



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105  
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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 to 3:00  
or call for appointment

**USH-Enews ~ September 25, 2019**  
**Building Community Since 1830**  
**Sunday Service 10:30 AM**  
**Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr**



Image: [varietypittsburgh.org](http://varietypittsburgh.org)

**Worship Service, September 29, 2019, 10:30am**  
**“Widen Your Bookshelf”**  
**Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers**  
**Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate**

"I would like to tell you what I often told you when you were much younger. I like you just the way you are. And what's more, I'm so grateful to you for helping the children in your life to know that you'll do everything you can to keep them safe. And to help them express their feelings in ways that will bring healing in many different neighborhoods. It's such a good feeling to know that we're lifelong friends."--Fred Rogers, "Adults PSA 1:30," as quoted in *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*, by Maxwell King

**Our Director of Religious Education is looking for teachers and assistants for the 2019-2020 church year. We need your help in the following grade levels: Prek-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and youth group. Please contact Rayla Mattson for more information at [dre@ushartford.com](mailto:dre@ushartford.com) or 860-233-9897 ext 104.**

**From the USH Caring Network:** Please inform the Caring Network of needs, or volunteer your services. If you know of any member experiencing some difficulty, please contact Eve Pech or any member of the Caring Network so we can provide some assistance. A wide range of community services is also available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at 211.

### Update from the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee needs many hands on deck! It is rewarding and enjoyable to be a part of a committed and enthusiastic team, plus essential to the well-being of USH! The more hands, the less work for everyone! Please consider helping with one or more of the following:

**First up: Overall for the year, we need:**

- Someone to coordinate and schedule the Stewardship Table after services. You don't have to do it every Sunday, but be responsible for determining the theme of the table and scheduling someone from the team for each Sunday

- Someone to do various data analysis tasks throughout the year. You can do this from home and not even have to come to any meetings
- Someone to learn the credit card swiping and processing procedures and train others how to do it

**Fall: The Auction! We need:**

- Someone to oversee the Auction website. It's a basic, simple database. You can do this from home and not have to come to meetings
- People to help plan the Auction and solicit skills and thrills from the congregation and friends
- A buffet lunch organizer (again, no meetings, unless you want to come)
- A Set-up Team leader, one, maybe two, meetings
- A wine & beer organizer and "bartenders"
- Cashiers for check-out and payments
- A Break-down Team leader, one, maybe two, meetings

**Late Winter: The Pledge Drive. We need:**

- Someone to work with the Membership Committee to update the list of members and friends prior to the drive
- A small team to organize the Soirees, recruit hosts, schedule the Host Training and the Host Appreciation Lunch
- Someone to recruit congregants to do testimonials at the services
- A communications person to coordinate a congregational letter encouraging pledging and other communications between Stewardship and the congregation

**And Last but NOT LEAST,** we need a Chair for the Stewardship Committee to lead this fun, creative, dedicated group of people. Lots of support will be provided by the well experienced team. If you're interested please contact [USHStewardship@gmail.com](mailto:USHStewardship@gmail.com).

## RE News You Can Use: Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education



**We had a great first week of RE and of OWL! I'd like to thank all of our teachers, volunteers and nursery staff!**

This week we will have a TFAA followed by age appropriate classes. The nursery will be available during the morning worship hour and then for those 10 and under until 1:45pm. The Youth Group will meet at 9:00am for soup making for Church St. Eats. OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum) will meet again this week on Sunday from 3:00-4:30pm.

The nursery will be available this Sunday for our morning worship service. It will also be available until 1:45pm for children under 10 after service so parents can spend a few more minutes enjoying coffee and conversation or attending an after service event.

The Prek-2nd grade class will be focusing on love this year and the ways in which we find and show love in our daily lives. Our 3rd-5th grades will be focusing on how do we actually live our UU Principles in our daily lives. Middle School is focusing on one of our favorites: Popcorn Theology. They will watch bits of coming-of-age movies, while eating popcorn, and looking at how we can apply our principles to our lives as we move from childhood to adulthood. The high school youth will be reaching out beyond these walls. They will focus on being more involved in the broader community as well as making more connections with other local, national and international UU youth.

