

Unitarian Society of Hartford



Nourishing Spirit, Building Community, Working for Justice

Building Community Since 1830

Unitarian Society of Hartford

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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.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022



"Ingathering 2022: Love in Action"

**Eve Pech, Pulpit Guest
Peter Meny, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

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

**Dana Donovan, Welcome Table
Helen David & Mike Michaud, Greeters
Susan Hope & Fred Louis, Ushers**

**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**

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

Join us in ZOOM [here](#)

See Order of Service [here](#)

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

**11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour/Cook-Out/Picnic/Pot Luck –
Immediately following the service.**

In and around the Memorial Garden, weather permitting.

ZOOM coffee conversation will be held, as usual.

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



Eve Pech, Pulpit Guest

Eve Pech has been a member of USH for over 35 years, singing in the choir long ago and, more recently, chair of the Caring Network. She and her husband joined USH after their first child was born because they wanted their children to learn about religion from an all embracing point of view. Now that they are grown, Eve's family values USH for its inspiration, solace, and community. Her professional background is in global education.

Peter Meny, Worship Associate

Peter Meny has been a member of the Society since 1985. He grew up in Hartford and is a proud graduate of Hartford Public High School. Peter was a school psychologist in the Glastonbury school system for 33 years until his retirement in 2013. At USH he has served in a



variety of capacities including Council President, Stewardship Committee, and Worship Associate. He is presently the Spiritual Life Council chair. Peter lives in West Hartford with his wife Deb who keeps him grounded except when he is flying a glider.

Ingathering: 2022



***BRING WATER to
INGATHERING ~
and STAY for a
PICNIC LUNCH,
September 11
at 10:30 a.m.***

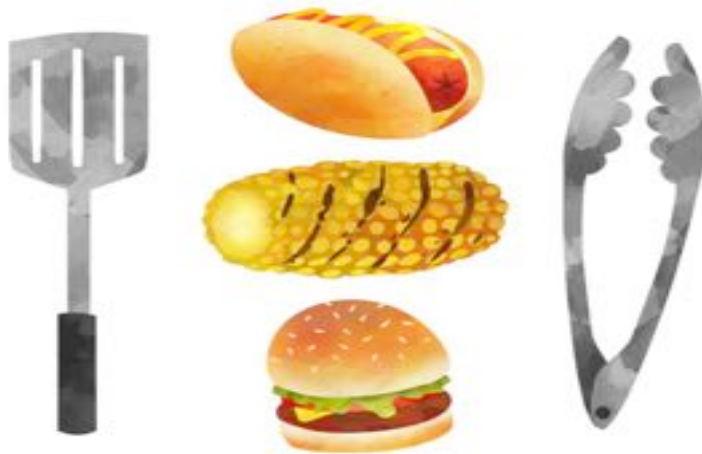
Our traditional Ingathering Service signals the start of the church year in the sanctuary. This year it will transpire in three parts: 1) a dedication of the new sanctuary lights; 2) our traditional Water Ceremony; and 3) a hybrid simple pot-luck/picnic-style lunch at coffee hour time. In the Water Ceremony, (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.”

Today's coffee hour includes 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!



Post-Ingathering cookout/potluck/picnic... RSVP [here](#)! Want to bring something to share? Or assist with grilling, serving, and/or cleanup? We're going **green**, using the **blue** non-disposable washable plasticware, and we can use a few folks to take home a modest dishwasher-load home to run through your kitchen dishwasher. Contact Tina Davies (daviesush@gmail.com) or Annie Witzler (re4ush@gmail.com) to let them know how you'd like to contribute. **PLUS** — You might also bring a lightweight folding chair or two, helping us create some impromptu seating arrangements!



Worship News

Let us be aware of our bountiful summer...

At church, our summer worship series, Living Fully, was well received and well attended in-person and on-line. The Chalice Clubhouse welcomed the youngest visitors. Our Annual Village School

Uniform Fundraiser was a resounding success. Coffee Hours and Conversations were plentiful and rich. In Fellowship Hall, the Gently Used Book Cart and the new Vegetable Market added to the fullness of the experience there.



Each week at least twelve people were needed to create our summer worship experience. Everyone who had a role this year is acknowledged with

heartfelt gratitude and appreciation.

LOVE IN ACTION is the theme for this church year. Services in September, after Ingathering this Sunday are:

September 18 – "There's an Elephant in the Room...Ahh...What is an Elephant?" – Rick Tsukada, pulpit guest and Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

September 25 – "Shanah Tovah" – Reverend Jan Carlsson-Bull, pulpit guest and Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

Come and let us worship together...

Congregational Matters

Brighter Days in the Sanctuary

For many years, USH has grappled with the level of lighting in the Sanctuary. Quoting a USH-Enews article recapping progress as of March 2019:

"As many of you know, there have long been complaints about the light level in the Sanctuary making reading hymnals and other printed material difficult, especially for some of our more mature members."

At that time there had already been years of failed efforts to remedy the situation, involving various alternative ways to increase the lighting based on light sources along the Ambulatory wall. After a great deal of prior planning, a preliminary determination was reached to suspend some sort of lighting fixtures above the pews. There followed discussions about the kind of fixtures that might be used. By March of 2019, the project involved suspension of a sample light.

