

USH E-News July 2, 2025



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E-News Reduced Summer Publication Schedule:

During summertime, reduce our publication schedule, with numerous programs and meetings taking a breather. Here is our list of planned "release dates" through August:

July 2, 16, 30
August 13, 27

Weekly publication will resume **September 3**. Please note that the altered schedule applies **only** to the **USH E-News**: Worship Reminders and Orders of Service will continue to be available each week.

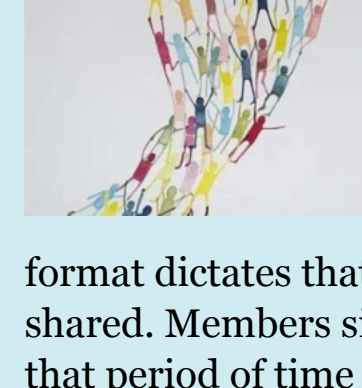
Have a great summer... breathe, and relax!

Tina and Karolina

Minister
Thursday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. – noon
or by appointment.
Call/Text: 860-539-1259

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Call/Text: 860-539-5729

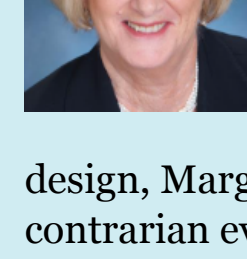
Sunday Morning Service July 2, 10:30 AM



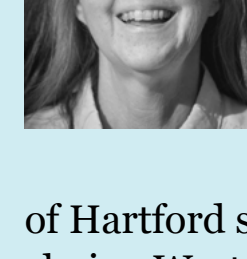
"Creating Connection"
For more than a decade now, once a week for eight weeks, members of this church have hosted groups of no more than 10 - mostly in homes but at least one in our church. They were originally called "Small Group Ministry" and are now called "Connection Circles". A trained facilitator introduces the topic for the evening with a brief reading and poses an open-ended question. One-by-one, group members share what the reading and the question brings up in them. The format dictates that no one interrupts, responds to, or comments on what is shared. Members simply listen deeply to one another. All groups meeting in that period of time are using the same reading and thought provoking questions.

Martha Bradley will share the history and evolution of this cherished practice of our congregation and offer some - totally optional - opportunities for members to share their own experiences.

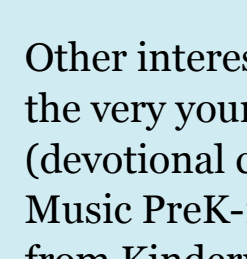
Martha Bradley, Pulpit Guest
Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate
Barbara Robbins, Guest Pianist



Martha Bradley, Pulpit Guest
Martha is a lifelong UU who grew up in Detroit. After graduating from the University of Michigan, she taught high school English and Journalism in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, and helped found one of the first Charter Schools in Connecticut. Here at USH she has served on the Board, a search committee and in several other capacities.



Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate
Margaret and a work colleague first entered this church 40+ years ago as guest speakers. As in "Point Counterpoint" (a then-venture of the weekly news program, "60 Minutes"), they posed a series of questions related to gender-roles as they existed at the time. Facing each other while sitting on the chance steps, by design, Margaret's male colleague took the feminist perspective and Margaret (a contrarian even then) took the macho perspective. The 'worship committee' took them out for lunch.



Barbara Robbins, Guest Pianist
Barbara Robbins, Pianist, has been making music with musicians of many genres and ages all her life.
Ms. Robbins has enjoyed teaching piano at Connecticut State Community College, Manchester, since 2017. She has played as collaborative pianist for the Vocal Department at the University of Hartford since 2003, and as rehearsal and performance pianist for three area choirs, West Hartford Women's Chorus, Cetto Chamber Singers, and choir of St Patrick in Farmington, where she serves as pianist and organist on Sundays in the early morning. Barbara is often requested to play auditions, recordings, and performances for a wide range of organizations, from professional to community.

Other interests include planning and teaching Music & Movement classes for the very young and their parents, and singing and playing East Indian "bhajans" (devotional call and response style songs). Ms. Robbins is certified to teach Music PreK-12 in Connecticut public schools, and earned an Educator License from Kindermusik International. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and a Master of Music degree on a full scholarship from the University of Connecticut in Storrs.