This year is also an OWL (Our Whole Lives) year for our 7th-9th graders. There will be a parent orientation this Saturday and the first session will be this Sunday afternoon. It's not too late to sign up. There will be a mandatory parent session for those students who will be in grades 7th-9th or their equivalency this school year. The parent session will be held on Saturday, September 21st from 5:00-7:00pm at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. The first session for students will be on Friday, September 20th. A full schedule will be available at the parent orientation. The fee for this year's session is \$25 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. The fee helps to off-set program supplies. If you would like to sponsor one or more students, please contact the DRE for more information. The fee can be made up-front or via installments. Please note no student will be turned

away due to inability to pay. The Director of Religious Education, Rayla D. Mattson, along with lifelong UU Mariah Chadukiewicz will be co-facilitating this session. If you would additional information, please contact the DRE at [dre@ushartford.com](mailto:dre@ushartford.com) or 860-233-9897 ext. 104.

Going into next program year, a few of our long-term volunteers have had to step down because of other church-related obligations. This is a great time for new faces to join our RE team. There is space in our Prek-2nd grade class, our 3rd-5th grade class and middle school. I am also looking for one-time volunteers for holiday weeks when we will have one-room activities. I could also use some administrative help if working directly with the children and youth is not your forte. Please send me an email or give me a call, we'd love to have you on board!

I am still in need of at least 2 more teachers for each grade level. I promise I won't call on you more than once every 4-6 weeks! We have a great group of teachers to work with and I provide everything you need each week. We just need your love and enthusiasm. Please contact me if you are able to help out in any capacity this year. Thank you! --Rayla

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education  
860-233-9897 ext. 104 | [dre@ushartford.com](mailto:dre@ushartford.com)

I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.



## Staff News



Please continue to welcome our new Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney. Buffie came to us quickly through a professional temp agency, and we are so grateful for her positive energy, administrative expertise, and ability to hop on board as we zoom along into the congregational year. Buffie will be with us through at least mid-February 2020 which will enable the Revs to go on their long-planned sabbatical and the Board as a whole a chance to consider what staffing configuration best suits USH as we continue to move together into the complex 21st century. Buffie is married and lives with her husband and son in

Simsbury. Buffie will be working every-other-Sunday and Tuesday through Thursday in the office 9am-2pm. Please welcome her!

### **News from the USH Board of Directors**



#### **Greetings from the Board:**

Our ministers will be with us for all of September, and then on a well-deserved sabbatical leave until the beginning of January. Stay tuned for full details. As always, our members and friends keep us going strong. If you would like to be more active and involved in any aspect of congregational life, please contact one of our ministers or any Board member today.

~Joe Rubin, USH Board President

#### **Your 2019-20 USH Board**

—Have a question or comment or just want to chat about USH? Don't hesitate to talk with any one of your Board members:

Joe Rubin: President

Martha Bradley: President-Elect

Phil Gardner: Treasurer

Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary

Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair

Sue Tenorio: Administration Council Chair

Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair

Carolyn Carlson: Community Within Council Chair

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

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#### **UPCOMING PROGRAM:**

#### **THE CONVERSATION PROJECT**

**Sunday, Oct 27 - 12:15 PM, Chapel**

The USH Caring Network is sponsoring a free one-hour program called "The Conversation Project" at 12:15 on Sunday, Oct. 27, in the Chapel.

"The Conversation Project" is a national educational workshop dedicated to helping people talk about potential health care and end of life decisions. How can you give your loved ones the confidence they need to make important medical decisions in the event you're unable to make them for yourself? There will be strategies and tips on how to begin these difficult conversations with loved ones.

While 92% of Americans say it's important to discuss their wishes for end-of-life care, only 32% have had such a conversation. 95% of Americans say they would be willing to talk about their wishes, and 53% even say they'd be relieved to discuss it (The Conversation Project National Survey, 2018).

The facilitator is Peggy Coburn, MPH, Administrator at McLean Home Care and Hospice, with 20 years of experience in the senior health care industry.

No reservations are needed, but you may want to bring a lunch from home to eat during coffee hour before the program.

**Questions? Contact Nita at 860-693-4269.**

## Social Justice at USH

**Coming Up at USH: Citizens Climate Lobby** Meeting for Greater Hartford chapter. Sponsored by USH Green Sanctuary

**Room:** Library

**Dates:** Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8.

**Time: Meeting is 2 - 4p.m. (1:30 - 4:30 includes pre-meeting set-up and post meeting clean-up)**

Citizens Climate Lobby Meeting for Greater Hartford chapter. Sponsored by Green Sanctuary

Contacts: [ellen.castaldini@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.castaldini@gmail.com); [jeff.howard.29@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.howard.29@gmail.com)

Event is free and open to public

### **REGISTER NOW FOR UNDOING RACISM TRAINING**

This training is offered twice a year and rotates between weekday and weekend dates. Training is open to everyone.

