

# Unitarian Society of Hartford



Nourishing spirit, building community, working for justice

## **Unitarian Society of Hartford**

**Building Community Since 1830**

**Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister**

**50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**

**Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.ushartford.org](http://www.ushartford.org)**

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

**March 30, 2022**



**April 3, 2022, 10:30 a.m.**

**"Eco-Spirituality"**

7<sup>th</sup> UU Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence,  
of which we are a part.

*Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread in it. Whatever  
we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things  
connect. ~ Chief Seattle*

**Judy Robbins, Pulpit Guest**

**Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

**Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate**

**Mike Covault, Zoom & Coffee Hour Host**

**Dana Donovan & Deb Meny, Ushers**

**Peter Meny, Greeter**

**Kathy Ferguson, Welcome Table**

**Chancel Art created by Susan Hope**

**10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service**

**Join us in ZOOM [HERE](#).**

**Closed captions are available.**

**Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934**

**Passcode: 128493**

**11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time will be immediately following services both in person and ZOOM**

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

### **Matters of the Heart**

On Sundays we will make space for sharing "Matters of the Heart" with one another (often referred to as "Joys and Sorrows" in other congregations). We would love to hear about recent births of new family members, or share your sorrow at a recent bereavement, and lift up any meaningful life passages or events that you would like to share with others.

This is how Matters of the Heart will be shared:

- Online participants: This Sunday, regrettably, there will be no online access available. By next week, a new electronic mail box will be ready for ongoing use for Matters of the Heart. Worship Associates will then have access to this new mail box, when needed, as they lead worship.
- If you are attending the service in person, index cards and pencils will be provided at the entrance to the sanctuary for you to write down the Matter of the Heart you wish to share. Place your completed card in the basket.

**Please remember this is not a time for general announcements.**

## ***Stewardship***

### **Stewardship Update from Joe Rubin, Stewardship Chair**

**Our 2022-23 "Peace and Renewal" Stewardship Campaign is off to a fine start! So far, we have pledges from 41 households, and over half of the pledges offer brand new or increased giving, including some very significant increases. Please note that we want to close the campaign by the end of March, *THIS THURSDAY!* So if you haven't made your pledge yet, please do it today, on our online giving portal, or by sending an email to [JoeRubin@snet.net](mailto:JoeRubin@snet.net), or mailing a pledge card to the USH Office, 50 Bloomfield Ave, Hartford, CT 06105.**

**Please don't put it off! Make your pledge today!**

**Thanks so much for your support of your USH community!**

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***HOW DO I PLEDGE?***

*It's easier than ever. The simplest way is to go to the new Stewardship button on our website (click on Give Online, then on USH Online Giving Portal), and make your pledge. Or you can fill out a pledge card and leave it in the collection basket by March 31. Or you may simply email or call Stewardship Chair Joe Rubin, [JoeRubin@snet.net](mailto:JoeRubin@snet.net), or call Joe at 860-539-3586 to make your pledge by email or voicemail.*

***QUESTIONS?***

*Call or email Joe Rubin, above, or any USH Board member*



**Stewardship Testimonial  
by Carolyn Carlson**

I grew up in Coventry, CT and my family was active in the First Congregational Church, which became the United Church of Christ. My mother was the Sunday School Superintendent and later spent years making crafts to sell at the holiday fair. My dad was active in building repair and cooking pancake breakfasts. I was active in the statewide youth group, Church was an important part of my extended family until I finished college and then I didn't go near it for 15 years.

In my late 30s, I went through a period of spiritual searching. I was living in Missouri and one day, I told my friend Kitty what I believed and what I was struggling with. She laughed at me and said, "You sound like a Unitarian to me!" Thus, a new door opened, and I have been exploring Unitarian Universalism ever since.

In 1989, I moved to the Washington D.C. area, and for the next 14 years I floated between 3 Unitarian churches. Each had something different that appealed to me; while it was great to have so many choices, it also scattered my energies. I traveled a lot for my work and thus it was very slow to make friends and truly be engaged. In 2003 I moved to southern New England and continued as a wandering Unitarian.

In 2014, when I was 64, my job with the Red Cross was eliminated after 34 years. My Dad died the same week my career ended. I knew immediately that I had to choose one church to attend regularly, and I chose the Unitarian Society of Hartford. I needed a place to grieve, and I needed a place to belong. I needed a place where I could explore my beliefs and not be offended by the core values. USH has been that to me.

