



50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

Website: www.ushartford.com

**Office Administrator's Hours (adjusted for COVID-19): Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00am to 1:00pm, or
email/call for an appointment.**

AUGUST 5, 2020

Building Community Since 1830

Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers

After the Storm: A Pastoral Note

As if a pandemic and political upheaval weren't enough, now we find ourselves cleaning up huge trees after Tropical Storm Isaias' winds. Yikes! Enough already! We hope that this finds you safe, and appreciate your patience with this delayed enews.

We, like many of you, have lost power at home and are quite unsure how long it will take to get restored. We also see many of you with power reaching out to share re Fridgerators and share electricity with those in need - thank you! Know that we are thinking of you and sending you love -- even those of you who cannot read this because you don't have power or internet.

We are connected in so many invisible ways!

In faith and love,

Revs. Cathy & Heather

All Souls New London
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



WELCOMING CARING SEEKING

Worship Service
August 9th, 2020, 10:00am
"Joint Service All Souls New London"
Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate
10:00am - Worship - watch via the All Souls New London YouTube
channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUtcF4FTT1ygJzKCuBmHLD>

W
Fellowship Time - "Live" in Zoom room immediately following
service (starting at 11:00 am). Zoom
link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89054382225?pwd=VmRhZHB6bnFBbGJqTXRSdkdLL256QT09>

We continue 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.

Join UUs from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia on Sunday August 9 at 10 AM as we begin our month of joint services with other UU congregations.

Below is the link to the **New London All Souls' YouTube channel**: Simply click the link to access the service. You may enjoy logging on before 10:00 a.m. as that's when there's lots of greeting on the YouTube chat. The chat opens at 9:30 a.m.

Sermon: "Wonder is Where Love Begins"

Having a hard time loving your neighbor? Join with us as we explore wonder as a practice of Love. There will be seven congregations gathered for worship this day. We celebrate our interconnectedness.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Elea Kemler First Parish of Groton, MA; Rev. Ellen Spero, First Parish Chelmsford, MA; Rev. Carolyn Patierno, All Souls, New London, CT

We will also welcome UU Society East Manchester, CT; Unitarian Society of Hartford; Universalist Church of West Hartford, & UU Church of Reston, VA

Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUtcF4FTT1ygJzKCuBmHLDw>

As you listen to the service consider these questions and then come to the coffee hour immediately following the service. We'll have lots to think about...talk about.

Dr. Anthony Fauci: *"I don't know how to explain to you that you should care for other people"*. How might wondering about people who are different from who we are bring us closer to compassion and Love?

Share a story about the time when wondering / learning how to wonder about others led us to Love.

USH Coffee Hour

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89054382225?pwd=VmRhZHB6bnFBbGJqTXRSdkdLL256QT09>

Summer worship with USH: The Power of Community

ALL SUMMER SERVICES WILL BEGIN AT 10AM WITH COFFEE HOUR TO FOLLOW. PLEASE JOIN US!

Every summer, we choose a worship theme for our mostly lay-led and fabulous services. This summer, our theme is the Power of Community. While we chose this before the pandemic, it feels all the more important now as we try to weave the bonds of community from a safe social distance and over the internet lines.

Yes! We will worship together this summer...at 10am, with USH Fellowship Time to follow at 10:45/11am!

Yes! Worship will continue to be online. ...at 10am!

Yes! Worship will nourish spirits, build community, and support our work for justice.

Yes! Worship will be led by an amazing line up of lay leaders sharing their wisdom, wonderings, and wishes.

Yes! We will have religious education for children.

But that's not all! While the pandemic has closed many doors to us, it has opened some other, virtual doors! This summer we will share worship and religious education with several other congregations in the region – all without leaving the comfort of your home! Rayla is coordinating creative family spiritual life and learning –stay tuned for details. The Revs have coordinated with several other congregations in CT for shared worship.

USH Summer Worship Schedule

Joint CT Services: Interdependence: Widening the Circle of Concern

(all services available on YouTube and live in Zoom at 10am)

August 16 Joint service led by the Universalist Church of West Hartford (Fern Street)

August 23 Joint service led by USH with Rev Cathy

August 30 Joint service led by UU Society: East (Manchester)

September 6 Susan Spaniol speaker, WA Peter Meny

September 13 Revs Cathy and Heather, WA Lisa Galinski

September 20 Ingathering, Revs Cathy and Heather

What an abundance of spiritual nourishment and community building we have in worship this summer, which we need all the more in this time of longing and transformation! We'll continue with our Zoom Fellowship Hours after worship, and hope that you'll continue connecting in other ways as we both widen and tighten our community connections.

