



Unitarian Society of Hartford

February 22, 2023

Building Community Since 1830

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

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

www.ushartford.org

Office Administrator's Hours:

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please email/call for an appointment.



The Peace Quilt

February 26, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

"Love Will Guide Us"

Sally Rogers, Pulpit Guest

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

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

**10:30 a.m. Religious Education in person
Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator**

**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.**

Mask Update

***Masking is currently optional. Our policy is to follow CDC
guidelines.***

Sally Rogers, Pulpit Guest

Sally Rogers is a nationally renowned singer, masterful songwriter, and recording artist with numerous awards for her work. A full time touring musician for more than 40 years, she has toured coast to coast and internationally.



A classroom music educator for fifteen years, she now spends most of her time as a teaching artist with several Connecticut and regional agencies. She received her Masters Degree in Creative Arts in Learning, i.e., arts integration in the classroom.

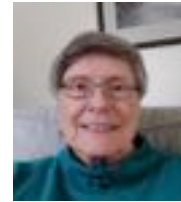
Her songs are in both national music texts and Unitarian Universalist and Quaker hymnals. Many are also featured in the folk “hymnals”, *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again*. She worked with playwright Jo Carson, composing music for four folk operas.

In 2017, Sally Rogers received the Magic Penny Award at the Children's Music Network Annual International Conference. This tribute is awarded to people dedicating their lives to empowering children through music.

More information can be found at sallyrogers.com

Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

Worship Associate Coordinator and long-time USH member, thanks Laura Cipriano for her suggestion that Sally Rogers be a pulpit guest.



Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us, in person or online.



March 5 – "Standing on the Shoulders of Those Who Came Before", David Newton, Pulpit Guest/Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

March 12 – Title Pending, Rev. Stephen Kendrick/Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

March 19 – Title Pending, Pulpit guest pending/ Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate

March 26 – Title Pending, Rev. Aaron Payson/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski Worship Associate Coordinator

Welcome Team Sign-Up

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



More You Can Do on Sunday

Here are some other things you can do once and be done – see Rick Tsukada or Laurie Kelliher if you're interested.

- Candle Bowl Lifter
- Chalice Lighter
- Welcome Table
- Chancel Art



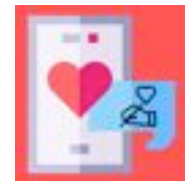
You've Got Mail!

The in-office mailbox is going to go through reorganization and relabeling. Please stop by on Sunday before or after worship to check your mailboxes and empty out anything you may have. After **March 12**, all mail not picked up will be disposed of. Please reach out to the Office Admin if you have any

questions/concerns.

Love In Action

“Love in Action” is the theme for the 2023-2024 Stewardship Campaign. During the next month, please think about examples of love in action that you have observed at USH – who did what that exemplified love in action? You can mull it over with warm thoughts, and/or thank the person, and/or stop by the Stewardship Table in Fellowship Hall after services in March and post it on our board!



Also, if you'd like to help with the campaign, contact Carolyn Carlson at carlsoncjc@gmail.com.

Looking for a Minister... Part Two

The Review Committee has been carefully reviewing applicants for our one-year contract minister position. As announced at the Semi-Annual Meeting this past Sunday (February 19, 2023), there are not many available ministers; we are competing with 72 other congregations nationwide. Fortunately, we have one outstanding applicant who we will be interviewing this week.

This is not a traditional ministerial search which is a year-long process. A contract minister is a simple Board hire. However, it is not simple for the applicant. They have to submit a Ministerial Record which can easily run to 20 pages or more and involves not only the usual resume items but also lengthy answers to many of the questions you yourself might ask: why are they seeking the position, how do they function with staff and volunteers, their philosophy of preaching, how they see their role in the larger community, their approach to Religious Education, and many more issues. The Review Committee not only has access to all this written material but also on-line sermon videos, so we can actually see an applicant in action. These videos are revealing and very helpful.

You have submitted your wish list of traits you want in a minister. You can access that [here](#). This is aspirational. No one person will have all these wonderful things but we believe in setting the bar high.


