



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 ~ May 3, 2016
Worshipping Together Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr

Hello Everyone~This week's E-News is a condensed version in order that we can focus on producing the Annual Report. I will include any content that was not included in this week's edition in next week's E-News. I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience. - **Linda Clark, Office Administrator**

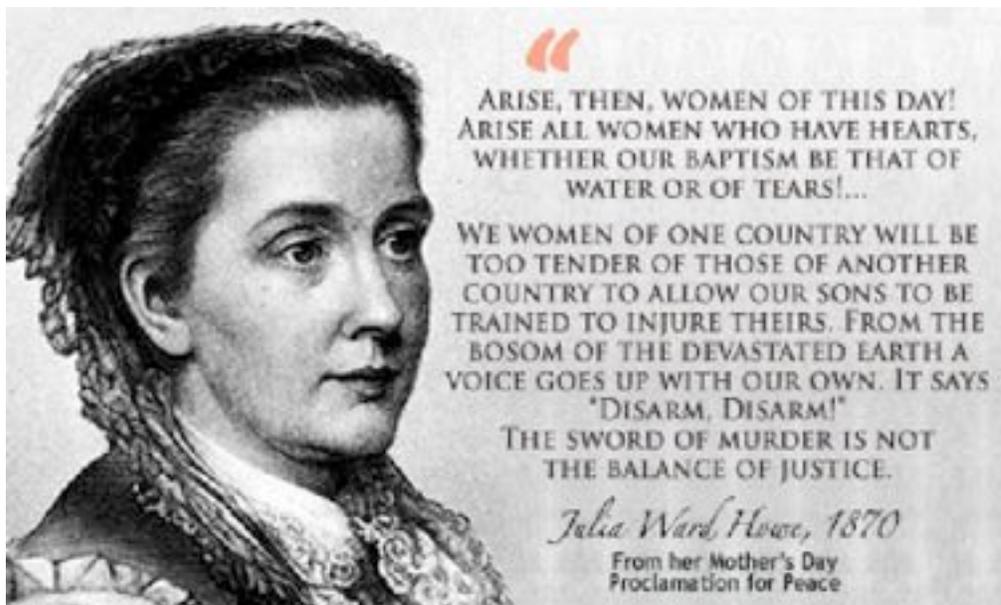


Image: peacealliance.org

Sunday Service 10:30 AM - May 8, 2016 - "Beyond A Day" Rev. Heather Rion Starr - A troubled marriage. Scandalous publications. A separation. Six children. The 19th century. A wealthy heiress. Ambition. Infidelity ...Is all this the synopsis of a gripping new movie or the roots of Mother's Day? Come and enjoy going beyond Hallmark and discover the story of a chief proponent of Mother's Day.

May 15th – a Full and Fabulous Sunday! - Before worship: Love Is Unstoppable - Before worship, join us for “Love is Unstoppable,” a public witness calling on our political parties to embrace love and justice this election season. Gather at 7:45am, then we’ll head outside and give flowers with love notes to the cars headed to the University of Hartford Graduation. You’re also invited to join us to tie the notes to flowers and make signs on Saturday, May 16th from 10-12pm.

10:30am Flower Communion Worship: Beauty in the Rubble

Beauty appears in the most unlikely of places and after even the most devastating disasters. Come celebrate nature’s beauty and community resilience at our annual multi-generational Flower Communion service. Flower Communion is a Unitarian Universalist tradition begun nearly a hundred years ago in which we exchange flowers to celebrate spring and reflect on the resilience of nature’s beauty. **We will have professional ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters, please spread the word!**

After worship: All-Congregational Photo & Annual Meeting - After worship, we’ll have an all-congregational photo followed by the Annual Meeting. We will be voting on the slate of nominees for board positions starting in July. Please come and exercise our 5th principle, “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large.”

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.

Highlights In This Week's Enews:

Sunday Service Recap, April 24 | RE News You Can Use

Church Business News: Annual Meeting: Sunday May 15th | New Approach to Meeting House Rentals | USH Calendaring Event May 22nd

Winter/Spring 2016 Programs for Adults and Families

Next Book USH Book Club: Thursday, May 5th | Next Dinner and a Movie Friday, May 13th | Next Great Decisions May 15th

USH Performing Arts Series 2016 - Special Event: A Little Jazz, A Little Broadway....