We will hold our Ingathering on September 20th with all of the joy and anticipation of the new church year that this service always brings our congregation at summer's end. Though we may still be in our living room church our spirit will be in our

togetherness.

In Faith and Love,

Revs Cathy & Heather

Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate Coordinator

Sam Moffett, Musician and Tech Extraordinaire

Rayla Mattson, Director of Religious Education

Letter from incoming USH President, Martha Bradley, July 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

At USH we offer a big tent, literally and figuratively. We claim to welcome and respect all comers, and to cherish diversity of people and opinions. We say that "love is the spirit of this church." If ever there was an opportunity to reach out and practice what we preach, this is it. So many people are hurting and in need of help and support.

There are many ways to address those needs. As my Grandma used to say, "It wouldn't do for us all to be the same." Not everyone wants to (wo)man the barricades, but we can all play an important role, whether caring for or accompanying others through difficult situations, educating ourselves, spreading the word, providing financial support, getting out the vote. As my Grandma also used to say (apologies to cat lovers), "There's more than one way to skin a cat."

I believe we all sense the urgency of the present moment in the history of our church community, our faith, and our country. We have taken a vital first step in maintaining our church community. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our ministers, WAs, RE

Rayla, Music Minister Sam, Office Administrator Buffie, President Elect and tech hand-holder Lisa, and others, we have successfully transitioned our services, coffee hour and many groups online, to keep our connections and sense of community alive although we can't be together in person.

Now comes the hard part: committing to maintaining our community and connectedness going forward into an uncertain future. In other words, hanging in there for the long haul.

Even though we can't be together in person, our strength and ability to make a difference for ourselves and others still lies in community. It is through collective effort, with each of us contributing our own unique gifts and creative vision, that can we can meet the unprecedented challenges we face going forward.

Despite differences of opinion and approach, that can be magnified by stress and isolation, pulling together is the best way to resist being pulled apart. It's important to keep our eyes on the prize; a safer, healthier, and more equitable future for all in this country and the world.

Let's continue to love and support one another in making manifest this vision of the future by imagining and creating the church we need to make it so. Let's keep "turning and turning" together until things "come round right." I look forward to hearing your thoughts and reactions to our current challenges.

Wishing you all the very best, Martha.
marthabradley49@yahoo.com (860) 305-3307

Updated Policy from the USH Board of Directors as of July 15, 2020

For the safety of our members, friends and staff, the USH building and grounds, including the playground, remain closed to

all activities ***with the exception of individual and small family group visits to the memorial gardens, and urgently necessary maintenance by members of the Building and Grounds Sub-council or USH Sexton, Kevin Girouard.*** Any other visits to the office or for contactless pickups and drop offs, must be scheduled in advance through our Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney, and our Rentals Manager, Rayla Mattson. In all cases, please observe masking and distancing precautions.

Note:

While we appreciate that not having ready access to the USH building and grounds can be difficult, it is necessary, for everyone's safety, to manage building and grounds use during the Covid-19 pandemic. Checking with Buffie and Rayla before planning a visit helps us to avoid unsafe situations, unnecessary confusion and inequities. Your continued cooperation with this effort is much appreciated.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging and ever-changing time! USH Board and Ministers



**Back to School During a Pandemic:
The Village for Families and
Children Uniform Fundraiser 2020**

Children, like all of us, are struggling with the anxiety of pandemic times.

Their lives are uncertain and strange, they haven't been to school since March. School became virtual, computers and tablets were their classroom. If you have "been to" virtual services at USH perhaps you have some idea of what these classes were like.

The goal is to have students in Hartford attend school in person. Final decisions continue to fluctuate. Some schools may have hybrid classes - a combination of in person and online classes. Parents may elect to keep their child(ren) home for online instruction only. The continuing unknowns increases anxiety among all school age children and their families.

USH can help children in Hartford maintain some normalcy. For

the 8th year, let us contribute to The Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser and support families who can ill-afford it to buy school uniforms.

If you have already given, thank you.

Please make your checks for the fundraiser out to The Unitarian Society of Hartford, with uniforms in the memo line and mail them to Brian Mullen at The Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Ave. Hartford, Ct 06105. The fundraiser ends on August 20th. Thank you for your continued support of the children served by The Village for Families and Children.



