



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

USH-Enews ~ January 3, 2018
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr

In wintertime, we always recommend that you consider your own safety first. We strive to have our doors open whenever possible and someone will likely be here.

Do what is best for you. Please check the website for updates.

For events scheduled during inclement weather contact the facilitator of the event before heading out.



Image: www.corvallisadvocate.com

Worship Service: Sunday, January 7, 2018 ~ 10:30 AM ~ "450 Years of Religious Tolerance: So What Now?" ~ Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister ~ Why is it that the most difficult question newcomers ask us is, "What do you folks believe?" Why is it that Unitarian Universalists don't have a creed? The answer lies in our roots in sixteenth-century Transylvania, and the lessons of religious tolerance from our forebears are all the more important in the U.S. today. Learn about Rev. Cathy's visit to Transylvania, and reflect on the mixing of Unitarianism

and Islam then and now. How might we draw on the lessons of the past to support a joyously multi-faith society now?

E-News Contributors please take note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon. Please include the dates that the submission should be included in the 'Subject' field.

In This Week's Enews:

RE News You Can Use
 Church Business News: Meeting House Roof Repair
 Get Involved at USH
 Sunday Service Recap
 2017 Programs for Adults and Families
 Small Group Ministries
 Meeting House Presents
 Upcoming Events and Other News at USH
 Upcoming Events & News in the Larger Community

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<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 to the USH Facebook Page Here.

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events at the Unitarian Society of Hartford:

www.ushartford.com/events/

To submit a Calendar Request click [HERE](#).

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

RE News You Can Use:

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education



This Sunday, January 7, nursery will be available for the morning worship service from 10:15-11:45am. There will also be extended childcare until 1:45 PM for those under the age of 10 for parents to attend meetings, events or an extended

coffee hour.

For our school aged children, there will be a Time For All Ages during the service followed by age appropriate classes. ~ **Rayla D. Mattson**

Director of Religious Education, Unitarian Society of Hartford

860-233-9897 ext 104 | dre@ushartford.com ~ I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.



Church Business News

Board Under the Stairs ~ January 14th at 12:00 ~ The Meeting House Roof Repair ~ The Building & Grounds Sub-Council has undertaken an extensive evaluation and RFP (Request for proposals) process to address continued deterioration and leaks in the Meeting House roof. B&G has recommended a solution and a contractor to the Board and the matter is scheduled for a vote of the board at its January 16th meeting. The estimated cost of \$38,800 will be funded from the endowment as a major capital project in accordance with the USH constitution and by-laws. A Board-Under-the-Stairs gathering will be held at noon on January 14th to provide more information for interested USH members. Members of B&G will be present for the discussion. ~ **Submitted by Sherry Manetta**

Board Appoints Social Justice Council Chair ~ The USH Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Judy Sullivan was appointed Social Justice Council Chair and a member of the USH Board of Directors at the December board meeting. Judy was nominated by the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee to fill this open position for the remainder of the current board year, through June 30, 2018. Under the USH constitution and bylaws, vacancies in board positions are filled for the remainder of a year by a vote of the board. Judy has been a USH member since 2014. Among other things, she has been active in social justice initiatives at USH, including refugee resettlement and Black Lives Matter, is a member of PFLAG Hartford, and has previously served on boards of United Way, Habitat for Humanity and various professional medical-related boards in another state. ~ **Submitted by Sherry Manetta**

To view reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark(at)gmail.com) for the user name and password.

Get Involved at USH - Be Part of a Great Team! ~ Get more connected with this congregation through volunteering. Below are some areas, both seasonal and year-round, where Volunteers are especially needed and welcome:



The USH Sunday Welcome Team

Contact Linda Clark at [ushlindaclark\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark(at)gmail.com), 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. The Welcome Team makes USH outstanding in its open and friendly atmosphere and helps newcomers find their way around our Meeting House on Sundays.



Office Volunteers

If you are computer-comfortable and familiar with Microsoft Word, Gmail, and data entry, the office is in need of you. People to help with general office duties such as making copies, 'sweeping the pews' and refilling the welcome boxes are also welcome. Please let Linda Clark know if you're

able to help out in the office during the week for an hour or two:
[ushlindaclark\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ushlindaclark@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897.

Pictured above: Phil and Harriet Gardner with their son Bruce, helping out with the Order of Service.



