

Unitarian Society of Hartford



August 31, 2022

Building Community Since 1830

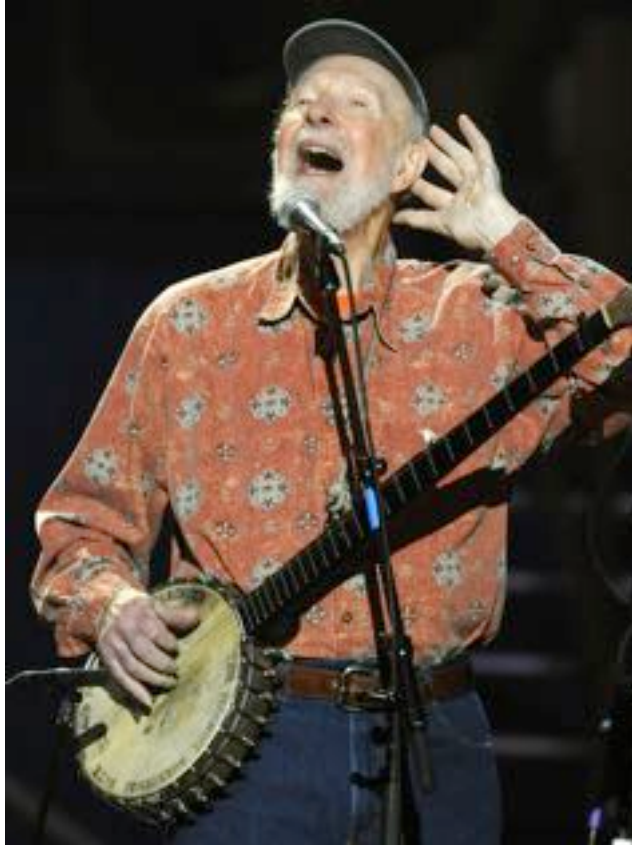
Unitarian Society of Hartford

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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

www.ushartford.org

Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to email/call for an appointment.



"There's is no such thing as a wrong note as long as you are singing." – Pete Seeger

September 4, 2022: 10 a.m.

"Music In My Mother's House"

Our summer worship series, "LIVING FULLY", comes to a close with a focus on what many consider to be a Universal Language -- music. folk music, in particular, is the centerpiece of today's worship. Come join us!

**Fred Louis, Pulpit Guest
Sue Smolski, Worship Associate
Carolyn Halsted, Guest Pianist**

**Annie Witzler, Interim RE Director, will meet with the children
in the Chapel today.**

**Annie Witzler, Welcome Table & Greeter
Ginny Hedrick, Usher**

Matters of the Heart:

Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: email HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com

In person – use MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning

**10:00 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service
Summer Services held in Fellowship Hall**

**Join us in ZOOM [here](#)
See Order of Service [here](#)**

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

**11:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour – immediately following services,
in person and ZOOM**

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

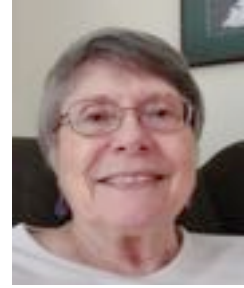


Fred Louis, Pulpit Guest

Fred Louis has been attending USH since 1998. He's served as Social Justice chair, was a worship associate for 5 years, is a Building & Grounds member, been a Small Group Ministry facilitator, co-led the meditation group, co-leads the Meetinghouse Sing-Along, and is on the Welcome Team. USH is one of his families.

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate Coordinator, is feeling blessed by being part of this church community.



Sermons Available on the Web

Carol Simpson has made the text of her encouraging reflection "*It's OK to be Not OK*" available, and it is now posted in the sermon archives on the USH website.

Summer Services

Worship 2022-2023

Summer Worship Series:

This Sunday is the last service of the Summer Series. What a bountiful Summer it has been! We are truly blessed.



New Worship Theme:

Themes have always successfully guided the development of our summer worship. It is fitting that a theme guides us in this new church year as well. "LOVE IN ACTION" is that guide.

Worship Planning: The Worship Associates have planned services for September, October, November, and part of December. Come join us in person, if possible, or online---at 10:30, starting September 11th.

