threshold, a *between* space. We are moving forward but
we're not there yet. We are between virtual services and new**

hybrid services; between ministers; between something we used to call "normal" and the unknown. This service investigates the potential of such a place.

Judy Robbins, Pulpit Guest
Carol Simpson, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director Music Ministries
Buffie, Zoom Master & Coffee Hour Host
10:00am LIVE STREAMED Worship Service - Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).
Closed captions are available.
Meeting ID: 952 8306 7113
Passcode: 014277

You can also watch the Sunday service livestream at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford> or on the USH Facebook page

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

Guest Speaker Judy Robbins

Judy Robbins is a lay leader and Worship Associate at USH. She holds a doctorate in Transpersonal Psychology, the area where spirituality and psychology overlap. Now retired from a career as a psychotherapist, she lives in Glastonbury with her husband, Rick Tsukada. She has three grown sons and a bunch of delightful grandchildren.



We are asking for volunteers: Live streaming video team needs volunteers. We will teach you how to operate our live streaming equipment so that you join in rotation to produce our Sunday service. Please email jon Covault - jncovault@hotmail.com.

Many Thanks, Staff at USH



Sunday Welcome Volunteers

These summer days are racing past. September will be here all too soon... back to actual school for some, the relief of cooler days for others.

At USH, the hope is to return fully to in-our-sanctuary worship, and Fellowship Hall-based "Coffee Hour". To do that, we need those Welcome Volunteers who previously were so instrumental in greeting members, friends, and visitors, to help them feel at home here.

Were *you* part of the Welcome Team? Or is this something you'd like to try?? If you're new, or haven't been around much lately (and who *has*??), greeting is a terrific way to meet lots of smiling people and feel an instant connection with the community.

Buffie has developed a SignUpGenius "invite"; where you can easily select dates which work for you. You can be a greeter, an usher, or a welcome table volunteer. The link is below; if you have questions, let Buffie know and the answer will be revealed to you.

See Sign Up Genius Link [HERE](#). Please contact Buffie at hartfordusociety@gmail.com for any assistance or additional questions.

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

Please take note that the next Board meeting will be on August 17th at 6:30pm via [Zoom](#)



Here We Go Again (maybe...) (probably...)

One week can feel like a long time, particularly when that week vividly recalls sensations of Covid-19's juggernaut blasting into our consciousness. Remember, back in March 2020, how Sunday the 8th carried a nagging unease... foreboding... menace... ?

Through that week, dire reports flew in. Horrendous details spurred evasive action; one could figuratively (and literally) hear doors slam as businesses shuttered, plans cancelled, office workers and students were sent home, and those fortunate enough to have private spaces dove hastily into their burrows. The USH choir rehearsed Wednesday evening for a planned Music Sunday which did not happen; within hours a decision was made to cancel in-person services and events (in line with state and federal mandates) "until further notice".

In the week just past, those earlier anxieties echoed as patient counts ticked up. The news was worrisome... dismaying... frustrating. We'd come this far and saw daylight beckoning — and now this. The good news: thanks to the vaccines' effectiveness we *probably* won't become (too) ill. The bad news: we *are* able to pass the virus to others.

Recently, it's been our hope that we'd be starting live-and-in-person gatherings this fall. That may still be possible or — maybe not. We don't know yet. *No one knows*. September 12 is five-plus weeks from this writing; given the alarming statistics about the Delta variant and its transmissibility, predictions at this stage would be pointless. The crystal ball just isn't that good. What we *can* do is ensure all CDC and state/local recommended precautions are in place so we — including those of us fully-vaccinated — do not contribute unknowingly to the virus' further spread. If you come to the Meeting House, please wear a mask, wash your hands, keep your distance. We still hope to return in September, though modifications may be in order. Mitigation strategies have been employed elsewhere, and may be useful for us.

The board will undoubtedly be considering its approach to this apparent setback at the next meeting: Tuesday, August 17, 6:30 pm. You are

welcome to [Zoom in](#), hear the discussion, and offer your thoughts. We **will** get through this!



Village for Families and Children

Our neighbors next door at The Village for Families and Children have become our friends. As the school year approaches, our friends need your help. The Village is holding its annual Uniform Fundraiser to help underserved families buy school uniforms for their children. Please support the Uniform Fundraiser for children served by The Village for Families and Children. Let's make this the ninth year that USH has made a donation to this Fundraiser.

Thank you to all who have already given.

