



Unitarian Society of Hartford

Building Community Since 1830

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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

Website: www.ushartford.org

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

January 26, 2022

January 30th, 2022, 10:30am

"Too Full to Talk About"

This Sunday our service will be dedicated to members of the LGBTQ community. Rev. Terry's homily will look beyond acceptance by the wider community and invite a deeper discussion about the lived experience of being gay, transgender, or non-binary. Rev. Terry will reflect upon her own experience of being a transgender minister. We will share a reading from the Hebrew Bible that contrasts with the negative texts cited by less liberal denominations, as well as a reading from a book by a contemporary public figure who invites a similar discussion.

We hope that you will join us at 10:30 a.m. for a service that will also be relevant to USH's next minister search.

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess

Dana Donovan, Greeter
Ginny Hedrick, Usher
Diane Cadrain, Chancel Art
10:30am HYBRID Worship Service

Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).

Closed captions are available.
Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934
Passcode: 128493

**11:30am - Fellowship Time will be immediately following services
in
ZOOM ONLY.**

You can also watch the Sunday service at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>

Good Neighbor Offering

The Good Neighbor Offering for January will be held on Sunday, January 30th. The Social Justice Committee decided that the recipient will be our immediate neighbor, The Village For Families and Children. We hope you will donate generously to this worthy cause.



Join Us at
Our Town Hall
Meeting

Town Hall Meeting

Please make sure to **log out**
of ZOOM after Sunday
services and log back in

[HERE](#) to join us for our USH "Town Hall"
meeting.



Ministers Musings

Dear members and friends of USH:

As I write this, the sun is shining outside my window, and I am feeling that there is a hint of Spring in the air. I am feeling optimistic about the coming of Spring even though a significant snowfall is predicted for this Saturday.

Soon the snow will be gone, however, and the longer days will bring warmer air and more sunshine. In the meantime, we can enjoy the snow as a gift of Nature.

This coming Sunday at noon your Board is hosting a congregational "town hall" meeting to share some information about the minister search process. I very much hope that you will attend the meeting.

It will be an opportunity to ask some questions as well as to share some of your own thoughts.

If you plan on attending this week's 10:30 a.m. Sunday service by Zoom or Vimeo, you will need to sign out after that service, and then sign in separately to the congregational meeting that begins at noon. A separate zoom log-in reminder will be shared with you tomorrow, Thursday, and also on Saturday. Board Chair Rob Spector will be the Zoom host for the meeting on Sunday.

In my homily this Sunday I will reflect upon the need for society to move beyond merely accepting members of the LGBTQ community, and engage as well in a conversation about what it means to be gay or transgender both in our world and in this congregation.

Once again in-person attendance this Sunday will be limited to 25 people who have been fully vaccinated. Please let me know by email by the end of the day on Thursday if you plan to attend (revterryush@gmail.com).

In addition, please be aware that until further notice all USH Staff and Volunteers will be required to be fully vaccinated (two shots plus a booster, depending on the vaccine) in order to be in the Meeting House.

I look forward to seeing you in-person or online this Sunday.

**In faith, love, and gratitude,
Rev. Terry Cummings**

Did UU Know?



Ambulatory Luminaries

Did you ever notice that the numerous rooms off the Ambulatory of our church are named after (you might have guessed) various Unitarian or Universalist luminaries? This is the second of several articles that will attempt to shine a light on who these Ambulatory Luminaries were and why they merit the honor of being named to these locations.

Francis David, 1520-1579 (Ambulatory Room 14) by Toni Gold

The next of our Ambulatory Luminaries is Francis David (Ferenc David, 1510-1579), who became the founder of the first faith to be known as Unitarian.

Born in the the Kingdom of Hungary, province of Transylvania (today part of Romania), David was raised Roman Catholic, attended Wittenberg University, became a Catholic priest, then a Lutheran priest, then a Calvinist priest, and finally founded the Unitarian Church of Transylvania. Versatile, to say the least!

He was the leading figure of the non-trinitarian movement during the Protestant Reformation. He was much influenced by the writings of Michael Servetus, the first of our Ambulatory Luminaries, who was burned at the stake in 1553.

David worked in the royal court of the sympathetic John II Sigismund, whom he converted to Unitarianism; in 1558 Sigismund granted religious freedom to his subjects, an astonishing act of toleration during the prevailing religious wars. David was instrumental in organizing the Diet of Torda in 1568, which allowed four religions: Roman Catholic, Lutheran,

Calvinist and Unitarian — the first law guaranteeing freedom of religion in the midst of the religious wars of the Protestant Reformation.

With a change of ruler in 1571 to a Roman Catholic, Istvan Bathory, the policy of toleration ended. The Diet of 1572 declared a prohibition on changing religion, and Roman Catholicism became the established religion once more.

Despite the prohibition against doctrinal changes, Unitarianism gained more converts in Transylvania during that period. By 1577, restrictions were placed on Unitarians, but the organization continued to thrive. Francis David, by now the Unitarian Bishop, was still driven toward reform of doctrine. He explored questions having to do with the doctrine of the Lord's Supper, infant baptism, predestination, and the worship of Jesus, questioning doctrine in all four areas. He continued to preach his heretical ideas from the pulpit after the Prince ordered him to stop, and was arrested. He was found guilty of "innovation" and condemned to prison for the remainder of his life. He died in the royal dungeon in the castle at Deva on November 15, 1579.

