



USH E-News

November 26, 2025

"Nourishing Spirit,
Building Community,
Working for Justice"

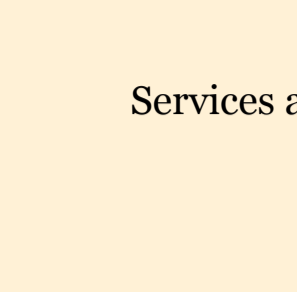
Sunday Worship: November 30, 10:30 a.m.

"Waiting in Vain?"

"Waiting is essential to the spiritual life," writes Henri Nouwen. But it's so difficult to wait...how do we wait when we don't know if our waiting will be in vain?



Reverend Bob, Minister
Ann LaPorte-Bryan, Worship Associate
Meredith Neumann, Director of Music
Schola Singers
Georgi Lekov, Pianist



Matters of the Heart

To have a Joy or Sorrow read from the pulpit on Sunday morning, e-mail [Matters of the Heart](mailto:MattersoftheHeart@hartforduuh.org)
*Please send in your Matters of the Heart, indicating exactly what you would like to have read.

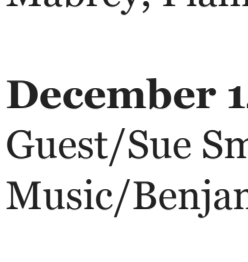
Services are livestreamed every Sunday on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)

Zoom info: Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934
Passcode: 128493
Virtual Coffee Hour to follow
* Note: Zoom Coffee Hour ends at noon
Past Services

[Join us on Zoom](#)



Reverend Julie-Ann Silberman-Bunn referenced the following article in her sermon last Sunday: "Thanksgiving: From a Native Point of View" by Jacqueline Keeler, PARADOX, The New World 48-49, (vol. 32, no. 4 winter), 2007.



Upcoming Worship Services

December 4, Thursday, 6 p.m. - Chapel Service/Reverend Bob

December 7 - "I Will Live in the Past, Present, and Future", (Christmas theme) Reverend Bob/Michael Michaud, Worship Associate/Meredith Neumann, Director of Music/USH Choir/Benjamin Mabrey, Pianist.

December 14 - "Peace...Hope...Joy...Love", Sally Rogers, Pulpit Guest/Sue Smolki, Worship Associate/Meredith Neumann, Director of Music/Benjamin Mabrey, Pianist.

December 21 - "Winter Solstice"; The Divine Feminine, Michael Michaud, Dana Donovan and Margaret Leicach, Worship Leaders

December 24, Wednesday, Christmas Eve Service: 4:30 PM Carol Sing, 5 PM Service. Reverend Bob/Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate/Meredith Neumann, Director of Music/ USH Choir and Schola Singers/Benjamin Mabrey, Keyboardist

Midweek Message from Rev. Bob..

Happy Thanksgiving! This holiday weekend reaches you, however you celebrate, whether noisy or quiet; busy or solitary; pensive or boisterous; I'm grateful for you! And wishing you times of abundance and serenity. (And, quite possibly, pumpkin pie)

Gratefully yours,
Rev. Bob

USH General Interest

"Mids" Meetup –

Saturday November 29, 5 p.m.
@ Dead Language Beer Project

Hi there – Are you in your 20s, 30s, 40s, or 50s and want to meet others who are? The USH Mids group is having an informal hangout the Sunday after Thanksgiving at Dead Language Beer Project, 1420 Park St, Bartholomew Ave Suite 115, Hartford, CT.

There is parking on site. Plenty of non-alcoholic beverage options are available. See you there!

A 'THANKSGIVING PIE a'la MODE and COFFEE' HOUR

November 30

There'll be a Pie Pot Luck during Coffee Hour on the Sunday following Thanksgiving (November 30). We supply the ice cream, you sign up to bring the pie. Home-made, leftover pie or store-bought...all pies are welcome.

Don't let yourself feel constrained by the post-Thanksgiving timing and theme – pumpkin and apple pies will be received with delight, but if you're in the mood for, say, a Key Lime pie, that's entirely appropriate. (Same goes for chocolate, coconut cream, or even Whoopie...)

Sign up at the table in Fellowship Hall or just surprise us on November 30.

"Let them eat pie...not cake..."



Did you know?

A gift of art from our Gallery has extra benefits. Evocative and skillfully made, Lori Barker's art is on display in the Ambulatory until the end of December. The extra benefit is that thirty percent of your purchase goes to USH.

Purchasing is as easy as paying with a check made out to USH and delivering it to Karolina. If you need it for gift giving this holiday season you can pick it up a few days before Chanukah or Christmas. Otherwise, we will continue to show it until the exhibit closes.



SEEKING: Six Five additional volunteers to become Candle Bowl Lifters during our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual.