Services are live streamed every Sunday on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
Zoom info: Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934
Password: 128493

Virtual Coffee Hour to follow
*** Note: Zoom Coffee Hour ends at noon**
[Past Services](#)

[Join us on Zoom](#)

Upcoming Worship Services, 10:30 a.m.
Summer Services start in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, July 6

July 13 - "Reflections on a Long Sojourn in England", Reverend Bob/Miriam Byroade, Worship Associate/Ben Mabrey, guest pianist

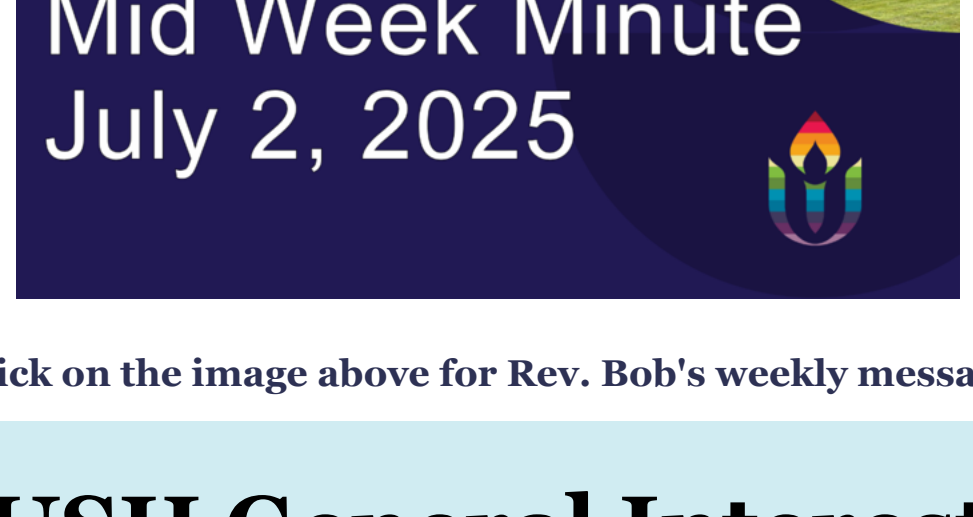
July 20 - "Rags to Rainbows", Deana David, Pulpit Guest/Peter Meny, Worship Associate/Barbara Robbins, guest pianist

July 27 - "Conversations on the Path", Reverend Bob/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate/Ben Mabrey, guest pianist



Matt Meyer who led our worship service this [past Sunday](#) wanted to extend these invitations to the congregation:

- You can stay in touch with Matt by signing up for his email list [here](#).
- Matt's congregation, Sanctuary Boston, just released an album of original UU music. [Check it out here](#).
- To read Matt's articles on the history of congregational singing in UUism, [click here](#).



[Click on the image above for Rev. Bob's weekly message](#)

USH General Interest

The Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser July 2025

The main campus of the Village for Families is immediately next door to USH in the red brick buildings. Over 200 years ago The Village was established as an orphanage. It is now a major mental health care provider for children, youth, adults and families in Greater Hartford.

Every summer The Village has a Uniform Fundraiser - USH has contributed since 2013. Students in Hartford public schools, like those pictured above, are required to wear school specific clothes (uniforms).

The children in this photo all wear green tops and tan bottoms as their school colors. Each uniform costs between \$35-\$60. For many families served by The Village this amount is a stretch, especially during these uncertain times.

The Uniform Fundraiser is a special two-month event: it is not a regular Good Neighbor offering. The Fundraiser will take place from July 6 - August 17. You may donate to the Uniform Fundraiser via check made out to USH with Uniform in the memo line or online via the separate spot on the [Giving Portal](#).

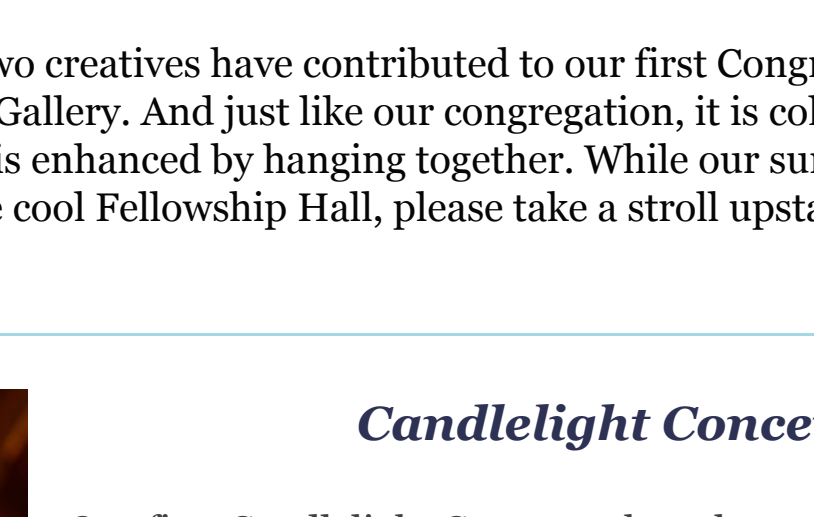
Contributions that are not designated, including money in the collection basket, will go to USH.

