

traveling, especially to Cape Cod. He liked living on Meadowbrook Road, meeting and socializing with his neighbors. Tom had an amazing sense of humor and loved to share jokes. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend. Tom was predeceased by his son Kenneth D. Reed and his brother David S. Reed. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 59 years, Nancy DeWitt Reed, daughter Tricia Reed Tilley and her husband Ray of Kissimmee, FL, and 3 grandchildren: Portia Tilley (Kissimmee, FL), Nicholas Reed (Denton, Texas), and Alexandra Reed (Corpus Christi, Texas). He also leaves behind his brother Eugene Reed of New Britain CT, Ginger Reed of Leland, NC, Judy Reed of Orleans, MA, and his nephew and nieces. Donations may be made in his name to the **American Heart Association**, 5 Brookside Drive, Wallingford, CT 06492, NAMI, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 or to a **charity of your choice**. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, there will be a Celebration of Life at a future date. Please share online expressions of sympathy at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our **Sympathy Store**.

~Published in Hartford Courant from Nov. 14 to Nov. 15, 2020.

Virtual Field Trip

Join Dianne Daniels, Intern Minister for a Virtual Field Trip with the topic being: *Spiritual Evolution: The Next Level of Humanity Tedx Talk + Discussion.*

When: Wednesday, November 25; 6:00 pm

Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5702169062?pwd=emE2c1l1M2pLL1c0alduQVhVa01zdz09>

"CHOMP-N-CHAT"

We are doing something fun and new just because we miss YOU!!

Come join your USH staff members on **Wednesday afternoons from 12:00pm-1:00pm** for a bit of chit-chat while we *chomp* on our lunches on Wednesday afternoons. Click the **[ZOOM link here](#)** and use **passcode 949938** to register & enjoy some casual conversations and just plain old "catch up" with one another. Bring your snack and we will **"see"** you there!!

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

Hello USH Family!!

Please join the DRE for this week's story. <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianSocietyOfHartford/videos/>

[215202333309972](https://www.us-hartford.org/215202333309972)

I'm excited to announce we've gotten everything up and running and will begin our D&D (Dungeons and Dragons) group this month! We will be using the Discord platform and all interested players middle school and up are welcomed to join. If you do not yet have a Discord account, please set one up and text your user info to 860-385-3188 and 860-839-5001. As soon as we have enough players to begin, we will set our first game day to create characters.

The 3rd-5th grade class is ready to go! I've reached out to a few people to find a second adult to assist me so as soon as we have another adult, we will begin. If you're interested in helping, please let me know! There is minimal time commitment to assist. Thanks.

The youth group will be meeting again with our Cambridge partners. This time we will meet at noon on Sunday, Dec. 6th. You should have received the link from Paul already. Please let me or Paul know if you did not receive it or if you need the link again.

The prek-2nd grade postcards are coming. Don't worry if you didn't receive your postcard yet for November! It's on the way!

Be well, Rayla

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.



Leaves for the USH Tree

Your leaves from our September Ingathering mailing are in the Spiritual Tool Kits or click this [attachment](#) print off leaves. Get creative & color or add words, and mail them back so that Buffie can add them to the tree. Feel free to email her for a tool kit as well and she will be sure to reply ASAP. Thank You~

News from the USH Board of Directors

Announcement from the Board

It is with regret that we announce the **resignation of Judy Sullivan as Social Justice Chairperson** due to family health issues. During her

tenure, Judy was instrumental in connecting USH with the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, and in re-envisioning Social Justice at USH. Many thanks, Judy, for all your work on behalf of USH.

We are pleased to announce that Dana Donovan, who has worked closely with Judy and GHIAA, has agreed to step in as Chair of the Social Justice Council. Thanks and welcome to Dana.

Wishing everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving, whatever and however you are celebrating this year.

Letter from Board President Martha Bradley

Dear USH Friends,

Well, we did it. We had our first virtual fundraiser at USH. The live auction after service on November 15 was a great success, as was the online silent auction that preceded it. Many thanks to the intrepid team of Auction Chairperson and Board Admin. Council Chair, Jon Couvault, Auctioneer Extraordinaire and Treasurer, Bob Hewey, and Tech Advisor, and our President Elect, Lisa Galinski. They had a big assist from past auction committee members Caron Lanouette and Ginny Hedrick. Of course it couldn't have succeeded without the generous donations and purchases of all who participated. Working together, we raised almost \$6,000.00 for the Meeting House. Not bad for a first effort.

It's great to have some encouraging news to share. I've been feeling a little frayed around the edges lately, and I know I'm not alone. Not being able to see friends and family and colleagues in person, especially during the holidays, and the news of Covid cases increasing again are taking a toll, as is the madness enabled by our current government. Still, we're beginning to glimpse some light at the end of this tunnel with news of safe and effective vaccines on the horizon, and the prospect of a new administration in Washington.

