Unitarian Society of Hartford

Welcoming Spirits, Building Community, Serving the Greater Good

USH E-News
May 9, 2026

Sunday Worship:
9am ET, 10:30 a.m.

"I Magnum Mysterium" – We Are Not Alone!

Time will show how experience with music and its potential for wonder, awe, healing, and connection.

Time Flys - Ralph Gomel

Time Flying UHH in the early 1990s, Time has served as the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hartford's (UHH) Sunday Service Committee, overseeing the scheduling, coordination and ordering with the high school youth group. Most recently, Time has been responsible for coordinating the Sunday Service Committee, which includes the scheduling of speakers and a very supportive youth group, among other. She has served on the Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on governance, amongst the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, the Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Action, and more.

Michael Wichard – Worship Associate

Michael has been a Unitarian Universalist since 1970, when he was a member of the Unitarian Church of Hartford and served as the UUA Western Regional Secretary in Cleveland. Michael has been a member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford for over 40 years, where he has served as a Board member, Sunday Service Committee member, and Worship Associate. Since 1980 (except 1 short decade of Sunset Ad Astra) Michael has been a member of the Sunset Ad Astra Barbershop Chorus, a barbershop chorus, and, barbershop quartet, and barbershop quartet Chapter Spokesman.

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Matters of the Heart
To have a pastoral care conversation, please contact Jessica Harding and the Ministerial Team.
Pastoral@uuhartford.org

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Services are Streamed every Sunday on Zoom and Facebook
Zoom Meeting ID: 893 4000 0000
Password: 1234
Live Streaming Video Link:
https://zoom.us/j/89340000000?pwd=1234
* Please change Password for Zoom Meeting as desired.

Zoom and Facebook

May Services
Children's Time at the Top!

May 3rd

We are trying a little experiment in May – we are starting the service at 9am and 10:30 a.m. and having a light at the beginning, just after the welcome. We'll have a little time for reflection, then a short piece of music, then the service proceeds the normal, and ends the children in their classroom.

We think it's important to get our children "out" – to the program, and to the congregation. We want our children to feel at home here, and we want to offer a few minutes, if you want to catch it, please arrive promptly by 9 or 10:30 a.m. Children will be in their classroom for the entirety of the service, so if someone is late they would not be right in the middle of the service. We want our children to feel welcome, and we want our adults to see our young ones as we prepare. Thanks and see you Sunday!

Peace & Blessings,
Jessica Harding, and Worship Associate

Upcoming Worship Services

May 3 – 10am Thursday Vespers with Rev. Bob Dixon Church Worship Associate

May 10 – "I Magnum Mysterium" – We Are Not Alone
Time will show how experience with music and its potential for wonder, awe, healing, and connection.

May 17 – Transit Rites (New Member Ceremony)
Rev. Jessica Harding, Worship Associate, Rev. Bob Dixon, Director of Church Ministries

May 24 – Pentecost
Rev. Jessica Harding, Worship Associate, Meredith Sorensen, Director of Church Ministries, Rev. Bob Dixon

May 31 – Trans-Rites (New Member Ceremony)
Rev. Jessica Harding, Worship Associate, Meredith Sorensen, Director of Church Ministries, Rev. Bob Dixon

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Sunday Morning Volunteer Demystification (part one)

The experience of being a Sunday Morning Volunteer will be highlighted in the spaces over the next weeks, as we move through the year of some of the roles we have in our Sunday Morning Volunteer Ministry. Today's spotlight is on the Greeters.

Greeters Are the Welcome Mat

The Sunday volunteer position of Greeter at USH is perhaps the most visible and important volunteer role in our Sunday morning. Even from those attending USH for a while, the Greeter is often the first person they see and hear. Greeters play experience a blessing, representing holding up our welcome mat. Greeters are the first people who see the visitors and their actions set the tone for the rest of the volunteers and members.

Greeters bring the Greeter vibe to Hansel's with saying hello and offering their assistance to visitors, and encouraging them to sit by the fireplace, or in the sanctuary, or in the Fellowship Hall. Greeters are the beneficiaries of a beautiful matter of mind and heart on the face of Jeanette and Harold and Ann and Jessica and Jessica and Jessica.

Greeters are the people who are friendly, helping Harold and Jessica to the greeter's VIPO chair. What is it to – to become familiar with the faces of people who are coming to our church, to be able to see someone who is a little bit different than everyone else, and to be able to say, "Hey, I'm so glad you're here!" Greeters are the people who are the first to welcome people into our church. Welcome to USH! At the door.

Greeters Are Hospitality

Greeters are the people who are the first to see faces, at the entrance, and, in addition to being friendly, and, if you are asking about a particular person, Greeters are the people who know where to direct people to the Fellowship Hall, or the Sanctuary, or the Bathrooms, or the Fellowship Hall. Greeters are the people who are friendly "Hello" and "Are you having coffee?" or "Can I help you with something?" Greeters are the people who are saying "Welcome Visitor!" and, "Welcome!"

Do Good at Hansel's Hotel, someone asked? Greeters do! Can someone want to be a Greeter? Greeters are the people who are the first to say, "Welcome!" and "Welcome!" and "Welcome!"

Our Sunday Morning Greeters are – and we, Ambassador Michael Gomel and Ann Gomel, are the Greeter Coordinators. Contact Greeters@uuhartford.org or Ann Gomel at 860-463-9 or Ann@Gomel.net.

– Submitted by Ray Arnold

USH General Interest

Donald Ralph Hope
March 14, 1928 – April 28, 2026

Donald Ralph Hope, 98, of Hartford, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on April 28, 2026. Born on March 14, 1928, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Ralph and Ethel (Gaudette) Hope. Donald was a lifelong member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford and served on the Board of Trustees. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army, serving in England, and was a lifelong member of Local 1361 of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry.

Donald was a devoted family man, cherishing his time with his wife of 70 years, Ann (Gomel) Hope, and their children, Jessica Hope and her husband, Ken Hope, and Michael Hope and his wife, Ann Gomel. He was also a proud grandfather to his beloved grandchildren, Jessica, Jessica, and Jessica. Donald was known for his kind heart, his dedication to his family, and his lifelong commitment to his community and his church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Unitarian Society of Hartford, 1010 Prospect Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105.

USH Sunset Ad Astra

Celebrating our Redbud Moon Program

Our Sunset Ad Astra Chorus will celebrate Redbud Moon and Mothers Day with a spring benefit concert on April 26, Sonoma Pizza Bistro and our Chef and Pizza Maker, Ryan Gomel, will be cooking up a special pizza for the occasion. Reserve your tickets online at https://sonoma-pizza-bistro.square.site/ or call 860-463-9 to reserve your table.

This concert over a fundraiser to continue bringing excellence to choral and barbershop music in our community. Our performance will include a mixed chorus and barbershop quartets, and barbershop chorus and barbershop quartets. Our chorus will be joined by our friends from Sweet Adelines International, and we will be joined by our friends from Sweet Adelines International, and we will be joined by our friends from Sweet Adelines International, and we

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 **May** 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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