Join the Choir

Director of Music Ministries, Sam Moffett, is excited to be working with our USH choir. To all in the community who have ever thought about joining the choir: come and sing! If you would like to join, just try it out, or for more information, e-mail Sam at

[smoffett\(at\)ushartford.com](mailto:smoffett@ushartford.com).



The Book Table During Coffee Hour

Everybody enjoys browsing through the books for sale during coffee hour. In order to continue, we are in need of some help setting them up and putting them away. Please contact Clara Horn if you are able to help out with this: [clara.horn\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:clara.horn@comcast.net).



Religious Education

The DRE is very short-handed for teachers in our Pre-K3-2nd grade class and in our middle school class. We desperately need teachers and assistants. The commitment is 1-2 Sundays every 4-7 weeks. If you are interested, have any questions, or would like to see the curriculum, please let Rayla know: 860-233-9897 ext 104 | dre@ushartford.com.



Programs for Adults and Families Sub-Council

The Programs for Adults and Families Sub-Council needs members to continue doing its work coordinating the programs many of us participate in and enjoy at the Meeting House. Please step up and help if you are able! For more information and/or to join this Sub-Council, please contact Council on Community Within Chair, Christopher Wilt at chris.wilt@gmail.com. -

Submitted by Christopher Wilt

Sunday Service Recap

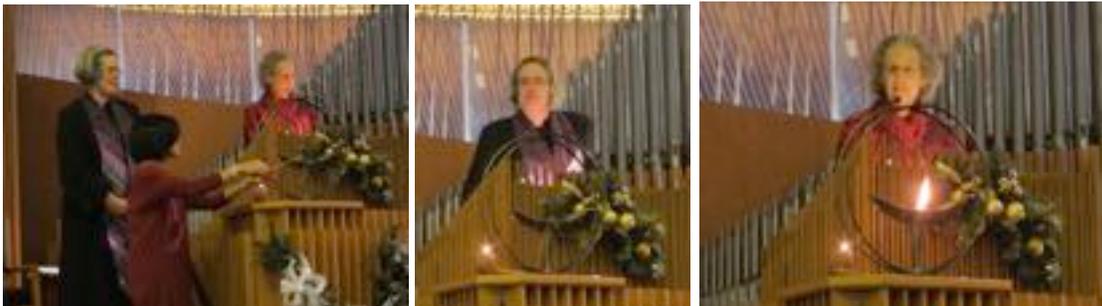
Sunday, December 24, 2017, Morning Service

Rev. Heather Rion Starr

Enjoy the photos from December 24 and 31.

**Many thanks to Harriet Gardner and Mala Matacin
for taking so many beautiful photos.**

Photos by Harriet Gardner for the morning service and Mala Matacin for the evening service



Rev. Heather led worship on Christmas Eve morning, and during her service talked about the impact on any one of us that one person can have. She referenced the many figures in our faith's sources of wisdom that can deeply impact and transform our own life perspectives. Here is a Winter Reading List that she shared, for those who asked for it or who might enjoy it:

"For any of you who are looking for some good reading material for this wintry season of the long nights:

- * Andrew Harvey on Jesus, especially Son of Man
- * Dorothee Soelle on Jesus, especially Jesus of Nazareth
- * John Spelby Spong on anything, but especially *Eternal Life: A New Vision: Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell*,
- * all the readings in the back of our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*, which is available from the UUA Bookstore for you to purchase or give as a gift
- * the Buddha--how one person, choosing to practice a determined and beautiful life, can influence so many--(I recommend *Buddhism: A Concise Introduction*, by Huston Smith & Philip Novak)
- * or podcasts -- especially Krista Tippett's *OnBeing*. One among you recently recommended Tippett's interview with psychiatrist and neuroscientist Rachel Yehuda to me, and I have savored it. Among other things, Rachel Yehuda has studied how, in the lives of Holocaust survivors, just the actions of one person are often what has made the difference for them in terms of surviving and, later, thriving."

**Sunday, December 24, 2017, 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
Rev. Cathy Rion Starr**







Sunday, December, 31st
"you are meant to get lost"
Rev. Erica Richmond, Affiliated Community Minister, Pulpit Guest

Photos by Harriet Gardner



2017 Programs for Adults and Families ~ For more information on current programs please check the online calendar often as schedules can change, or contact the facilitator for more information. Contact information for programs is listed below.

Programs

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

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Contact Ginny Hedrick: 860-677-9272.