Small Group Spiritual Deepening Program

offered for members of the Hartford area UU congregations

UUSpiritLife

UUSpiritLife, a new 10-month long adult program created for the three Hartford-area Unitarian Universalist churches, invites UUs

to form and deepen a meaningful spiritual life.

When we pause first for the inward action of spiritual renewal, we become more confident and impactful in our outward actions whether they involve our personal lives, social action or the many engaging tasks of congregational life.

Using a contemplative model, we will come together in a safe, nonjudgmental environment that reaches beyond discussion of heady topics to connect with mystery and awe – the intrinsic power, beauty and goodness of being human. The program includes many experiential opportunities to discover our own personal spirituality and to get in touch with the still, small inner voice that is our internal guidance system.

UUSpiritLife is open to members of all three area churches. Two daytime groups facilitated by Judy Robbins and Rick Tsukada are now full. There are openings in the evening group, facilitated by Tom Gervais. The evening group will meet on the first and third

Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM, starting Sept 15 – June 1, 2021. All groups will be on the Zoom format, transitioning to in-person meetings if possible.

Registration closes August 14, but to insure your best chance at a place, do not wait until the last minute. To express an interest, ask questions or to register, email Judy Robbins (day group)

Judyrobb2@gmail.com or Tom Gervais (evening)

tom.j.gervais@gmail.com.

UU Wellspring – Deep Questions

The Universalist Church of West Hartford is offering a UUWellspring module: **Deep Questions**, open to members of all three area UU churches. The UU Wellspring program is based on small group connections, daily spiritual practices, spiritual direction, deep inquiry, and embodying/engaging our spirituality in life. The **Deep Questions** program focuses on deep questions of our lives, including human nature, forgiveness/acceptance, prayer, death and dying, accountability, sacred activism, and our relationship to the planet. It explores these and other themes in conjunction with the seven UU principles. For more information, please visit **www.uuwellspring.org**.

The Wellspring **Deep Questions** program shares **UUSpiritLife's** focus on inward experience and spiritual connection/renewal. A committed group will meet twice monthly on the first and third Thursdays at 7pm and will be facilitated by David Gonci. The program will begin on September 17, 2020 and conclude on June 17, 2021. Group size will be limited, and will initially be conducted on Zoom. As with the SpiritLife program, registration closes on Aug 14 and spaces are limited, so please act quickly to insure a place. For further information, questions or to register, please contact David by emailing to **david@gonci.com** or calling 413-281-1973.

More In This Week's Enews:

[RE News You Can Use](#)

[News from the USH Board of Directors](#)

[Social Justice at USH](#)

[Church Business News](#)
[Programs for Adults and Families](#)
[Connection Circles](#)
[Events & News of Our Community](#)
[Meeting House Presents](#)
[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 (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) 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! I hope you all are well. As we prepare to transition back into the school year, I know many of you have a lot on your plate and are busy trying to figure out what will happen with the new school year. We will take a short break from RE classes so parents can focus on this transition. I will be in touch and am available for support. We will also check in with our parent group in about two weeks. More information to follow. 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.

News from the USH Board of Directors

**The next meeting of the USH Board will be on August 11th
6:30pm
on Zoom.**

Topic: Board Meeting

**Time: Aug 11th, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and
Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89043045367?pwd=QlBGZUQ0bGVhUkFNQ3Q2dFVZSjZJdz09>

Meeting ID: 890 4304 5367

Password: Barbara

One tap mobile

**+19292056099,,89043045367#,,1#,610061# US (New
York)**

**+13017158592,,89043045367#,,1#,610061# US
(Germantown)**

Meeting ID: 890 4304 5367

Password: 610061

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89043045367?pwd=QlBGZUQ0bGVhUkFNQ3Q2dFVZSjZJdz09>

From the USH Board:

We as Board, Ministers, and Staff have been taking in the recent recommendations of the UUA (you can read those for yourself, here: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/message-uua-president-updated-guidance-gathering> and have been reflecting upon and appreciating this 4-minute video from UU parish minister Rev. Jake Morrill: <https://youtu.be/0uAKQXagwms>. You are welcome to join us in this real-life "thought experiment" about how to live together into this new era and the new formats of congregational life that we are being called to consider. There was some discussion of these topics during the May 17th Annual Meeting; please speak with the Board, Ministers, or Staff directly if there are areas of congregational life you'd like to be more involved in.
--Submitted by Rev. Heather

Your 2020-2021 USH Board

Martha Bradley: President
Lisa Galinski: President-Elect
Bob Hewey: Treasurer
Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary
Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair
Jon Covault: Administration Council Chair
Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair
Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair
Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)
Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister (ex-officio)

The USH 2020 Annual Meeting was held on May 17th following the morning service. The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee presented the following slate of candidates to the USH Board of Directors and they were unanimously affirmed at the Annual Meeting. You can view the Annual meeting recording [here](#). Contact Buffie if you need member access info.