In the last 7 years I have been active in several areas. As a member of the Caring Network, I helped an elderly woman with her transition from independent living to assisted living. As part of Social Justice, I worked with people from 8 area houses of worship to welcome and support a Syrian family for two years.

I have also served on the Board of Directors as chair for the Community Within, and on the Stewardship and Membership Committees. These activities have helped me to know other members of USH better and to understand our operations and finances.

Once I became a regular member, showing up to Sunday services and other activities, my experience deepened, and my commitment increased. I have had many meaningful opportunities to contribute both time and money. And there are many other things I would like to do in the future.

I encourage you all to look for new ways to be involved, and to make a serious commitment both as a volunteer and financially, to ensure that the Unitarian Society of Hartford thrives.

Be regular, come often!

Bring your friends and family!

Look for ways to participate, both big and small. Serve on a committee, help with a project!

Pledge generously, and donate throughout the year!

Be brave, reach out to someone you admire and offer to join in!

And keep USH front and center in your life!

## *USH Community & Business*



### *Opportunities to Serve*

Spring is here, and (in addition to crocuses and spring cleaning) that means it's time for nominations for open Board and committee positions for the coming church year. Having qualified and dedicated candidates is essential to our society's smooth running.

The USH Board is made up of four officers: President, President-Elect, Secretary, and

Treasurer; plus four Council Chairs: Spiritual Life, Administration, Community Within, and Social Justice. The minister is an ex-officio member who can advise but who has no vote. Board members are elected by the congregation at the annual general meeting held in May. The slate of officers up for election must be posted for the congregation at least 25 days before that meeting. Candidates must be members of USH and over 18.

Terms of service vary: President and President-Elect elected for one year each, after which the President-Elect, having worked with the President the previous year, becomes President, and the President becomes Chair of the Nominating Committee for a year. Secretary, Treasurer, and Council Chairs are elected for two-year terms. Those officers may serve two additional consecutive terms, and the Council Chairs one additional consecutive term.

The Board has fiscal responsibility for the Society, setting policy, and making and delegating decisions necessary in day-to-day operations. Monthly Board meetings are open for any interested congregant to attend.

If you think that you, or another member, has the skills and interest to fill a Board position, please inform me, Martha Bradley, at [marthabradley49@yahoo.com](mailto:marthabradley49@yahoo.com) ASAP, as this year's annual meeting is scheduled for May 15 after the service. Please plan to attend.



## Final Touches

*Preparing for addition of 10 new light fixtures to light up the Sanctuary as Victor Lundy would have approved. Photos Kevin Girouard and article by John Bengtson*

Putting the finishing touches on the coolest ceiling east of Gibraltar. Victor Lundy designed this building in 1964. Only one like it in the world.

We were quite honored to work on it. We removed about 200 of the 10,000 boards so the electricians could run about 500 feet of electrical cables (3 each to 10 different light junctions). These are “smart” lights

controlled by switches or an app.) We then numbered them carefully, returning them to their original locations after cutting around lights.

We used 1 1/2" - 2 1/2" finish screws, which is a huge improvement over the nails they used in '64. We secured a few dozen loose boards that had popped over the years due to the constant movement of the ceiling suspended by cables above. (No visible supports below-very unique) We also re-secured the framing above, some of which had completely loosened from decking above, again, because of the constant movement of the roof. It is entirely solid now, every board as tight or tighter than it was before I was born.

We did some touch-up to try to disguise various water stains from over the years.

Kevin discovered that Victor Lundy is still alive in his mid-90s & living in a beautiful house of his own design in Colorado. I'm going to attempt to get in touch & tell him how much we love his innovative & brilliant design, maybe send some pictures.

I will not mention the various things I would have done to make it more practical & leak-free. Retrospect is easy, this man had vision, & I greatly respect that. When I tucked in the final loose board at the very center circle, exactly 20 feet up, it locked together like an ancient puzzle. One final screw bound the entire circumference together. Whoever these carpenters were, they were the best in the land. I bow in their general direction. — *JB*

Articles, full or continued, are found in their [entirety here](#):

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**USH Calendar of Events**  
for April 2022 can be  
viewed **HERE**.

Please  
contact **Buffie** with any  
questions or concerns.

### *Meeting House Presents*

#### **Meeting House Presents**

Save the Dates!