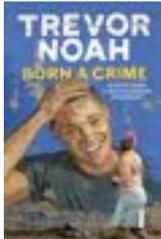
Meditation & Dharma Group: Temporarily suspended, contact Fred Louis for any questions: 860-223-2407

Authentic Connection & Communication: An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 – 9:15 PM. Any questions contact Mark Friedman: drmarkafriedman@drmarkafriedman.com

Meeting House Sing-A-Long: All Are Welcome: Meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, in Emerson/Meditation room (or Memorial Garden if weather / memorial service permits), except December 2017 & June 2018. For more information contact Ed Savage: ed@thesavagees.com.

Ballroom Dance: Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:45 PM. Contact: Ron Friedman: 860-523-1105 or rsfriedman41@gmail.com.

USH Book Club: Next Meeting, January 11, 2018. Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah. Off-site. For directions and more information contact Richard Groothuis: rgroopofus@icloud.com.



The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Click [HERE](#) for more info. ~ **Submitted by Richard Groothuis**



Circle Dinners ~ Circle Dinners give all participants an opportunity to expand their social circles at USH and learn more about some of the interesting people who call USH their spiritual home. The dinners are scheduled to be held on the 2nd Saturday of every odd-numbered month. (Still ahead: Jan 13, Mar 10 and May 12). The purpose of these Dinner Parties is to foster social

camaraderie among new and more established members of USH. For participants, eight to ten adults are randomly assigned in different groupings for each dinner. The host furnishes the entree, beverage and bread. Guests are assigned to bring appetizers, salad, side dish or dessert. Right now we are gauging the interest and demand for dinner locations. We anticipate 2 to 3 locations for each date. Please let Chris Wilt know as soon as possible if you would be willing to host a dinner party at your home.

Registration: Participants can sign up for as many or as few dates as they wish. Registration can be done online, using the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/qkbiZBQzZbWTLpQF3>

The registration form contains a space for: 1) listing dietary restrictions, and 2) if you plan to bring your children. We will try to group families with kids together so that they have some playmates for the evening. We will discuss providing supervision for children where appropriate. You are not required to be a host in order to participate in this program. Questions: Contact Chris Wilt, 603-401-5704. ~ **Submitted by Brian Harvey**



Small Group Ministries: ~ What is Small Group Ministry? This is an opportunity to strengthen your connections with USH members and friends by sharing your life experiences with them in a covenant group. Watch for announcements of Small Group Ministry offerings in E-News and during coffee hour after the service at the Programs Table

in Fellowship Hall.

A trained facilitator will have special readings and questions to guide your sharing and deep listening experience. Contact Esther McKone for more information on Small Group Ministry, email: [estmckone \(at\)aol.com](mailto:estmckone@aol.com), phone 860 677 6682. ~ **Submitted by Esther McKone**

Participation & Planning for Small Group Ministries: ~ I am encouraging all those who have an interest in the Small Group Ministry (SGM) program at USH to come to a planning meeting. Members and friends who would like to have input into the readings that inspire us to share during the SGM sessions should contact Esther McKone, email - [Estmckone\(at\)aol.com](mailto:Estmckone(at)aol.com) or call 860-677-6682. The date and time for this meeting will be determined depending on what is convenient for most folks who have an interest in this important program.

Planning future SGMs: I am considering more focused groups for the future encompassing such issues as (1) Structural Racism, and 2) spirituality of nature-based, earth-centered faiths. Another idea came to me after meeting with a sociology professor at U of H which would be a gender identity focused SGM. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest in the Family Friendly Small Group Ministry to run it this Fall, but we shall see if there is enough interest to have it this in the Spring/2018.

So the ideas are plentiful, but I also need people willing to contribute their skills

and talents toward the goal of continuing a robust Small Group Ministry program at the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

Please contact me (see contact info above) to let me know of your interest and what day & time would be good for you to come to a meeting on SGM planning. Thank you! ~ **Submitted by Esther McKone**

Meeting House Presents!



**2017-2018
Season**



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 -The intersection of Routes 44 & 189

A Great Gift Idea!

Meeting House Presents – A concert series at the Unitarian Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford. All events begin at 8:00 pm (doors open at 7:30).

All the concerts for this season can be purchased in advance online through brown paper tickets which they can access directly from this link- www.brownpapertickets.com/browse.html- or go to brown paper tickets and just search for the artist, or use the Meeting House Presents page at USH which has links for all the concerts to brown paper tickets- www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/

Prices unless otherwise noted:

Tickets \$20 at the door/\$12 for students with ID.