View the 2020 Annual Report [here](#).

~Submitted by - Sarah McKenzie, Secretary

Social Justice at USH



This Thursday, August 6th, is the 55th anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, which protected people of color from laws that created barriers to voting. Civil rights leaders like Rep. John Lewis were critical

to passing the VRA after marching 50 miles from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to demand an end to voter discrimination against Black people. In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the heart of the VRA resulting in states reverting to discriminatory practices restrictive to the voting rights of

people of color.

On August 6th, to honor the anniversary of the 1965 VRA, the life and legacy of Rep. John Lewis, and the work ahead to make sure every eligible voter has equal access to the ballot box, we are hosting a Voting Rights Action Call at 8pm ET.

Join our Voting Rights Action Call this Thursday, August 6th at 8pm ET/ 5pm PT. Until everyone can make their voice heard in every election, our work goes on. RSVP [here](#) today and let us know you'll be there!

Our partners at the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) and the [Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights](#) will join us to discuss the critical work they're doing to combat voter suppression and protect the voting rights of Americans in every election. We'll also discuss the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and highlight resources and ways that you can take action to ensure safe and fair elections this fall.

With less than 100 days until the 2020 elections, it's now all hands on deck. Whether you're joining us for the first time or you're looking for ways to level up your work in protecting the right to vote this election season -- you won't want to miss this call! [RSVP now](#)

**Thank you for all that you do,
When We All Vote**

GHIAA News Updates

1. update: <https://cljct.org/ghiaa-update-from-executive-director/>

2. Upcoming assemblies/trainings (all via zoom – links will be sent to those who register prior to the event)

Trainings:

GHIAA Core Team Training:

Thursday, September 10th through Thursday, October 15th (6 Thursdays) from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Trainers: Cori Mackey, Pat Speer, Rev. AJ Johnson

Where: Zoom (link coming)

·To **register** for Core Team Training and/or the Orientation session click here: <https://forms.gle/dvCu8Mhr5QAG971N6>

·**Questions about registration?** Email GHIAA organizer Cesar Aleman at caleman@cljct.org

BLACK LIVES MATTER

USH has lawn signs available for a donation of any amount made to USH, or any other organization involved in this work. Please email Virginia de Lima vadelima@yahoo.com to express interest and to arrange for pickup.



Americans of Conscience Checklist:

Stronger elections, empowered voters 2020. Americans of Conscience believes that every citizen has a right to cast a ballot in every election and that voting participation is crucial to a healthy democracy. In the current reality, millions of Americans struggle to vote--students, disabled, rural, elderly, people returning from prison, and Black, Native, and Latinx voters. Rules and laws are designed to keep them from the polls, and it's wrong. The July Voting Project is a month-long effort to restore voting rights and re-enfranchise citizens in time for the November general election. Full details here: <https://americansofconscience.com/voting2020/>.



David's Den Library

There is some excellent reading material relevant to the challenges we face as a multi-cultural society, and the current race related tensions felt across the country. Please reach out to Buffie Pinney at hartforduusociety@gmail.com if you would like to "take out" some reading material during quarantine restrictions. These books were generously donated by members so please use accordingly, and return in a timely fashion for others to enjoy.

Programs for Adults and Families

NEW Sing-Along

Edward Savage is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. 2pm Saturday August 8th. Contact ESavage15@att.net for more information.

Topic: Zoom Meeting House Sing-Along

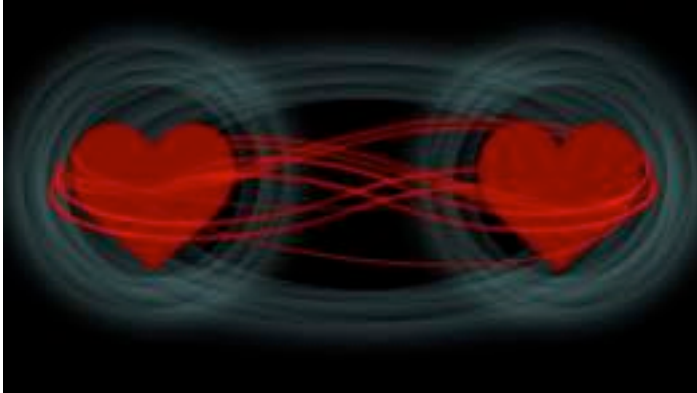
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83556992759?pwd=N0JLazNmchO2K1IxSVova3RINitCZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 5699 2759

Password: 840047

I look forward to singing with you again!