November 15-17, 2019

**Dates/Times/Location: (Participants must be available for all of the training to register)**

- Friday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> | 6pm to 9pm
- Saturday, Nov. 16 and Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> | 9am to 5pm

**Location:** Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street, Hartford.

**Food:** Snacks provided Friday. Breakfast and Lunch provided Saturday and Sunday.

**Cost:** The Cost is \$450 per person. Scholarships are available simply by requesting one. 100% of the fee goes to the training and food. Please check with your faith institution first to see if there are scholarships available. If not, Christian Activities Council will provide the scholarship.

**Group Size:** There is a maximum of 40 participants per training so register early!

**How to register:** Register online at <http://christianactivities.org/trainings/>. Send check made payable to Christian Activities Council to 47 Vine Street, Hartford, CT 06112 or pay through our web site at [www.christianactivities.secure.force.com/donate/](http://www.christianactivities.secure.force.com/donate/). Call 860-527-9860 with questions.

**About the Training: Training is offered by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond**

Undoing Racism® is our signature workshop. Through dialogue, reflection, role-playing, strategic planning and presentations, this intensive process challenges participants to analyze the structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity and prepares them to be effective organizers for justice. The multiracial team of organizers/trainers includes more than 100 men and women whose anti-racist organizing expertise includes years with civil, labor and welfare rights struggles, educational, foster care, social service and health reform movements, as well as youth and grassroots community organizing. An average of 30 groups per month participate in The People's Institute Undoing Racism®/Community Organizing process.

Workshop participants will:

Develop a common definition of racism and an understanding of its different forms: individual, institutional, linguistic, and cultural;

Develop a common language and analysis for examining racism in the United States;

Understand one's own connection to institutional racism and its impact on his/her work;

Understand why people are poor and the role of institutions in exacerbating institutional racism, particularly for people and communities of color;

Understand the historical context for how racial classifications in the United States came to be and how and why they are maintained;

Understand the historical context for how U.S. institutions came to be and who they have been designed to serve;  
 Understand how all of us, including white people, are adversely impacted by racism every day, everywhere;  
 Address surface assumptions about how your work is (or is not) affected by racism;  
 Develop awareness and understanding about ways to begin Undoing Racism®

**Contact Judy Sullivan with questions about financial support: [jasullivan57@gmail.com](mailto:jasullivan57@gmail.com).**

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**JOIN US FOR THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF  
 Greater Action Hartford Alliance Interfaith (GHIAA)  
 MON. OCTOBER 28, 2019 | 6:45 PM  
 Central Connecticut State University  
 WELTE AUDITORIUM, NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT**

**Park at Welte Garage; Doors open at 6:15pm.**

After three years of preparation involving over 40 religious institutions, congregations in the greater Hartford area are launching the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

GHIAA is a deliberate effort to cross lines of race, class, religion and geography to build relational power to address social justice issues in local communities and beyond, while helping our congregations come alive!

Please join 1,000 GHIAA members, denominational leaders, Governor Lamont and mayors of the region for this historic night.

**PLEASE RSVP For more information contact Cori Mackey, via email [cmackey@christianactivities.org](mailto:cmackey@christianactivities.org), or via phone 203-671-3948**

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### **Sanctuary?**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is deporting immigrants who are in this country illegally even though some of these people have a case pending in immigration court. Because ICE has a policy memorandum stating enforcement actions are not to occur at "sensitive locations," such as churches, organizations such as Hartford Deportation Defense periodically contact the Reverends asking if the Unitarian Society of Hartford (USH) can offer Sanctuary to one or more immigrants in danger of being deported. If USH decides to offer Sanctuary, we would not be doing it alone; we would reach out to partners in the community. Offering Sanctuary is a provocative act, but it is not illegal. USH will alert local media that it is hosting a Sanctuary Guest. Therefore, Sanctuary is "hiding in plain sight."

#### **WHY WOULD THE USH CHOOSE TO BECOME A SANCTUARY?**

• The first principle of Unitarian Universalism mentions the "inherent worth and dignity of every person." • USH espouses social justice as an element of spiritual growth. • As a church, USH is a "sensitive location;" we can offer help where others cannot.

#### **WHO MIGHT BE OUR PROSPECTIVE GUEST?**

• A Sanctuary Guest needs to have an active claim in immigration court that has high merit and a high likelihood of prevailing. • A Sanctuary Guest must be at imminent risk of deportation. • A Sanctuary Guest needs to be represented by an attorney or advised by an attorney who will keep USH informed about progress. • A prospective Guest will have a face to face interview with a USH representative to present themselves in advance of final acceptance. • A prospective Guest with any record of serious criminality or any suspicion of gang association or a personality disorder will not be accepted. • A prospective Guest must agree to a preliminary medical exam and screening before final acceptance.