Meeting House Presents three top-notch shows this spring; two are part of our Friday night season, and the Saturday show is an exciting addition beyond our regular season!

**Mad Agnes Friday, Apr. 22, 2022** Back from a ten-year lunch break, Mad Agnes has reunited to bring you the intricate harmonies and compelling songwriting that have always been their signature. **Margo Hennebach, Adrienne Jones** and **Mark Saunders** have been singing and playing together since there were dinosaurs, performing across the U.S. and overseas. While dodging labels and mixing styles (Folk, classical, or Celtic? Soaring vocals, incisive lyrics or giggly repartee?), the genre-bending trio has won hearts on two continents, and individually and collectively have amassed a body of work which comprises **13 CDs** and a **concert DVD**. \$20 general admission and \$14 for students with ID. tickets: <https://madagnes.bpt.me>

**Seán Heely and Beth Patterson Friday, May 13 , 2022** Experience the magic music of Scotland and Ireland with Seán Heely and Beth Patterson. U.S National Scottish Fiddle champion Seán Heely and bouzouki player Beth Patterson perform fiery dance tunes and ancient, soaring melodies from Scotland and Ireland. Original compositions abound and they have rich vocal harmonies in their solid song repertoire that features ballads, sea shanties, and songs in Irish and Scottish folk tradition. Seán plays fiddle, mandocello, shruti box, and sings in English, Irish, and Scots Gaelic. \$20 general admission and \$14 for students with ID. tickets: <https://seanheelyduo.bpt.me>

**Susan Werner concert Saturday, April 30, 2022:** Celebrated performing songwriter Susan Werner has made a name for herself coast to coast. From her 1995 major label folk/rock debut *Last of the Good Straight Girls* to her 2007 collection of agnostic gospel hymns *The Gospel Truth* to her 2017 travelogue *An American In Havana*, Werner writes ambitious concept albums with subject matter and sounds to match.

“Susan Werner has always been a remarkably perceptive artist, one who’s able to tap into the current climate and share sentiments that ought to be expressed. Her new album, and her 14th studio set to date, *Flyover Country*, is no exception. While it’s grounded in a specific theme — that is, her love of the heartland sounds that inspired her early on, the sentiment goes far deeper, a reflection of the absolute uncertainty that’s plagued the nation since the beginning of the year and, in reality, further back than that.” — Lee Zimmerman, AmericanSongwriter.com

Link for podcast of [Susan Werner NPR appearances](#)

This special Meeting House Presents Saturday concert was a late booking. Season ticket holders get a \$5 discount. Ticket price \$25, \$20 for season ticket holders. tickets: <https://susanwerner.bpt.me>

Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

**\$20 general admission and \$14 for students with ID**

(This special MHP Saturday concert isn't included with season tickets, but season ticket holders get a \$5 discount. Ticket price \$25)

## *Programs for Adults and Families*

### Meetings and Programs

**The USH Book Club:** Meets monthly, on the 2nd Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30pm, via Zoom. All adults in the USH community are welcome. Please contact Ginny Allen at [fiddlenurse1@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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](mailto: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](mailto:bentgloria@gmail.com) or call at 860-904-7768.

## *Caring Network*

**From the USH Caring Network:** Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member or friend experiencing some difficulty, please contact **Janice**

**Newton** at [janicecnewton@gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton@gmail.com) 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.

**Your 2021-2022 USH Board of Directors**

**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 next board meeting is Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM.**

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

The Board Meeting minutes for **January 2022** 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](mailto:hartfordusociety@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/](http://www.ushartford.org/events/)**

**To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) 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/staff-members/>

Rev. Terry Cummings, Interim Minister  
[revterryush@gmail.com](mailto:revterryush@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries  
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Annie Witzler, Acting Coordinator of Religious Education  
[re4ush@gmail.com](mailto:re4ush@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Bob Hewey, acting Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment  
[boltonbob@aol.com](mailto:boltonbob@aol.com) 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals  
[hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

### *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 [hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com).

**Buffie is *always* happy to hear from you!**



**Sunday Welcome Volunteers**  
**See Sign Up Genius**  
Link [HERE](#). Please contact Buffie

at [hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartfordusociety@gmail.com) for any assistance or additional questions.

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

Email to: [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) OR  
[enewsush@gmail.com](mailto:enewsush@gmail.com)

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