~Thank You, USH member Ed Savage



Virtual Community Gatherings

A Connection Circle is a small group who covenant to come together for a series of meetings and provide the opportunity to one another to develop deep and meaningful connections, safe community to explore and grow spiritually. A typical meeting combines personal check-ins,

readings, guiding questions, and individual sharing focused on a particular theme. Connection Circles typically run for 8 weeks for 2 hours per week. Meetings will be held by Zoom, and Zoom assistance is available if you need help getting set up. If you are interested in joining a Connection Circle, please text Martha Bradley at 860-305-3307 as soon as possible with your name and email/phone number.

Programs:

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 to join us for our next online gathering, please email Tara Cote at tcote11@gmail.com.

Disability Support Group: This group has moved 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 caretaking a loved one. What is said in the room stays in the group. Call Bill LaPorte-Bryan for more information at 860-308-2688 or email him at b37bryan@gmail.com.

Tai Chi: is canceled at USH through December 31, 2020. However, the instructor Lucky Luckingham will be offering Tai Chi three days a week

from his home in South Windsor. If interested please contact Lucky directly at [**stephen.luckingham@gmail.com**](mailto:stephen.luckingham@gmail.com).



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**](#).

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 [**revheatherionstarr@gmail.com**](mailto:revheatherionstarr@gmail.com). We are all in this together and together we will stay strong.

May we all stay healthy, happy and connected.

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.



CommunityNOW:

Please see this online calendar compiling what other UU churches and

organizations are doing during this pandemic. Check out some new programs **here!**

Church Business News

Welcome our newest members!!

When new members sign the Membership Book they covenant to the life of this congregation, to respect its heritage, support its health, contribute their talent, time and resources as best you are able to assure that it is a generous community, a learning community and a community of service. In return the existing members covenant to welcome the new members with respect and acceptance for their unique selves, their inherent goodness and worth. They pledge to creating in this community a place of free and reasoned inquiry, where all may continue to learn and grow, and to maintain healthy relationships and take only those actions which love and respect demand. **Please join us in welcoming our newest members Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull and Ruth Rempt.**



Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull is a Unitarian Universalist minister, as of June 2019 retired, or “rechanneled”. She has served congregations in Meriden, CT; Kingston, NY; Cohasset, MA; and New York City. During this time, she has held leadership positions in professional associations and community organizations, with a focus on racial and immigrant justice and trauma response. Before ordination, Jan worked in the private and non-profit sectors and was active in multiple

community ventures. She holds a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Colorado; an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, NYC; and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Yeshiva University, NYC. Amid these pandemics, she continues to be active in the immigrant rights movement, racial justice matters, and advocacy initiatives for progressive voting. Additionally, she is learning Spanish, savoring free-range reading and writing and hoping mightily to return to ocean swimming as soon as the beaches become less crowded. Jan resides in Middletown with her husband Dr. Daniel Bull and their character of a mutt, Pablo. Their blended family includes three daughters and three adorable grandkids, whom they miss so much during this time of social distancing. Jan is a member of both the Unitarian Society of Hartford, as of this spring, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, NJ as of 1979. She was a USH delegate at General Assembly 2020 and a chaplain for UUMA Ministry Days 2020.



Ruth Gitchell Rempt is a lifelong UU who grew up in the Universalist Church of West Hartford. Professionally, she is a semi-retired Registered Dietitian/ Nutritionist. In her free time, she loves to sing and do yoga. She has had a long association with the UU Retreat and Conference Center at Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine; and she served on their Board of Directors for 10 years. Ruth has moved a lot, but always found a UU congregation to participate with. She now lives at Seabury in Bloomfield, where she is a member of the UU Connection

Circle and represents UU's on the Residents' Spiritual Life Committee. Ruth has enjoyed participating in the "Wellspring" Program sponsored by the 3 local UU congregations this past year. She is looking forward to becoming more active at USH in the future.



CT UndocuFund!

We gave some of our USH Emergency Funds to CT UndocuFund. Here is an update on

their grants and fundraising — their work makes a real difference in over 400 lives!

