



NUUSLETTER

The Newsletter of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
always available online at www.hvuuc.org

The mission of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is to promote spiritual growth, religious freedom, and ethical action.

April 2020

PO Box 8383 Johnson City, Tennessee 37615 (423) 477-7661

Headlines

- All in person Worship Services, Religious Education classes and other church activities have been suspended through May
- Women's Group Zoom meeting, Friday April 3rd at 6:30PM
- The church is looking to hire a new pianist in May
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM
- Caring Team help needed. See page 4 for more details.

Up to date church info is always available at www.hvuuc.org

Please Remember Your Pledge

Please continue your support of the church by completing your intended pledge for this fiscal year. We still have the mortgage, electric, internet/phone bills to pay. To honor our commitments all paid staff will continue to be paid during this time.

The best way to donate at this time is by check. Electronic donations are also possible, but they take a small percentage of each transaction, so the church will not receive your entire donation.

Mail to:
HVUUC
PO Box 8383
Gray, TN
37615

Write "pledge"
in the memo
line.

Thank you!



Upcoming Virtual Church Services

April 5 *Coyote says, "Just Chill"*, Rev. Jeff Briere (Virtual Church)

Coyote doesn't understand why humans seem so weird lately. Like the guy who bought all the doughnuts at Krispy Kreme.

Rev. Briere plans to address announced sermon topics, but in a virtual church setting, with less time, his treatment of the topic will be less than exhaustive and probably affected by current events.

April 12 *Stories of WWII*, Rev. Jeff Briere

A service concerning two stories of WW 2 and what we can learn from them about our own humanity.

April 19 *hUUmAnism's Greatest Hits*, Rev. Jeff Briere

A service devoted to humanism. Is it worth it? Or is it a dead end?

April 26 *Religious Education Service*

A service that shares the talents and charms of our Religious Education folks young and older.

Virtual Church on YouTube

All of our services are available on our YouTube channel. The church services are available each Sunday at 11:00AM, but you can watch them anytime after that. You can also subscribe to our channel. Follow this link: [HVUUC YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvUUC)

Pianist Position Open in May

The church's pianist position will be open in late May (pending pandemic status). If you or **anyone** you know might be interested, please have them contact Ann at music@hvuuc.org.



Tax Statement

If you need a tax statement for your donation to the church, contact Ramesh at pledge@hvuuc.org.

Kitchen of Hope

Monday, April 6

No volunteers are needed for Kitchen of Hope this month, but we are still serving meals.

The Kitchen of Hope is still serving meals to folks in need. In fact, the numbers have risen to 200+ a day. In an effort to keep volunteers and guests as safe as possible, the logistics have changed. Instead of a sit-down community meal, we now must serve to-go meals only, at the door, one at a time. We have adapted to this situation. And we, too, want to limit potential exposure for you.

Until things get back to normal, if you would like to help, please consider donating either money or food items that can go in a lunch bag. We serve once a month, but the Kitchen of Hope serves 6 nights a week.

Thanks for all you do! Our community is infinitely better for your caring and commitment!

To donate money:

Mail a check to - HVUUC PO Box 8383, Gray, TN 37615
memo: Kitchen of Hope

Via Paypal - <https://hvuuc.squarespace.com/donate> also please indicate it is for Kitchen of Hope

To donate food items:

Contact Kim at KOH@hvuuc.org

Join the Mother Earth Gang

A newly formed group working on climate change is looking for volunteers to participate in the "Mother Earth Gang." "The gang" will be periodically marching in the tri-cities area in support of local action on climate change (of course only once the virus epidemic is over). The key difference is that it is composed of 10-12 women of all ages who are dressed in theatre-quality, or nearly so, costumes as either Mother Earth or Mother Nature. Costumes are a great way to get people wanting to come up close as opposed to us having to go to them. It can also generate great press coverage.

We have a professional costume designer and make-up artist associated with the Jonesborough Repertory Theatre who is volunteering his time to help with costume and make-up design. He will help with actual design or simply act as a consultant depending on what the gang wishes. Some funds are also available to help with costume costs.

This is a wonderful opportunity to combine the fun of being creative with working to support the earth. The brainstorming phase and creation of your costumes can be done safely at home while we are restricted due to the virus. Marches will not start until costumes are completed and there are no longer virus restrictions. Any public event schedules will be developed jointly by members.