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

USH Annual Picnic Sunday, June 12th - Volunteers Needed

Tree of Life Presentation Sunday, May 22nd | Educational Grant Applications until May 31st | Spring is Sprung! News about the USH Garden

Check out our online Calendar for Upcoming Events:

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

(Please double check the calendar for your event 1 to 2 weeks prior to make sure it's correctly posted. Form for Calendar Requests at end of Enews
Email corrections to calendarchanges@ushartford.com -Thank you!



Photos: Harriet Gardner except photo above of choir by Cat Lanser

Sunday Service Recap, Sunday, May 1, 2016 by Kayla Costenoble
"Saving...Each Other" - Missa Gaia/Earth Mass A Very Special Music Sunday - Will I ever learn? A few Music Sundays ago, I decided to leave my pen and pad at home, just sit and enjoy the music, and relax. But, of course, the program was so wonderful, I just had to scribble some notes on tiny pieces of paper so I could report on the service.
 Sunday, May 1, 2016, was a repeat of my earlier action, except that I took no notes at all during the fantastic performance of Paul Winter's "Missa Gaia" by the combined choirs of the USH and the Universalist Church of West Hartford. As was done often in the past, these choirs first performed the piece at the West Hartford church the previous Sunday, April 24.
 "Missa Gaia" is a contemporary Mass celebrating Mother Earth, which included the two choirs, a eight-piece musical ensemble, and actual recorded voices of wolf, whale, eagle, harp seal, Amazonian musical wren and the Russian loon. Composer Paul Winter, considered a pioneer of "earth music," interweaves the voices of the wild with instrumental voices from classical, jazz and indigenous traditions of the world.



His Mass has a jazz beat and a joyfulness that is impossible to resist. Everyone on our crowded Chancel looked happy as they performed under the direction of USH Choir Director Rebecca Pacuk. Our own Rev. Cathy and her cello were part of the ensemble, pianist Charlie Savage kept it all together, and Ted Hine, West Hartford Universalist Church Music Director, created a lovely, haunting sound on the soprano saxophone. But let's face it, every performer was outstanding!

According to the Order of Service, the ensemble was to play "Touch the Earth Reach the Sky" during the Offertory, but a last-minute change of plans announced by Music Director Ted Hine changed that to the popular piece many musicians are playing to honor the recent death of Prince—"Nothing Compares 2 U." It was beautifully performed. Although it was not sung, here are a few of the words.

Since you've been gone I can do whatever I want
 I can see who ever I choose
 Eat my dinner in a fancy restaurant, oh yeah
 But nothing, nothing can take away these blues
 Nothing compares, nothing compares 2U.

So that's about enough for one service, right? Wrong! Sunday was also a happy day as we welcomed 13 (!!) new members into the USH. Rev. Heather invited our guest musicians to join in the "existing members" part of the ceremony because, she said, we are all UUs together. New members of the USH are Jon and Mike Covault, Kate and Tom Gervais, Vicki Hebler. Larry Josiah, Brooke Kokus, Becca and Hugh Schweitzer, Mike Sereda, Alex and Derek Slap, and Annie Witzler. In Fellowship Hall following the service, our new members signed the membership book, received the traditional rose with thorns, had their picture taken, and we all enjoyed cake and ice cream with them.

And kudos to second grader Jonathan Bleck, who won a recent prize for his invention and will be taking it to a further competition. Tired of watching his mother drop and/or forget her cane (Paula has MS), Jonathan developed a soft and colorful holder for canes that drapes around its owner's neck and shoulder and into which the cane can be placed when not being used.



RE News You Can Use! - This week the nursery will be available from 10:15-11:45AM for worship service for infants and toddlers ages birth to three.

There will be A Time For All Ages followed by age appropriate classes.

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.



Church Business News

The Unitarian Society of Hartford

Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15, 2016 - Immediately after the service

A primary agenda item for this meeting is the election of the Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 church year.

See details in the ENews.

New Approach to Meeting House Rentals – USH is currently updating and revising our rental policies in a way that is both beneficial for the congregation and responsive to outside inquiries in a way that will generate good feeling throughout our larger community. Current rental rates and updated policies can be found on the USH website. Rayla D. Mattson along with Jack Almeida will be taking over this initiative. Please contact either one of them for additional information and please help spread the word that the Meeting House is available for rentals. Thank you.

Rayla D. Mattson : email: dre@ushartford.com
Office: 860-233-9897 ext. 104 | Cell:860-839-5001

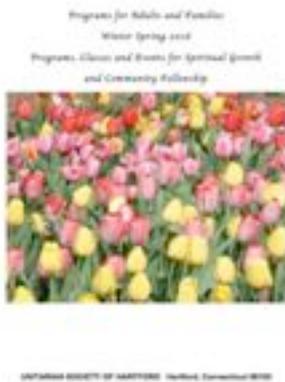
Jack Ryan: email: jackryanct@gmail.com



Help Map Out the 2016-2017 Meeting House Calendar!

