



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 ~ April, 15, 2020
Building Community Since 1830
Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



image: wallpapertag.com

Worship Service
April 19th, 2020, 10:30am
"It Is Time Now That We Thrive"

**Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries
Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate**

Worship will be available to watch anytime on Sunday morning, but we encourage you to watch it together at 10:30am either on our homepage www.ushartford.com or join the “premiere watch party” on our [Unitarian Society of Hartford Facebook](#) page to worship and chat together. The Order of Service and a full transcript will be posted just under the video on our homepage.

After worship: Virtual Coffee Hour

There will be an online coffee hour in the Zoom Room following the service.

It should just work...but if it doesn't, fear not! We will be developing ways to support folks in learning how to use Zoom – email Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com if you have trouble getting in so we can get you set up for next time.

View Sunday's worship on our homepage at www.ushartford.com, or read the latest [full transcript here](#) (big thanks to Lisa Galinski for creating the transcript).



Online Donations:

After some FAQ's regarding our online donations I did some digging and was informed that the online donating is a two step process requiring members to input their credit card information twice, once on our **USH** website and then again on **PayPal**. Pay Pal is the site that actually processes the transaction, but the office (Buffie) receives notifications when a donation is received. Please contact Buffie with any questions or concerns at hartforduusociety@gmail.com or **860-233-9897**.



We are sad to inform you that USH Friend Mary Madsen passed away at the hospital this past Saturday morning, April 11, 2020, from coronavirus, along with other long-time health challenges. Mary was 84 years old. She had visited USH a few times with her husband George Madsen. The Madsens moved to Seabury Retirement Home from Woodbury, Conn., in December 2018, and also occasionally participated in our monthly "UUs at Seabury" group. Mary was loved by so many and deeply appreciated for her positive, warm energy and spirit. An in-person memorial service at Seabury will be coordinated at some point in the future, once that's an option.

For now, cards of sympathy may be sent to Mary's husband George: George Madsen, Apt 6215, 400 Seabury Drive, Bloomfield, CT 06002.



Personal News of the Congregation

Remembering and Grieving JoAnne Bauer
 Sunday, April 19th at 3 PM – 4:30 PM

With heavy, full hearts, we have shared that USH member JoAnne Bauer died last weekend after a long and difficult struggle with depression. JoAnne was a devoted activist, who loved art, poetry, and beauty. When it is safe to do so, we will hold a memorial service for JoAnne at USH, but grieving is not to be done alone, even in times of social distancing.

We invite you to come together for an online memorial to remember JoAnne and mourn her death with music, silence, pictures, poetry, and sharing. The link to join is [here](#). You can also see the Facebook event [here](#).

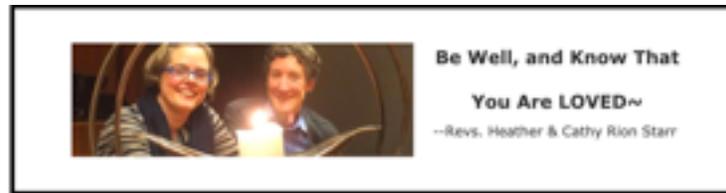
Please bring a candle and a piece of paper with 3 words or a phrase about JoAnne (**write them BIG or in marker so others can see them on the screen**).

If you wish to make a donation, please contribute to the JoAnne Bauer and Friends Fund for racial equality and social and environmental justice in the Greater Hartford region at the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving online or send a check to HFPG c/o Deborah Rothstein.

Please also take care of your own mental health as best you can, and reach out to RevCathy or the USH Caring Network if you need an ear or feel yourself sinking. We are in this together, and help is always available. If you're feeling alone and struggling, you can also reach out to The Crisis Text Line by texting TALK to 741741 or National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK.

Rev. Cathy will lead this virtual memorial gathering in coordination with JoAnne's closest friends and family. Feel free to contact Cathy here or in Messenger if you have questions about this gathering.

Thoughtfully,
 Revs. Heather & Cathy Rion Starr



From the Board:

The Board met last night and there is much news to share. As always, the full minutes will be posted on our website, but meanwhile, I wanted to share some highlights with everyone.