The people on the Review Committee are:
Judy Robbins, Chair; Paul Cipriano, Mike Covault, Sarah McKenzie, Dana Donovan, and Rob Spector.

UU Spirit Life

SpiritLife Conversations meets Saturday morning, **February 25, 9 – 10:30**, to consider The Grace in Aging. Kathleen Dowling Singh taught about grace – inherent in our living, our aging, and our dying. We will share how grace may light our days, particularly in the later stages of life’s journey. Read the introduction first at UUSpiritLife.org and then drop into a facilitated discussion with UUs from the three area churches, no pre-registration required. For log-in instructions, [go here](#). These conversations are heartfelt opportunities to go deeper with other UUs! The entire winter/spring schedule is posted at UUSpiritLife.org.



DO YOU LOVE READING GOOD BOOKS?



Would you like to share special finds with your fellow USH book lovers?

The book table, which is set up in Fellowship Hall after service each week, needs a fresh supply of quality, interesting books. Gripping novels, informative nonfiction, inspirational, funny, artful—whatever you enjoyed reading and want to pass on.

This has been a useful meeting spot for newcomers to mingle at coffee hour and we'd like to keep it going!

You can leave book donations in the designated container in the office.

—YOUR BOOK TABLE TEAM
SUSAN, LAUREL, GINNY, EVAN, & DEB

ALL BOOKS \$1.00!



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

**Do you enjoy singing, and
being with like-minded people?
IF YES, the USH Choir is looking for
you!**

Our choir is looking to recruit new members who love to sing. With a large mix of ability and experience, we aim to contribute positively within our community through performing regularly during Sunday services, as well as collaborating with other Unitarian Universalist churches in the area.

All are welcome — NO auditions required!

Rehearsals are held every Thursday evening from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the **USH Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**

If interested in joining, or seeking more information, please contact Sam Moffett, Director of Music at smoffettuu@gmail.com



Social Justice



THE REACH FUND
OF CONNECTICUT

**February Good Neighbor
Offering:
The REACH Fund of CT
(Reproductive Equity, Access, and Choice)**

The REACH Fund of Connecticut was founded in 2021 by a group of individuals who believe that healthcare is a human right and that abortion is an essential part of healthcare. They are an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to reduce financial barriers to abortion care in Connecticut by providing financial assistance to those who receive care here.

The values of the REACH Fund embrace those of Unitarian Universalism: Compassion, Inclusivity, Intersectionality, Equity, and Autonomy.

This will be the final Sunday on which our Good Neighbor offering will be dedicated to REACH... please give generously!

Social Justice Committee ~

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for the January Good Neighbor Offering –total donations raised for Operation Fuel were **\$1,005!** Our next Social Justice Committee Meeting is **March 21, 7 – 8:30 p.m.** in the Library and Zoom.

Zoom Link [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 819 3540 3837

Passcode: 026862

West Hartford Food Bank Information

The following is a list of all the food groups and foods provided for individuals and families. Please choose those items that you are able to collect and drop off at the West Hartford Town Hall:

- **Proteins:** Canned tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, canned beans, bean-based soups
- **Grains:** Pasta, one-pound bags of rice, cereal
- **Comfort foods:** Macaroni and cheese, chicken noodle soup
- **Fruits and Veggies:** Canned fruits, applesauce, jelly, tomato, and vegetable soups

Grocery bags are now being collected outside the office door.
Food can be dropped off in the bin to the right located in the lobby/entryway.

The West Hartford Food Bank is located at West Hartford Town Hall.

Thank You!
 ~*Diana Heymann*

USH Collaborates with Universalist Church Backpack Program

Three members of USH's Social Justice Ministry are volunteering at the Fern Street Backpack program which provides weekend meals to 14 West Hartford schools, each having food-insecure families with 118 students being served.

Judy Sullivan, Louise Harmon, and Diana Heymann are currently trained to pack bags for families with special needs/dietary restrictions.

We are also filling in when there is a need to deliver these weekend bags to schools.

Each family's bag contains food items of the following: Protein, Starch, Vegetable Breakfast items, Snacks, and Drinks.