Thank you for donating to the CT UndocuFund! As you know, we are a grassroots community relief fund to provide assistance to CT undocumented individuals and families impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. All donations to the CT UndocuFund are tax exempt through our sponsor the Neighbor Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Eastern Connecticut devoted to legal defense

for immigrants in our state.

We're run by a small, but mighty, group of volunteers, mainly immigrant individuals, undocumented individuals, or people of color, who came together when we saw a need and saw our community being left behind. We firmly believe that "the people help each other" (our motto), and are guided by the belief that our community has the resources, knowledge, and skills to take care of each other, and our strength is our community.

We launched the CT UndocuFund on April 15th with a goal to raise \$75,000 with much love for our community, but also with much uncertainty. Would we be able to reach our very ambitious goal? Would folks support and donate? But y'all came through and in just over a month, we raised over \$75,000 from community supporters. The support has been overwhelming, but so has been the need. We opened our application on May 20th and had to close in under 10 min after the number of applications far surpassed the large amount of funds we had raised. Over the next few weeks, our selection committee took on the difficult task of reviewing every application. In late June, we had a team of volunteers individually reach out to all applicants and confirm mailing info for those we are able to support. And for those who we were not able to support this time, our team of volunteers individually called them to connect them to other local resources.

Because of the support of donors like you, we were able to provide assistance to 99 individual households. Our committee made the decision to give out awards based on household size (\$500, \$750, \$1,000). In total with online and offline donations, we distributed \$80,750. We were able to provide assistance to 8 households of one or two adults, 57 households of single parents or 3-4 individuals, and 35 households of 5 or more individuals. In total, the CT UndocuFund was able to help 408 individuals.

We know our immigrant communities are still in need. While we will never be able to meet the needs of everyone, we have decided to launch a round two. TODAY, we are officially launching round two of our fundraising efforts.

Click [here](#) to Please share and donate. The more donations we are able to receive, the more people we are able to help.

We also wanted to give you a little snapshot of who the UndocuFund has been able to help. The most common need of the applicants was rent (88 out of the 99 households), followed by “utilities” with 74 households and “groceries or household supplies” with 73 households. Next were “healthcare expenses” with 22 households and childcare expenses” with 21 households.

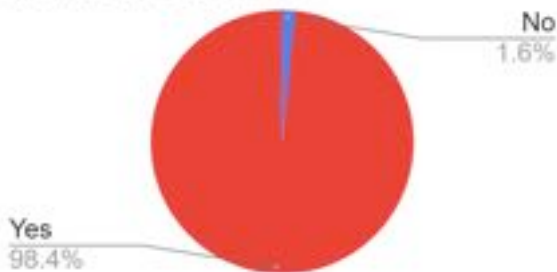
We also asked applicants how COVID 19 had impacted them. (Please see charts below), and 13.2% stated that they or someone in their household had tested positive for COVID. Our applicant pool was also very diverse. Of the 99 awarded households, 28 identified as Black, African, West Indian, and/or Afro-Latino, 9 identified as Asian or Pacific Islander, and 13 identified as disabled and/or living with a chronic condition.

Thank you again for your support! Please share and donate to our re-launch [here](#).

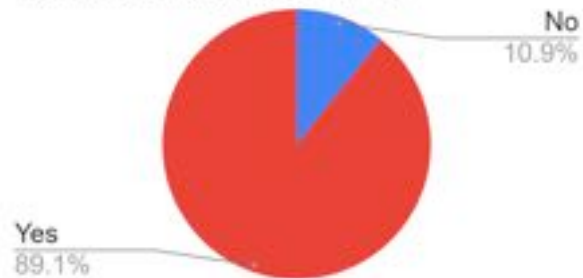
The CT UndocuFund Team

- Constanza, Anghy, Vania, Varun, Carolina, Tashi, Patrick, Anthony, Hazel, and so many others!

Has your household lost 50% or more of their income due to COVID-19?



Have you or anyone in your household lost their job as a result to COVID-19?



Online Donations:

After some FAQ's regarding our online donations (via our website) I did some digging and was informed that the online donating is a 2-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, and the

office (Buffie) receives notifications when a donation is received. Please contact **Buffie Pinney** with any questions or concerns at hartforduusociety@gmail.com or **860-233-9897**.

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 contributions 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. See more

here: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/research/coronavirus-hunger-research>

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.

The latest financial reports for **January-March 2020** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The Board Meeting minutes for **MAY 2020** have been posted. 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.