Our transition to a new virtual reality has been amazingly quick and successful, thanks to Revs Cathy and Heather, Sam, our Director of Music Ministries, Rayla, our Religious Education Director, Dianne Daniels, our Intern Minister, all of our Worship Associates, and Lisa Galinski, our Zoom-meister. Attendance at our online services and coffee hours is robust and we hope it will continue to grow. If you need help in joining in, call or email Buffie in the office and she'll help or direct you to help. We are also moving all other meetings and functions to the internet, and so far, it's working.

While there are many unknowns financially for all of us, our community, and the broader community, there is also some good news to share. First, our Emergency Appeal has already raised over \$12,000! Thanks to all who have already contributed. Additional contributions are still needed and welcome. Second,

our congregation's application for a federal loan, ultimately convertible to a grant, under the federal stimulus Payroll Protection Act, has been tentatively approved for over \$51,000. Assuming we receive final approval, this will be of tremendous assistance in maintaining salaries for all of our staff and meeting other needs, especially in light of the loss of rental income, weekly in person collections, Meeting House Presents income, and the probable reduction in pledge payments from members who are suffering financially. We owe huge thanks to our Treasurer, Phil Gardner, and our bookkeeper, Brian Mullen, for their speedy work in navigating the complex application process.

We will not conduct a normal Stewardship campaign this year. Instead, we will ask everyone who can to at least maintain their current pledge, those who cannot to let us know as soon as possible, and those who can do so to increase their pledges by 5% - 25% to help make up for all our known and anticipated revenue reductions. You'll be hearing details shortly.

Our Annual Meeting and Election of Board members and officers will be held as scheduled on Sunday, May 17, but it will, of course be on Zoom. Further details will follow.

We can't say this often enough - if you or someone you know in the congregation is struggling, psychically or financially, PLEASE let us know. Reach out to our ministers or any member of the Caring Committee. We want to do what we can.

USH remains a strong vibrant caring community. Thanks for helping us stay that way!
Joe Rubin, President, on behalf of the Board of Directors

As a reminder, the Meeting House is closed for all "in-person" gatherings for now, and we ask your help in strengthening our connections during this time. Call someone in the congregation! Organize a Zoom hangout or Connection Circle! Keep telling us your good news – new babies and such, and challenges you wish to share in worship or simply hold in confidential prayer and love.

Moving Events Online:

We are updating our online calendar with events that are moving to an online format during this time when all in-person gatherings are cancelled. If you are an event organizer, please let Buffie know if you would like to move your program online into our USH Zoom Room (and if you need help learning to use Zoom).

Resources for the food insecure and places to give:

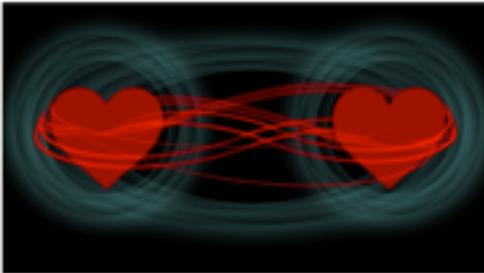
These are tough times for many folks already living paycheck-to-paycheck and/or food insecure. If this is you, please reach out to the Revs so we can mobilize some financial and/or food support for you. Here are a few community resources for food in particular:

- Bloomfield food for kids: Carmen Arace Middle School food pick-up: Breakfast 8:00-9:00am and lunch 12:00-1:00pm. It's a drop-in pick-up only.
- West Hartford Meals for kids and adults: <https://www.smores.com/jxwvz>
- Hartford meals for kids: <https://ct-kids.org/>
- Foodshare has mobile sites for food pick up. Click here for more info:
<http://site.foodshare.org/site/PageServer?pagename=coronavirus>
-

Foodshare welcomes your financial contribution and is in need of volunteers especially right now. They have extra safety precautions in place. If you are not already high risk, please consider signing up. The Universalist Church of West Hartford is working to keep their pantry functioning and could use volunteers who are not in the high risk categories (underlying pulmonary/cardiac/immune issues or diabetes...and/or 50+ years old). Call Jacob Lee, their food ministry coordinator, at 860-233-3669 x109 if you are interested in helping through the coming weeks and months.

