

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: hartfordusociety@gmail.com
Website: www.ushartford.org
Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through
Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or email/call for an
appointment.
April 20, 2022**



April 24, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

"Simply Pray"

Why do we pray? And how do we pray? And more, why does prayer seem to be so central to so many religions, and what does it look like for Unitarian Universalists? We'll ask and answer these questions and more.

Reverend Kimberley Debus, Pulpit Guest
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

Buffie, Zoom & Coffee Hour Hostess
Susan Hope & Larry Lunden, Ushers
Bill Simmons, Greeter
Helen David, Welcome Table

Chancel Art created by Martha Bradley

MATTERS OF THE HEART are shared from the pulpit each Sunday.

In person: Index cards and pencils are located at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Online: Access

MattersoftheheartUSH@gmail.com by 9 a.m. Sunday.

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
Join us in Fellowship Hall for Soup Sunday, with John Bengtson and the youth group soup crew

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



Rev. Kimberley Debus is a community minister based in Takoma Park, Maryland, inspiring an artful and art-filled faith. She consults with congregations and religious professionals throughout the denomination. She has previously served at the Church of the Larger Fellowship as well as congregations on Long Island and Key West.



Easter at the Meeting House: Renewal, Revival, Rites of Spring

As Rick Tsukada commented in his pulpit message, our Easter/Spring/ Renewal morning worship was a 'mash-up' of tradition, religious lore, and festive delight at the proliferation of greenery, flowers budding, and exuberant birdsong that awakens our winter-dormant senses. This is the season where just about every culture, tradition, or religion incorporates some celebration or observance to honor the new life, and new hope, abounding with spring's arrival. Christian Easter, Jewish Passover, earth-based ceremonies for our mother Earth, Hindu Holi celebration, and this year Muslim Ramadan also coincides — all calling us to new life and new hope.

The worship team of Rick, Sue Smolski, Dana Donovan, and Diana Heymann along with Sam Moffett, presented a smorgasbord of reminiscence. They called forth memories of Easter parades, chocolate bunnies, Passover in Israel, sacred circles celebrating the earth's rebirth. Sam demonstrated their musical dexterity by performing *Phoenix Song* — the phoenix being the personification of resurrection — on saxophone and piano simultaneously! Martha Bradley's beautiful chancel art composition of flowers, keepsakes, and symbols of light and life (see photo above) enhanced the worship theme.

Following the service, Annie Witzler invited our younger constituents to stalk and capture Easter eggs on our grounds while the grown-ups enjoyed companionship, coffee, and munchies in Fellowship Hall. It was warming to see people chatting and lingering over food and conversation, and brought to mind how *hungry* so many of us have been for the simple pleasure of each other's company and friendship.

Thanks go to the following for this special experience of renewal:

Worship Team Rick Tsukada, Sue Smolski, Diana Heymann, Dana Donovan, Martha Bradley, Sam Moffett, and Annie Witzler.

Food from Martha Bradley, Dana Donovan, Janice Newton, and Jim Venneman.

Welcome and Tech Team: Virginia deLima, Kathy Lee, Peter and Deb Meny, Mike and Jon Covault, and Buffie.

Here's Sunday's Worship Team at the Photoshoot area...



USH Community

A Call for New Worship

Associates



As the Pandemic morphs into an Endemic, lives are being adjusted accordingly.

There is an immediate need for at least two new Worship Associates (WAs), not to be confused with pulpit guests. Worship Associates help lead worship. Pulpit Guests give the Reflection or Sermon. Please consider joining our long tradition of creating meaningful worship at USH.

We know how to do this, and we are eager to mentor and guide you in the role.

To be a Worship Associate requires that:

- *you are a member of the church;
- * you are comfortable with public speaking or willing to develop your comfort;
- *you are able to bring your spiritual self to this sacred work;
- *you will first learn how to be the WA with our minister;
- *then, you will learn the WA role with other pulpit guests; and
- *you will attend monthly WA meetings during the church year.