#### **WHAT WOULD BE THE OBLIGATIONS OF A GUEST?**

• A Guest must agree to all conditions laid out in an agreement with the Congregation. • If the Guest exhausts all levels of appeal he/she agrees to leave Sanctuary. • The Guest gives up freedom.

**WHAT CHALLENGES WOULD USH FACE?** • Providing Sanctuary requires a large commitment of time and energy

by many congregants working together for an extended period. • Having a Sanctuary Guest may affect services; or use space needed for rentals, outside meetings, and childcare. • Having a Sanctuary Guest may cause USH to lose congregants. • The Congregation would have to be prepared for an unhappy outcome.

**WHAT HUMAN RESOURCES WOULD WE NEED? •**

Friendly hosts: two 10-member teams—one male and one female, depending on gender of Guest. Team members take turns staying overnight with the Guest until there is a level of comfort (both ways). The alternate team would be responsible for food, laundry, arranging visitation, communicating with community and family, and all other miscellaneous tasks. • Medical professional (doctor or nurse). • Mental health consultation to evaluate Guest's emotional status and needs; e.g., loneliness, PTSD, depression. • Translators, if needed.

**WHAT PHYSICAL RESOURCES WOULD WE NEED? (note:**

Building and Grounds feels it is possible to create a space with the requirements below.) • Appropriate living space with window. • Bathroom with shower. • Closet or wardrobe. • kitchen access or mini refrigerator and microwave and/or hotplate. • internet access.

**WHAT OUTSIDE RESOURCES WOULD WE NEED? •**

Financial partners for living and other expenses. • Volunteers and professionals to fill some of the human resources needs. • Other organizations are interested in helping immigrants but cannot do it themselves because they are not "sensitive locations."

**PROCESS FOR DECIDING WHETHER USH SHOULD BECOME A SANCTUARY •**

Facilitated Under the Stairs discussions on two Sundays in October. These would be opportunities to ask questions and express opinions. • Two additional facilitated discussions during the week; one during the day and one in the evening. • A dedicated email address to submit opinions. • All the input will be synthesized and shared with the Congregation. • If the "sense" of the Congregation is to move forward, more work will be done on logistics and costs to determine if it is feasible. • If offering Sanctuary is feasible, there would be a Congregational vote in January. • After an overwhelmingly positive vote, efforts

would begin to prepare the space, draft the agreement, and secure the financing.

**Offering Sanctuary presents an opportunity for USH to live our Unitarian Universalist principles by providing necessary shelter and emotional support to an individual in crisis.**

**Under The Stairs (discussions on this topic): Sundays Sept. 22, Oct. 13, after the service; Weekdays: Oct. 1, 7-8:30p.m.; Oct. 16, 10-11:30a.m.**

**[USH.sanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:USH.sanctuary@gmail.com)**



Americans  
OF CONSCIENCE  
*Checklist*

**September 25  
Americans of Conscience  
Checklist**

*These checklists feature clear, well-researched actions for Americans who value democracy, equality,*

*voting, and decency. We also practice gratitude, self-care, and celebration to stay engaged. Click [HERE](#) for past checklists. - Submitted by Judy Sullivan, USH Social Justice Chair; Source: <https://americansofconscience.com/>*

165 weeks down, 58 weeks to the presidential election.

The AoC Checklist features clear, well-researched actions for Americans who value democracy, equality, voting, and respect. To stay engaged through challenging times, we practice gratitude, self-care, and celebration.

I value democracy.

With respect and collaboration, we work to create a nation that welcomes all people, expands freedoms, and upholds the Constitution.

**□Action 1: Remind the high school students in your life to register to vote.** [h/t The Civics Center]

What to say: National High School Voter Registration Week (September 23-27) is a great time to register to vote so you can participate in this November's election (even 16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register in many states). You can also hold a voter registration drive at your school any time this school year.

**Bonus:** Donate to The Civics Center here.

**□Action 2: Get "dark money" out of political campaigns.** [h/t Move to Amend]

Call: Your one House rep and two senators (look up).

**Script:** Hi. I'm from [ZIP] and I'm part of a bipartisan majority of Americans who believe corporations should not have the same constitutional rights as people. The We the People Amendment would end this unjust practice, and eliminate contributions of unlimited amounts of "dark money" to political campaigns.  
For House reps: I would like [NAME] to cosponsor H.J. Res. 48. Thank you.

