

# Welcome visitors!

The members and friends of this congregation extend a warm and open welcome to all visitors to the **Unitarian Society of Hartford (USH)**.

If you are searching for a place to worship that will deepen your spiritual perspective, or are seeking a liberal religious education for your children, we hope you find it in this Meeting House.

We are a welcoming congregation celebrating the lives of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, cultural, ethnic or economic background, or with physical or mental challenges. Increasing the diversity of this spiritual community is an ongoing goal of the Society.

Most of our congregation grew up in other religious denominations. Our membership includes many former Catholics, Jews, Baptists, Congregationalists, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Humanists, Atheists, and those seeking Earth-based spirituality. We also have members who enjoy some Buddhist traditions.

All services and other activities held at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, such as “Connections” and “Being a UU” sessions held in the lower lobby, following the service, on several Sundays of most months, Small Group Ministry sessions, Adult Programs, potluck suppers, picnics, etc. are open to **all** visitors.

The members and regular visitors to this congregation were all newcomers to the Meeting House at some point, and we understand that attending a new place of worship can be challenging. **We want you to feel welcomed here.**

## To learn more:

Our Sunday Welcome volunteers can answer your questions. You'll find them at the Welcome Table in the upstairs lobby and at the Visitors Table downstairs in Fellowship Hall. You may also call the office with your questions or visit our website: ([www.ushartford.com](http://www.ushartford.com)). You will find a **Visitors** page there, especially geared to newcomers.

The UUA website also has a Visitors' link – with lots of information you can check out: <http://www.uua.org/visitors/>

If you are interested in learning more about **Unitarian Universalism**, please browse the literature racks found along the walls of the main floor lobby and downstairs in Fellowship Hall. You can also check out the Book Cart in Fellowship Hall and peruse the shelves in the Library on the main floor. Also, visit the websites listed on the front cover of this brochure.

We also invite you to attend “**Being a UU: Reflections and Dialogue on UUism**”, which offers the opportunity to learn more about the theology and history of our Unitarian Universalist denomination. Join us, following the service Join us, following the service on various Sundays, as announced, for a discussion of our spiritual roots as well as the variety of individual experiences of being a UU.

If you'd like to know more about our **USH** community or are interested in learning about membership, we also encourage you to attend “**First Sunday USH Connections.**” These informal sessions are held after the service on the first Sunday of the month, October through May, and again in mid- August.

Details of these programs are available at the **Welcome Table** in the upstairs lobby or at the **Visitors Table** downstairs, during coffee hour, and also on the Visitors' page of our website.

**Small Group Ministry** sessions are also a wonderful way to begin to know members of the congregation. These groups of 8 to 10 people meet in homes or at the Meeting House to share thoughts and reflections on selected topics related to life issues and spirituality. Check the Program Table downstairs, during coffee hour, or call the office for information. You are welcome to join one of these groups, if space is available.

Please feel free to contact the office staff, or minister (860-233-9897)

or email your inquiries to  
[firstunitarian@USHartford.com](mailto:firstunitarian@USHartford.com)

**There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:**

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

**Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:**

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

**These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.**