### **Our Minister**



Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith leads our congregation.

A musician, storyteller and educator, Rev. Adam's theology draws from many different traditions, including Taoism, the transcendentalists, feminism/womanism, earth-centered practices, and Jewish and Christian texts.

Rev. Adam holds a Master of Divinity degree from Starr King School and a Doctor of Ministry from the Chicago Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Cornell University.

He shares a home with his partner of over twenty years, Don, and their Keeshond dog, Ursa.

Previously, he served with the Second Unitarian Church of Chicago and with Unitarian Universalist congregations in Illinois and Arizona.

### **Our History**

In 1821, after an inspirational visit from the noted Universalist Hosea Ballou, the "First Independent Universalist Society of the City of Hartford" was formed. Our first meetinghouse was near the Old State House in downtown Hartford.

We moved to our current location in 1931. Our main building was designed in the Colonial Revival style by Connecticut architect Walter P. Crabtree. Our magnificent Austin pipe organ was installed in 1963.

Our church has transitioned through several name changes over the years. Our current name, "The Universalist Church of West Hartford" was adopted in 1960. Since 1961, our church has been a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Visitors from other Unitarian Universalist churches may be surprised to see the biblical imagery in our stained glass windows. The windows are a link to our congregation's rich history, but they represent just one facet of our vibrant, diverse community.

# Directions & Hours Brook Tours Tou

Worship Services & Church School Sundays at 10 AM Office Hours Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

To learn more about our programs and events, visit our website and sign up for our weekly E-Newsletter or sign our Visitor Book in the church lobby.



### Universalist Church of West Hartford

433 Fern Street West Hartford, CT 06107

admin@westhartforduu.org 860-233-3669 ext. 106

www.westhartforduu.org



About our logo: The image of a flaming chalice is a primary symbol of our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition. Many of our congregations light a chalice during gatherings and worship. Here at the Universalist Church of West Hartford, we

encircle the flaming chalice with rainbow colors to show that we welcome and affirm all people.

# WELCOME TO THE Universalist Church OF WEST HARTFORD



### Love is the Spirit



"Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another." - Rev. James Vila Blake

Our church is centered around these simple but powerful words. With open hearts and open minds,

we work together to build a world that is more loving and just for all people.

We arrive at this church by many paths. Among us are people of many religious backgrounds and people who are exploring faith for the first time. Our community includes atheists, humanists, people who believe in God, and people who call God by many different names. All are welcome.

We may have different religious beliefs, but we share the same values: believing in the worthiness of every person, accepting others for who they are, growing through a personal search for truth, working for justice, and understanding that everything is interconnected.

# **Living our Values**

We live our values with a strong commitment to social justice and social action. We stand on the side of love for civil rights, LGBTQ equality, immigration reform, environmental sustainability, reproductive justice, racial justice, and more. Working together, we support those in need and we promote change for a more just world.



### **Sundays on Fern Street**

On Sunday mornings we gather in our beautiful, light-filled sanctuary for inspirational reflections, music and fellowship. A lively coffee hour follows the worship service.







In the company of caring, supportive peers and adults, they explore Unitarian Universalism, Judaism, Christianity and other world religions as they discover their own truths and spirituality.

## **Holidays & Traditions**

Our congregation respects and celebrates holidays and traditions from a wide range of faiths, including some that are unique to Unitarian Universalism.

For those who take comfort in the Christmas tradition, we offer a holiday pageant and candlelight carols.

We also honor holidays and observances from the Jewish, Muslim and Earth-centered traditions.





### **Activities for Everyone**

Throughout the year, we engage in a wide range of activities that help us develop meaningful connections with each other and the world around us.

Our church calendar is packed with opportunities to learn, discover, have fun and be of service:

- Share your talent as part of our musical ensembles;
- Make lasting friendships through our popular "Small Group" program, our Men's Group and our Women's Circle:
- Learn something new in our adult enrichment programs;
- Help promote change through our social justice initiatives;
- Volunteer with our active food ministry;
- Help others through tough times with a meal, a visit or a comforting handmade shawl;
- Have fun at potluck lunches and suppers, Sunday coffees, family nights, and informal gatherings.

### Join Us!

Love is the spirit of this community, and there is a place for you here.

To learn more, visit our website, follow us on Facebook, sign up for our weekly E-News or contact our church office.



If you're visiting our building, we encourage you to sign one of our Guest Books located on the visitor tables near both entrances to our sanctuary.