Another Unitarian martyr! Who knew? Makes one appreciate the revolutionary American idea of the separation of church and state.

Articles, full or continued, are found in their entirety here:

<https://ushartford.org/did-uu-know/>

The February 2022 USH Members & Friends Photo Directory - How You Can Help in Less than 5 Minutes!

~by Brian Harvey

Our church directory is a living document. The world it reflects is always changing and the challenge for all of us is to keep up with those changes. Years ago, we had printed directories which were a big deal to produce. That meant they were only produced sporadically. Today, it is a simple matter to generate a new online version every couple of months in a matter of minutes, but that "timeliness" is only meaningful if the contact information is also reviewed "every couple of months". COVID has added some complications to the task. It is harder to know if someone is an active member or friend when at least some of us are not meeting in person. Newcomers who are attending regularly are harder to identify and might not know they are eligible to be in the directory. Lastly, with our new broadcast capabilities, moving out of the area does not necessarily remove you from being connected - or included in the directory. These are more reasons the responsibility for the accuracy for the upcoming February 2022

directory is not up to one person - it is up to each of us. Here is how you can help.

The Basic Course - steps to follow: 1) Go to the USH website - www.ushartford.org Home Page, 2) click on the Members tab, 3) click on Member Directory, 4) click on open Part II (Members & Friends), 5) enter the username and password (contact Buffie Pinney <hartforduusociety@gmail.com> or Brian Harvey <harvey.b@comcast.net> if you need the username or password). You are in! Start with your own individual or family entry. For each person: are the name, address and email address correct? Do you still use your home phone? Is your cell phone listed? - (this is your choice). What about spouse/partner information? (your choice). Are your non-adult children listed? (again, your choice). Do you still look anything like your photo - or is it time to be updated (your choice). All of this information can be updated in minutes by sending an email to Buffie. **Do it now.** ...and what does that "NN thing" mean? (see **Last Item** below).

Extra Credit - Browse the whole Members and Friends directory. Do you see obvious errors such as people you know have left the congregation or area. This one can be tricky because sometimes folks leave the area but still stop by on a fairly regular basis and consider themselves Friends. Likewise, there are some folks who don't regularly attend services in person but may be a part of a periphery church activity and they too still consider themselves connected. If unsure, drop Buffie an email anyway and you and we will figure it out. On the other side of the coin, do you think we are missing some active members and friends? We will check that out and confirm one way or the other.

Extra Extra Credit - Go back to the Member Directory tab and open Part I (Organizational Information). Let us know of any personnel changes that you are sure of. Because of COVID, it is sometimes hard to be sure of a person's or even a committee's status. That is why it is extra extra credit. Notice: No credit given for identifying that Dianne Daniels or Rayla Mattson has left!

3 Ways to use the Directory during COVID - 1) When you open Part II (Members and Friends) you can search on name, town, etc. by using your browser's search (or find) functions. Not sure which Tom you met? Find every Tom or Thomas in the directory in seconds. Connect names to faces. This is a great way to expand your circle of contacts at USH. **2)** Don't feel lonely during COVID. Browse through the directory and reach out to someone you haven't talked to in a while. **3)** Can't go out to the movies with your USH friends? Set up a watch party with others and enjoy a movie or TV show together virtually. All the contact information is at your fingertips.

Last Item: USH Neighborhood Networks were created over a decade ago

with one purpose being to facilitate “churchwide discussions” in member’s homes. The concept was to cut down on meeting size and travel distance. You can see the diagram and explanation in the last page of the Organizational Information. The Networks have not been used for years and it is time to decide whether they still serve any purpose or is it time to retire the concept and move on. We look forward to your feedback.

USH Community & Business

Please take note that the next Board meeting will be on **February 8th at **6:30pm** via [Zoom](#)**

Transparency/Privacy on the Web – Finding Our Balance

A small team of USH folks is busy reviewing – and revamping – our website (ushartford.org). “What’s relevant? What’s outdated? How can we make this more useful?” It’s a work in progress.

As we continue our work, we are interested in **your** ideas and contributions. This site belongs to all of us here at the Meeting House. We’d particularly welcome photos showing ‘Interesting Things Happening’... the Regifting Sale? Soup Sundays? Action at the Auction?

Here’s where we particularly want your thoughts... how much information should be restricted to “members only”??

A little history: our web presence is about 20 years old. For the first 15 years, the sole password-protected content comprised data (name, address, phone, email, photo, etc.) of our members and friends. *Your personal information*. Other organizational data (reports, minutes, descriptions, building checklists, etc.) were publicly available. Should someone wish to view our Constitution, our Memorial Garden guidelines, or some policy detail, they readily and easily could do so. About 5 years ago, however, that changed. Currently, the entire ‘Members’ section is accessed *only* through the familiar username/password exercise, blocking a visitor from viewing our foundational documents, board minutes, or other operating information.