Checks should be made out to The Unitarian Society of Hartford with Uniforms in the memo line and mailed to USH, 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, Ct. 06105, attn. Brian Mullen.

THE FUNDRAISER ENDS AUGUST 22nd

Thank you for continuing to support our friends at The Village for Families and Children.

~ **Joanne Orlando**



Meeting House Sing-Along – Saturday, August 14, 2021

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed
Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile)
(EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

Join us at the next Meetinghouse Sing-Along!
Fred Louis and Ed Savage are offering an
opportunity to CT Singing families, singers, song-
writers and audience members to join in song on
the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5
PM. We will have song-sheets and some loaner
copies of Rise Up Singing available. Bring along
your own 'Rise Up Singing' if you have one, as we
have used it a lot in other months. We will also use

the NEW "Rise Again" sequel – 1200 more songs to sample.

We'll put some chairs in a circle and take turns singing or playing, with
those who know the tune or words joining in as they wish. You can come
early or come late, whatever fits your family schedule. The UU
meetinghouse is at 50 Bloomfield Avenue in Hartford. Some of us bring
snacks, but that is not required (or organized) Look for a sign near the
door if you can't see or hear us right away. We will be around to the right of
the main entrance, down the path to the patio.

We WELCOME Refreshments to be shared !

VAX protocol - OK to sing, socially spaced, if you are vaccinated; masks would probably
be a good idea. If you have NOT completed a COVID Vaccination, we ask that you skip
the Sing-Alongs for now, to protect you from US.



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.

August 15 - "At The Threshold" LIVE STREAMED - Judy Robbins
August 22 - "Making Peace with the Pandemic" - Margaret Leicach/Sue Smolski
August 29 - "Happiness In the Midst of Chaos" - Rob Spector
Sept 5 - "You Can ('t) Go Home Again"- Laurie Kelliher

On July 18th, the worship team was **livestreamed** from our sanctuary using our new equipment for the first time. ***The August 15th service will be livestreamed as well.*** All other services are planned to remain in the on-line format we have been using until Ingathering Sunday, September 12th, when we plan to resume in-person worship at the Meeting House with livestreaming available.

View our most recent services at the links **below**.

July 11th "A Summers day with Mary Oliver"

<https://vimeo.com/575018634>

July 18th "A Requiem; We Are Sorrow, We Are Beauty, We Are Love"

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/576411806>

July 25th "How To Have Hard Conversations"

<https://vimeo.com/579091128>

August 1st "Crossing the Edge"

<https://vimeo.com/581796179>

August 8 - Artists' Way Reflections on "The Gift of a Year"

<https://vimeo.com/584541577>

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



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 crraylab@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.

Email and Listservs to Change

The plan to move our USH Web to a new provider and change staff email addresses to Gmail services is progressing as expected. This will result in fewer outgoing emails not delivered to USH members because of suspicion of spam.

At this point, old ushartford.com email addresses to staff members are being sent to their new or continuing Gmail addresses. This will **not** continue after September 30.

The continuing or new addresses are:

Rev. Terry Cummings revterryush@gmail.com

Buffie Pinney hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Brian Mullen bmullen@ushartford.com

Rayla Mattson ctraylab@gmail.com

Sam Moffett smoffettuu@gmail.com

Dianne Daniels ushinterndd@gmail.com

You can help by recording these addresses in you contacts folder or equivalent and use them going forward.

Submitted by David Newton

Programs for Adults and Families



Spirituality for UUs

This is the foundational course in the UUSpiritLife series. Uuism is a religion without a creed so it can leave some people wondering how to develop their innate spirituality. This program includes many experiential opportunities to discover what types of spiritual activities resonate with you as we chart a path to a deeper and more personal spirituality. This is a rigorous course with homework after each session and will require a couple of hours of non-class time per week. One of last year's participants said, "Judy and Rick create a warm, enjoyable class that also goes deep." The class will be on zoom, open to members of all three area congregations, facilitated by Rick Tsukada and Judy Robbins. 12 weekly sessions on Tuesday mornings 10-noon, Sept 7-Nov 23, 2021. For registration or more information: judyrobb2@gmail.com.

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 now meets at 10 a.m the first Saturday of each month in a hybrid form – in person at USH and with a zoom option for those unable to join in person. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. 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 group stays in the group.

Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call at **860 904-7768**.

