



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: firstunitarian@ushartford.com
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 to 3:00
or call for appointment

The USH office will be closed December 27-29 for the holidays.

USH-Enews ~ December 21 - 28, 2016
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr



Image: <http://fineartamerica.com/> New Beginnings by Maureen Dean

“Be A Blessing”

Our Multigenerational Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - All are welcome for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service! Join us for story, song and community. Bring a plate of cookies to share if you can. Bring a friend or neighbor to joins us in community on this special night!

Saturday, December 24th

Carol Sing starts at 4:30 PM

Service starts at 5:00 PM

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers, Julie Grace, Worship Associate

Worship Service, Sunday, December 25, 2016 10:30 AM

“What Really Makes It Christmas, Anyway?”

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister

Rebecca Pacuk, Worship Associate

Join us if you would like (no pressure, truly) for a sweet and simple Christmas morning service in the Chapel. Pi-Hsun Shih and Rebecca Pacuk will provide music, Rev. Heather will share a reflection and story, and one of our dedicated Sextons, Kevin Girouard, will run out and bring back coffee for whoever wishes. We gather together because it's Sunday morning, it's Christmas Day, it is good to be together, and we need to remind ourselves of one another, each and every day. There will be a Time for All Ages and all ages are welcome but do note that there will not be childcare or other additional activities for children this morning. We welcome you!

Worship Service, Sunday, January 1, 2017

10:30 AM

“Good Morning 2017!”

Margaret Leicach and Sue Smolski, Pulpit Guests

Come, come whoever you are to welcome 2017!

Take a look back --

Take a look ahead.

Raise your voice in song and readings,

Hear the piano mastery of Pi-Shun Shih.

There will also be First Sunday Connections with Brian Harvey

on New Year's Day at noon.

Happy Holidays to All! - Please note, the office will be closed the week of December 26th. If there is an urgent matter and you need to reach Rev. Cathy or Rev. Heather, please contact them on their cell phones. Rev. Heather's Cell:

541-390-6052; Rev. Cathy's Cell: 541-390-7553 Rayla Mattson's Cell: 860-839-5001 -- **Thank you.**

Rayla Mattson is now also serving as our Rentals Manager. For new rental requests to use space at USH, please contact her at: dre@ushartford.com or 860-839-5001. For Rates and Rental Application, go here.

E-News Contributors Please Take Note: The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon. Thank you for helping us get the E-news out in a timely fashion.

In This Week's Enews:

Sunday Service Recap | RE News You Can Use

Church Business News:

2016 Programs for Adults and Families:

Things You Can Do in response to the Election: Go to the Women's March-See More Info [HERE](#)

RevHeather Continues "40 Days. Focus!" Effort

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

Upcoming Special Events & News in the Larger Community

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Here:

<http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may have missed or find a link on the USH Facebook Page [Here](#).

Check out our online Calendar for Upcoming Events:

<http://www.ushartford.com/events/>

To submit a Calendar Request, please cut and paste the FORM at the end of the E-News into an email and send to: calendarchanges@ushartford.com. Please look at the calendar the day you email a request to reserve space to make sure the space is available. This will help me to avoid double booking rooms. Thank you. Double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Email corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com.

Thank you! ~Linda

USH STAFF <http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

Sunday Service Recap ~ December 18, 2016

"Love is an Open Door: A Multigenerational Service"



Photos: Harriet Gardner

Rev. Cathy narrated "Frozen" while Rev. Heather, Rayla and Peter Meny acted out the action. The children also took part in the service, helping out with Candles of Memory and Hope. Our Choral Scholars and Choir Director Rebecca Pacuk provided lovely music. At the end of the service everyone circled the Sanctuary and held hands for a moment of community.





RE News You Can Use! ~ Please note that Christmas and New Year's Days fall on Sundays this year. The DRE and her staff will be taking those days off to enjoy them with family. There will still be services here and we invite you and your family to come and worship. There will be activity packets for children and preteens who attend with their families.