Ingathering: 2022

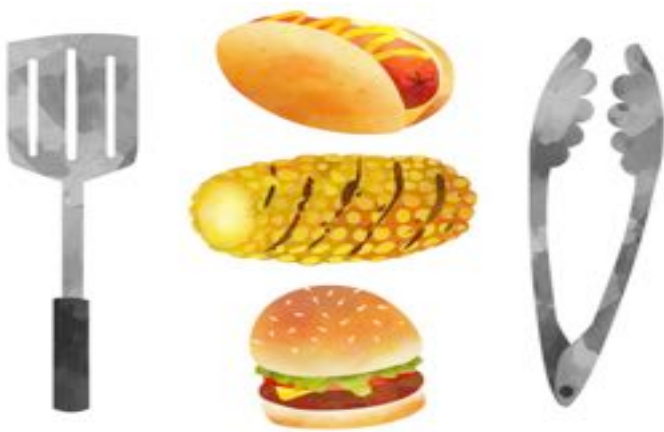


**NEW CHURCH
YEAR BEGINS with
INGATHERING and
LUNCH on September
11 at 10:30 a.m.**

Our traditional Ingathering Service signals the start of the church year in the sanctuary. This year it will be in three parts: 1) a dedication of the new sanctuary lights; 2) our traditional Water Ceremony; and 3) a hybrid simple potluck/picnic-style lunch at coffee hour time. In the Water Ceremony, (sterilized!) water from years past is mixed with new water from your summer travels or, perhaps your back yard or kitchen tap. Bring a small quantity of water to add to the communal "water chalice." The traditional coffee hour will include hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers for all who care to partake. If you are moved to bring a contribution of a "finger food" or dessert, please do, but it is optional. (Finger food can be eaten out-of-hand or easily with a plastic fork. "Keep It Simple" is a good principle here.) You can come empty-handed and still be fed!



RSVP this Sunday during coffee hour or anytime online [here](#)! Want to bring something to share? Or assist with grilling, serving, and/or cleanup? Contact Tina Davies (daviesush@gmail.com) or Annie Witzler (re4ush@gmail.com) to let them know how you'd like to contribute!



Welcome Team

Sign-Up

Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or to staff the welcome table this fall.

Simple, rewarding short-term commitments helping extend hospitality to members and visitors.

Use the Sign-Up Genius app [here](#) to be part of our Sunday Morning Welcome Team.



Congregational Matters

Governance Task Force Proposes Constitutional, Board Structure Changes

Background: Through the years, our society's constitution and its organizational structure have changed, adapting to needs and circumstances as these presented themselves. Some changes have been gradual and incremental: often prompted by advances in technology. Other changes were more substantial, such as the vote a dozen or so years back to reduce the size of the USH Board from 12 to 8 members. In addition, a number of groups have been convened to look at USH from a strategic planning perspective.

When Rev. Terry Cummings began her service last year, she suggested a strategic planning group be reconvened, to review our existing structure and how well it could serve us in this post-pandemic landscape. An open invitation was extended to the congregation, seeking members with time and interest to dedicate.

Seven volunteers responded: Rob Spector, Eve Pech, Gloria Francesca Mengual, Sue Tenorio, Brian Harvey, Beverly Spence, and Laura Stewart

Cipriano. This group met between December '21 and June '22 and is now ready to present its findings and recommendations for congregational contemplation and action.

Summary of Findings: Laura Cipriano has condensed the group's work below; an extended article with additional detail appears [here](#) on the website. "This year's Strategic Planning Task Force took a different approach from recent years at USH, deciding to focus on the governance structure.

Key areas of concern for continued vigor at USH are stewardship and membership.

The Governance Task Force made these recommendations after meeting December through June 2021 – 22:

1. Modify the role of the past president. The expertise of the outgoing president would be very helpful on the new board. Chairing the nominating committee is not the best use of this expertise.
2. Add two new councils to the governance structure: a Stewardship & Finance Council and a Membership Council.
3. Create two additional Council Chairs, modifying the current Board structure to add two Council Chairs, one for Membership and one for Stewardship, so that there will be a total of 6 Council Chairs, a President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

One new council would be formed by dividing the Administration Council into Administration Council and new Stewardship & Finance Council. Both are important areas and stewardship is a year-round responsibility worthy of a seat on the board.

The second new council would be formed by dividing the Council on Community Within in two: Council on Community Within and a new Membership Council.

The Board voted to support this new structure at the July meeting. The next steps are to meet with the congregation for Q&A and then to use the suggestions to amend the USH constitution, adding the two new councils and changing the past-president's duties.