The Uniform Fundraiser now serves at least 1,500 families and the need is great. New uniforms will help children return to school in August with pride. USH has been a great supporter of The Village and its children.

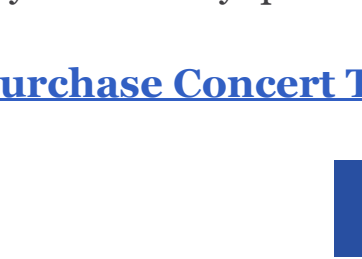
Please donate as you are able. Any amount is welcome.

Thank you for thinking of the children so faithfully.
~Joanne Orlando

"IT'S UP"! Our FIRST Congregational Art Show



We did it! Twenty two creatives have contributed to our first Congregational Art Show for the Ambulatory Gallery. And just like our congregation, it is colorful, diverse and each person's work is enhanced by hanging together. While our summer worship will be downstairs in the cool Fellowship Hall, please take a stroll upstairs to view the show.



Candlelight Concerts

Our first Candlelight Concert takes place on **July 5, in Fellowship Hall**. We need some volunteer staff to assist with a few simple tasks before, during, and after the concerts.

If you are interested in volunteering, please click the green button below to view available slots. (*Note - slots are full for July 5th)

If you have any questions, please reach out to the [church office](#).

[Purchase Concert Tickets Here](#)

[Volunteer as Concert Staff: Sign-up Here](#)

NEWS BULLETIN - June 13, 2025

Spanish is My Superpower!
The Hispanic Community of Greater Hartford is proud to announce the first Spanish storytime series at my [Public Library](#)!

For those seeking enrichment and empowering volunteer opportunities, I strongly encourage you to connect with your public libraries this Summer. Public Libraries remain the foundational mainstays in the fabric of our communities!

Although my proposed Language Access Bill (SB 955) was not successful, I remain steadfast with community-centered grassroots by reaching the very foundation of our society-Children and Youth!

"Primera serie de cuentos en español: "¡Español es Mi Superpoder!"

Estoy encantada de tener la oportunidad de ofrecer la primera serie de cuentos en español en nuestra Biblioteca.

Para aquellos que buscan oportunidades voluntarias, enriquecimiento y empoderamiento, les animo a conectarse con sus bibliotecas públicas este verano. ¡Nuestras bibliotecas siguen siendo los pilares fundamentales en el tejido de nuestras comunidades!

Aunque mi propuesta de Ley de Acceso al Idioma (SB 955) no tuvo éxito, me mantengo firme con las bases centradas en la comunidad llegando a la fundación de nuestra sociedad-los Niños y Jóvenes!

~Doris Maldonado

Social Justice

Horace Bushnell Food Pantry News

What does it mean to go hungry if you're a kid at home in summer in Hartford? No school breakfasts or lunches now...just what's in the refrigerator or cabinets at home. Having myself been in the homes and kitchens of poor families in Hartford, let me tell you...there is nothing in either the refrigerator or in the cabinets...NADA...NOTHING... EMPTY

Let's fill our bins in the lobby with as much healthy food as possible. I'll take it to Horace Bushnell every week. Hartford's poor families are counting on us.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

If you forgot food, you can always put a check or a few dollars in an envelope and send in or pass it in with the collection each week. Thanks again.

In gratitude,
Diana Hegmann

LEVO

USH is Farming!
Well, maybe more of a garden, but we are definitely planning our vegetable hydroponic garden! The photo shows our 5 ft. model which will be here at USH for any and all interested to sign up to participate in its care.

- The good news:**
- hydroponic gardening uses less water
 - less work,
 - no weeding
 - more produce than traditional gardens
 - shorter growing time
 - accessibility for all

All produce will be donated to Horace Bushnell Food Pantry, which, like all other food pantries, has lost significant government subsidies.

Levo is setting up our system in July - it will be planted and functional and they will train us in the simple operation.

All interested, please contact Judy @ : ushsocialjustice@gmail.com

More about Levo International:

Join our CSA!
Eat Fresh, Support Local.
441 Homestead Ave., Hartford

Our mission is to create food security solutions to strengthen communities through partnership and innovation. Our program supports growers in urban Hartford, creating economic stability and self-sufficiency. All proceeds support Levo's food security program. Levo's growing team, comprising residents of Hartford's North End, uses environmentally sustainable hydroponic systems.
<https://levointernational.org/>

Make your voice heard.