Members children under age 12 are free with parent.

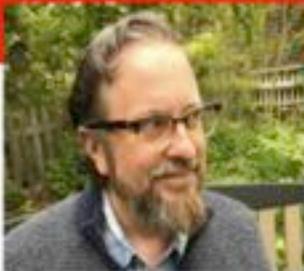
Click [HERE](#) to read more about upcoming events at USH. Click [HERE](#) to read the Blog.

Contact Laura and Paul Cipriano (MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com or 860-298-9984) to contribute your ideas, volunteer time, pledge financial backing for the series, or find out more!

UPCOMING SHOWS

Jacques Lamarre

Red State Road Trip



Friday, Jan 19, 2018 - 8PM

A reading of a new play written and performed by Jacques Lamarre with a reception with the playwright afterwards. Jacques 12th full-length play, Raging Skillet, premiered at TheaterWorks in July 2017.

More information online at: <http://bit.do/Meetinghouse>

Ticket prices: \$20, \$12 w/student id Tickets available online at: www.brownpapertickets.com

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, Jan 26, 2018 - New World Trio

Returning by popular demand are the familiar faces and exquisite classical chamber music of the New World Trio. (<http://www.newworldtrio.org/bios.html>.)



Friday, Feb 23, 2018 - Dennis McCorkle

Dennis McCorkle's guitar repertoire encompasses classical, jazz, ragtime, blues, and Brazilian music. He is a prolific composer, performer, scholar, and teacher. Somehow he manages to do all that and still be humble and genuine.



Friday, Mar 23, 2018 - JP Cormier

J.P. Cormier is a Canadian bluegrass/folk/Celtic singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. He has released more than a dozen records, an impressive body of work that has earned him a vast and loyal fan base and multiple awards.

March 23: JP Cormier

March 30: Susie Burke and David Surette

Apr. 27: An Evening with Mary Gauthier

Co-produced with the Sounding Board Coffee House

Other News of Our Community

1st Sunday CONNECTIONS

For Visitors & Newcomers

Each month we host an informal gathering for visitors and newcomers to learn more about UU, USH, our mission, education program and membership. Ask questions, share your concerns, and meet others.

We meet "Under the Stairs" (Lower Lobby)
15 minutes after the end of the service.

Attend as many times as you wish.

Upcoming Meetings
January 7, 2018

Free Childcare Provided

LUNCH BUNCH ~ We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 16. Our speaker will be Maggie Greene's sister, Maire Greene. If you plan to attend, please let me know by noon on Wednesday, January 10. If you wish to attend, please call me at 860/677-1121 or email me at janicecnewton@gmail.com

The Lunch Bunch will meet at Concetta's, Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Ave., Bloomfield. In addition to lunch, there will be a speaker. You will be able to order off the menu. Separate checks will be provided. There is convenient parking. We will meet at Concetta's on the third Tuesday of the month through June. The dates are: 1/16, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15, 6/19. Mark your calendars!

We are looking for speakers for this year. Are you interested or do you know someone who would be interested in speaking to the group? If so, please contact Maggie Greene at turtlepoem@yahoo.com. Reservations are necessary! **Submitted by: Janice Newton**

A Note from Patrice Fitzgerald and Richard Leslie: Dear USH: Patrice and Richard (remember us?) are going to be in CT for about seven months after we finish our round-the-world trip. We're looking to rent a small house from April 1 to Nov. 1. First prize would be something in West Hartford, furnished, and affordable. If you hear of something or have such a property yourself, please be in touch at PatriceFitzgerald@gmail.com. Thanks!

Click the link for their travel blog: patriceandrichard.com/travel/ ~ **Submitted by Patrice**

Collaboration...in Community -- with the Hartford Stage!

For the second year, USH will be collaborating with the Hartford Stage by focusing a service around an upcoming production at the Stage. This year that production will be *Feeding the Dragon*, written and performed by Sharon Washington, and directed by Maria Mileaf. Here's a synopsis of the play: "Sharon Washington plays nearly 20 characters in her own true story. A memory play about growing up in the custodial apartment of a Manhattan library, *Feeding the Dragon* examines how both the power of forgiveness and the lifelong love for the written word have helped her battle dragons of all forms." *Feeding the Dragon* will run from January 11 - February 4, 2018. Tickets are available at hartfordstage.org or by calling 860-527-5151. You can save 25% on performances January 11-17 with the code Dragon25. RevHeather will lead our service on Sunday, January 14, 2018, inspired by the production and by Sharon Washington's story. Join us in being rejuvenated by the artfulness and insight in our midst.



