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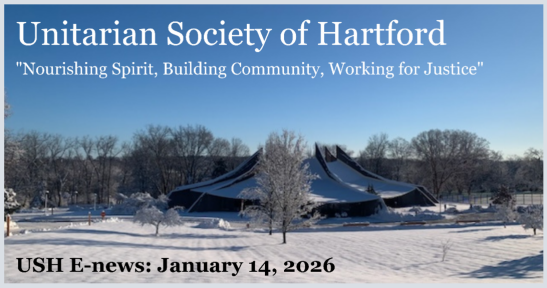

Photo by Kevin Girouard

Sunday Worship:
January 18, 10:30 a.m.

"Beyond Venezuela"

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.s "Beyond Vietnam" speech shocked and inspired the nation. We take a look at the issues facing us today, through the lens of Dr. King's life and thought.

Martin Luther King, "Beyond Vietnam," Address Delivered to the Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, at Riverside Church, April 4, 1967

Reverend Bob Janis, Minister
Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate
Meredith Neumann, Director of Music
Benjamin Mabrey, Pianist

Matters of the Heart
To have a Joy or Sorrow read from the pulpit on Sunday morning, send the information to **Matters of the Heart**.

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

Upcoming Worship Services

January 25 – "The Sins of Religion", Reverend Bob/Carl Shields, Worship Associate/ Meredith Neumann, Director of Music/Benjamin Mabrey, Pianist

February 1 – "Educating All of Us", Reverend Bob/Deana David, Worship Associate/Meredith Neumann, Director of Music/USH Choir/Benjamin Mabrey, Pianist

February 5 – First Thursday Vespers, 6 p.m., Reverend Bob

February 8 – Matt Dicks, pulpit guest/ Peter Meny, Worship Service Coordinator/Margaret Leicach, Worship Associate/Meredith Neumann, Director of Music/Benjamin Mabrey, Pianist

USH General Interest

Every week we need people to serve as Greeters, Ushers, Welcome Table guru, RE teachers, Book Table display organizers, and Candle Lifters. See us for information in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour and sign up!

Link for online sign-up

UU-101 Sessions for Newcomers

Are you interested in learning more about this congregation, about Unitarian Universalism, or about membership? Would you like to meet other congregants and get to know each other?

We would love you to come to two free sessions, facilitated by Rev. Bob and Laurie Kelliher, to share about our spiritual journeys and get to know this tradition.

Sunday, January 18, 12–2 p.m.
Tuesday January 27, 7–8:30 p.m.
Light refreshments will be served.

It is a **two-part course**, but if you can only make one session, that's OK.
Please RSVP to **larkkelliher@gmail.com**

MHP: Tracy Grammer —

Friday, January 16
Tickets: $25
Click HERE for more information

TRACY GRAMMER is one of contemporary folk music's most beloved artists. Renowned for her pure, emotive vocals, perfectly intoned violin, and guitar playing that is by turns percussive and delicate, Grammer is also a gifted storyteller whose incantations add a rare mixture of vulnerability, intimacy, and hard-won insight to her performances. As one fan puts it, "With Tracy, it's never just about the music; it's a soul journey."

"Tracy is a brilliant artist... Her voice is distinctive and beautiful, as is her mastery over the instruments she plays." – JOAN BAEZ
"JIM HENRY does a lot of things and he does them well."

As a sideman, on a variety of electric or acoustic guitars, or on mandolin or dobro, Jim can render emotional sensitivity in one moment then tear into a rock or country solo with such fire it's hard to catch your breath. He is a master of adding whatever is needed at any musical moment.

Doors open at 6:15 for people with prepaid tickets and at 6:30 for general admission. Shows start at 7:00.

Tickets to individual shows can be purchased in advance and they will still be available at the door starting at 6:30. Tickets are $25.

Celebration of Life
Theodore H. "Ted" Johnson M.D.

We can now share information about visiting hours and a Celebration of Life for Dr. Ted Johnson, who passed away on December 21.

The Celebration will be held Saturday, January 31, 10:30 a.m. at South Congregational Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain. Reverends Jane Rowe, South Church, and Bob Janis, USH, will co-officiate. Calling hours are scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 4 – 7 p.m. at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain,

Please read the full obituary which is linked below:
Link to Obituary

From Diane Cadrain and Joe Rubin:

We announced joyfully, a couple of weeks ago, that our daughter's partner and significant other, Nate Parks, had found a donor in his years-long quest for a new liver. Today we announce with great disappointment and sadness that that liver transplant plan has fallen through. Nate has given many years of his life to this quest and now must begin it again. If you or anyone you know might be interested in donating, please reach out to **Diane Cadrain** or **Joe Rubin** for information on how to contact the liver transplant unit of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. Thank you!