For questions about Coronavirus in CT, call 211 to talk to a person 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. The hotline is for

general questions about COVID-19. If you're experiencing symptoms, contact your medical provider.



**Virtual Community Gatherings -
Week of April 13th**

You are invited to connect with others in the USH community from home! See options for community connections we have this week!

Please be sure you **REGISTER** for a virtual gathering you'd like to attend. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the meeting access information directly to your inbox (it will be a unique link different than the Fellowship Time). Your registration will also allow the host to get a sense of how many people will attend.

Friday, April 17 at 7-8 pm - **Social Connection Gathering** hosted by Sherry Manetta and Brian Harvey. Please join us for a wine and dessert gathering and for conversation and fellowship. Beverages and dessert not provided :-)
Click [here](#) to Register for 4/17 at 7 pm.

If you have any additional questions regarding registration please email Lisa Galinski at lisa.galinski@gmail.com.

Request for Meals

Meals Needed: **PLEASE NOTE: MEAL DELIVERY CHANGES:**

We are continuing the TakeThemAMeal schedule for Valerie and Xavier Klokow. We are hoping to have meals two days a week. The specific days will be indicated on the signup. Valerie is a vegetarian and loves fresh fruits. She requests only single servings of the fruit instead of large bowls. Veggies are best cooked. Valerie's son Xavier enjoys pasta with meat sauce, chicken, beef, pork chops, steak, potatoes, beans, rice, pizza, lasagna, and Mexican foods. Please put foods in disposable containers so Valerie will not have to return them. PLEASE NOTE: FOR DELIVERY INFORMATION, contact Valerie (text or call 860/416-9763) or Janice Newton (860/212-6923 or janicecnewton@gmail.com). Until further notice the food delivery will NOT

be at Valerie and Xavier's home.

To sign-up go to TakeThemAMeal at <https://takethemameal.com>. The meal recipient is: Klokow. The User Password is: 1971
Contact Janice Newton [**janicecnewton@gmail.com**](mailto:janicecnewton@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you so much for any help you can give.

Please reply to: Janice Newton [**janicecnewton@gmail.com**](mailto:janicecnewton@gmail.com) OR 860-677-1121.

Would You Like Support?

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace. These are strange times indeed. Our accustomed normalcy has been up-ended. It's natural to feel shaken under these circumstances. However if you find yourself unusually worn down by worry, nervousness or loneliness during this pandemic, your ministers have assembled a small team of counseling professionals. They have volunteered to offer free, supportive, confidential, one-on-one phone calls. If a phone session or two would feel helpful to you, please do not hesitate to contact either Rev Cathy at [**revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com**](mailto:revcathyrionstarr@gmail.com) or Rev Heather at [**revheatherrionstarr@gmail.com**](mailto:revheatherrionstarr@gmail.com). We are all in this together and together we will stay strong.

May we all stay healthy, happy and connected.



The Ordination of Margalie Belizaire

The Boards of The Unitarian Church in Westport (TUCW), where Margalie is completing her ministerial internship, and The Unitarian Society of Hartford (USH), Margalie's home congregation, are co-sponsoring her Ordination into Unitarian Universalist Ministry on Saturday, May 30th at 3pm. Due to COVID-19, the ordination will be moved online! Stay tuned for more precise details. This will be a joyful celebration of Margalie's successful journey to enter into UU ministry. Her Ministerial Committee at TUCW shares the following: Margalie Belizaire is the third Ministerial Intern at TUCW. She has greatly enriched their congregation through her sermons and the introduction of innovative forms of worship. Margalie has worked in partnership with the other TUCW ministers to develop her skills in Worship, Rites of Passage, Pastoral Care, Social Justice, and Administration. Concurrently, Margalie has been a Learning Fellow with our denomination's on-line congregation, The Church of the Larger Fellowship. In December 2019, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association determined that Margalie completed all the necessary requirements to enter UU Ministry. Do plan to be part of celebrating the **Ordination of Margalie Belizaire on May 30th at 3pm online!**

In This Week's Enews:

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[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 coordinated by the Unitarian Society of Hartford: www.ushartford.com/events/
To submit a Calendar Request click [HERE](#).

To read the USH Blog click [HERE](#).

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

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



Hello families!!