For more about *Feeding the Dragon* and Sharon Washington, enjoy: <http://www.sharonwashington.com/feeding-the-dragon-play/>
Image: <http://www.sharonwashington.com/feeding-the-dragon-play/>

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Weekly Reminders



Lost and Found

Lost and found items have historically been left on the shelf at the entrance to the main office. There is now a 'Lost & Found' box in the office on the bottom shelf of a storage rack near Linda Clark's desk. Items found in the building will be placed there. Please check in the office if you have misplaced

something. **Thank you.**



Braver/Wiser

(<https://www.uua.org/braverwiser>) is a feature on the Unitarian Universalist

Association website and it is also a source of wonderful weekly readings that you can subscribe to and receive in your e-mail inbox. Braver/Wiser gives you weekly messages of courage and compassion for life as it is. Every Wednesday the Braver/Wiser team delivers an original written reflection by a contemporary

religious leader, and brief prayer, grounded in Unitarian Universalism. Join the Braver/Wiser community and sign up today! The writing and reflection of our own Rayla Mattson has been featured -- look for it, "share" it if you're on social media or send it to a friend by e-mail.

20'S/30'S BRUNCH

Join us on the **3rd Sunday of each month**
 @ 12 PM in the Meeting House Library
 for a **potluck brunch gathering**



VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS WELCOME!
 CONTACT: Allie Pistolessi a.pistol17@gmail.com





On sale Sunday during Fellowship Hour (11:30-12:15)

Suggested donation: Lawn sign - \$20
 Window sign – \$5 - Car sign – \$2

While our supply lasts!

Available in 3 sizes:
 Lawn sign - 18" x 24" (2 sided)
 Window sign – 11" x 17"
 Car sign – 5.5" x 8.5"



Contacts:
 Lindsey Jones-Rowell lejrowell@gmail.com or
 Kristine Glenney kristineglenney@comcast.net

Upcoming Special Events and News in the Larger Community



Darkness and Light -New World Trio

Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
 Invierno Porteno and Primavera Portena
 Astor Piazzolla

Sonata for cello and piano, Op. 19 in G minor
 Sergei Rachmaninoff
 Piano Trio op. 1 no.1
 Ludwig van Beethoven

Violin, Ann Stowe
 Cello, Peter Zay
 Piano, Pi-Hsun Shih

St. John's Episcopal Church: 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT
 For concert information email newworldtrio@outlook.com or 860 586-8579



Ban on Fracking Waste in West Hartford

The West Hartford Town Council is considering an ordinance to ban fracking waste. Jen Siskind, a CT coordinator of Food and Water Watch, will give a presentation, "Fracking

Waste in CT and Local Town Ordinances," on January 10 at 7 PM in Room 314 of the West Hartford Town Hall. Residents of West Hartford and other towns interested in banning fracking waste are encouraged to attend. The presentation is sponsored by the West Hartford Clean Energy Commission and endorsed by the USH Green Sanctuary. ~ **Submitted by Gary Bent**

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

For the username and password for the Members Only section of our USH website, please email Linda Clark at ushlindaclark@gmail.com. It's easy and if you're interested, please say so.

To submit a Calendar Event Request, cut and paste the text below into an email and send to: calendarchanges@ushartford.com. Please look at the calendar the day you email a request to make sure the space is available; this will help to avoid double booking rooms. Double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Email any corrections

to calendarchanges@ushartford.com. Please make sure you also coordinate with our Rentals Manager, Rayla Mattson, if this is a one-time-open-to-the-public event. Thank you! ~Linda

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

Also: Cc Rayla Mattson requests: [dre\(at\)ushartford.com](mailto:dre(at)ushartford.com)

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Is This A Private Event?

Contact Person:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

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

USH Staff:

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

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revheather@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext 103

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister
revcathy@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext 103

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education and Rentals Manager
dre@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 ext 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
smoffett@ushartford.com | 860-233-9897 x 108

Linda Clark, Office Administrator
ushlindaclark@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 x 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper
Office Hours by Appointment | 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.**

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles: 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.