Caring Network meeting —
Sunday, January 18
Library, noon – 1:00

The USH Caring Network is our member-to-member outreach arm, helping support those looking for a caring listener or, perhaps, a ride to an appointment or to church. The group welcomes new members, or anyone who may be interested in the Network's mission.

Learn About Sunday Volunteering —
Coffee Hour, January 25

The heart of our USH life is held in the richness of Sunday morning worship. In the next weeks watch how many moving parts make that heart beat.

A person greets you as you enter the Meeting House. The Welcome Table offers warmth to all who come through our doors. Ushers offer the Order of Service to guide you through the morning's worship and then beautiful music surrounds the space.

You...YOU...can be part of this worship tableau. Watch for news about the Sunday Worship information table in Fellowship Hall on January 25. Many of these volunteer opportunities can be *very* short-term occasions... and can be so rewarding. Think of all the smiles a greeter receives and gives, for instance — why not try it for a week or two??

Medical Emergency Training for AED and Stop the Bleed — let **Paul Cipriano** know if you want to be in the training class. Date TBD.

Introducing Realm

Invite links will be sent tomorrow!

Our Board is excited to announce that we have begun to use a new church management system called **Realm**. In addition to better serving our administrative needs, it offers exciting new opportunities to support the way we are all involved at USH. Eventually, Realm can make it easier for us to more readily connect with one another, keep up with what's going on at USH, and grow as a connected community.

Realm is a closed system where only USH members and friends will be provided a link to join our online community. The next step to implement the system is for ***all USH members and friends to create their accounts.*** For starters, this will become the way to access and update the USH Directory. In addition to entering the basic directory information, you decide what additional information to share.

Next Step: A link to **Realm** will be sent to your email address on file **tomorrow**. The Realm Connect app can be used on your smartphone, tablet, or computer. Be aware, the Realm Connect App for your smartphone provides faster communication.

Once you have created your log-in, you can download the Realm Connect app, available on both GooglePlay and the App Store for iPhone users.

By keeping your information current, you will ensure our staff, group leaders, and our church community can communicate more effectively.

Dates and times will be scheduled to offer in-person help to create your account. Further information will be available in upcoming e-newsletters and order of service inserts.

For now... ALL members and friends are invited to log in and create an account when you get the link this Friday in your email.

Navigators Scouting Troop 451

Navigators USA Scouting is a secular, inclusive, all gender Scouting organization with approximately 300 active chapters nationwide. Chapter 451 started this fall in the Greater Hartford area. One of the 2 co-leaders, Barbara Mellen, and her child attend USH. The troop currently has 14 Navigators and is open to any child, age 4 and up, interested in inclusive Scouting.

Chapter 451 recently volunteered with the Fern Street Backpack program and was inspired to start a paper bag drive to collect grocery bags for the program. Fern Street goes through about 2000 bags a month, so this is a small way our Navigators can help give back. Bags can be brought to church on Sunday, or email **chapter451@navigatorsusa.org** for pickup! For more info on Navigators, www.navigatorsusa.org

The UUA has taken note of the Navigators scouting initiative as the aspect of inclusivity aligns well with UU principles and values.

Our Unitarian Society received an award in October 2025 recognizing the effort and attention we've put into our property; contributing to making Hartford a more vibrant and welcoming city. The HUGS award honors residences, businesses and houses of worship whose green spaces demonstrate exceptional care, creativity and beauty.

Our volunteer gardeners who contribute to the appearance of the grounds are Susan Hope, Evan Williams, Galen Stout, Martha Bradley, and Steve Gavron.