Rayla D. Mattson Director of Religious Education, Unitarian Society of Hartford
860-233-9897 ext 104 860-839-5001 - cell

I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. If you need to reach me outside of those times, please feel free to text or call my cell.



The USH Youth Group Drive for Hands On Hartford - Remember that the Youth Group is still collecting Brand New Socks, Toothpaste and toothbrush dental supplies and Feminine products to contribute to Hands On Hartford Drive for the Homeless. Please deposit all contributions at the Christmas Tree in the Foyer! Thank you!!! - **Submitted by Nina Elgo**



Hands on Hartford

Warm Drive For the Homeless



Supplies Needed:

- ❖ New socks
- ❖ Toothpaste
- ❖ Toothbrushes
- ❖ Feminine products



Where?

Under the Christmas tree in the front foyer

When?

December 3, 2016 – January 1, 2017

Church Business News



The Sept.-Oct. 2016 Financial Report is now available.

To view online click [HERE](#).

If you need the user name and password contact Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark\(at\)sign\)gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark(at)sign)gmail.com).

Attention! ~ The Semi Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 8, 2017 @ 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. **Please contact: John Brancato, Board President, with any questions. Thank you!**



2016 Programs for Adults and Families

We wish you very Happy Holidays and will look forward to seeing you at the Programs Table in the New Year.

In the meantime, have you been thinking about a workshop or program that you would like to offer this Winter or Spring?

We'd like to include your program, workshop, or event in the listing of the 2017 Winter/Spring Programs for Adults and Families.

On Sundays, there will be handouts for your course, event, etc. at the Programs Table for visitors as well as for members and friends. Registration for your program, course, etc. and any required payment can also be done at the Programs Table.

To obtain a Program Proposal form, you may go to <http://www.ushartford.com/>. From the Building Community pull down menu at the top of the home page, click on Adult Programs. In the lower right corner, click on Propose a Program Form. The form is also available at the USH office. Please attach a detailed paragraph in Microsoft Word (if possible) about the program to the completed Proposal Form that can be used for promotion. Please email the completed Proposal to Janice Newton at [janicecnewton\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com).

You may call Janice Newton (860.677.1121) or email her at [janicecnewton\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com) to register or for program information.

Programs

Ballroom Dance: Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Friday Pizza and Movie Night: Friday, January 13, featuring “Paris, Texas.”

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM.

Emei Qigong Cultivation: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Contact Diana Heymann 860-461-0908.

Meditation and DharmaGathering: Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 PM. Except Dec.

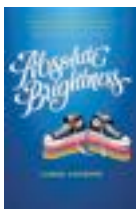
Last meeting date for 2016 will be Wednesday, December 21 2016.

We will begin again on January 18 2017. Any questions please contact Jan Bennett, chair2clinic@juno.com

Authentic Connection & Communication: An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 – 9:15 PM.

Last meeting date for 2016 will be Wednesday, December 21 2016.

We will begin again on January 18 2017. Any questions please contact Jan Bennett, chair2clinic@juno.com



USH BOOK CLUB: Next Meeting - Thursday Feb 9 at USH at 5:30pm

Book: Absolute Brightness by James Lecesne

(RevHeather's choice because it will be the basis of a play at Hartford Stage in the Spring)

Leonard Pelkey doesn't fit in anywhere. His mother has died, leaving him with Phoebe's uncle, now his legal guardian. But Uncle Mike has plans to go to Mexico to invest in cattle. So Phoebe's mom, Ellen, arranges for Leonard to come and live with them in Neptune, New Jersey. But Neptune isn't ready for Leonard. Saying Leonard is a bit outrageous is being optimistic. Phoebe and her sister, Deirdre, treat Leonard as an unwelcome house guest, going so far as creating a living space for Leonard in the basement surrounded by filled cardboard boxes. But this doesn't stop Leonard from going full-steam-ahead with his life in Neptune. He infuses himself into Ellen's beauty shop business, and slowly, the old ladies that frequent the shop start to subtly change under his tutelage. Phoebe's mom finally starts taking an interest in her appearance again. He even gets Deirdre to drastically change her style. But Phoebe feels left out. Leonard is showing an interest in making over everyone but her. Why does he not bother offering her tips? Then again, Phoebe has done nothing but give him a hard time ever since he moved in. But one night, everything changes. One day he doesn't return from Drama Camp. With the help of Detective Chuck, Phoebe and her family begin a long journey to find out what happened to Leonard. During the days of the investigation, Phoebe begins to acknowledge to herself that she misses Leonard and regrets all that happened between them. As the story reaches its climax with the revelation of Leonard's disappearance, the main characters reveal secrets that have been festering within Phoebe's family for years.

