



Image: Courtesy of Kevin Girouard December 2017

Unitarian Society of Hartford

December 7, 2022

Building Community Since 1830

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.



Chet Baker (12/23/1929 - 05/13/1988)

December 11, 2022: 10:30 a.m.

Chet Baker Remembered

This season's Music Sunday honors the life and music of Chet Baker (1929 - 1988). The service will feature music in the cool jazz style of Baker, and his life and lessons we can draw from it will be discussed.

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries, Pulpit Guest

Andrew Wilcox, Guest Pianist

Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

Chancel Arts Sub-Council, Chancel Art

Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

Sue Smolski, Greeter

Ginny Hedrick & 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

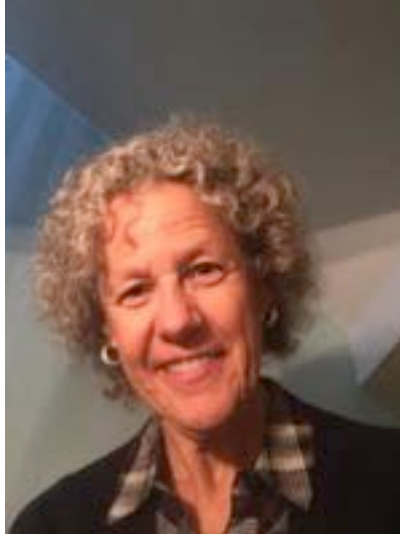
11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour immediately following the service, in person and ZOOM.

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



Pulpit Guest, Sam Moffett

Sam Moffett is the director of music ministries at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. A lifelong student of jazz music, Sam draws particular inspiration from the vocal and improvisatory styles of Chet Baker and is choosing this Sunday to honor his legacy.



Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

Laurie Kelliher is a lifelong Unitarian, proud of her third generation UU children who were raised at USH. She is a self-described proselytizer for the UU faith and views being a Worship Associate as one more avenue to spread the word.



Musical Guest, Andrew Wilcox

Andrew Wilcox, raised by his elders in Hartford, is a rising pianist in the northeast. A native of Boylston, MA, Wilcox travels all over the northeast performing with many different artists including Haneef Nelson, Alex Tremblay, Yoron Israel, and Jonathan Barber. This past summer, Andrew covered the piano chair for Grammy Nominated vocalist Jazzmeia Horn at the Newport Jazz Festival. Ms. Horn then asked Andrew to write an arrangement for her big band and perform it with her at the Charlie Parker Festival this past August.

Sunday Worship



Upcoming Sunday Services: Join us, in person or online.

December 18 – “My UU Jesus”, Rick Tsukada, Pulpit Guest, Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

December 21 – Wednesday, 7 pm, Winter Solstice Service: Honoring the Light: A Winter Solstice at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, Dana Donovan, Pulpit Guest, Michael Michaud and Margaret Leicach, Worship Leaders

December 24 – Saturday, 5 pm, Christmas Eve Service, Peter Meny, Pulpit Guest/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate

December 25 – A UU Christmas: “So Many Gifts...” Sue Smolski and Ron Friedman, Worship Leaders.

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator

On Christmas Morning I will deliver a brief homily during our service at USH. The theme of the message will be *GIFTS*. Speaking from our pulpit isn't part of my comfort zone, so I have a favor to ask. It's a simple favor — please answer the following two questions and reply to me:

- 1) What are the best non-material gifts we can give to children?

- 2) What are the best non-material gifts we can give to friends, family, and community?

The answers I receive will be incorporated in the Christmas morning message. I look forward to your responses, and thank you in advance.

Best,

Ron Friedman

rsfriedman41@gmail.com

Rev. Aaron Payson has shared with us his sermon notes from November 20, and these are now posted on the USH website. You can read his presentation [here](#):



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

Year-End (Tax) Planning

It is now December, and for a few this is a time to contemplate payouts from IRAs, Tax Deferred Annuities, and appreciated stocks or similar investments.

This presents opportunities for Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCDs).

Making such contributions means there will be no tax due on the payout you would otherwise receive, and the full value of the contribution directed to the charity will benefit the charitable organization. Moreover, you will then have a charitable deduction for income tax due for 2022 as well. Gifts from other sources may be eligible for a charitable deduction also.

May we politely note: USH is such a charitable organization!