New World Trio "Treasured Trios", works for piano trio by Enescu, Beethoven, and Dvorak with violinist Anhared Stowe, cellist Peter Zay, and pianist David Ballena at St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, **Sunday, January 18,** at 2 p.m. Suggested donation $25. Reception following. For information 860 586-8579, **www.newworldtrio.org**

George Enescu composed his beautiful Serenade Lointaine for piano trio when he was just 21 years old. Although composed in 1903, the trio was discovered only recently. This opening work explores the Romantic side of the piano trio, and the warmness of Enescu's textures highlight his influences from the Romantic era. In his Trio #1, Op 1, Beethoven places content over form for the first time, creating an unprecedented equality between the instruments. Here, the composer is no longer simply accommodating a listener's desire for formulaic comfort but is instead leading his audience into his own sensibilities. Beethoven's brilliance is so compelling that his privileged-class patrons only dimly realize that he has created a pathway for artists to emerge as a significant moral force. Antonin Dvorak's Dumky Trio is one of the composer's best-known works, and most original. Of Ukrainian origin, dumky refers to epic, lamenting, ballads. During the nineteenth century, Slavic composers began transforming these songs into a classical form. Their brooding, introspective themes are contrasted with lively, cheerful sections. Dvorak's trio is the most-loved of these legendary ballads.

In the USH Ambulatory Gallery

Welcome to 'The Rose's Tale,' a display of hooked rugs designed by Deana David and hooked by many talented artists all over the U.S. and Canada. Each of these designs represents a real rose variety – some of which are hundreds of years old, and some which have been bred very recently. These pieces have been hooked with patterns that will soon be released in the upcoming book ***The Rose's Tale***, and a wide variety of materials like wool, pantyhose, potholder loops, yarns, roving, t-shirts, sweaters— just about any fiber you can think of.

This project has spanned over two years, and every hooker who's participated was able to choose her design based on her personal style and personal connection to the actual rose. All roses have been represented in their true colors; all are magical and special beauties.

If you are interested in buying any of the pieces, ask Deana either in person or write to: **ribboncandyhooking@gmail.com** Although many of these rugs will be displayed again in the next months, some of the makers are happy to sell.

HOOKED RUG SHOW OPENING

Valentine's Day (February 14)
The Unitarian Society of Hartford
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford
3 p.m.

There are forty hooked rugs on display from the upcoming book ***The Rose's Tale,*** which will be out in early Spring. Deana will give a talk, and there'll be snacks and drinks. A party! Come and check out these stunning rugs, hooked by friends all over the U.S. and Canada. On Valentine's Day, let's fall in love with these gorgeous rugs together!
Email **ribboncandyhooking@gmail.com** with any questions. This event is free, but donations for USH are always welcome.

If you aren't able to come to the party but would like to see the show — send Deana a message. She can either meet you or put you in touch with Karolina, in the office, who can let you into the show. This is a great event to bring your guild to — just let Deana know how to help with logistics. We hope to see as many of you at the party as possible, and if you are too far away, don't worry… there'll a video.

Social Justice

USH folks and friends stand up for justice —

Following the murder of Reneé Good in Minneapolis last week a series of rallies calling attention to this egregious act was quickly organized by local organizations. Above, you can see several of our congregation who trekked to the Capitol for a street side event featuring lots of signage and honking. These gatherings are understood, at present, to happen weekly, Tuesdays from 2: 30 – 4 p.m. on Capitol Avenue. Double-check days and times, please — changes can happen on short notice.
~ Editor

GENERATION POWER CT

January Good Neighbor Offering (GNO) — Generation Power CT

Formerly known as Operation Fuel, Generation Power CT is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead the way so current and future generations can thrive with secure access to heat, power, and water.

Through emergency energy and water assistance, community partnerships, education, research, and public policy advocacy, Generation Power CT works to ensure every household has access to the utilities they need. With a deep commitment to community impact, GPCT combines direct assistance, advocacy, and public engagement to create a more resilient and equitable energy future for all.

In the past year, the organization has helped more than 6,000 households avoid shutoffs, stay safe in extreme temperatures, and access critical support. With energy costs on the rise and the climate crisis accelerating and disproportionally impacting vulnerable residents, the need for responsive, inclusive, and forward-thinking solutions has never been greater.

Horace Bushnell Update

My car was filled to the top with your bounty when I dropped it all at Horace Bushnell last Thursday. Thank you for your much needed and generous ongoing support.

I learned something from that drop off that I did not know before: Horace Bushnell's primary food source is CT FoodShare and the agreement with Food Share means that the pantry can not accept food, or canned goods that came from FoodShare from any outside source.
The needs are so great and our help is so important so please continue to fill the bins with healthy food options and new or gently worn warm jackets and coats.