5 Calls is the easiest and most effective way for U.S. constituents to make a political impact.

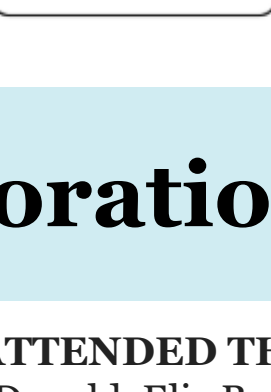
PARTICIPATE IN YOUR DEMOCRACY!

Call your representatives. Let them know what you expect them to do for you. It only takes 5 minutes with 5 Calls.

- 1 Pick an issue you care about
- 2 Look up your reps
- 3 Read a short script if you don't know what to say

All you have to do is call.

5 Calls
Scan this QR code or go to <https://5calls.org> to get started



Religious Exploration

THREE FROM THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP ATTENDED THE UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY -JUNE 18-22: Alyssa McDonald, Elle Box and Lella Bittern attended the UUA General Assembly in Baltimore on June 18-22. They were invited to the UUUWZ booth. So proud and grateful to them. Some of the photos from the General Assembly may be viewed here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/MaNPVYtQdGIX7j556>

GOOD TURNOUT DOWNSTAIRS OF KIDS: There was a good turnout of kids downstairs during the lay-led service - about 7 kids I believe and some did not go downstairs and stayed with adults upstairs. Three spoke Spanish fluently. So we played an animal guessing game - all in Spanish (attached) - honest! So fun!!

CALENDAR OF SOME FUN EVENTS:

July 12: Outdoor movie night - if you have a good idea for a movie, let us know.
July 19: Lake Compounce Day
August 9: Outdoor movie night

TWO OUTDOOR MOVIE EVENINGS ARE PLANNED: We have huge outdoor screens. The tentative dates are **July 12 and August 9th**. More details to be announced later. If the older kids/youth want to, this can be combined with an overnight stay - but the youth need to tell me IF they want to, kindly let me know - and if there is a type of event or programming you do want, kindly let me know. If there is a particular movie you want to see, let me know.

ZOOM CALLS WITH KENYAN & INDIAN UU YOUTH: UU youth from Kenya would like to have Zoom call with the USH youth. You might recall some of the calls in January with Indonesian, Philippines and German youth. **There were no Kenyan youth on the calls** - only the Kenyan minister. But the youth are eager to speak with you! We will have to arrange a time; Kenya is 7 hours ahead of us. We are also looking at doing the same with the Indian UU youth from the Kashi Hills region of India.

USH Resources

July 2025 Board Meeting:
Tuesday, 7/08, 6:30 p.m. [Zoom Link](#)

2025 – 2026 USH Board of Directors –

- Nina Elgo:** President
- Virginia deLima:** President-Elect
- Jon Covault:** Treasurer
- Gloria Mengual:** Secretary
- Laura Cipriano:** Community Within Council Chair
- Laurie Kelliher:** Membership Council Chair
- Rocco Orlando:** Finance Council Chair
- Michael Michaud:** Spiritual Life Council Chair
- Paul Cipriano:** Administration Council Chair
- Judy Sullivan:** Social Justice Council Chair

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

Click [HERE](#) to view the USH Directory, Reports, and other church business information online. You will need the user ID and Password to access these documents. **Contact the Office for the username and password.**

The latest financial reports for FY 2024-2025 have been posted; click [HERE](#) to view.

See the 2024/25 Annual Report [HERE](#)

The [Board Meeting Minutes for May 2025](#) have been posted.

[Link for Welcome Team Sign-Up Genius](#)

USH Staff:

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minister@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 103
Cell: 860-539-1259

Karolina Wojtylko, Church Operations Manager
office@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 100
Cell: 860-539-5729

Shahan Islam, Director of Religious Exploration
shahan@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper
ushrcasurct50@gmail.com

The deadline for USH E-news submissions is noon Tuesday!

Please write in the 'Subject' field "USH Enews", and include the dates that your submission should be featured. Announcements about upcoming events appear for two consecutive weeks **maximum**, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team.

When forwarding information concerning an "outside" event or organization, **please pre-edit your copy** in order to keep the piece to 200 words or less. Note that all material is subject to editing prior to publication. **Also, please submit editable material** (text and images separately, rather than "poster" format).

Articles should be sent as email file attachments, (MS Word preferred) and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Editor-in-Chief: Tina Davies
Production and Technical Expert: Karolina Wojtylko

USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for July 2025 can be viewed [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the Unitarian Society of Hartford

Try email marketing for free today!