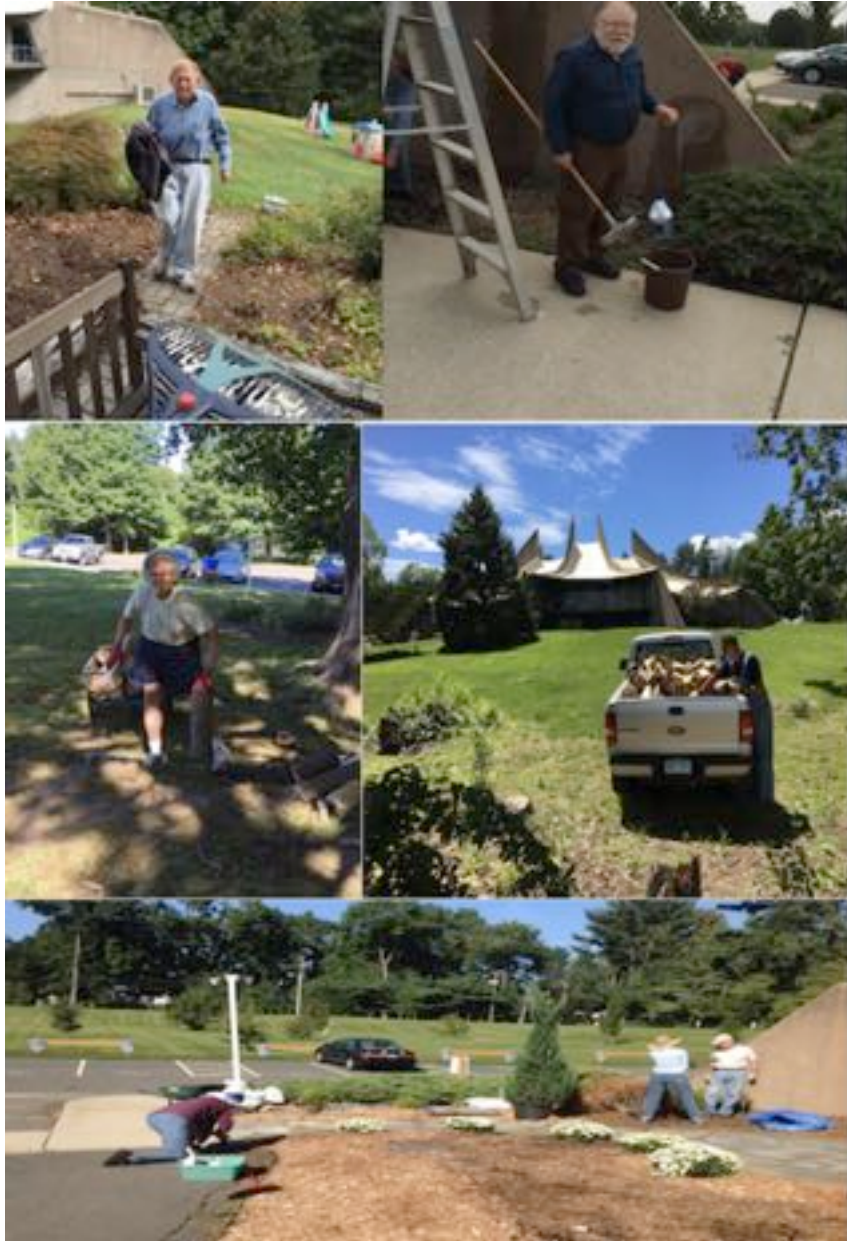
Let's talk...

Contact Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Coordinator: Sue.smolski@gmail.com

B&G Spring Work Day – Saturday 4/23

USH's energetic and enthusiastic Building & Grounds Sub-council invites **you** to don weather-appropriate durable clothes and sturdy footwear, and join them for a morning of community-building and accomplishment. Come to dig, plant, spiff up, and clean up! Bring gardening tools if you have them. Tasks are available for all levels of competence and fitness... strenuous manual labor is *not* required, so don't let the photos below scare you off!

There will be a light breakfast at 8:00, and work starts at 9:00. If you can't stay for the full four hours, even an hour or two is appreciated. Let Annie Witzler or David Newton know you're coming, so they can plan.



Living Fully: A Summer Exploration

Each summer at USH our Sunday services are lay-led and explore a rich theme. This year the worship team has chosen to delve into the rewards as well as the struggles of “Living Fully”.