**For senators:** I urge [NAME] to introduce the Senate equivalent of H.J. Res 48. Thank you.

**Action 3: Advocate for voting by mail.** [h/t National Vote at Home Institute]

**Call: If you DON'T live in CO, HI, OR, UT, or WA:** Your two state legislators (look up).

**Script:** Hi. I'm from [ZIP], calling to express my support for all-mail elections. Voting by mail gives voters time to make informed choices, reduces the expense of operating polling places, and increases security and voter participation. Can I count on [NAME] to support vote-by-mail legislation? Thank you.

**Bonus:** If you DO live in CO, HI, OR, UT, or WA, your state already holds elections by mail (or will by the 2020 primary). Donate to [VoteatHome.org](http://VoteatHome.org) here to support vote-by-mail efforts nationwide.

**I value equality.**

Support the dignity of your rainbow of neighbors from every religion, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, and ability.

## Church Business News

The latest financial reports for **April-June 2019** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **July 2019** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Buffie Pinney at [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) for the username and password.



### **Update from the Sabbatical Committee**

From the Revs: "How grateful and excited we are to be taking our first sabbatical after a combined 23 years of ministry. We are your ministers not just when we are "at work" at USH but each day and each week—we hold you in our hearts, ruminate on sermons and strategic planning, and are on-call as needed. This holding that ministry asks of us is sacred, special and...tiring, which is why sabbatical is so important for our renewal and sustainability.

For the month of October we have few plans—we look forward to simply living life and being together as a married couple and parents without the added layer of co-ministry. In November, we are going on a Big Trip as a family—first to Quezon City in the Philippines to visit our dear friend Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons and family as well as visit UU communities in the Philippines. Then we travel to Delhi, India and hopefully to visit large Unitarian communities in the Khasi Hills. In December, RevHeather will be working full-time with the UU Congregation in Danbury and RevCathy will have the strange experience of being a minister not working in December.

We know not what stories, experiences and learnings we will bring back to you in January but we are sure there will be many. We wish you a positive and spiritually-rich time while we are away."

Our worship calendar for the fall is complete. More details here and in the Sunday OOS's starting in October! To view the Sabbatical Brochure, with all sorts of wonderful details about the Revs' Sabbatical, click [HERE](#).

Warm regards, The Sabbatical Committee (Marye Gail Harrison, Laurie Kelliher, Lisa Galinski and Peter Meny)



## 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. Also visit [www.ushartford.com/building-community/adult-family-programs/](http://www.ushartford.com/building-community/adult-family-programs/).

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### Programs

**USH Artists' Group:** Mondays at 6:30 PM; Sensing a call to be creative? To write or paint, to collage or sketch, to weave or quilt? Whatever your medium, the USH Artists' Group held its first meeting of the fall on **Monday, September 9 at 6:30pm** in the library, and you are all welcome to join us at future meetings! The group is using the book *Wild Ideas: Creativity from the Inside Out* by Cathy Wild as the stimulus for ongoing discussions. You can purchase the book on Amazon and bring it to the first meeting, when we will collaborate on planning the fall/winter program and begin building community with a simple-but-fun creative activity. All who are interested in exploring and nurturing their creative process are welcome to join these Monday evening gatherings. No need to pre-register - just come to the first meeting. For more information contact Marye Gail Harrison ([maryegailh@gmail.com](mailto:maryegailh@gmail.com)).

**Emei Qigong Cultivation:** Tuesdays at 11:00 AM and Wednesdays at 5:00 PM. Contact Diana Heymann: 860-200-8525.

**Tai Chi Gigong:** Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Contact facilitator before attending: Stephen "Lucky" Luckingham: 860-202-3404 or [stephen.luckingham\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:stephen.luckingham(at)gmail.com).

**Authentic Connection & Communication:** An NVC Practice Group, Wednesdays, 7:15 – 9:15 PM. Contact Mark Friedman for more information: [drmarkafriedman@drmarkafriedman.com](mailto: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.) For more information contact Ed Savage: [Esavage15@att.net](mailto:Esavage15@att.net).

**Ballroom Dance:** Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:45 PM. Contact Ron Friedman: 860-523-1105 or [rsfriedman41\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:rsfriedman41(at)gmail.com).

### Dinner and a Movie at USH:

**On Friday, October 11, the new season of Dinner & Movie will open with "Paterson",** a prize-winning 2016 Jim Jarmusch film about a man named Paterson (portrayed by Adam Driver) who lives and drives a bus in Paterson, NJ, and writes poetry. He sees poetry where many would not. Watch a trailer here: <https://youtu.be/m8pGJBgiiDU>. The film is rated R for some

language. (*See more info below.*) Meets the second Friday of the month September-June. Contact Nita for more information at 860-693-4269 (no texts).