We're all feeling our way through this extraordinarily difficult time as best we can. Meanwhile, we can still be there for another even if we can't be there in person. I'll take it. When it's finally safe to gather in person again, the experience of the pandemic may make many of us permanently more cautious around groups of people. But I'm willing to bet it will also mean that we won't be taking those gatherings, with their hugs, kisses, handshakes and high-fives for granted. Can't wait! Till then, take care and stay safe.

All the best,
Martha
marthabradley49@yahoo.com

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

The Board Meeting minutes for **July 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.

Social Justice at USH



Dear Beloveds,

This has been an election season with tremendous energy and momentum. It is important to always center justice and learning when we do the work of living our values. We UU the Vote to create the best conditions for our ongoing justice work. While it is still election season, we are also embarking on another season. As Thanksgiving approaches join us to in reverence for the Earth by attending the Harvest the Power Justice Convergence & Teach-in:

When: November 19-26, 2020 - [VIEW SCHEDULE](#)

Where: ONLINE - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Who: the Unitarian Universalist Association, UU Ministry for Earth, UUSC, & many partners

What: In 2016, Unitarian Universalists voted to pay special attention to learning our history and [rethinking Thanksgiving](#) in the year 2020, in observance of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth. Historically, UU ministers were instrumental in creating the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday and the

“Pilgrims and the Indians” pageant tradition that roots the holiday in an historically inaccurate and harmful colonial narrative. Now is the perfect time to gather and think together virtually, and to celebrate differently. Read this [special message and invitation](#) from UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, regarding this event.

Harvest the Power - a theme inspired by the hymn “Gather the Spirit” by Jim Scott - is an invitation to join together the many varied communities and justice ministries of Unitarian Universalism for this momentous season of collective action and transformation.

The Harvest the Power Justice Convergence & Teach-in is a series of excellent programs and documentary screenings to provide grounding, community, and justice education for the week of Thanksgiving. Register today, and help spread the word about the fantastic programs and community documentary film screenings being offered for the Harvest the Power Justice Convergence & Teach-In:

[VIEW SCHEDULE](#) – [SIGN UP NOW](#) – [HELP PROMOTE](#)

**In faith and solidarity,
Nicole Pressley**

Illustrations by Molly Costello, used with permission

AIM Alert: Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Resources from EqUUal

Dear AIM Congregations:

We want to bring to your attention these resources and connections now regularly available for Unitarian Universalists who self-identify as living with disability. Please share the announcement below with your UU church community (group email, newsletter, announcements etc.).

For years EqUUal Access has been involved in education and advocacy with UUs on disability issues, but have you heard that EqUUal Access now offers weekly online connections by and for Unitarian Universalists with disabilities?

If you are a person with a disability, you can go to the EA website to find the weekly theme and the active links to join all connections by Zoom: <http://www.equalaccess.org/connect-online/>.

Here's what the weekly schedule looks like:

- **Tuesdays @ 3:00 pm** Eastern Time: Theme Chat (with an EqUUal Access facilitator)
- **Thursdays @ 8:00 pm** Eastern Time: Oasis (worship service/spiritual gathering by/for disabled UUs led by EqUUal Access volunteers, ministers, seminarians)
- **Fridays @ 1:00 pm** Eastern Time: Craft & Chat (bring your latest craft project/idea and join in relaxed conversation-- with an EqUUal Access

facilitator)

- Individual Pastoral Conversation with a UU minister (by appointment)

Pastoral Conversation appointments are available with Rev. Helen McFadyen or Rev. Barbara Meyers. Please email hmfadyen@uuma.org or bfkmeyers@gmail.com to arrange a private Zoom or telephone call.

Thank You,
Shelly & Helen (AIM Administrative Director Duo)
AIM Alert by Rev. Helen McFadyen, Administrative Director
24 Farnsworth St. Boston, MA 02210-1409 USA

Programs for Adults and Families



Faith Forward - Inquirer Series

Faith Forward - Inquirer Series

The final fall session of "The Inquirer Series" will be on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. via zoom. Reverend Heather will join us to discuss "Faith Development for Children, Youth, and Being a Multigenerational Community and Becoming a Member". Please RSVP to carlsoncjc@gmail.com.

<https://zoom.us/j/99520245358?pwd=NFFaL21GOXNyQ3ZWMS9rSlhiNUtuQT09>

Meeting ID: 995 2024 5358

Passcode: 682869

One tap mobile +16465588656,99520245358# US (New York)

Interested in Becoming a Member of USH?

The next new member ceremony will be on February 7, 2021. Please contact Carolyn Carlson if you are interested in more details related to becoming a member. carlsoncjc@gmail.com.

There is no charge but pre-registration is requested by E-mailing Carolyn Carlson at carlsoncjc@gmail.com.

