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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.

JANUARY 6, 2021

Building Community Since 1830
Revs. Cathy & Heather Rion Starr, Co-Ministers



Image: word cloud of collective wishes for 2021

January 10th, 2021, 9:30am

Please join us as we continue our January Tour this
week with UU New London:
"The Only Solution: A Reflection on Loneliness"

As we are deep in the pandemic and deep in the winter, loneliness has long had its way with many of us. On this Sunday just past Epiphany, what new learning, what new life, what new hope, may we bring to this moment?

9:30am YouTube Worship - Join us [HERE](#)

The YouTube premiere "opens" at 9:30am. Then at 9:45 a.m. Gathering music and the mission roll begins. I encourage you and your folks to hop on a bit before the service begins. The chat is welcoming and lively. We'll also be sharing photos of all of your congregations in the "mission roll" - as we call the photos that appear prior to the service beginning.

11:00am - [Fellowship Time](#) immediately following service in Zoom.

Meeting ID: 926 0661 7260

Passcode: 907762

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,92606617260# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,92606617260# US (Chicago)



Please Join Together For a Connecticut Church Tour

We will worship together in celebration of our shared faith.

December 27 th	Unitarian Society of Hartford
January 3 rd	Unitarian Society of New Haven
January 10 th	All Souls / New London
January 24 th	Unitarian Universalist Society: East (Manchester)
January 31 st	Universalist Church of West Hartford

All services begin at 10:00 a.m.
Links will be provided week by week



New Year Updates

We are refreshing our regular online staff offerings as we begin the new year! We want to be sure you know what you can tune into during the week:

- **Storytime:** Every week, Rayla Mattson, our Director of Religious Education, posts a story for children to our [Facebook](#) page on Monday or Tuesday -- not to be missed by story lovers of all ages!

- **Chomp and Chat:** we are shifting this from weekly to monthly. Join ministers and staff on the **LAST Wednesday of each month 12:00pm-1:00pm** for a bit of chit-chat while we chomp on our lunches on Wednesday afternoons. Next one: Wednesday, January 27th with Rev. Cathy. Click [HERE](#) to register & enjoy some casual conversations and just plain old "catch up" with one another. Bring your snack and we will "see" you there!!

...and lots more elsewhere in this enews!

Our ministers and staff enjoyed the virtual weekly field trips, but we will be ending that practice due to minimal attendance. Do let us know if there's a particular event that you'd like to organize a "field trip" to!

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

Hello USH Family!!

Log in to FaceBook to watch my next "Story" [HERE](#).

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.

News from the USH Board of Directors

Join us for a Listening Session this week

Please join us for a themed hour of conversation about how you are connecting with USH in the virtual world and what would make that connection stronger or more meaningful for you in 2021:

January 6th, 5-6 pm "[Happy Hour](#)" with Martha, Peter, Tina & Lisa

January 7th, 7-8 pm "[Wine, Cheese & Chocolate](#)" with Martha, Jon,
Peter & Lisa

January 9th, 12-1 pm "[Casual Lunch](#)" with Martha, Lisa & Dana

January 11th, 3-4 pm "[Afternoon Tea](#)" with Martha, Lisa & Bob

January 17th, 11am-12pm - **Coffee Hour** after Service with Martha, Lisa,
Dana & Jon (*link to be provided with worship info*)

***Your sign-up is appreciated so that we can gauge participation and
send you a reminder.***

[Click here to sign up in 3 easy steps](#)

or simply join at the scheduled time using the blue links above.

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Dear Friends, As we turn the page from 2020 to 2021, USH leadership is  
looking toward the future. In January, the Board is hosting **informal social  
gatherings to listen and gain your input about what you  
see as important for USH in 2021.**

We know we must "expand our sanctuary" to nourish spirits, build  
community and work for justice in person and from home -- from wherever  
we are, together.

**You are essential to our USH future.** Whether you are brand new to  
USH, come occasionally or have been a longtime member, we want to hear  
from you!

**Your insights, ideas and wishes are important as we plan for the year  
ahead and work to be the church that's needed in this brave new  
world.**

*Please bring your own "themed" refreshment and we can imagine we're  
gathered around a shared table.*

Warm Regards, Martha, Lisa, Bob, Sarah, Jon, Tina, Peter & Dana

**Letter from Tina Davies, Chair of Community Within**  
**"How do we have a Community Within, when it seems like there is no "Within?"**

**Did you happen to catch Rayla's field trip, as she and Miriam Byroade toured the ambulatory to view an exhibit of Miriam's quilts?**

You can still see the talk on FB <https://fb.watch/2fLCZUybMj/>

This exhibit was mounted late last winter... February perhaps? ... and has understandably been inaccessible for "regular" viewing since you-know-what descended upon us. Rayla opened the doors and, with Miriam, walked us around this display of quilts extraordinary in both conception and execution. There's a strong ecological theme resonating in Miriam's pieces, calling attention both to our "place" in the universe and to those lasting effects of human intrusion upon the finite space we cohabit with other species.