**USH Book Club:** Meets the second Thursday of the month September-June. Off-site, contact Richard Groothuis for more information: [rgroopofus@icloud.com](mailto:rgroopofus@icloud.com) or 860-748-3532. Books are selected by Members to raise social and life issues. We meet monthly with the objective to discuss the books as literature but with particular emphasis on how the issues relate to us personally and as UUs. Our discussions follow the Small Group goals of seeking input from all in attendance. Our hope is that those attending will make an effort to make as many meetings as possible. Membership is open to all. Meetings will be on second Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm; we will skip December.

**Beloved Conversations:** An experiential curriculum that provides a space to heal the spiritual and organizational wounds that racism causes in our faith communities. The program aims to foster cross-cultural relationships that nurture the spiritual health of program participants, congregations and communities beyond their walls. We plan to repeat this program in some way in coming years. Contact Judy Sullivan to be added to the list of those interested.

**Dinner and a Movie: more important details -** Because the movie is almost 2 hours long, we will follow a revised time schedule that evening. We will gather for popcorn and libations and socializing at 5:15 PM, have pizza and salad dinner at 5:45, and view the movie at 6:30, with optional discussion afterwards. To reserve (\$10 each), please leave a voice message at 860-693-4269 (no texting) - with your name and phone number, the number of reservations, and choice(s) of meat or vegetable toppings for your pizza. You can pay with cash or check at the event. Please reserve by noon on Wednesday, October 9. If on the day of the movie you find you cannot attend, please call the number above before noon, so the pizza order can be adjusted. If the event needs to be canceled, you will be notified by noon on Friday, October 11.

### Connection Circles (formerly known as Small Group Ministries)



#### What are Connection Circles?

This is a unique opportunity to strengthen your connections with USH members and friends by sharing your life experiences with them in a safe, confidential space — a covenant group.

**New Connection Circle forming -** There are still a few places available for a Connection Circle beginning Thursday evening, October 10 from 7-9 at the home of Kathie Ferguson in West Hartford. Please

sign up after service in Fellowship Hall or email or call Kathie if you would like to participate. [KWFinteriors@sbcglobal.net](mailto:KWFinteriors@sbcglobal.net), or 860-508-3038

Watch for announcements of Connection Circles offerings in E-News, during coffee hour after the service at the Programs Table (when available) in Fellowship Hall, or at the Welcome Table in the main lobby. Please text or email Martha Bradley at 860-305-3307, [marthabradley49@yahoo.com](mailto:marthabradley49@yahoo.com) for more information or click [HERE](#).



### **Disability Focused Connection Circle**

**Room:** David's Den and Library

**Time:** Saturday mornings from 10:00am to noon

**Date(s):** First meeting on September 28th. Dates of following meetings determined by participants' availability. The last meeting will be on November 30th at the latest.

**Cost:** \$5.00 collected at the first meeting

**Contact:** Susan Hope at 860 463 6407 or [susanhope51@gmail.com](mailto:susanhope51@gmail.com) or Briana Bittel at [everaftr33@gmail.com](mailto:everaftr33@gmail.com) for more info.

This popular event is being offered again for a third year. As in the past, all of the discussions will begin with a reading based on an essay written by someone who has issues related to a disability, published in a recent series in *The New York Times*.

## Events and News of Our Community

**UU USH & YOU**

**A Path to Membership**

**3 Sunday sessions (Oct 6, Nov 3 & 17) 12:00-1:30 pm**

Followed up with a **Membership Sunday on Dec 8, 2019**

Join us in our three-session workshop and examine how Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Society of Hartford relates to your spiritual growth, sense of community, and everyday life.

**Free child care provided.**

Contact Brian Harvey at [bharvey@ushartford.com](mailto:bharvey@ushartford.com)



USH member **Peter Upton** has generously offered the gift of any one of his paintings (currently on display in the Meeting House ambulatory) to anyone who wishes to have one, in exchange for a financial gift to USH of any amount you feel appropriate. Our great thanks to Peter! Please come and choose your painting through the month of October! ~Buffie Pinney, Office

Administrator

## Meeting House Presents!



### Save These Dates--Coming Up in September:

**Please Note: The Sept. 13 event had to be postponed due to performer illness. Mad Agnes will perform at 7:30 on Friday, October 4, 2019 at the Unitarian Society of Hartford Meeting House.**

**Friday, Sept. 27, 2019 [Moonfruits](#)** is fronted by partners Alex Millaire and Kaitlin Milroy. Ottawa-based Moonfruits are makers of art-folk bilingue. In a forest of banjo, guitar, kalimba and glockenspiel, their voices burrow and soar. Here is a reverie, tender and powerful, beckoning listeners to elevate the stuff of everyday life.