The USH Governance Task Force will hold a Question & Answer congregational meeting on September 18, 2022, after the Sunday service to discuss the proposal. We will use your ideas as we continue to develop and refine this proposal.

(For more recent articles of this nature look [here](#).)

Around the Grounds (and the Building)



B&G Work Day September 10 — WEEDERS NEEDED!

Do you know we have *two* Memorial Gardens?

The Memorial Garden and the Pet Memorial Garden both desperately need to be weeded. The main Memorial Garden is adjacent to the south entrance of the Meeting House. The Pet Memorial Garden is at the end of the main parking lot, just before you enter the lower parking area. The Building and Grounds Sub-Council will be having their annual FALL WORKDAY on Saturday, September 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. If

you have them, bring a bucket and trowel or other weeding tools. The weeds can be dumped into the woods beyond the solar array to be recycled. If you are not sure if the targeted plant is a weed or treasure, we will be there to answer your questions. Not only will the Memorial Gardens be weeded, but you will have a chance to join with other USH members and friends to get our building and the grounds ready for a new church year!

There are two other areas that could use attention. One is the Labyrinth (at the end of the lower parking area in the Community Gardens). The other area includes all the bays around the Meeting House. We would appreciate all help!

When the families entrusted the ashes of their loved ones to us, we promised to have a serene and well-cared-for resting place. We need help keeping that promise! If you have any questions, please call us, or see us on Sunday.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this need!

And, if weeding is not your thing, the Security Subcommittee of B&G is doing a survey of various aspects of the Meeting House. To join that effort, see Paul Cipriano or Annie Witzler in the Meeting House.

Social Justice



**Connecticut Institute for
Refugees and Immigrants**

Strengthening Communities Since 1918

CIRI is September's GNO

by Sherry Manetta

Our Good Neighbor Offering (GNO) for September will go to CIRI — Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants. CIRI provides a compassionate array of high-quality legal, social, and educational programming for refugees, immigrants, and survivors of human trafficking and torture. Operating since 1918, CIRI has assisted refugees and immigrants in becoming self-sufficient, integrated, and contributing members of their communities.

CIRI is a statewide leader and collaborator in delivering services and training, with offices in Hartford, Bridgeport, Stamford, and Waterbury.

Included among CIRI's many current programs are:

- Resettlement for Ukrainian refugees (one of three primary resettlement agencies in CT)
- A Rental Assistance Program for undocumented immigrants and others not eligible for federal assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic (operated with the CT Department of Housing)
- A comprehensive workforce readiness and employment support program.

For more information about CIRI you can follow this link:

<https://cirict.org/what-we-do/>

Susan Schnitzer, CIRI's CEO, will join us at our service on September 25.

You can donate to CIRI throughout the entire month of September. In accordance with our new approach to Good Neighbor Offerings (voted on at the annual meeting), the general collection every Sunday in September will be split 50/50 between USH and CIRI.

There are several ways to donate:

- Donate in person via the offering plate during service (unless otherwise designated, 50% of you offering will go to USH and 50% will go to CIRI).
- Mail a check to USH.
- Donate online at the USH website.

Please be as generous as you can every Sunday in September to support the good work that CIRI does.

Update on Al Asmi family...

There are a number of refugee settlement efforts supported by churches and members.

The Al Asmi family, pictured here, is one example of an IRIS effort in which USH was heavily involved.



The family escaped Syria and arrived in the U.S. in 2016. Now, both parents have full-time jobs, the kids continue to learn in school, and the Al Asmis have become U.S. citizens. We at USH are pleased to continue supporting CIRI in its ongoing mission of supporting others like the Al Asmi family.

Food Bank Information

Food donations for all area towns go down in the Spring and Summer months while hungry individuals and families remain. If you are a West Hartford resident, the Food Bank is at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

Soup
Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken
Canned pasta (like SpaghettiOs)
Packaged Macaroni and Cheese

If you live in another area town, you can check on your local needs by going online. Some towns like Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester have multiple sites from which to choose.

Please give as you are able! Thanks!

Grocery bags are now being collected by the office door rather than the main entrance.

~Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



The Chalice Clubhouse

at USH

The Chalice Clubhouse is a fun, child-centric curriculum fostering individuality and free-thinking, using the Seven Principles as our guiding compass. For summer, we will have a freeform classroom set up with different activities available from week to week for children and youth to participate in, including arts and crafts, opportunities for dramatic play, cooperative games, meditation sessions, and much more!