As a fellow quilter, though, I was touched by the notion that these assemblies of fabric, thread, and imagination have been silently standing guard all these long and lonely months — sentinels acting witness to silence and isolation in this pandemic. Miriam's quilts, while making their statements to an unseen audience, have also been trading some physical characteristics with their surroundings. A faint woody scent has insinuated itself into the fiber, and the ambulatory walls undoubtedly retain some essence of the quilts' presence. They are, after all, doing what quilts do — giving comfort, sharing beauty, provoking imagination.

This year, I've been the representative to USH's board for the Council on Community Within. When doors began slamming shut, last March, I asked myself, "How does one have a Community Within when, basically, there is no 'Within' "? Obviously, many adaptations, adjustments, dedicated people, and work-arounds have stepped in to create virtual communities — we have Zoom coffee hours, Zoom meetings, Google-meet gatherings, Facebook-Live tours — yet the strong desire to return to one another's physical presence, in our physical building, remains. It's really difficult to have a virtual pancake breakfast. It's pretty impossible to have the tactile satisfaction of a virtual hug.

Rayla and Miriam reminded me that, yes, there is indeed a 'Within' within. The quilts are guarding it, keeping it warm for our inevitable return. And when we return, things will feel different — and we will be different. I've been asking myself, and now I'd like to ask you — what might we want? What will you want? What are your ideas on how we can re-engage with each other, in the lightly-structured manner that USH programs and social activities have typically offered? We've had discussion groups, movie nights, lunches, affinity groups... the list is long. What do we want to see, and how shall we bring such inspiration into being? I would love to hear your ideas — please send your thoughts to me at [daviesush@gmail.com](mailto:daviesush@gmail.com) (the email I use for USH-related stuff).

**Please stay warm and well, and let me hear from you... Tina**

If you haven't yet seen Rayla and Miriam's field trip tour, do check it out on the USH Facebook page at <https://fb.watch/2fLCZUybMj/>. Please contact the office for pricing of Miriam's beautiful work at 860-233-9897 OR [hartforduusociety@gmail.com](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.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**

**Dana Donovan: 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 **Sept-Oct 2020** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view. The Board Meeting minutes for **Oct 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](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) for the username and password.

## Programs for Adults and Families

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

**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](mailto:daviesush@gmail.com).

**Caring Network:** This year's meeting dates via ZOOM. **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](mailto: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](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](#).

**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](mailto: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).



**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 Community & Business News



**The Ordination of Sierra-Marie Gerfao into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry will take place on Zoom on Sunday, January 24th at 4PM EST**

You all are invited & welcome!

Sierra-Marie is a longtime religious educator prior to pursuing ordained ministry, and currently serves as 1/2-time Director of Religious Education at

UU-Danbury (CT). Sierra-Marie's ministry is a half-time developing and experimental ministry of public theology. She lives in New Haven, CT and will continue her work from there after her ordination. The ordination sermon will be preached by the Rev. Theresa I. Soto. You can RSVP by sending an email to [officemanager@uudanbury.org](mailto:officemanager@uudanbury.org). If you RSVP, you will receive an email on the morning of the service with both the order of service and link.

**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.

### **Message from Doris**

**Dear friends, I'm humbly reaching out to you all because my family and I have to relocate in the next year because I cannot afford maintaining my home with our limitations. I'm seeking a safe and affordable three bedroom room rental based on my disability income. I'm currently giving away furniture and items that belonged to my mother, industrial dressing machine, etc and will need a dumpster and help to get refuse, decking, etc out. Any help with any of this is incredibly helpful. Please contact Doris at [celestialhug@aol.com](mailto:celestialhug@aol.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](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.**

## Social Justice at USH



Over 40 diverse multi-faith faith communities and allied institutions throughout Greater Hartford organizing together for justice!

### Upcoming events for GHIAA

**The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, GHIAA, has announced the following upcoming events in January:**

- 1.** As the state legislature will be convening soon, GHIAA will be holding a Delegate Assembly on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 7pm to 8:30 pm. This is to prepare all clergy and core team members for the upcoming session. The meeting will also address other internal issues related to GHIAA. Anyone who has taken the Core Team training is invited to attend. Core members can register by filling out this [form](#).
- 2.** Core Team/Leadership Training via zoom. For anyone interested in taking the core teaming training, there will be two opportunities starting later in January. This is a 12 hour training broken into six 2 hour sessions. Training is open to all who are interested. You can choose from either day or evening classes:

\* Six Thursday evenings starting on January 21 (7pm to 9pm)

\* Six Tuesday mornings starting on January 26 (10am to 12pm)

Registration is required for the training sessions and can be completed [HERE](#).

**If anyone has questions about these events, or anything else about GHIAA, please contact me at [danadonovan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danadonovan@sbcglobal.net).**

**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.equualaccess.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 [hmcfadyen@uuma.org](mailto:hmcfadyen@uuma.org) or [bfkmeyers@gmail.com](mailto: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

## 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](http://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.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.**



Please contact our Office Administrator, Buffie Pinney, with any administrative questions or concerns. Buffie is working on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 9am-2pm. While the church remains closed, please email at her at

**[hartfordusociety@gmail.com](mailto: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/](http://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.**

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**USH Staff:**

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

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Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Co-Minister

[revheatherionstarr@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:USHInternDD@gmail.com) | 860-233-9897 ext. 109

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

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Office or Phone by Appointment | [bmullen@ushartford.com](mailto: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/>.