Join us on Sunday, May 22, from 11:45a-12:45p (or so) Under-the-Stairs to plan out significant events for the coming church year. When will the Auction be? Performing Arts Concerts? Annual Meeting? Newcomer Potluck? other All-Congregational

Events so they're not at the same time or on back-to-back weekends? This is great place to bring your ideas and energy for something you'd like to make happen at USH, and get a placeholder on the calendar for it. Come to share your interest and help it to logistically dovetail with other programs and happenings at USH. All are welcome. --RevHeather, who so loves to calendar and plan (way) ahead.... Image: www.clipartsign.com



2016 Winter/Spring Programs for Adults and Families

2016 Winter/Spring Programs for Adults and Families

The May Ballroom Dance classes will include some fun West Coast Swing and a few other dances will be added to the 'Beginner' class. For more information, contact Ron Friedman at rsfriedman41@gmail.com or call him at 860-523-1105. There will not be a Programs Table May 8, 15, and 22. If you would like to attend the

Friday Dinner and Movie on May 13, you may call Janice Newton (860.677.1121) or email her at [janicecnewton\(at sign\)gmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com).

The Winter Spring 2016 Programs for Adults and Families catalog is available online. Go to <http://www.ushartford.com/>. At the top of the page, click on Building Community and then Adult & Family Programs. In the bottom right corner, click on Catalog Winter Spring 2016.

PROGRAMS:

Saturday Morning Salon: What Moves Us: Saturday, May 28, 10:00 AM, June 11, 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

Friday Pizza and Movie: May 13, 5:30 PM, featuring To Have and Have Not.

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

Great Decisions: First and Third Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

USH Book Club: Thursday, May 5, 5:30 PM.

Drum Circle: 3rd Tuesdays, 6:45 – 7:45 PM.

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 Dharma Gathering: Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 PM.

Authentic Connection & Communication:

An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 PM.

GREAT DECISIONS Meetings – Final discussion schedule:

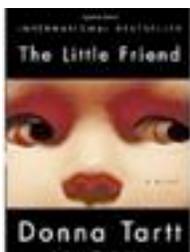
May 15: The Koreas - Sherry Manetta and Brian Harvey, Discussants

June 5: Mideast Alliances - Mike Winterfield, Discussant

http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics

Unitarian Meeting House: www.ushartford.com

-Submitted by Ed Savage Image: <http://www.fpa.org/>



USH BOOK CLUB: THURSDAY – May 5
5:30 pm at the home of Jean and Richard Groothuis
THE LITTLE FRIEND by Donna Tartt

The second novel by Donna Tartt, bestselling author of *The Goldfinch* (winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize), *The Little Friend* is a grandly ambitious and utterly riveting novel of childhood, innocence and evil.

The setting is Alexandria, Mississippi, where one Mother's Day a little boy named Robin Cleve Dufresnes was found hanging from a tree in his parents' yard. Twelve years later Robin's murder is still unsolved and his family remains devastated. So it is that Robin's sister Harriet—unnervingly bright, insufferably determined, and unduly influenced by the fiction of Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson—sets out to unmask his killer. Aided only by her worshipful friend Hely, Harriet crosses her town's rigid lines of race and caste and burrows deep into her family's history of loss. Filled with hairpin turns of plot and "a bustling, ridiculous humanity worthy of Dickens" (*The New York Times Book Review*), *The Little Friend* is a work of myriad enchantments by a writer of prodigious talent.

From Amazon.com Please talk to Richard Groothuis if you have any questions. 860-678-1030; rgroopofus@comcast.net

Upcoming Book:

June 2: Spring Chicken: Stay Young Forever (or Die Trying) - Bill Gifford -
Submitted by Richard Groothuis

CLASSIC BACALL & BOGEY - 1944

Friday, May 13 ~ Dinner & Movie

Critics Consensus: "With Howard Hawks directing and Bogey and Bacall in front of the cameras, *To Have and Have Not* benefits from several levels of fine-tuned chemistry -- all of which ignite on screen."*



"You know how to whistle, don't you? You just put your lips together and blow," said Lauren Bacall to Bogey in this entertaining follow-up to *Casablanca*, thus launching the onscreen (and offscreen) romance that made them a popular team in the 1940s."*