Each Sunday service requires at least two volunteers to be candle bowl lifters during our unique and spiritually meaningful Candles of Memory and Hope ritual.

Worship Associates are responsible for contacting these volunteers for each Sunday service.

Requirements:

Ability to lift candle bowls and walk with them; completing a brief orientation; committing by noon on Friday before the service; arriving by 10:20 a.m. the day of the service to check in with the Worship Associate.

Interested? I hope so! Contact sue.smolki@gmail.com



Yuletide Festival

Saturday, December 6: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

10 days to go 'til the Yuletide Festival, which promises an afternoon of camaraderie, crafts, music, food, and – rumor has it – Santa himself may be stopping by. There'll be something for people of all interests and ages.

We're still looking for musicians and storytellers to perform throughout the day in the Chapel, and vendors to take part in the 'Merry Mall' that will be located in the Meditation rooms. Plus, we're looking for workshop teachers and helpers to lead crafts and food workshops.

Visit the wooden table as you enter Fellowship Hall to see the latest lineup of activities, and to sign up to help in a variety of ways. If you want to be added to the email Festival list to stay informed of meetings, and to join the thread of conversation please tell [Karolina](#) in the office or email [Deana](#).

Shine your light by sharing your time and talent to make this first ever Yuletide Festival a successful and magical new tradition in our USH year!

Open Security Committee Meeting: Sunday, December 7 @ noon in the Sanctuary

We will watch a video from the UUA regional team with tips on enhancing safety at our meeting house while maintaining a welcoming environment for all:

"Many of our members, friends, and neighbors are feeling less safe in our current climate. How can we ensure our Sunday mornings remain safe havens? What should we do if unwelcome guests arrive? Are we prepared – enough – for an emergency? Is our cyber security up to date? Join us for a presentation and conversation."
-Wren Bellevance-Grace UUA regional support staff and UUA member of the UUA safer congregations team

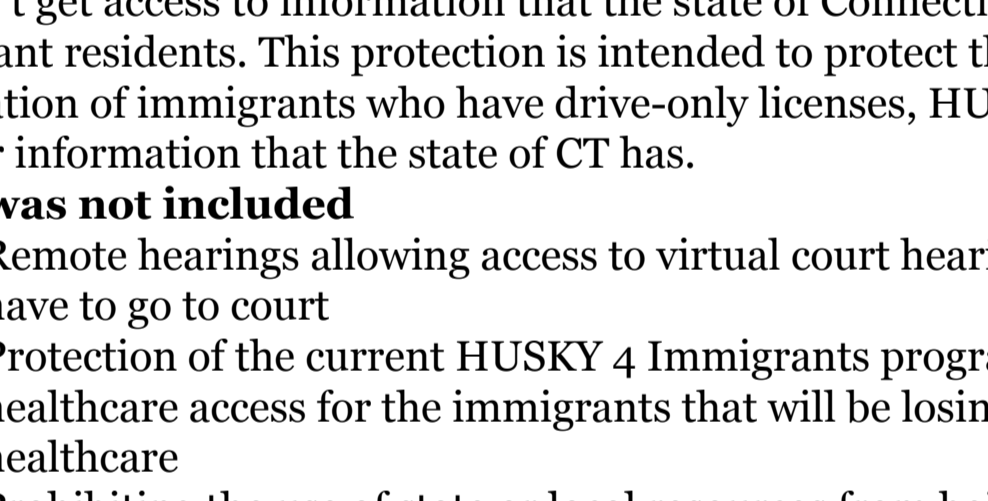
Can You Host a Young German UU??

A wonderful 20-year-old young woman from a long-established UU family in Germany would like to be in the USA for about two months (February & March) in order to improve her English in preparation for a state exam in Germany. Her English is actually **very** good – but she is not that confident about it.

She's looking for a home-stay (which can be split up among different families) plus volunteering. She is great with kids and is already a licensed hairdresser.

If anyone is interested, please contact [Shahan](#).

Social Justice



Write Holiday Messages to Incarcerated Unitarian Universalists

Worthy Now Prison Ministry
<https://www.worthy-now.org/>

Powered by Church of the Larger Fellowship, UU
<https://www.questformeaning.org/clfu/>

For many, the holiday season can be a particularly lonely time. Those who are experiencing incarceration are often particularly vulnerable to isolation and loneliness. You can make a real difference! Show incarcerated members of the Church of the Larger Fellowship that you care this holiday season.

Join us in Fellowship Hall after service to send a message of shared community to someone in need.