Should you wish to pursue a QCD for 2022, it's recommended you consult with a fund advisor or accountant — they are familiar with such matters. In addition, your Endowment Committee members, currently David Newton, Chair and Jim Venneman, member, will welcome your inquiry.

dcnewton999@gmail.com and

ellieloncove@gmail.com will put you in touch.

Thank you for your interest; may your tax situation be optimized! ~ *David Newton and Jim Venneman*

Stewardship 2023

Carolyn Carlson has agreed to chair the Stewardship Campaign for 2023. She is looking for volunteers to help with the campaign. People can volunteer to be on the committee or to help with specific tasks. This is a rewarding way to help USH and to get to know some other members.

We hope to complete the campaign by April 15, 2023.

Carolyn is also looking for ideas for a theme. This often includes a song. Please contact Carolyn directly if you would like to volunteer or if you have some ideas for a theme. Carlsoncjc@gmail.com

Auction Update

The 2022 Auction was fun, with lots of items for sale including the Sanctuary lighting "puck". There were 52 items sold, plus 2 cash donations. 25

members donated items and 21 were winning bidders. The auction raised \$3,783 for USH!

Thanks to everyone who participated or watched the bidding! Bidding on several items was fierce.

Concerning Needs for Pastoral Care...

The Caring Network has had a number of requests for Pastoral Care during the past few months. Generally, we have been able to reach out to the individuals and meet their needs. However, there are situations when contact with a minister is preferred. If you wish to speak to a minister, please contact me and I will give you the contact information. You can reach me by phone (860/212-6923), by email (janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com) or see me on Sunday. I will usually be at the Caring Network table at the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

~ Janice Newton, Chair



Book Cart News!

Our summer of giveaways has ended—we are now putting out new donations—look for some great nature books as well as award winning novels, mysteries, political and historical non-fiction, spiritual guides, and more. **We can use new books to replenish our supply.**

We **encourage donations of books that you enjoyed** and want to share with others in our community. Leave them in the office in the “Book Cart” bin.

All books just \$1.00

—your book cart team

Susan, Laurel, Ginny, Evan & Deb

Social Justice

Social Justice Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 7 – 8 p.m. via Zoom

Open to all – join us to catch up on our ongoing and new activities.

We will have a guest from the Fern Street Food Ministries joining us to discuss the 5 food scarcity programs at the West Hartford Universalist Church and opportunities for USH to get involved.

Zoom link:

[_https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81935403837?pwd=M2VTbVY3WXYvelMvOEtDdksvWWJPUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81935403837?pwd=M2VTbVY3WXYvelMvOEtDdksvWWJPUT09)

Questions? Contact Judy Sullivan jasullivan57@gmail.com



GHIAA's December ASSEMBLY is TONIGHT, December 7, at *Weaver High School on Granby Street in Hartford, at 7 p.m.*

USH is primed to have a good turnout tonight — if you haven't yet registered, you might still be in luck! Check with Judy Sullivan or Diana Heymann (contact info below).

This is GHIAA's large action event where we officially launch campaigns, negotiate with legislators and other power brokers, and welcome new congregations.

PLEASE CONTACT:
Diana Heymann 860-965-5166
heydiana42@gmail.com
Judy Sullivan 860-719-9886
jasullivan57@gmail.com

The GHIAA Summit/Assembly tonight will be livestreamed on the GHIAA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cljaction>
 No login is required. Also, you don't need a Facebook Account to view.



Human Rights Day is December 10 – here are some resources for advocacy

1. **Learn:** Head to the [United Nations website](#) to learn about Human Rights Day and this year's focus on equality. Visit [PFLAG's website on advocacy](#) to learn about some of the ways that you can use your voice to advocate for others' rights.
2. **Watch:** Revisit our PFLAG Academy Online session on [LGBTQ+ history](#) to learn how our [community's past intersects with human rights efforts today](#). Watch some episodes of [Something To Talk About Live!](#) that address international human rights issues, including [this episode about anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in Hungary](#).
3. **Share:** Consider sharing [Human Rights Day materials](#) across social media, using hashtags #StandUp4HumanRights and #HumanRightsDay. Stay connected to PFLAG on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



December Good Neighbor Offering

The speaker this Sunday from BHCA is Dean Jones, Director of Community Schools Programming at Weaver High School.

[Blue Hills Civic Association](#) has been selected for our December GNO. They have been working in the North Hartford communities of Blue Hills, Upper Albany, Clay Arsenal, and others for the past 60 years.