We hope to see you there!



The school buses are back on the roads and the backpacks are filling up! We wish all our members and friends, whether you're beginning Pre-K or your residency, a smooth and productive year of learning!

We hope to see you on Sundays this fall for our RE programming!

**THE FIRST DAY OF RE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR IS
SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2022.**

REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR ALL THE FUN WE HAVE IN STORE FOR THIS YEAR! **SIGNUP ONLINE HERE** OR IN PERSON ON SUNDAYS!

Contact Annie Witzler (re4ush@gmail.com) for any and all RE related matters!

Programs & Events

Monday Mornings @ 10 a.m.

6 weeks: 9/12 – 10/17

Lucille Giammatteo will lead one-hour yoga sessions in the Meditation Room. Please wear comfortable clothing and, if possible, be barefoot during class. If 'barefoot' is not your preference, socks are fine. We will be doing Chair Yoga, but for those wishing to bring and use a yoga mat... that is also fine.

There is still room for 2 more people.

Yoga is not a competitive sport...always listen to your body and enjoy the many benefits of stretching, breathing, and mindfulness.

Autumn Gatherings (and Possibilities...)

Coming up: new and revived occasions to gather for shared conversation, fellowship, and camaraderie. Here are some opportunities —

Gentle Yoga – There are still a couple of openings for this class beginning **Monday, September 12, 10 a.m.**

The Lunch Bunch – Resumes **Tuesday, September 20** at Concetta's in Bloomfield. Nancy Kemmerer will be speaking. Join your USH friends at this monthly lunch-plus-speaker interlude.

Pizza and Movie Nights – The movies are returning, starting **Friday October 14**, and continuing on the 2nd Friday each month through June.

We have a couple of people interested in planning and organizing **Connection Circles**... if you'd like to join this endeavor, let us know by emailing enewsush@gmail.com with "SGM" in the subject line.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our September selection – Search, by Michelle Huneven. This novel focuses on a fictional search for a Unitarian minister. Because we will soon be going through this process “in real life,” you will find this book educational as well as entertaining.

One reviewer says this of the book: “It’s a front row seat to a juicy in-fight that’s all too familiar to anyone who’s ever tried to get something done by committee... The narrator of Search reflects that ministry... is about asking, ‘How do we live in this world?’ and this novel suggests many possible answers, touching on friendships, food, charisma, gossip, the notion of home, and the challenge of making all those things meaningful.” (Sanjena Sarhian).

**Another reviewer comments: "The wondrous Search tells the story of a group of people whose task is to unify around an important decision, and... rest assured that this droll novel will demonstrate in hilarious and painful detail all the ways in which our best intentions run afoul of how powerfully we want what we want."
(Ann Packer)**

Enjoy the reading.

If you want to participate in (or listen to) a discussion of the book and related issues, join us on Thursday, September 8 at 2:30, by Zoom or a hybrid meeting.

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 2022/23

Second Thursday of each month

September 8 – Search by Michelle Huneven

October 13 – Tasha: A Son's Memoir by Brian Morton

*November 10 – Girls of Tender Age by Mary-Ann
Tyrone Smith*

December. 8 – Midnight Library by Matt Haig

January 12 – Things We Lost in the Water by Eric Nguyen

February 9 – The Premonition by Michael Lewis

March 9 – The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

*April 13 – Power: The limits and prospects for human survival
by Richard Heinberg*

May 11 – Beloved by Toni Morrison

June 8 – The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

July 13 – Matrix by Lauren Groff

August 10 – Mismeasure of Man by Stephen J Gould

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** for 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. The Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988** to talk with a counselor.

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

The **2021/22 Annual Report** is available [HERE](#)

The Board Meeting minutes for **May and June 2022** 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.

2022-2023 USH Board of Directors

Eve Pech: President

Dana Donovan: President-Elect

Jon Covault: Treasurer

Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary

Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair

Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair

Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair

Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair

The September board meeting will be 9/13, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom link [HERE](#)
and in the USH calendar via this [LINK](#)

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. Announcements about upcoming events typically appear for two consecutive weeks maximum unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team. Articles should be sent as email file attachments, and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thanks for cooperating.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.org/staff-members/>

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

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

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper – Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

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



USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for September 2022 can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please contact Buffie with any questions or concerns.

From Buffie's Desk



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

Buffie works Sunday through Thursday,
from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Please email her at

hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Buffie is *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!