As always, you are on my mind during these difficult times. I have enjoyed being in touch with many of you and look forward to still reaching out to others. You can also reach out to me! I'm looking forward to staying in touch with you all and enjoy hearing from you. I also enjoyed seeing some of you joining in with us for our online worship this week and look forward to having more of you join. I am excited to announce that our youth group will be leading our online service for the 26th of April!

During this time I appreciate my walks and my check-ins with close friends. I've been working on new and different things that work for me and my family. I encourage you to embrace the fact that we are in different times and maybe change your routine or find new and different ways to be and do. And just know that whatever you do or don't do, **it's okay**. There is no right or wrong way to get through this. Sending you lots of love, light and strength.

Note: Our DRE is taking time off this week. She will be back in touch with you all next week. Please take care of yourself and be well.

Rayla D. Mattson, Director of Religious Education
860-233-9897 ext. 104 | dre@ushartford.com
I only check my email on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



USH Spotlight - "Getting to Know You"

In this time of physical distancing, I thought it would be great to get to know one another a little more personally. Each week I am hoping to share with you all a little look into the lives of one our members or friends. This week, **Tara Cote** (at left) gladly accepted the invitation to be our first Member/Friend Spotlight. I thank her for that and hope you enjoy getting to know her a little more. If you are willing to share with us something about yourself, please reach

out to me and let me know. Thank You – Rayla D. Mattson, DRE

Hello everyone, I am Tara who you may have seen around USH over the years, not to be confused with Lisa Galinski (who I am confused with fairly often and who is super amazing!). I was raised in the UU faith, first at the UU society in Storrs, CT and then Newark, DE after my family moved to Pennsylvania (on the boarder of MD and DE). I was very active in the RE and Youth Groups at my church growing up and did service projects to South Dakota and Belize. I attended Ferry Beach, The Mountain and (my favorite) Unirondack UU summer camps. This is where I felt I was truly able to be myself and this helped me survive the school year during my family's move and through middle school and early high school.

Therefore in my early - mid 20's when I was moving about every 6 months, I found the easiest way to meet people was going to the local UU congregation. I started attending USH in January of 2014 about a month after I first moved to Connecticut. Living in the West End at the time, there were two UU congregations very close by, so I decided to check out the 9am service at Fern Street and then come for the 10:30 service at USH and make my decision. Well if you know me at all, you know I slept through the 9am Fern Street service and went to USH and enjoyed it, so I kept going and shortly after I started coming I was excited to meet the new ministers. I stayed in CT even after the job I moved here for closed in November of 2014 because of the 20s and 30s group that started at USH.

Thanks to my staying here, I met Paul in August of 2015, we were married by Reverend Cathy in August of 2018 in Newark, Delaware (at the first state park I worked at!). We are still active in the 20s and 30s group and many of our closest friends are from USH. I now live with Paul, our dog Cal and our cat Kismet in Cromwell, CT. I work as a Field Trip Coordinator and Environmental Educator at Common Ground in New Haven, where I get to do my dream job of working outdoors with students. I have the privilege of

taking students hiking in the woods, on tours of our small urban farm or on playdates to our outdoor classroom. I have a passion for hiking, mushrooms and the 4 seasons in all of their glory. Later this spring, I hope to take anyone who wants to watch on a virtual Mushroom Hunt in the woods to see what we can find!

These past few weeks have been rough for me, as an extrovert, a family of April birthdays, and because all of my trips have had to be canceled (in the middle of Maple Sugaring season and right as Spring is ramping up), but I know these are minuscule problems in the bigger picture. I have been able to stay employed through this thanks to finally becoming full-time this past September, so I have been working on revamping my curriculum, helping on the farm 2 days a week and hiking with Paul and our dog! I am currently healthy, with no children (yet) and younger, so if there is anyone who needs help with getting stuff from the grocery store, please let me know. I am trying to limit my exposure as much as possible and only try and go out once a week or week and a half, so if I can fit your shopping in with mine it would be ideal! I shop at Whole Foods, Trader Joes and Stop and Shop primarily.

Send me a photo of your favorite mushroom, some weird bug you find or just a hello, I love all things people and nature...yes even spiders and snakes! Thank you! -- from USH member Tara Cote

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.