On Friday, May 13, the film noir classic "To Have and Have Not" will be shown as part of the USH Dinner & Movie series, chosen by participants during voting last summer. Based on the beginning of the novel of same name by Hemingway, the script was adapted by Hawks to take advantage of the sizzling romance developing between Bacall and Bogart during the filming. You can watch the original trailer at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EBM5Bte4ltg>

We will gather at 5:30 PM on Friday, May 13, for socializing with popcorn and drinks, have dinner of pizza and salad at 6, and watch the movie at 7, followed by an optional discussion. If you can arrive earlier to help with set up, your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

You can reserve (\$10 each) with cash, check, or credit card at the Programs Table during Sunday Fellowship Hour or call Janice and leave a message (860-677-1121) then pay with cash or check at the movie. Please be sure to indicate your choice of meat or vegetable pizza topping when reserving. Please reserve by Wednesday, May 11.

If you find on the day of the movie that you cannot attend, please leave a voice message (not text) on my cell phone (860-380-7062) by noon, so the pizza order can be adjusted if needed. See you at the movies! **-Nita**

*from Rotten Tomatoes website where you can learn more about this movie and many others

**Unitarian Society of Hartford Performing Arts
50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105**



A Little Jazz, A Little Broadway – A Cabaret

Please mark your calendar for Saturday night, June 4th, at 7:30 pm! John Clapp has gifted USH with a concert he purchased at the Auction. The cabaret will be held downstairs in Fellowship Hall and will involve music, wine, and delicious refreshments.

Come hear songs you know and love sung by husband-and-wife cabaret specialists (and familiar faces) Patrice Fitzgerald and Richard Leslie.

No charge... but if you feel moved to throw a donation in the basket for USH, that's all the better! It's going to be a great evening. **Contact Person: Patrice Fitzgerald**

Upcoming Special Events and Other News

Lunch Bunch to Meet: We will meet at La Trattoria in Canton at noon on Tuesday, May 17th. Our speaker will be Ed Sax. He will speak about some of his life's experiences. Please let me (Janice) know by noon on Wednesday, May 11th if you will be joining us. To register for the May lunch, contact me at 860/677-1121 or [janicecnewton\(at\)signgmail.com](mailto:janicecnewton(at)signgmail.com) or see Nancy Reed or me at the Programs Table during Fellowship Hour on Sundays. We will order from the menu and will be given separate checks. I am always extremely happy to hear from you sooner rather than later!

It has been decided that next year we will be meeting at Concetta's Italian Restaurant, 22 Mountain Avenue, Bloomfield. We will still be able to order off the menu and have separate checks. We will continue to meet at noon on the third Tuesday of the month September through November and January through June. The December meeting will be at the Meeting House.

I am looking forward to having you with us on May 17th. – **Janice**



Plan to bring items that are served at room temperature or have their own warming devices (such as Crock-Pots).

New Member & Newcomer Potluck

Friday, May 27, 2016 - 5:30 pm

A very special evening to celebrate all our new members and newcomers from the past 5 years. A fun time that includes outstanding food, conversation and laughter. Always a great night!

Sponsored by the Membership Sub-Council

Save the Date!

A stylized illustration of a brown wicker picnic basket with a white cloth and a wooden handle. A slice of red watermelon with black seeds is placed in front of the basket. The background is a blue sky and green grass.

USH Annual Picnic

Sunday, June 12, 2016 - 11:45 am

**Food.
Games.
Fun for All Ages.**

Mark Your Calendar.

Volunteers needed: Contact bharvey@ushartford.com



Tree of Life Presentation

Israel/Palestine: An Inclusive Vision will be the theme of a presentation by Hatim Kanaaneh and Robert Gelbach at the Unitarian Society of Hartford on Sunday, May 22, 2016, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Hatim and Robert will discuss the underlying roots of the ongoing Israel/Palestine conflict, the terrible toll that it is taking on the civilian populations, and the proactive steps that must be taken to establish a durable peace and equal justice for all. We will allow ample time for an interactive Q&A session.



Presenters:

Hatim Kanaaneh was born and raised in the Palestinian village of Arrabeh in Galilee. He was appointed as Sub-district Physician, heading the region's governmental health office which serves over 50,000 Palestinian citizens of Israel. In his efforts to institute and expand community health services, Mr. Kanaaneh (now retired) found himself at odds with the Israeli central authority,

which led to his establishing an NGO, the Galilee Society for Health Research and Services.

Robert Gelbach, Professor Emeritus (Political Science, SCSU), Co-Chair of the New Haven Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, and former Executive Director of Trauma Recovery. Trauma Recovery brought a new evidence-based trauma therapy to teach to Palestinian clinicians. Its goal is to bring sustainable capacity to the occupied territories for the treatment of child and adult PTSD.