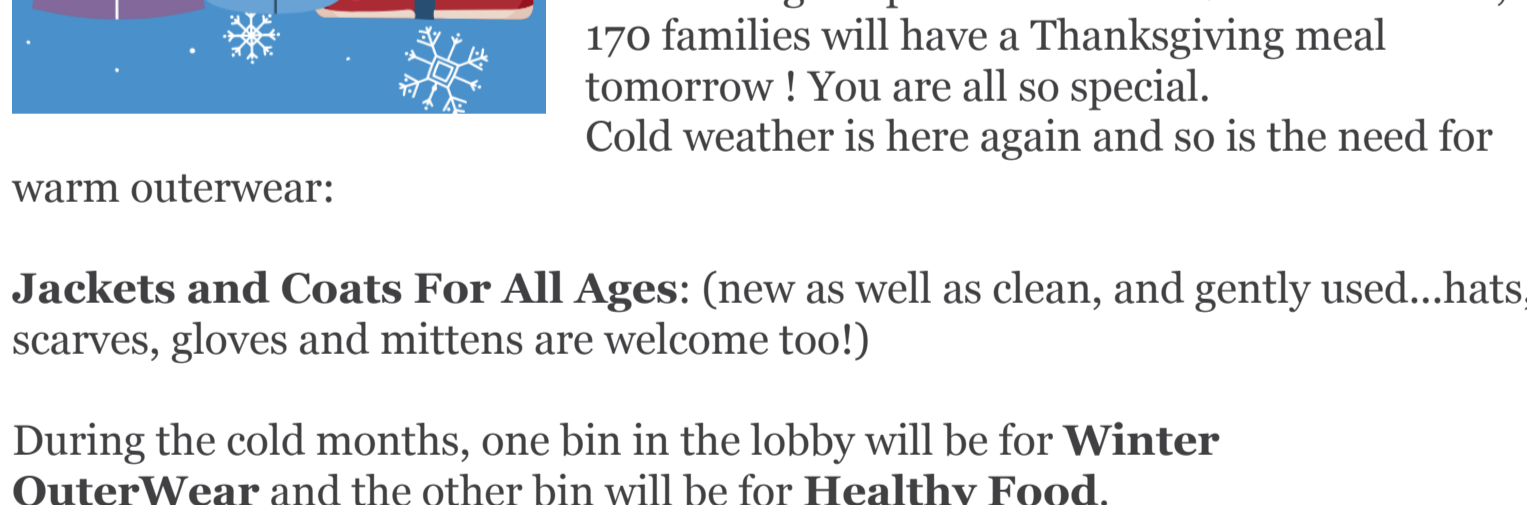


News from the Noah Webster Tutoring Program

The Noah Webster tutoring team has grown. USH now has a total of nine tutors going to Noah Webster School every week. How great is that?! Seven new tutors have joined the team for this school year. They have been assigned to teachers based on tutor interest, day and time of the week, and need. The new tutors have said they enjoy the experience.

In December, there will be an opportunity to grow the team even more. What better time to consider tutoring for one or two hours a week than now, when we are receiving and giving gifts? Your once-a-week time commitment can be such a wonderful gift to a child.

There will be another session about the Tutoring Program in the next month or so. Stay tuned...



Special Legislative Session Update!

Last week the Senate passed [HB8004](#), the bill that had the immigrant protection provisions! It now heads to the Governor to sign!

[Read more here](#)

Earlier this fall, 100 organizations signed a letter calling for Governor Lamont and legislative leadership to prioritize immigrant protections during the special session. Together we had 4 demands, this week we won 2 of those demands!

WHAT WE WON

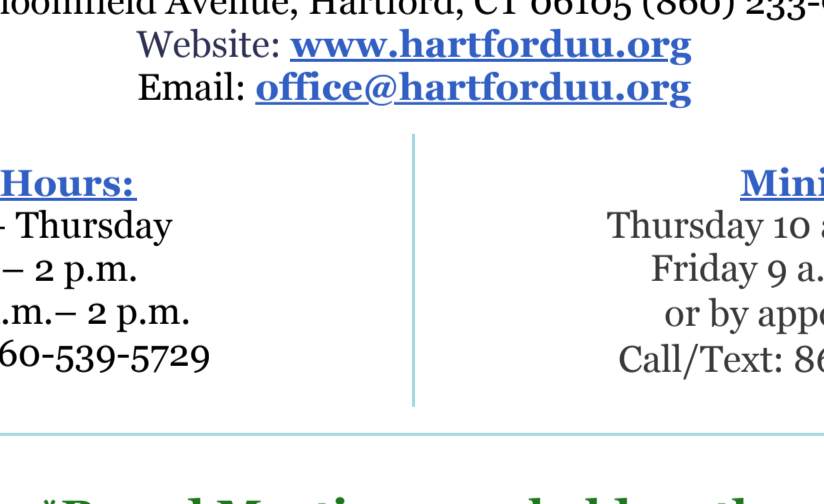
- Courthouse Protections:** HB8004 codified into state law an expanded version of the courthouse protections previously announced by Chief Justice Mullins in September. The bill expanded the courthouse protections to include the wider courthouse grounds, which includes any court owned parking lot or walkways.