~Gratefully, Diana Heymann

GHIAA
Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

Winter 2026 GHIAA Organizing Leadership Training

Our Winter 2026 Organizing Leadership Training is coming up soon and open to all! Join us to explore the fundamentals of faith-based organizing, practice the tools of relational culture (individual meetings and house meetings), consider how we build and wield power, share our process of identifying issues and developing campaigns, and build our skills for action. **Please complete the form linked here to register.**
***Our winter training series will be held in person on* Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., February 10, 16, 24, March 3 and 10, at Temple Sinai (41 West Hartford Road, Newington)**. Please note: this is a four-week training, but we are scheduling five weeks so we have a snow date if needed. While we understand that unforeseen issues may arise, we ask all participants to register with the intention of being present for all sessions of the training.
If you are newer to GHIAA and haven't yet been through training, this is for you. If you were trained a while back but could use a refresher, this is for you. If you are a clergy member or a lay leader, this is for you. If you know other members of your congregation/institution who could benefit from the skills and practices of organizing, this is for them, too.

Religious Exploration

TEACHERS needed for SUNDAY, January 18: Let me know if you wish to help. Lesson on Racism, Justice and MLK with good books and fun word exercises.

Wanted: your unneeded coats, men's clothing, shirts, pants, hoodies, underwear, socks, hats, gloves, blankets, mini-toiletries, etc.: This is in preparation for USH's first NIGHTLIGHT mission on *Saturday, March 21*, distributing food and clothing directly to the homeless in Hartford (see flyer). Bring them to USH. There is a large storage bin under the stairs.

- THE PROBLEM: Connecticut is facing its sharpest increase in homelessness in over a decade. Cuts to SNAP and food benefits have worsened food insecurity statewide. Many individuals cannot access shelters due to capacity limits, trauma, disabilities, or safety concerns.
- **NIGHTLIGHT:** The NIGHTLIGHT (**uuwyn.org/nightlight/**) program helps deliver food, clothing, blankets, toiletries, etc.. directly to the homeless. The program, a part of UUWYN, will follow many of the procedures employed by the Midnight Run program Midnight Run in New York city. More detail on why NIGHTLIGHT will help fill a need can be found here: **NIGHTLIGHT-Homeless-Assistance.docx**
- **VISIT the NIGHTLIGHT (uuwyn.org/NIGHTLIGHT) Table at Glastonbury's Celebration of the Nation's 250th Anniversary and MLK's Birthday!**
- The event is sponsored by the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative at the Gideon Welles School, 1029 Neipsic Road, Glastonbury, on January 10, 2 p.m.
- Theme: Keeping the dream Alive Keynote: Bishop John L. Selders, Pastor, Amistad United Church of Christ and Dean at Trinity College
- Noted soloists & choral groups will perform

YOUNG ADULT FROM GERMANY IN THE USA IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH: Lara Weber, 20, from Munich, Germany, will be here in the USA (with different host families) in February and most of March. Her family has been involved in UU life in Germany for generations. A number of years ago, her older brother took part in the UU Youth Exchange program and was hosted by a family from Fern Street. If anyone would like to meet Lara (particularly if you fall in the young adult age range) OR if you think there may potentially be an interesting activity for her — kindly let me know.

Upcoming Events: Save these dates!

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)**

RAMADAN DINNER INVITATION: Saturday, January 31, 6:00 p.m.: Farmington Valley American Muslim Center. The youth group has been invited to a Ramadan Dinner and info session on the meaning of Ramadan. **See flyer**

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21/22: SKI TRIP: (SAVE THE DATE): SKI BUTTERNUT – local (see flyer): details to follow

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.: NIGHTLIGHT Mission (see flyer): details to follow

Stand by for info to come regarding late June's SUMMER RETREAT IN BOSTON & WALDEN: Don't miss this. Details will follow, but this flyer gives an idea. Heere's where we'll be staying: Luxury Living at its Best in Extra Large Estate - Houses for Rent in Southborough, Massachusetts, United States - Airbnb

USH Resources

Unitarian Society of Hartford
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (860) 233-9897
Website: **www.hartforduu.org**
Email: **office@hartforduu.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: January 26

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.**

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:

Rev. Bob Janis, Minister
minister@hartforduu.org | 860-233-9897 ext. 103
Cell: 860-539-1259

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

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

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

Patty Peck, 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 "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 Expertise: Karolina Wojtysko

The calendar for **January** 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.

Unitarian Society of Hartford | 50 Bloomfield Ave | Hartford, CT 06105 US

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