Mr. Lecesne writes a harrowing story of how a community can react to someone who comes off as different. Leonard infuses joy in all he does, and only too late does Phoebe realize the effort that Leonard put into showing the world such a positive face. **-Submitted by Richard Groothuis**

2nd Principle Things You Can Do ~ Rev. Heather continues "40 Days. Focus!" effort

Recognizing my own need to not get overwhelmed, scattered, or be constantly in reactive mode, I thought of using the 40 Days leading up to the January 20 Presidential Inauguration as Days for Focusing: shoring up our energy and resources, building resilience and deepening relationships that will enable us to better defend and protect all the marginalized communities we know that are now at greater risk. Will you join me, inspire me, connect with me, and help us all get stronger and be more fiercely loving as we move into the months ahead?

If you are on Facebook, type this Group name into your Search box at the top left:

Focus / 40 Days to Focus...and Beyond and ask to Join.

If you'd like to be added by e-mail, e-mail Rev. Heather at revheather@ushartford.com. If you'd like to simply stay connected via the E-news, stay tuned and keep your eyes on this spot!

And for all of us: we are in this mess together. Here at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, we've had over sixty (60!) individual first-time visitors since the Election. People are seeking out this congregation as a basecamp for connection, direction, relationship-building, solace, and clear ways to organize action. Your support for the work of this congregation is crucial right now. Perhaps more than ever, and certainly more than in recent years, people need this congregation as a conduit--a way to respond, make sense out of things, find community, build resilience and strength during difficult times. Let us support one another more than ever, now and in the days ahead. #40Focus is ongoing through January 20, 2017. Join us! **Warmly--RevHeather, revheather@ushartford.com, cell/text: 541-390-6052, on Facebook & Twitter**



Women's March on Washington:

For those who have been disturbed by the rhetoric of the recent election and believe in the importance of affirming human rights, here is an opportunity to take action.

“On January 21, 2017 we will unite in Washington, DC for the Women’s March on Washington. We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families -- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.”

Anyone interested in joining for this historic march, here are three important action steps:

- 1) Please register at the national event website: <https://www.womensmarch.com>
- 2) Visit the Women’s March on Washington - Connecticut Chapter Facebook page to sign-up for bus transportation to the march. Bus transportation registration deadline is December 21st: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1792149314392756/>

Rallybus.net has more info. and a list of FAQ's. Go [HERE](#) for more info.

(<http://rallybus.net/womens-march-on-washington/>) - **Submitted by Julie Grace**

Upcoming Special Events and Other News
A message from The Village for Families and Children

Dear Unitarian Society:

We would like to say **THANK YOU** from the bottom of our



for extending an invitation to attend your Festival of the Seasons event!

The children and staff enjoyed themselves and are very thankful for
your hospitality, welcoming arms and always keeping us in mind
during your great events!

Sincerely, *EAGLE HOUSE*

-Submitted by Joanne Orlando

It's a **BABY!!!**

Please join us to celebrate Revs. Cathy's and Heather's baby on the way!

When: Saturday January 14th 12:30-2:30

Where: Fellowship Hall

What to bring: Bring along an object (NOT a gift) that represents your wishes or intention for the birth baby, or parents (example: a rock to stay grounded).