The USH Book Club meets **monthly**, on the **2nd Thursday**, 2:30 – 4:30, via Zoom. All adults in the USH community are welcome. Please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

Books chosen for the year are:

DECEMBER 10 – *Enemy of All Mankind: A True Story of Piracy, Power, and History's first Global Manhunt* – Steven Johnson

JANUARY 14 – *The Devil's Due* – Bonnie MacBird

Programs:

Artist's Way Group: Meets on Mondays 6:30 – 8 p.m. via Zoom using Mira Kirschenbaum's book *The Gift of A Year* as the basis for our conversation. We focus on living creatively, with the appreciative eye of an artist; creative expression of all types and stripes is celebrated, though not required. If you're interested in joining us, mark your calendar now, and look for contact info here in early September. Contact Tina Davies for more info at daviesush@gmail.com.

Caring Network: This year's meeting dates via ZOOM. **2020:** 12/13. **2021:** 1/10, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/16, 6/13. Meetings will be ZOOM meetings at **12:15pm**.

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.

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](#).

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.

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 or Rev Heather at revheatherionstarr@gmail.com. We are all in this together and together we will stay strong.

May we all stay healthy, happy and connected.

Take Them A Meal for Rayla

Meals needed for the Mattsons:

Help feed Rayla, Bradshaw, Kennedy, and Sage while Rayla is dealing with chronic pain. Kid-friendly food for growing kiddos is most helpful.

<https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/NIBG1576>
password 1830

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.

Church Business News



out some new programs [here!](#)

CommunityNOW: Please see this online calendar compiling what other UU churches and organizations are doing during this pandemic. Check

News in the Larger Community



Greetings from the Hartford Gay Men's Chorus

With stages dark across the country, the HGMC is committed to bringing you music in the safest way we can. We are excited to announce our special holiday concert experience that harkens back to the Golden Age of Radio. On December 11th, we will present **"Hope for the Holidays - A Radio Show Experience."** We will take you on a magical journey of song and spoken word, all while experiencing holidays of the past, present and future through a heartwarming tale. Come join

us to be reminded of the hope that surrounds us all, even during these challenging times. Please see [link here](#) for anyone interested in seeing the virtual HGMC concert. There will be a link starting at 8pm December 11th to Youtube posted on the HGMC website for the live YouTube Radio event.



What if we all gave on one day? We can! On December 1, 2020, our community will come together for 24 hours of unprecedented giving to support the amazing work of the Hartford Gay Men's Chorus through **#GivingTuesday**.

The Hartford Gay Men's Chorus is a nonprofit that is dedicated to using music as a catalyst to inspire, impact, and enrich the lives of our members, patrons, and the community. We are also one of the charities participating in #GivingTuesday. Help us raise awareness and funds for the HGMC by saving the date and making a donation online on December 1, 2020. Find out more by visiting the **#GivingTuesday link HERE** and remember – December 1, 2020 is the day to give! ***Thank you for your consideration and support! ~~HGMC***



Come On In support group

Providing care for loved ones who have extra needs** can be an isolating experience in the best of times. And these are not the best of times. This group aims to lessen the isolation that caregivers of folks with extra needs experience, particularly during this pandemic time.

It is so easy to feel alone amidst friends & acquaintances whose charges have more typical needs & challenges. We each approach our situation in our own unique way; having the support & understanding of others who travel similar paths can bring much needed comfort and connection and can help relieve some of the stress you may feel.

My hope is to offer, within a UU context:

- An opportunity to care for yourself and receive some of the support you need.
- A chance to meet other caregivers
- A way to give & receive informal, structured support.
- A space that holds our complex emotions & experiences in confidence & respect.
- A group with clear guidelines & ground rules.
- Support and a chance to talk about how you're coping with the tougher aspects, if you want to. Anxiety, shame, sadness, guilt, fear & other challenging emotions arise for so many of us.

**As defined by you: If you wonder whether or not your loved one fits into that category, they probably do; if you wonder whether you're a 'caregiver,' you probably are.

LOGISTICS

- The group meets on zoom the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 - 10:40 a.m. EDT/EST.
- It's not a problem if you can only attend part of a session, or if you need to duck out to tend to your loved one, or if you're interrupted; this is the nature of our caregiving.
- Email uusupport@icloud.com for zoom link, questions & further guidelines.

Bio: Li Kynvi brings both personal & professional interest & experience to this support group. Li is working on their MDiv at the UU identity school Starr King School for the Ministry and is currently a Candidate for UU Ministry. They have also worked as a music therapist & licensed mental health counselor for 23 years. Li is the parent of two: a 16 year-old son who is delightful, musical, relational, non-verbal, blind, 4-5 months old developmentally, and does not sit or stand independently; and a 22 year-old daughter who also has a complex story. Li identifies as gender non-binary, uses they/them pronouns, and lives in Massachusetts.

Our sessions from now to the end of the year will be:

Dec. 5

Dec. 19

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6291627339>**Meeting ID: 629 162 7339****Mobile: +13017158592,,6291627339****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/>).

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.smore.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.



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 **hartfordusociety@gmail.com**.

Buffie's always happy to hear from you!

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.

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

revheatherionstarr@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: 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/>.