“Living Fully” for some may immediately conjure visions of travel, adventure, facing life and daring it to challenge us....for others the full life occurs in the companionship of serenity and contemplation. In the paths that we take we culture gratitude, seek relationship and honor creativity as some of the entry points to a full life. The theme is wonderfully broad and celebrates the qualities that give our lives meaning and joy as well as the solaces that hearten our soul even as we confront loss or disappointment or live in the face of suffering. As the poet Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer says in her poem “Urgency” “.....”Again the chance.....To do the work.....To see the world exactly as it is and still write it a love letter.”

Our recent USH summers have had a strong lay-led presence in the pulpit on Sundays when the minister has vacation and compliments abound for the speakers, most of whom come from the congregation. Several Sundays are still open and the worship team welcomes suggestions and volunteers for sermons. Perhaps you have a love letter to the world. Sue Smolski and any of the Worship Associates (WAs) would be happy to hear from you. The WAs are very practiced at developing a Sunday service and can share and mentor the crafting of a beautiful Sunday worship.



**[USH Calendar of Events](#)
for April 2022 can be viewed [HERE](#).**

Please contact [Buffie](#) with any questions or concerns.



NEW SPAM ALERT!!

Please be on the lookout and DO NOT respond to the new spam attempts with the following message:

"Hello (member name), are you available? I need a favor, text me back when you get my text/email. Rev. Terry Cummings. Sent from my iPhone."

Meeting House Presents

Did UU Know?

The Return of MHP After our Covid Hiatus

by Paul Cipriano

After a brief (18 month) absence owing to Covid-19, Meeting House Presents resumed presenting live concerts in autumn 2021. We were able to have four wonderful and well-attended concerts

featuring Abbie Gardner, Scott Cook, Vance Gilbert, and Reggie Harris with Pat Wictor.

We took a pause for most of winter, and now return in April and May 2022 with three more talented musicians/groups:

Mad Agnes returns Friday April 22. They reunited at the Meeting House in October

2019 and delighted the audience with singing and playing traditional folk tunes as well as some original material. Though they'd been on about a 10-year 'break', it was as if they'd never been away.

On Saturday April 30, **Susan Werner** makes her first appearance at the Meeting House.

Susan is a fabulous performer who will wow you with her musically diverse songs. You

will hear jazz influences, folk and traditional strains, humor, and all of it will move you, make you laugh, and believe in the power of song.



Our last concert of the 2021-22 season is Friday May 13 with U.S National Scottish Fiddle champion **Seán Heely** with bouzouki player **Beth Patterson**. Experience the music of Scotland and Ireland as Seán and Beth perform fiery dance tunes and ancient melodies from Scotland and Ireland. Seán plays fiddle, mandocello, shruti box, and sings in English, Irish, and Scots Gaelic.

Join us to feel the power of music that lifts your spirits, enjoying good companionship with fellow USH friends. Don't miss Janice Newton's delectable homemade cookies during intermission, and catch up with fellow members in our hospitable Fellowship Hall.

Meeting House Presents

Mad Agnes!* *This Friday, April 22

Back from a ten-year lunch break, Mad Agnes has reunites 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>

Susan Werner* *Next Saturday, April 30

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/>

Programs for Adults and Families

UU Spirit Life Conversations



SpiritLife Conversations is a series of facilitated zoom conversations on spiritual topics offered on fourth Saturday mornings through April, 9 –10:30 AM. The topic for April 23 will be Mirabai Starr Wild Mercy focusing on women mystics, facilitated by Dave Gonci. Please go to uuspiritlife.org for the zoom link; click the program title to access an article to read prior to this session.

SpiritLife Conversations is open to 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. Questions can be directed to Judy Robbins at judyrobb2@gmail.com

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 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

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

August 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 online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 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** more information at 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 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, May 3, 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 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](#).

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/>

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

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smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Annie Witzler, Acting Coordinator of Religious Education
re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Bob Hewey, acting Bookkeeper - Office or Phone by Appointment
boltonbob@aol.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@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 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 is

Tuesday at 12 Noon.

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com OR
enewsush@gmail.com

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



Images: Venneman "delights" and Aaliyah with Buffie & Mr. Bear