**Friday, Oct 4, 2019 [Mad Agnes](#)** is Margo Hennebach, Adrienne Jones and Mark Saunders. Each member arrived at the trio from a staggering list of solo accomplishments, including songwriting competitions, recordings, and the ability to sleep on any surface. Multi-instrumentalists all, **Hennebach** is classically trained in piano, **Jones** is self-taught on guitar and bass, and **Saunders** adds color with a vintage mandolin and subtle electronic processing on his guitar. The sound can be full as a concert hall or delicate as three voices singing *a cappella*.

**Friday, Nov. 1, 2019 [Annie Sumi](#)** shares a brand of musical storytelling that spans folk, roots and ethereal vocalization. Dancing on

a line between imagination and reality, ethereal-folk artist Annie Sumi's music invites you into a familiar otherworld. Like an inbound wind, her voice begins with a whisper, gathers strength and purpose, and transforms into an airy howl. Her songs take you to places – of quiet wonder, of unspoken love, of tranquil landscape.

**Friday, Nov. 22, 2019** [Louise Mosrie](#) Audience members would tell her that they enjoyed the stories between the songs as much as the songs and her strong expressive voice was described as "...like listening to Patty Griffin and Susan Tedeschi at the same time."

**Friday, Dec. 27, 2019** [Hartford Hot Several Brass Band](#) is bringing their party to USH for a pre-New Year's blast. Since 2012 they have been Hartford's much-needed funky marching band to bring brass, ruckus, and joy to all. Mid-winter joyful noise sure to raise a smile and make you want to dance.

**Friday, Jan. 24, 2020** TBA (This show might be rescheduled to a date in May to be determined.)

**Friday, Feb 28, 2020** [Belle of the Fall](#) lead singer, Julia Autumn Ford possesses the voice of an angel is beyond obvious. Soft, tender and raw all at once; Julia's vocal delivery is light as a feather yet powerful enough to knock down an entire city block with one turn of a phrase. Her partner in crime, bassist Tracy Walton rounds out Belle of the Fall's folky yet modern sound.

**Friday, March 27, 2020** [Seán Heely Celtic trio](#) Experience the magic music of Scotland and Ireland with the Seán Heely Celtic Trio. The group features U.S National Scottish Fiddle champion Seán Heely, acclaimed multi-instrumentalist Kevin Elam, and Highland bagpiper Tracy Jenkins. The three gents bring together multiple different instruments to perform fiery dance tunes and ancient, soaring melodies from Scotland and Ireland. They perform original compositions and have rich vocal harmonies in their solid song repertoire that features ballads, sea shanties, and songs in Irish and Scots Gaelic.

**Friday, April 17, 2020** [Scott Cook](#) has managed to distill the stories collected over eleven years touring across Canada, the USA, Europe, Asia, Australia and elsewhere into straight-talking, keenly observant verse. Road-worn, painfully honest, and deeply human, his tunes weave threads of folk, roots, blues, soul and country over spacious fingerstyle guitar and clawhammer banjo arrangements.

*We sure hope that you will join us!*

Click [HERE](#) for more info or e-mail us at [MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com](mailto:MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com)

- Phone Laura and Paul Cipriano at (860) 298-9984
- Check our web page or subscribe to our email list for notification if shows are sold out or rescheduled: [www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/](http://www.ushartford.com/nourishing-spirit/music/meetinghousepresents/)

### **Sign Up for Meeting House Presents email list:**

Our email includes concert announcements, updates, and info about folk music events in the area. Subscribe to Meeting House Presents Email— send a message to: [MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com](mailto:MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com). Put "subscribe" in the subject line. We send one or two emails each month.

Meeting House Presents is always looking for volunteers to help out. You decide if you want to help out three nights, one night, or the entire season. We need help with refreshments, tickets, communications, hosting performers if you have a spare room, and we'd like to have a "street team" to post flyers. Best of all, the commitments are for the evening of the show and you won't have to attend meetings. Contact Laura Cipriano at [MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com](mailto:MeetingHousePresents@gmail.com) to volunteer. Come be part of the fun.