BHCA is a catalyst to inspire Hartford to be vibrant with civically engaged residents and leaders, strong schools and thriving economies. They offer programs for youth development, community organizing and senior services.

See how they empower people living and working in the Blue Hills and surrounding communities by following the link below to a short (51 seconds) video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLyEC1npdk0&t=1s>

West Hartford Food Bank Information

If you are a West Hartford resident, the Food Bank is at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

Cold Cereals
Peanut Butter
Jelly

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 holiday season is here, and USH RE is here to spread cheer to all ages!

We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0 –18... sign up online [here](#) or on Sundays in person at the welcome table.

Please note that children and youth who wish to participate in RE programming should report directly to their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category.

Special Event Notice:



Join us on December 24 for an evening filled with warmth, love, and light. A DIY holiday photo area will open for all, our holiday service will begin at 5 p.m. with singing and stories. A holiday reception with food and drink will follow afterward

the service in Fellowship Hall. Children and youth present will be able to receive small age-appropriate gifts from the RE department, as well.

Please fill out [this form](#) if you and your family plan on attending, so we might plan accordingly (and be able to personalize your child or youth's gift!). We hope to see you there!

The Sprouts Nursery (Ages Infant-Pre-K):

Our nursery is open to all infants, young children, and their families. There are toys, books, art supplies, and plenty of room for imagination to grow free!

We have dedicated personnel and volunteers there to supervise every week, and the best part? You can now listen and participate in the service while you're there! Nursery go-ers can listen to the service and even participate in our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual!

Come visit any Sunday and never miss a single sermon! **The nursery is adjacent to Fellowship Hall.**



In The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K-6th):

Last week, our clubhouse goers continued their UU advent experience with the lighting of the second purple candle, representing peace.



We discussed what peace means to us and heard an original story of hope based on one of our puppet friends, Gayle the Canadian Goose. The story taught us that anyone can be a beacon of peace (even a goose) and that peace may look different to all of us, but we can work together to achieve it. You can find the whole story [here](#).



This Sunday, we will continue our UU advent season with a new story and craft!

We hope to see you in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am!

USH Youth Group (Grades 6th-12th):



This Sunday, our Youth Group will meet for their seventh fall session.
 (And there will be snacks!)
 We hope to see you there!

Events & Happenings



UU SpiritLife

The last UUSpiritLife meeting of 2022 will take place **IN PERSON!** We will have a light breakfast at the Universalist Church of West Hartford (433 Fern Street, West Hartford) on December 10, 9 – 10:30. A short ritual of celebration will be followed by coffee and conversation. Anyone who has ever participated in any SpiritLife program over the years is welcome to come and say hi to old friends. This is a drop-in event.

Contact person: Judy Robbins, judyrobb2@gmail.com

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday December 9**, for conversation, pizza, a movie, and more conversation (about the movie). Movies are recommended by your friends at USH who have found them interesting, perhaps provocative, and worth seeing. The December feature is ***Made in Dagenham***, featuring Sally Hawkins, Bob Hoskins, and Miranda Richardson. Based on true events, this "David vs. Goliath" story recounts one woman's campaign for equal pay and treatment at the local Ford plant in 1968. It has wit, grit, and some sadness mixed into an engaging story line. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference.

Second Saturday Sing-Along –

Sing-Alongs, 2nd Saturday each month: **NEXT UP: December 10.**

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com).

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, DECEMBER 13, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please let Janice Newton know if you plan to attend and have not yet signed up. Sue Smolski will be speaking.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

*Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our December selection – **Midnight Library** by Matt Haig (see preview* below).*

Enjoy the reading.

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

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

*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 December selection:

***The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig**

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

Nora Seed, faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one; following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist, finds she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

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 **July, August and September 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 December board meeting is 12/13, 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/>

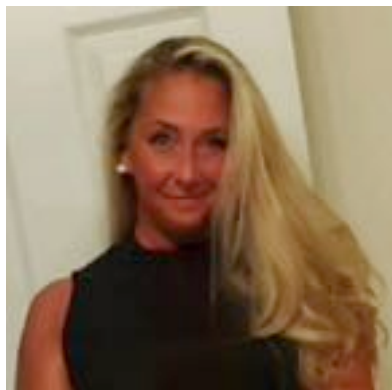
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

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

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!



USH Calendar of Events

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

Please contact Buffie with any questions or concerns.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is

Tuesday at 12 Noon.

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

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com



An Early Winter - Bill Cannon