USH Choral Program Update

Director of Music Ministries Sam Moffett has been working on plans to bring back the choral program at USH through technological innovations. During the quarantine, Sam has

been learning more about audio and video editing, and finished a project with the USH Choral Scholars that was recently featured in worship.

Sam plans to continue these projects when the Fall season comes around, and is hoping to start expanding it to include the full USH Choir as well.



NO PHISHING
Don't take the bait!

Email Phishing Scam
Update From the UCC
Pension Boards

Exploiting the Coronavirus:
Massive Excel Phishing
Attack.

Microsoft has reported a massive phishing campaign that uses an Excel attachment as bait. The phishing email looks like it is from the Coronavirus Research Center of John Hopkins University—a well-known medical organization in the US. The email includes an Excel attachment that is disguised as an updated list of Coronavirus-related deaths, but the file actually contains a hidden piece of malware.

If you open the infected Excel file and click "Enable Content" when prompted, a program called Net Support Manager will be automatically installed on to your computer. This program is a tool that allows someone to access your computer remotely. Cybercriminals are using Net Support Manager to gain complete control over a victim's system; allowing them to steal sensitive data, install more malicious software, and even use the machine for criminal activities. Don't be a victim!

Here are some ways to protect yourself from this scam:

Think before you click! The bad guys know that you want to stay up-to-date on the latest COVID-19 data so they use this as bait. They're trying to trick you into impulsively clicking and downloading their malware.

Remember to use the PHISH ALERT BUTTON.

Never download an attachment from an email that you weren't expecting. Even if the sender appears to be a legitimate organization, the email address could be spoofed. Always go to the source. Any time you receive an email that claims to have updated COVID-19 data, use your browser to visit the official website instead of opening an attachment or clicking a link.

Also, if you ever receive a suspicious email or text using US Hartford, USH, or the name of a staff member, please alert Buffie at hartfordusociety@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.

Meeting House Presents!



**2019-2020
Season**



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

Save These Dates – Coming Up:

Meeting House Presents is closed for the safety of our performers and audience until further notice. We hope to reschedule all of the cancelled 2020 concerts for 2021. Many performers host virtual concerts. Consider supporting live music by watching the online shows or buying CDs and downloads.

Thank you, Laura and Paul Cipriano

Meeting House Presents, Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT

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

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

**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.

News in the Larger Community



Paper Grocery Bags needed!

Hartford Mutual Aid is collaborating with a Faith Based Alliance for Community Support with our sister churches in the North End: Urban Hope, St. Monica's, and Greater Refuge, to provide breakfast and groceries to families in need. They need lots and lots of paper grocery bags! Please drop yours off at USH (there's a bin at the front entrance) or at the Revs' home this week.

They are also looking for volunteers to help with food distribution (with strict safety protocols and PPE provided) – sign up at www.mutualaidhartford.com.

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/>).

COVID-19 and People of Color

People of color get - and die from - COVID-19 at higher rates than whites. **Protect yourself!**


Have COVID-19 questions? Visit: 211CT.org

Call: 211

Text: CTCOVID to 898211

Do you feel sick? Call your Primary Care Doctor—you need their referral for testing, if appropriate.

If you don't have a Primary Care Doctor, call 211



What you should know:

COVID-19 is affecting People of Color (POC) at higher rates. POC are more likely to get COVID-19 and to die from COVID-19 complications.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. It is caused by a new type of coronavirus.

Why are POC at higher risk?

People of Color are more likely to:

- Work in high-risk/essential jobs (healthcare, nursing homes, retail, grocery stores)
- Live in crowded communities with lower air and water standards
- Have higher rates of pre-existing conditions like diabetes, heart disease and asthma caused by or made worse by systemic racism
- Lack access to affordable, healthy food
- Face barriers in accessing quality healthcare
- Lack access to COVID-19 testing

What can I do right now to stay safe?

- Stay home, whenever possible
- Not gather with anyone outside of the people you live with
- Wear a mask whenever you go out - It's legally required during the crisis
- Wash your hands with soap and water often and for at least 20 seconds
- Eat more foods that boost your immune system, like fruits and vegetables

What can I do moving forward?

Reach out to local organizations that work on issues affecting POC: racism, environmental issues, access to healthcare, immigration rights, economic issues, and access to healthy foods.

Stay up-to-date with CDC guidelines by visiting: bit.ly/CDC8hpg

Share what you know about the COVID-19 crisis with others!

How is COVID-19 spread?

- Through droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- By touching a surface that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes
- **People who have no symptoms can spread COVID-19**

What can get COVID-19?