News from the USH Board of Directors



Greetings from the Board:

As always, our members and friends keep us going strong. If can 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

From the Nominating Committee:

Dear USH Members,

In the coming weeks, the USH Nominating Committee will be developing a slate of candidates to fill open positions on the Board of Directors. Board positions include President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and four Council Chairs (about half of the current board terms expire this June 30 so not all positions are available for nomination this year). The slate will be voted on by the congregation at the May 17th Annual Meeting.

At the same time, we are gauging member interest in participating in various sub-councils, either in leadership roles or for specific projects. More information on the Council Chair and sub-councils are included on the attached document. Please click on the following link to complete our brief Survey Monkey: **<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K288G86>**

Thank you for participating in our survey!

Sincerely,

Your USH Nominating Committee: Marie Basche, Adam Brown, Dana Donovan, Makenzie Hurtado, Sherry Manetta

Your 2020 USH Board

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)

Social Justice at USH



Greetings Beloveds!

We hope this message reaches you surrounded by love and knowing that you are not alone. Thank you so much for joining Side With Love and Love Resists

"In These Times." We wanted to provide you with ways that you can continue to be in motion right now.

"In These Times" was a moment to assess what is at stake and how we can move together. We offer these highlights from various folx on the call and the following ways you can be in motion during our social distancing.

[Read the key points from our incredible panel of speakers as well as view the webinar and associated resources.](#)

Upcoming opportunities to Side With Love for these upcoming on-line offerings to be together:

Side With Love joins Unitarian Universalists Ministry for Earth to present a live streaming of The Condor & The Eagle on Earth Day, April 22, 2020. This is a great way to close out Earth Day 2020, [Register today!](#)

Choose love,

Everette R. H. Thompson Side With Love, Campaign Manager

P. S. We are on the Side of the Poor People Campaign and [We Must Do M.O.R.E. Tour!](#)

[DONATE](#) [Facebook](#)

Unitarian Universalist Association
24 Farnsworth St.
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
United States



Americans of Conscience Checklist:

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. **See [here](#) for more info.**

White People: Standing Up to Anti-Asian Racism During a Pandemic

After seeing multiple requests from Asian folks and other folks of color to interrupt the fear, ignorance and racism in the time of COVID-19, I feel called to reach out to my White community and ask us to do more. My humble offering comes from my perspective as a White woman working to end racism. I invite accountability from those targeted by racism to help us all reach a new, critical perspective in order to eliminate the pain and trauma racism causes and change our system for the better.

Click [here](#) for or more info.

Tell Governor Lamont:

**Protect Immigrant
Communities in CT**

**During the Global
COVID-19 Pandemic**

Telling CT Governor Ned Lamont and CT State Agencies - Protect Immigrant Communities in Connecticut during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Click here to sign the letter: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-gov-lamont-protect-immigrant-communities-in-connecticut-during-the-global-covid-19-pandemic?source=email&>.

Thank you for joining this community effort - Together we are strong. Undocumented immigrants are at the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are the health care workers, grocery store workers, janitors, business owners, and restaurant workers who are working tirelessly to keep our communities safe and running. Yet immigrant communities have been left out of most federal relief packages. We cannot continue to have our workers and families on the front lines, who already lack equitable access to healthcare, remain susceptible to a silent, widespread threat with the potential to decimate total population health. The state of CT has not yet acted to protect our state's immigrant community - this is unacceptable! Sign our petition below to Governor Lamont and DEMAND that CT protects its immigrant community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organized by CT Immigration Rights Alliance in cooperation with many other immigrant and support groups. You can reply to this email or respond in Basecamp. This message was sent to Charla Nich and Gini King.

Programs for Adults and Families

Programs:

Building Your Own Theology course, Online! Starts Tomorrow

(Thursday, April 16): Rev. Heather was asked by a UUC-Danbury member to offer the Building Your Own Theology course, volume 1 (written by UU Rev. Richard Gilbert) and will begin doing so TOMORROW, Thursday, April 16, at 1pm. The class will be held in the UUC-Danbury Zoom Room and there are still a few spots available. It is a 10-session class, so it will be every Thursday at 1pm from April 16 through the last class on June 18; please plan to attend every class. RevHeather can send you (via e-mail) the 3 pages of reading for the 1st class if you'd like to jump in and join. Please E-mail her at RevHeatherRionStarr@gmail.com. "Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic Unitarian Universalist adult education program invites participants to develop their personal credos, the

fundamental religious beliefs, values and convictions that inform and direct the living of their lives. Gilbert poses five developmental tasks in which participants come to terms with human nature, ultimate reality, history, ethics and religious meaning.