Our group would like to restore our previous situation, where *only* our members’/friends’ personal information is password-protected. Before

making this change, we need to hear from you. What are your thoughts on transparency? Do you believe it best for USH to share information concerning its ways of operating with the world at large? Do you have some reservations? Please share your concerns, if any. ***The Member Information of our Member Directory will continue to be guarded,*** regardless of decisions made about other USH documents.

This will be one (brief) topic at the semi-annual Congregational Town Hall Meeting this Sunday, and you may weigh in then. You can also email our group: USHwebteam@gmail.com, or speak directly with us. Some of you have already relayed thoughtful comments, which are greatly appreciated. Thank you for participating in this democratic process.

The Web Team: Laura and Paul Cipriano, Tina Davies, Toni Gold, David and Janice Newton, Bruce Robbins



"Chalice" ZOOM Room Password Change

Please note that the password for the ZOOM room named "Chalice" has been changed. Please contact either **Buffie** or **any Board member** to receive the new

password.

Any attempts to login in as "host" while using the old password will result in a "lock out".



Announcing ***UU SpiritLife Conversations***

Our spring program, ***UU SpiritLife Conversations***, is a series of facilitated zoom conversations on spiritual topics, offered on the fourth Saturday mornings, January through May, 9-10:30 AM. ***SpiritLife Conversations*** open to all members of the three Hartford area UU churches on a drop-in basis – you don't need to register or commit to the whole series. The topic for January 29 will be

Finding Balance In An Unstable World. Please go to uuspiritlife.org and click the Programs tab for complete information. Questions can be directed to Judy Robbins at judyrobb2@gmail.com.

Meeting House Sing-Along update

The UU Meeting House board has canceled in- person events, and we agree that 'an abundance of caution' are the words of Year 2022 for now.

We will postpone second Saturday Sing- Alongs until COVID contagion rates drop back at least below 5%. Watch for a monthly update from us.

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com).

Social Justice News

Good Neighbor Offering

The Social Justice Committee decided that the recipient will be our immediate neighbor, The Village For Families and Children. Most of us are familiar with the Village but for anyone who isn't see below:

The Village For Families and Children is a social service agency serving hundreds of children and their families in Greater Hartford. The main campus for The Village is located in the red brick buildings next to USH. The Village provides inpatient and outpatient services for children and families in need as well as working with schools in Hartford. Some of the inpatient population has been removed from a traumatic home situation, some are in transition between psychiatric facilities and the community. In addition, many children and adults receive outpatient counseling, group and psychiatric care.

In this time of Covid The Village has see a greatly increased workload and backlog so the need to support them is even greater than usual. It has been providing virtual counseling for Families as well as other supports. They have YouTube sessions on coping with stress, having children at home during Virtual Classes and written suggestions on ways to move forward during Covid.

There are several ways in which to donate to the GNO. The easiest way is to use the link: [USH Online Giving](#) which Lisa Galinski has graciously set

up to make donating to GNOs easier. The link can also be accessed though the USH website, <https://ushartford.org/>. And for those who prefer to mail a check, please make the check out to USH and put GNO The Village in the memo line. The check can be mailed to: Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06105

Programs for Adults and Families

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.

Book Selections 2022

Feb 10- A Promised Land- Barack Obama

March 10- Finding Higher Ground: An Adaption in the Age of Warming- Amy Seidel

Apr 14- First Friends:The Powerful Unsung (and Unelected) People Who Shaped Our Presidents- Gary Ginsberg

May 12- The Extended Mind:Thinking Outside Your Brain-Anne Murphy Paul

June 9- The Hellfire Club- Jay Tapper

July 14- Hamnet- Maggie O'Farrell

Aug 11- The Vanishing Half- Brit Bennett

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 on line the first Saturday of each month at 10 a..m. 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**.

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Caring Network

Tara Cote and Paul Jacob welcomed their son, Rowan on January 10th. They have set up a Meal Train website to help them with meals.

Here is the link to get to the Meal Train website: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/9022w5>

Once you are on the site choose SIGN IN. Choose "sign in with your [MealTrain.com](https://www.mealtrain.com) account." You will need to log in using my email address and password. They are: janicecnewton@gmail.com and this password: USH1958! Please be sure to log out when you leave.

If you have trouble signing in, email or call me.

Tara and Paul's address is:
31 Magnolia Hill CT. Cromwell, CT 06416 #860-748-7046

Thank you, Janice Newton

News from the USH Board of Directors

Your 2021-2022 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 **FY Nov-Dec 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **December 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.org/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.org/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.org/about-us/staff/>

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister
revterryush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

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

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

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment
brianmullenush@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

News from Buffie's Desk



Please contact our Office Administrator, **Buffie Pinney**, with any administrative questions or concerns.

Buffie is working Sunday through Thursday from 9am-2pm.

Please email at her at hartforduusociety@gmail.com.

Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!



Sunday Welcome Volunteers

See Sign Up Genius

Link [HERE](#). Please contact
Buffie

at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for any assistance or
additional questions.

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions to Buffie is by

Tuesday at 12 Noon.

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

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