No one at the time could have known the frustrations and delays — including Covid — that would attend the sustained efforts to realize, finally, the objective of better lighting over the pews.

Thanks to members of B and G, particularly architect Hugh Schweitzer; Bill Simmons, who created many informative technical and illustrative software-generated views of lighting designs for Sub-Council members; Jim and Ellie Venneman; and skilled carpentry by John Bengtson and Kevin Girouard, this Sunday, September 11, the lights will be officially dedicated in memory of David Venneman!

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 havin 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 th 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 yo 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



The late Congressman John Lewis said “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to *do* something.”

We know that being a Unitarian Universalist isn’t just about believing in justice, equity, and compassion, but what we

do to make those values come alive.

USH has been asked to join the UU congregations in our state to work to pass the **Early Voting Referendum** on the ballot this November. Connecticut is one of only four states that have no form of early voting, and we will work together to raise awareness and encourage voting.

Invitation from The Unitarian Society of New Haven:

- **CT Side with Love/UU the Vote Rally**
- **Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. via Zoom**

Join Jazahn Hicks, UU the Vote National Campaign Manager, and the USNH UU the Vote team! Get to know folks from other Connecticut UU congregations who are working on electoral justice. We will share successes and challenges, discuss our role in helping pass the CT Early Voting Referendum, and explore ways we may wish to work together on issues like reproductive rights and LGBTIQ+.

I hope as many folks as possible will join us to get inspired and organize!

Registration link for the upcoming rally, which I hope you'll share widely:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYKHKodAQ9fXpH89SmpUIRbAWva-vNvvd9ERaMS_ASN8pRow/viewform?usp=sf_link

Those who register will receive the Zoom link closer to the time of the rally. All are welcome!

In solidarity,
Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, Unitarian Society of New Haven

(USH folks: contact Judy Sullivan with questions: jasullivan57@gmail.com)

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:

Pasta and sauce

Canned pasta ("spaghettios")

Baked beans

Tuna

Mac 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 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! We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18!



**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



UU SpiritLife

Good News! *UU SpiritLife Conversations* now happen every other Saturday morning starting September 24, 9-10:30 a.m. on Zoom. You read an article first and then drop-in to a facilitated discussion with UUs from the three area churches, no registration

required.

Fall spiritual authors include Anne Lamott, Thomas Merton, Lao Tsu, Rabbi Rami Shapiro and even a session on spiritual aging. Go to UUSpiritLife.org for the complete fall schedule and log-in instructions. Note the dates on your calendar: 9/24; 10/8 & 22; 11/5 & 19; and 12/10 (in person). One of last year's participants said: "Wow, what an interesting, heartfelt opportunity to go deeper with other UUs!"



Meeting House Sing-Along – September 10, 2022

We are resuming our regular schedule of Sing-Alongs, 2nd Saturday of the month.

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 p.m. 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. Given the solemn occasion of this 9/11 weekend meeting, let's bring forward songs of peace and healing.

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 meeting house 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 outside, weather permitting, around to the right of the main entrance, down the path to the patio.

VAX protocol: OK to sing, socially spaced, if you are vaccinated; even so, 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.

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.**

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.

ATTENTION, LUNCH BUNCHERS: Our lunch venue, Concetta's, is UNABLE TO SERVE LARGE GROUPS while contending with staff shortages. Until further notice, then, the Lunch Bunch is on hiatus. We're hoping for a quick resolution, but who knows??

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 (see preview* below)

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

**** Our October selection: Tasha, A Son's Memoir***

Tasha Morton is a force of nature: a brilliant educator who's left her mark on generations of students — and also a whirlwind of a mother, intrusive, chaotic, oppressively devoted, and irrepressible.

For decades, her son Brian has kept her at a self-protective distance, but when her health begins to fail, he knows it's time to assume responsibility for her care. Even so, he's not prepared for what awaits him, as her refusal to accept her own fragility leads to a series of epic outbursts and altercations that are sometimes frightening, sometimes wildly comic, and sometimes both.

Clear-eyed, "deeply stirring" (Dani Shapiro, The New York Times Book Review), and brimming with dark humor, Tasha is both a vivid account of an unforgettable woman and a stark look at the impossible task of caring for an elderly parent in a country whose unofficial motto is "you're on your own."

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**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](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. 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](mailto: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/](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. 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/>

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Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator  
[re4ush@gmail.com](mailto:re4ush@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

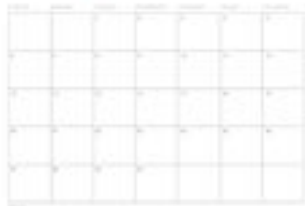
Patty Peck, Bookkeeper – Office or Phone by Appointment  
[ushtreasurer50@gmail.com](mailto:ushtreasurer50@gmail.com) 860-233-9897 ext. 102

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

### USH Calendar of Events

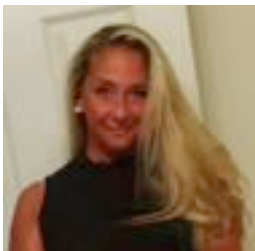


The calendar for September 2022 can be viewed [HERE](#).



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](mailto: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](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com)

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



Image: [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)