Come join the fun! Joy S. is organizing this effort, contact office@hvuuc.org if you are interested and I'll forward your information on to her.

Game Night: Online

The church Game Group has gone online! We are using Zoom and a website called Board Game Arena (BGA) to play board games and chat on the second and fourth Saturday evenings at 7pm. In our first get-together we even reconnected with a few church friends who had moved out of our area. Newcomers are very welcome to join! You'll just need to create a free account at BGA and have an internet- and webcam-enabled computer or laptop. If you are new to this online version, please contact Kirk in advance at gamegroup@hvuuc.org with interest and/or questions.

Pandemic

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now,

on trying to make the world different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life.

Center down.

And when your body has become still,

reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.

(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands.

(Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.

Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—

for better or for worse,

in sickness and in health,

so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

The following is from the UUA Southern Region March 2020 newsletter, in which, Sarah White and Holston Valley UU Church were featured for the work being done by Sarah and the RISE team to promote Our Whole Lives in our church and our community!
[UUA Southern Region Newsletter](#)

Building Beloved Community with Our Whole Lives

By Nancy Combs-Morgan and Sarah White

In appreciation of the tremendous community outreach of many of our Southern Region religious educators, who go the extra mile to extend much needed comprehensive sexuality education with “[Our Whole Lives](#),” I felt compelled to ask **Sarah White, the Director of Religious Education at the Holston Valley UU Church** to write this reflection....

I have been the Director of Religious Education at Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (HVVUUC) in Johnson City, TN since 2015. One of the first actions I took is to expand the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program, which now spans K-Older Adult within our congregation.

Expanding the OWL program was a passion of mine because of my role as a sexual assault advocate. I firmly believe that comprehensive sex education (CSE) is needed to enact a culture change to prevent sexual assault and domestic violence before it happens.

In 2018 I co-founded [RISE: Healthy for Life](#) with Cindi Huss, which has operated under the HVVUUC non-profit umbrella. We have experienced overwhelming community support for our work in CSE. We have formed community partnerships with local organizations such as: Women Matter NE TN, Red Legacy, East Tennessee State University, two local Family Justice Centers, Cater Country Drug Prevention Coalition, Safe House, and A Step Ahead.

RISE: Healthy for Life has also received several grants from UU organizations. We received funding from the Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility two years in a row. We also are thrilled that we received a grant from the UU Women’s Federation to launch a Peer Educator after school program that was started by Planned Parenthood.

Let us know if you feel motivated to expand your congregation’s OWL programming. I, along with kcharles@uua.org, want to partner with you as you navigate offering OWL. We can help with planning/publicity and connecting you with other congregations interested in a community outreach vision for OWL.



RISE Adult Owl Facilitator Training October

Sarah White and a RISE member at a Planned Parenthood Sexuality Educator training



Caring Team Help

Because of the potential magnitude of congregational needs, the Caring Team is working hard to organize and connect congregants and their needs to volunteers who can be feet on the ground.

If you have needs such as:

- picking up food from the grocery store or church food pantry
- picking up prescriptions
- technology assistance with computers or apps

Please contact the Caring Team at caring@hvuuc.org or call 423-477-7661 and leave a message.

If you are willing to be added to the Helper List to assist another member of our community with any of the above, please contact caring@hvuuc.org or call 423-477-7661 and leave a message. Let the caring team know how you are willing to help and what part(s) of the region you would be able to serve.

The Caring Team will try to match those who need help with those on the Helper List.

Remember, many local grocery stores (Food City, Kroger, Walmart, Target,...) have programs in place where one can order and pay for grocery and household items online for curbside pickup or even delivery. Several local stores offer early morning shopping for seniors.

As usual, the Caring Team also wants to know about the joys and concerns that affect your life. Please let them know of any joys or concerns to pass on to your church community.

Website Member Log In

There is information on the website that you need to log in to see. Scroll to bottom of the home page and click on "Members Area". The password is the same one that you used on the old website. If you need the password, email office@hvuuc.org.

Once you log in, you can see a recent member directory, get a reimbursement form, see our tax exempt certificate, the board policies and procedures, and board meeting minutes.

Caring Team

The Caring Team coordinators for April are Phyllis Cairnes and Neva Kauffman. Contact them at caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our March coordinators Joseph Viola and Freda Love!

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Submissions for each month's newsletter are due by the last day of month to newsletter@hvuuc.org.

Up to date information can always be found at www.hvuuc.org