Anyone! People of all ages, races, and ethnicities can get COVID-19. Even healthy people can get COVID-19 and have serious complications.

What are COVID-19 symptoms?

Symptoms may be mild or severe enough to require hospitalization. They may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

You may be more likely to have severe symptoms, including death, if you:

- Are over 60 years old
- Are pregnant
- Have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, or asthma

Emergency warning signs include, but are not limited to:

- Trouble breathing
- Pain or pressure in the chest that does not go away
- New confusion or inability to wake

Call 911 if you are experiencing emergency warning signs


What are other ways to prevent getting COVID-19?

- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people if you can't stay home
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth
- Frequently clean and disinfect touched surfaces daily (door knobs, light switches, faucets, keyboards, phones)
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if you can't wash your hands
- Make your own mask. For instructions for making a no-sew mask, visit: bit.ly/CDC8hpg
- Wash your cloth mask regularly

What do you do if you feel sick?

Call your primary care doctor - you need their referral for testing, if appropriate. If you don't have a primary care doctor, call 211

- Stay home and away from other people you are living with, if possible
- Practice the prevention strategies above
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow



COVID-19 Y Gente de Color

¿Tiene preguntas sobre COVID-19? Visita: 211ct.org

Llámanos! 211

Textea: CTCOVID al 898211

Se siente mal? Llame a su médico de atención primaria: se necesita un referido para la prueba

Si no tiene un médico de atención primaria Llame al 211



Lo que deberías saber:

COVID-19 está afectando a la Gente de Color (GC) a tasas más altas. La GC son más probables de contraer COVID-19, y de morir a causa de complicaciones de COVID-19.

¿Qué es COVID-19?

COVID-19 es una enfermedad respiratoria que puede transmitirse de persona a persona. Es causada por un nuevo tipo de coronavirus.

¿Qué nos pone a mayor riesgo?

La Gente de Color son más propensos a:

- Ser empleados en posiciones esenciales de alto riesgo, como en cuidado médico, en hogares de ancianos, en ferias, o en mercados
- Vivir en comunidades superpobladas con estándares más bajos de aire y agua
- Padecer de condiciones preexistentes como la diabetes, enfermedades cardíacas, o asma—condiciones provocadas o empeoradas por el racismo sistémico
- No tener acceso a comida saludable y asequible
- Enfrentar barreras a atención médica de alta calidad
- No tener acceso a las pruebas de COVID-19

¿Qué puede hacer ahora para mantenerse saludable?

- Quédate en casa, siempre que sea posible
- No reúnase con nadie fuera de las personas que viven con usted
- Lleve una máscara cada vez que salga: es un requisito legal durante la crisis
- Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos
- Come más alimentos que fortalezcan su sistema inmunológico, como frutas y verduras

¿Qué puede hacer siguiendo adelante?

Busque en contacto con organizaciones locales que trabajan por causas que afectan a la GC: racismo, injusticia ambiental, acceso a cuidado médico, derechos de inmigración, problemas económicos, y acceso a comidas saludables.

¡Comparte lo que sabes sobre el crisis de COVID-19 con los demás!

¿Cómo se transmite COVID-19?

- A través de gotas producidas cuando una persona infectada tose o estornuda
- Al tocar una superficie que tiene el virus y luego tocarse la boca, la nariz o los ojos
- Las personas que no tienen síntomas pueden transmitir COVID-19

¿Quién puede contraer COVID-19?

¡Cualquier persona! Gente de todas edades, razas y etnias pueden contraer COVID-19. Incluso las personas sanas pueden contraer COVID-19 y sufrir complicaciones graves.

¿Cuáles son los síntomas de COVID-19?

Los síntomas pueden ser leves o suficientemente graves como para requerir hospitalización. Pueden incluir:

- Fiebre
- Tos
- Dificultad para respirar

Es más probable que tenga síntomas graves, o que muera, si usted:

- Es mayor de 60 años
- Está embarazada
- Tiene condiciones de salud crónicas como diabetes, enfermedades cardíacas, alta presión o asma.

Lláme al 911 si tiene síntomas que señalan una emergencia

Manténgase al día con las guías del CDC, visite: bit.ly/CDC8hpg







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/coronavirus for up-to-date information from all state agencies



Please contact our Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie is working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9am-1pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at hartforduusociety@gmail.com.

Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

USH 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

revheatherriostarr@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 103

Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister (half time, through December 2021, & not in July or August)

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
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

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!*

**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. Consider the proposed 8th Principle as well! <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>.