Social Justice

GHIAA: CORE TEAM LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Thank you for your interest in GHIAA Leadership Training. Leadership trainings will resume to in person trainings starting in September. However, we will make case by case accommodations for people who need to participate remotely via live stream.

Training Sessions (Day/Time):

Five Tuesdays - September 21, 2021 through October 19, 2021 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

or

Five Thursdays - September 23, 2021 through October 21, 2021 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Trainers: Cori Mackey, Pat Speer, Rev. AJ Johnson

Where: TBD

Questions about registration? send an email to ghiaa@cljct.org

to register contact Dana Donovan and go to their [registration](#) page.

Caring Network

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



**Dear Friends at USH,
In the spirit of solidarity and support of
those with disabilities, please find attached a
letter and sponsorship form for the**

upcoming PATH CT first annual golf tournament Sept 20th. If you are unable to sponsor or participate and would like to contribute to our silent auction please contact me.

Kindly share the letter below with colleagues and friends and maybe form a foursome! The KASA youth and staff will be there volunteering their time!

**Best regards,
Doris Maldonado**

Please allow this letter to introduce you to PATH CT and our inaugural PATH 2021 Charity Golf Tournament for which we are seeking your support and/or participation. For more than 30 years, families have turned to PATH CT for guidance and support through the uncertainty, confusion and worry of parenting a child with a disability. PATH CT provides services to families that have specialized healthcare needs and developmental needs including parent to parent support, educational advocacy and training. As the CT Family to Family Health Information Center, we provide support, information, resources and training around healthcare issues. PATH CT also facilitates CT Kids As Self Advocates (CT KASA), a group of youth and young adults with disabilities or chronic health conditions that promote youth leadership. My husband and I have personally witnessed our daughter, Sammi develop from a shy, quiet young lady into a confident, independent young woman who now Co-Chairs this amazing group of young leaders. On Monday, September 20, 2021 we will be holding our PATH 2021 Charity Golf Tournament at Brownson Country Club in Huntington, CT. We are hoping that you can donate either an item or gift certificate to the raffle that will be held that night. This golf tournament will help offset funding to our programs that are critical to CT families in need of help. Your business will be promoted on our website, newsletter and social media. Please have your items submitted by August 20, 2021. **See Sponsor Response Form [Here](#).**

Should you have any questions, feel free to call the Golf Tournament Director, Roy Nuss at 203-565-2475.

**Sincerely,
Ruth Nuss President of the Board**



It Starts With Faith: Organizing School 2021

The Organizing Strategy Team supports faith-aligned groups to empower leaders, provide training, political education and spiritual sustenance to show up to end oppression and build thriving communities.

This year's Organizing

School for Teams was developed in response to volunteers, State Action Networks, and congregations' desire to deepen organizing skills, develop broader networks of folx doing faith-based organizing, and join in the work of our Side With Love campaign. Complete application by July 30th [HERE](#). We are excited to support 20-30 cohorts for this year's organizing school. This program is designed for teams that are currently engaged in social justice work. We are encouraging congregational social justice teams to apply as a cohort. Priority will be given to teams who are based in AZ, FL, GA, KY, MN, NC, PA, TX, and WI. You may apply as an individual. If admitted you will be placed in cohorts based on geographic location. All sessions are recorded and applicants regardless of acceptance into as a cohort, will have access to recorded sessions.

Cohorts will receive up to 10 hours of 1-1 organizing support following the completion of 80% of all sessions.

Sessions will take place on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm ET/3:30-5:30pm PT between Aug. 25 and Nov 3.

Session 1: Orientation

Session 2: Faithful Social Justice: Telling your story

Session 3: Finding Your Role: Building power in faith organizing

Session 4: Building Organizing Infrastructure: Leadership Development and Identification

Session 5: Facing Conflict: Covenant & Transformation

Session 6: Building for a liberated future: Campaigns and program design

Session 7: Partnerships in a pandemic and recovery

Session 8: Growing your impact: Tools for evaluation and growth

Session 9: Meet the Moment: Tactics for Mobilizing Supporters and Contesting Power

Join us to build power towards a world that affirms the worth and dignity of all.

In faith and solidarity,

Nicole Pressley

Field and Programs Director

UUA Organizing Strategy Teams

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 **June 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **May & 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 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. 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
smoffettuu@gmail.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**](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com).
Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

**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/>.

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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!



"It's the little things in life you need to take notice of because they are gifts from the universe, and reminders that we are seen & loved!" ~MBP

Image by John Bengtson