"20's/30's Group: Get together with other 20s and 30s who are social distancing and feeling the need for connection! If you would like the Zoom invite please email Tara Cote at tcote11@gmail.com.

Despair & Empowerment Circles: Nourishing Our Spirits to Face the Climate Crisis:

Rescheduled online: see above (Virtual Community Gatherings box).

Facilitator: Lisa Galinski, lisa.galinski@gmail.com, 860-518-0197.

Disability Support Group: This group is in the process of moving its gathering online. Please reach out to the facilitators for more info. In this group participants discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of care-taking a loved one. All are welcome and what is said in the room stays in the room. Call Bill LaPorte-Bryan for more information at 860-308-2688 or email him at

[**b37bryan@gmail.com**](mailto:b37bryan@gmail.com).

USH Book Club: This group is in the process of moving its gathering online in the USH Zoom Room. Connect with USH Intern Minister Dianne Daniels for support in joining the Zoom Room discussion. Contact Richard Groothuis as usual about the Book Group in general: rgroopofus@icloud.com or 860-748-3532. Books are selected by Members to raise social and life issues. We were meeting 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 no be on the second Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm



CommunityNOW

Please see this link for info regarding other UU Churches and organizations to what they are

doing during this pandemic by visiting the online calendar. Click [**here**](#) for more info.

Church Business News

USH CHOIR - Music for these troubled times

I regret that I'm unable to see you all in the sanctuary on Sundays, as our practice of digitized worship continues and develops.

During troubled times such as these, I often turn to music as a way of spiritual practice and healing. Sometimes I focus in on a particular song, while other times I have it on in the background as I'm doing other life tasks. I have found a YouTube playlist from Davies UU Congregation in Camp Springs, Maryland. I hope that some of you might find this playlist comforting throughout this week.

Thank You, Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6B257199CC44C6AB>



NO PHISHING
Don't take the bait!

Email Phishing Scam Hits Congregations

Many congregations are reporting that their members have received "phishing" emails appearing to come from their ministers, staff or other members asking for help. The email addresses look like legitimate addresses but are NOT. Please be aware that no one from USH will ever ask you to share sensitive or financial information via personal email or buy gift cards, etc. If you ever receive a suspicious email using US Hartford, USH, or the name of a staff member, please alert Buffie at hartforduusociety@gmail.com. You can find the correct emails for USH Staff, Members and Friends, in our Congregational Directory on the Members page of our website: www.ushartford.com.

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

The Board Meeting minutes for February 2020 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 for the username and password.

All gatherings at the Unitarian Meeting House facility are currently cancelled. Please stay home to the degree that you are able. If you would like to help organize a USH "Zoom Room Gathering" of a program you would typically participate in, please let the leader or facilitator of that program know.



Save These Dates - Coming Up:

Our March show has been postponed. We are hoping to reschedule it next year.

We will wait and see what happens before deciding about the April and May shows.

We are already planning for next season. Here is a sneak preview:

Susan Werner – Friday, September 18, 2020

Vance Gilbert – Friday, October 16, 2020

Mad Agnes – Friday, November 20, 2020

Local Showcase – Friday, December 18, 2020

Lindsey Fyfe (Dec. 18)

The Wool Hats (Dec. 18)

Among the Acres (Dec. 18)

Friday, January 15, 2021 – TBA

Friday, February 19, 2021 – TBA

Abbie Gardner – Friday, March 19, 2021

Reggie Harris and Pat Wictor – Friday, April 16, 2021

We hope that you will join us then! Stay Healthy and Safe!

We are looking for people with a guest room willing to give band members a place to sleep the night of their show. Please help get the word out.

Click [HERE](#) for more info or e-mail us at 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/

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. 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 to volunteer. Come be part of the fun.