- Data Protections:** HB8004 put into law specific data protections so that ICE can't get access to information that the state of Connecticut has on immigrant residents. This protection is intended to protect the personal information of immigrants who have driver-only licenses, HUSKY Medicaid, or other information that the state of CT has.

- What was not included**
 - Remote hearings allowing access to virtual court hearings and don't have to go to court
 - Protection of the current HUSKY 4 Immigrants program and healthcare access for the immigrants that will be losing their healthcare
 - Prohibiting the use of state or local resources from being used for immigration enforcement, for example usage of the CT National Guard

WHAT'S NEXT?

WHAT'S NEXT? What's next and the work is not done...we need to continue our work to protect our immigrant communities!



November Good Neighbor Offering (GNO) – Hispanic Health Council

Our Mission: To promote equity and address health disparities for Hispanics, Latinos, and other vulnerable communities through research, advocacy, and culturally resonant services.

The Hispanic Health Council (HHC) is a nationally recognized, statewide community-based organization based in Hartford. Over multiple decades we have established a deep relationship of trust and respect with the communities we serve through our commitment to social justice and direct care. Annually we provide services to over 15,000 individuals throughout Connecticut. The great majority of these community members are people of color who in a lot of cases do not speak English and/or are refugees or immigrants. It is important to note that over 50% of Hartford, the state capital of CT, is Latino or Afro-Latino.

Hispanic Health Council Centers

Community Nutrition Center
Compassion Center
Family Wellness Center
Health Protection & Education Center
[Maternal and Child Health Center](#)
[Migrant Health Clinic and Welcome Center](#)



Horace Bushnell Update

New Needs

The Thanksgiving food pantry delivery was held on Saturday, November 22.

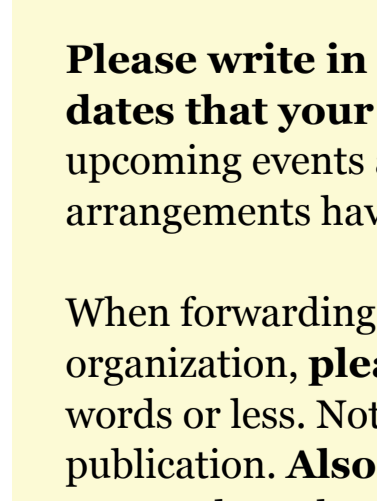
Thanks in good part to the contributions of USH, 170 families will have a Thanksgiving meal tomorrow! You are all so special. Cold weather is here again and so is the need for warm outerwear:

Jackets and Coats For All Ages: (new as well as clean, and gently used...hats, scarves, gloves and mittens are welcome too!)

During the cold months, one bin in the lobby will be for **Winter Outerwear** and the other bin will be for **Healthy Food**.

Gratefully, Diana

Religious Exploration



THANKS TO JOHN BENGTON: Thanks to John for Soup Sunday as always and for traveling with the youth group to the Hartford Monthly Meeting House service the previous Sunday. .

THANKS TO ANSHARED STOWE: Thanks to Ann Stowe for teaching on Sunday (11/23).

TEACHERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY: Please let me know if you would like to teach.

Saturday, January 24, 6 p.m. – Sunday, January 25: OVERNIGHT CON into Soup Sunday: SAVE THE DATE. Youth pre-selected movies, games, foosball, video games, fun! ([see flyer](#))

Saturday, February 21: SKI TRIP (SAVE DATE): Mount Southington – local ([see flyer](#)): details to follow

Saturday, March 21, 2 – 11 p.m.: Nightlight Mission ([see flyer](#)): details to follow

DATE T/B/D: WEEKEND RETREAT TO WALDEN: We love retreats at USH as it provides a wonderful opportunity to be together. Boston is, of course, the most important location in the USA for UU history. On the way back we could even visit Walden Pond. We need to find a good weekend to do this. (Kindly respond to the fratamide poll (like a "doodle" poll) so that we can select the best weekend to go. I understand that the West Hartford schools' last day (barring added snow dates) is June 12. Here is the [link](#) to the poll.

USH Resources

Unitarian Society of Hartford
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (860) 233-9897
Website: www.hartforduuh.org
Email: office@hartforduuh.org

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

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

*Board Meetings are held on the Fourth Monday of the month, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Next Meeting: December 22

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

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.**

Financial reports for FY 2025-2026 have been posted; click [HERE](#) to view.

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

The [Board Meeting Minutes](#) can be found here.

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

USH Staff:

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

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

Meredith Neumann, Director of Music
musicdirector@hartforduuh.org | 860-966-2453

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

Patty Teasler, Bookkeeper
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com

The deadline for USH E-News submissions is 5 p.m. Monday!

Please write in the 'Subject' field "USH E-News", 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 "posted" format).

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

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

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

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

Visit our [Happenings](#) page on the website for more details.