\$10 suggested donation / Free for students. Light refreshments will be served
Information and reservations: Contact Ron Friedman (860-523-1105) or Mike Winterfield (860-232-5528)

Educational Grant Applications Until May 31 - The USH

Alliance Ministry to Women is proud to announce that applications are now available for the Women's Alliance Educational Grants.

Applicants should be pursuing education at a post high school level, with priority given to those with minimal scholarship aid or loan sources. Grants are small (generally under \$500), but may be used for expenses such as tuition, books, child care, and transportation. Affiliation with USH is not required, though will be considered.



Applications, by postal or email, are due May 31. Applications are available at the Programs Table in Fellowship Hall or call 860-693-4269 and leave a message with any questions.

In past years, these grants have been welcomed by those pursuing graduate and undergraduate study, members and friends of USH.

Applications and grants are confidential. The Alliance has been awarding these grants for many years and is pleased to be able to continue doing so, realizing that these small monetary awards help women in pursuit of their educational goals. - **Nita**

SPRING IS SPRINGING! And we are so excited to get a better head-start on our USH Garden Plot in the Watkinson Community Garden (at the base of our parking lot) this year. Our plot is right at the front-and-center of the Garden--you can see it just by walking into the Garden from the parking lot. This year we have asked our neighbor, Landscaper and Labyrinth Designer Cynthia Dodd, to help us create a "growing labyrinth" that will incorporate plants and give us a spiritual path to walk together as a community. The idea is that we will use Cynthia's design and then divide that up into 8 sections that groups within the congregation can each take responsibility for. If you would enjoy helping with this wonderfully earthy project, as a Gardener, Coordinator, or Labyrinth Keeper, will you please let RevHeather know? We need You to get this dream from paper into plantings! revheather@ushartford.com or **541-390-6052**



Seeking Chalice Lighters! - Lighting the chalice on Sunday morning as an individual, a couple or a family is a way for you to take a small part in our shared worship service. It's also a way for all of us to see each other more fully and help everyone remember names more easily. Thanks for signing up to engage in this especially Unitarian Universalist ritual that begins our services.

If you haven't lit the chalice before, please plan to arrive by 10:10am so we can show you the routine before the service begins.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b45a5ae2baa8-chalice>

The USH Wish List Hello Everyone!

There are 4 items that we could really use at USH:

A Functional 21st century computer that could be used for volunteer tasks

New collapsible functional easels

1 Coat rack tree

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.**



A Call for Office Volunteers! - Could that possibly be YOU? We are in need of volunteers to maintain a friendly office presence. Easy work - or bring a book, knitting and a smile for any visitors or phone calls the office may receive. Please contact Linda Clark (at: [ushlindaclark \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:ushlindaclark@gmail.com) or phone the office at 860-233-9897 and let her know if you can spend a few hours a week in the USH Office to help us keep our friendly and efficient office going!

We are looking for 6 volunteers that are able to work with Foodshare and Walmart's Supercenter on 495 Flatbush Avenue, Hartford. Due to the wonderful volume of donated food from this store we have 3 pickups each week - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Ideally, we would like a team of 2 volunteers to be available for one day each week.

Please let us know if you can volunteer in any of the 3 slots below:

- * Two volunteer slots every Monday from 9:00 am to 10:30 am;
- * Two volunteer slots every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 10:30 am; and
- * Two volunteer slots every Friday from 9:00 am to 10:30 am.

The volunteer work involved is a little different than Foodshare's typical Retail Pickup assignment. Due to the volume of food from Walmart, the volunteer will not have to deliver the food. Rather the volunteers will gather the food from the various departments within the store and assemble it onto pallets which are picked up by the Foodshare driver, who will deliver the food. The Retail Pickup volunteers will need to be comfortable interacting with the many staff levels at Walmart. If you like to get to know people quickly without slowing them down in

their work - you will be well suited for this volunteer assignment. Foodshare will provide training and will explain all the details of this unique assignment.

Please contact Gaye Sgamboti

at gsgamboti@foodshare.org<<mailto:gsgamboti@foodshare.org>> if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity or call Jim Palma, Community Network Builder for Foodshare

860-286-9999 x124 jpalma@foodshare.org

We can transform Greater Hartford, one meal at a time

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

Special Note: Hi Everyone! Please check the online calendar to make sure the Room and Time you wish to reserve is still available before you make a request.

This will help in planning your event.

Thank you! Linda Clark, Office Administrator

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.**

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