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



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 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](#).

Upcoming Special Events and News in the Larger Community

Greater Hartford Legal Aid:

Back-to-back briefings on Education and Public Benefits/Federal Stimulus by Legal Services Attorneys on Thursday April 9th at 12:00 and 12:30. Call-in number and RSVP emails are below. Join for one or both! Hope all are well. Please see the flyers **below** for additional information.

--USH member, Doris Maldonado, M.Ed.

<p>   </p> <p>LEGAL SERVICES BRIEFING ON COVID-19 EDUCATION AND SCHOOL ISSUES For our community partners</p> <p>Presented by Marla Morell Wolfe and Lynn Cochrane, Greater Hartford Legal Aid Agata Raszczynski-Lanika, Connecticut Legal Services Eric Shaffer, New Haven Legal Assistance Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What most schools provide for students eligible for special education? • How can I get students support with distance learning? • What most out-of-district placements provide students? • How can I advocate for the students I work with? • And other current issues in education . . . <p>Thursday April 9, 2020 at 12:00 pm</p> <p>Call-in #: (860) 541-5012 Conference ID 58705 (push #)</p> <p>Please RSVP to EducationBriefing@ghia.org and send your questions in advance!</p>	<p>   </p> <p>LEGAL SERVICES BRIEFING ON CHANGES IN PUBLIC BENEFITS AND FEDERAL STIMULUS PAYMENTS For our community partners</p> <p>Presented by Lory Potter and Alison Weir, Greater Hartford Legal Aid Kristen Noelle Hatcher and Wendy Wenschel, Connecticut Legal Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have DDI procedures changed? • Do my clients need to file for redeterminations for SNAP, TANF, or HUDKEY? • What is covered by HUDKEY for COVID-19? • How can folks access their federal stimulus payments? • And other current benefits and relief questions . . . <p>Thursday April 9, 2020 at 12:30 pm</p> <p>Call-in #: (860) 541-5012 Conference ID 58705 (push #)</p> <p>Please RSVP to BenefitsBriefing@ghia.org and send your questions!</p>
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COVID-19 Hartford Community Resources

A way for Hartford residents to connect with Hartford resources and beyond...

For City of Hartford updates go to: <http://www.hartford.gov> and follow <https://www.facebook.com/Hartford311/>.

See full article [here](#).

--Provided by USH member, Wildaliz Bermudez (<https://wizandjosh.org/>).

UPDATE:

Water, gas, and electricity service to residential homes will not be shut-off, regardless of payment status, until the end of the public health emergency.



Visit CT.gov/connections for up-to-date information from all state agencies





**Sew.....Can You Help Us Out?
We Need You to Make Face Masks!**

The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective is asking all of our friends who are handy with a needle and thread or a sewing machine to help meet the challenge of making Reusable Face Masks for Health Care Providers in our community. We don't need to tell you the urgency of the situation – unfortunately it

is only going to get worse. There is a critical shortage here in Connecticut. YOU can do your part to make a difference! The Health Collective is asking 6-12 talented individuals to help make Reusable Face Masks. We will provide material, elastic and sewing instructions. They are very easy to make. We ask that you come to the Health Collective to pick up the components and bring completed Face Masks. We even provide roadside delivery when you come to our Hartford office. For more questions, contact Dan Millett at (860)278-4163 x118 or danm@hglhc.org. Your help is needed in these critical times. THANK YOU!

Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective 1841 Broad St. Hartford, CT 06114 (860)278-4163 www.hglhc.org OR info@hglhc.org.



Please contact our Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie will be working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9am-1pm during the state-imposed restrictions. While the church remains closed, please email at her at hartforduusociety@gmail.com. **Buffie's always happy to hear from you!**

Staff:

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

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

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

Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021)
USHInternDD@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

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 ext. 108

Buffie Pinney, Office Administrator
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Brian Mullen, Bookkeeper
Office or Phone by Appointment | bmullen@ushartford.com

***The deadline for USH-Enews submissions is **Tuesday at 12 Noon.**
Email to: ushenews@ushartford.com OR hartforduusociety@gmail.com
Please note in the subject line "USH-Enews." Thank you for your submission!***



Image: blogs.bmj.com

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.