### **Get Involved at USH - Be Part of a Great Team!**

#### **USH Needs You—**

#### **Get Active with USH! Committee and Sub-Council Openings**

We are continually striving to fill open positions on various Board committees and sub-councils. If you are interested in becoming more engaged at USH, or just learning more about the activities of our congregation, we encourage you to reach out to a Board member, one of the Ministers, or the Chair of a particular Council, Sub-council or Committee. Click [HERE](#) to read more...

*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; Join the Choir; Office Volunteers; Connection Circles Host, Advisor or Facilitator; The Book Table During Coffee Hour. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.



**Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM):** USH Member Doris Maldonado is in need of help with this ministry. Please contact her at [unicas.miracle@gmail.com](mailto:unicas.miracle@gmail.com) if you would like more info. The USH AIM task force, many of whom identify as having a disability, are charged with the following mission: To welcome, integrate, and support people with physical or psychological disabilities and their families in our congregation. For more info click [HERE](#).



**Womensphere  
2019 Fall Retreat  
at Senexet House!**  
275 Senexet Road  
Woodstock, CT  
Saturday, September 28th - Sunday, September 29th

Womensphere, a group of Unitarian Universalist women in south-eastern New England, invites all women to a fun and relaxing weekend filled with singing & dancing, meditation & sharing, crafts & games.

We will learn about the importance of ritual in our daily lives and honor Gaia and her world.

Our fall retreat will take place at Senexet House, a beautiful Victorian retreat center nestled in the forest of Woodstock, Connecticut. All of the delicious meals are provided by Senexet House. No need to cook!

Cost - \$130 - Partial scholarships available  
Questions? Email [bpd@womensphere@gmail.com](mailto:bpd@womensphere@gmail.com)

[Use link below for more details and to print the registration form](#)

[More Details and Registration Form](#)

## Speaker and Discussion Series

**Presented by The Hartford Catholic Worker & Holy Family's  
Just Faith Ministry**

**CRISIS AT THE BORDER**  
HOLY FAMILY MONASTERY  
303 Tunxis Road  
West Hartford  
October 7th at 6:30pm

**The Hartford Catholic Worker and Just Faith are proud to present a critical analysis and discussion regarding the current crisis at our southern border. The factors leading up to this crisis, as well as the stories of suffering and hope experienced by those who helped to assist the migrants, will be presented.**

**(Speakers will be Chris Doucot, Jackie Doucot and Members of Ct Shoreline Indivisible)**

**Everyone welcome – Refreshments available  
Free will offering for the Hartford Catholic Worker gratefully  
accepted.**

**\*\*The Hartford Catholic Worker has been a welcoming presence in North Hartford for the past 25 years. Those who live in the neighborhood, as well as all who wish to associate themselves with the HCW, share life and build community in the spirit of Jesus and Dorothy Day.**

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**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 Buffie Pinney at [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com). It's easy and if you're interested, please say so.

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**To submit a Calendar Event Request,** cut and paste the text below into an email and send to: [calendarchanges@ushartford.com](mailto: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](mailto: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! ~Buffie

Put in the Subject: 'Calendar'

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

Event Title:

Room:

Time:

Date(s):

Is This A Private Event?

Include in Happenings/Enews?

Contact:

A Short Description:

Cost: (if applicable)

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



### Lost and Found

There is a 'Lost & Found' box in the office on the bottom shelf of a storage rack near Buffie Pinney's desk. Items found in the building will be placed there. Please check in the office if you have misplaced something. **Please note: Items will be donated or recycled if no one claims them after a few weeks.** Thank you.

#### USH Staff:

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

Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister

[revcathy@ushartford.com](mailto:revcathy@ushartford.com) | 860-233-9897 ext 103\*(see below to schedule)

Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister

[revheatherriostarr@gmail.com](mailto:revheatherriostarr@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext 103

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

[dre@ushartford.com](mailto:dre@ushartford.com) | 860-233-9897 ext 104

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

[smoffett@ushartford.com](mailto:smoffett@ushartford.com) | 860-233-9897 ext 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator  
[hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext 100

Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper  
 Office Hours by Appointment | [bmullen@ushartford.com](mailto:bmullen@ushartford.com)

**\*Rev. Cathy has an online scheduler:**

If you'd like to set up a meeting, pastoral visit, or other conversation with me, you can see my availability and sign up for a time here: <https://RevCathyRionStarr.as.me>. Try it out, and let me know if you have any trouble!  
 -RevCathy

*The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is Tuesday at 12 Noon.  
 Email to: [ushenews@ushartford.com](mailto: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.