Take a look at the list below for items in need:

Peanut Butter, Can/Dry Beans, Green Peas, Oatmeal, Pasta, Rice, Crackers, Chips, Other Grains, Cereal/Granola, Granola Bars, Dry/Can Fruit, Dry/Can Soup, Pasta Sauce, Can Tomatoes, Can Vegetables, Dry Potatoes, Fruit Juice, Fruit Cups, Applesauce, Oatmeal Packets, Bars, Cereal Cups, Nuts/Trail Mix
Non-Food Items: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Soap, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, Socks, School Supplies, Menstrual Supplies

Also, if you'd like to make food contributions to this program, please use the bin on the floor to the left in the front entryway at USH.

Thank You!
 ~*Diana Heymann*

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RE and Chalice Clubhouse



It's wintertime here in Connecticut and the fun is always at USH! We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18! Signup 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!

A Quick Announcement:



Our RE department is aware of the rise of Norovirus, influenza, (and the persistent Covid-19) cases among children and youth this season here in Connecticut and around the country.

We highly encourage any RE participants and volunteers to stay home if they feel under the weather in any way.

To do our part in promoting a safe and healthy environment for our children and youth, we are disinfecting all used surfaces and materials (tables, toys, books, etc) both before and after RE on Sundays.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out any time via email or phone (text messaging works best) at re4ush@gmail.com or 706-248-9438.

Thank you!

- Annie Witzler, Interim Coordinator of RE.

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 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! **Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.**



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



After an unexpected hiatus, the Chalice Clubhouse will be back this weekend with a brand new story and accompanying craft this Sunday with our puppet friends joining us!

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

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



This weekend, Sunday, February 22nd, our Youth Group will meet for their sixth session of 2023! (And there will be snacks!) They will be beginning work on their worship service happening this coming June and planning a field trip!

We hope to see you **downstairs in Classroom C at 10:30 am!**

An Exciting New Project for Youth is Here!

Thanks to the help of our wonderful office administrator, Karolina, USH is now a part of the wonderful and whacky world of TikTok (**@ushconnecticut**)! And what better way to get followers than get help from the experts of the platform: teens!



Any youth ages 13+ who have a signed guardian permission slip may assist with the creation of content for our new TikTok page. Please note that all content will be family-friendly, prescreened by our RE Coordinator, and no names of youth or other participants will ever be mentioned in the content or postings.

Pick up a permission slip this weekend if you or your youth are interested!

Events & Happenings

Monthly Gatherings

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, MARCH 21, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Whatever direction the conversation takes, it should be interesting. Please contact janicecnewton@gmail.com to sign up so we can arrange enough places at the table.

Social Justice – Interested in justice work? Come meet with us to learn the latest about ongoing activities and discover new initiatives. Our next ZOOM meeting is **Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m.** Everyone's invited... contact [Judy Sullivan](#) for information.

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 860-904-7768.

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday March 10**, 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 March selection is *Selma*, widely acclaimed as a powerful and faithful representation of events surrounding the historic march. Sign up at the Caring Network table at coffee hour, or email Janice Newton to register. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference. Generally, we begin gathering at 5 for libations and conversation. The pizza arrives at 5:30; we aim for a 6:15 'showtime'.

Second Saturday Sing-Along – March 11

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along — Fred Louis and Ed Savage offer an opportunity to join in song on the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 p.m. Song sheets and some loaner copies of Rise Up Singing will be 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.

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

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

*Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our March selection – **The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles (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, March 9 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 mont

*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 March selection:

"The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York.

Caring Network

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. Please also know there is a wide range of community services available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at **211**, and the Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988**, where you can speak with a counselor.

~ Janice Newton, Chair

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 **November and December 2022, and January 2023** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Karolina Wojtyska 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

Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email to: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

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 note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be featured 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

Karolina Wojtysko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartfordusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100



USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for March 2023 can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please contact the office with any questions or concerns.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is
Tuesday at Noon.
Please note in the subject line "USH Enews." Thank you for your submission!
Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com



Photo by: Kevin Girouard January 2023

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