Be on the lookout for a notification in the Enews about contributing to the baby pool (your bets on the due date, length & weight of baby) and the option of making a donation in lieu of a gift for parent adoption fees & or diaper service

If you would like to help out or if you have questions, contact Katharine Ann Anderson at katharine.ann.anderson@gmail.com



Festival of the Seasons - Request for Christmas Ornaments and decorations for Wreath Decorating Craft 2017!

Do you have Christmas decorations (ornaments, ribbons, etc.) to donate to next year's FOS wreath decorating craft? Or if you see ornaments and Christmas decorations for sale and would like to contribute to our stash, please do! It will save us \$\$ for next year. Please drop off in the Youth Group Room! **-Submitted by Nina Elgo**

Upcoming Special Events and News in the Larger Community

Weekly Reminders



Do you love music? Theater?

USH is looking for someone to head an Arts and Entertainment Committee. I receive many requests from performers asking if USH would be interested in hosting them. We have recently had one person volunteer to help with this but would love to have a team. Please contact Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark(at sign)gmail.com) if you are interested in bringing many talented performers to USH. **Thank you! -Linda Clark**

Would You Like to be Part of a Great Team? ~ How about the USH Sunday Welcome Team? Please contact Linda Clark (at: ushlindaclark [at] gmail [dot] com) or phone the office at 860-233-9897 or talk to Brian Harvey if you are interested in being part of this wonderful group of volunteers. It's what makes USH outstanding in its open and friendly atmosphere to help first-time and newcomers feel welcome, find their way around our Meeting House, and want to return. (If you'd like to help out in the office during the week, please contact Linda Clark).



Do you love to sing? Have you ever thought about joining the USH Choir? Well now is the year to turn that thought into a reality! The USH Choir is an incredibly fun way to make beautiful music with some truly incredible people. Best of all, this year we will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings at 9 am before church with only one weeknight rehearsal per month, drastically limiting the time commitment needed to participate. If you have ever considered joining our group, we would love to see you now to laugh and sing together! **If you have any questions or would simply like more information, please feel free to contact our Choir Director Rebecca Pacuk at rgpacuk@gmail.com. (Formal music training is not required).**



The USH Wish List ~ Hello Everyone! There are some items that we could really use at USH:

A Folding Lightweight Table to use at various events

2 Floor Length Mirrors

New collapsible functional easels

Staples gift cards

Please contact Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com or 860-233-9897 x100 if you have one of these items and would like to donate it to USH. Thank you.

The Archives Team is hard at work and has added this to the USH Wish List:

Shelving for the Worship Arts and Archives for organizing the materials stored in the Fuller room. Our materials in there are overflowing the available shelving and cabinets. This will allow us to better use the limited floor space that is available. We are looking for two more metal units just like the six foot, six shelf one in there now. No casters.

Brand HDX, model 6T60184872C, stock number 100655787, or equivalent.

Thank You, Larry Lunden, on behalf of the Archives Team

For Access to the Members Only Section on the Web Page:

For the username and password for the Members Only section, please email Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com

For events for the online calendar please include the following information:

(Cut and Paste from the E news will work)

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

Is Childcare Provided?: (Note if childcare will be provided you must arrange it with the DRE.)

Email Calendar Events to: calendarchanges@ushartford.com Thank you.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.com/about-us/staff/>

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Email: revheather@ushartford.com | Phone: 541-390-6052

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister

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Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager

Email: dre@ushartford.com | Phone: 860-839-5001

Linda Clark, Office Administrator

860-233-9897 x 100 | Email: ushlindaclark@gmail.com

Rebecca Pacuk, Choir Director

rgpacuk@gmail.com

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper

Office Hours by Appointment

Email: bmullen@ushartford.com

The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon.

Email to: ushenews@ushartford.com

Please note in the subject line, "USH-Enews". Thank you for your submission!

Peace – as we come to the close of the USH-Enews week.

Be kind to others – and to yourself.

Nuts and Bolts: The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association covenant to 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.

www.ushartford.com

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