



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 2022

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

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

Upcoming Events

Spring is in the air and lots of activity is brewing at HVUUC.

There are many events lined up in the coming months for our members and friends.

You can find the full list of pending events on our website at the link below.

<https://hvuuc.org/featured-events>

If you would like to share relevant news or events with the congregation you can submit items with this form, found on our website.

<https://hvuuc.org/submissions>

Upcoming Church Services

11:00AM Sundays at [HVUUC YouTube](#)

April 3—*The Question Box*, Rev. Sapp
In our never-ending quest for truth and meaning, come participate in a well-loved Unitarian Universalist tradition, the question box! Submit your questions to the ushers on the day of the service, or email minister@hvuuc.org with the subject line "Question Box". Rev. Tiffany will pick out some questions to explore on the fly. Answers are not guaranteed and "hard" questions are encouraged!

April 10—*Musical Activism*, Charis Carter
Music is the universal language that crosses cultural boundaries; which goes to show that music would be a key element in political, environmental, and social justice events. When language, custom, or opinion has built a wall between us, a few notes with an intention behind them can breach even the strongest defenses. This Musical Activism service will touch on a few key songs that have changed us as people and the world as a result.

April 17—*Dear Me: Love Letters to Our Past Self (Easter Sunday)*, Rev. Sapp
Many of us come in to Unitarian Universalism with wounds from our religious past, and around here, that's usually Christianity. This Easter Sunday is a love-letter to our past selves, and a possible framework for moving through our religious trauma

April 24—*The Recipe for the Perfect Consumer*, Rev. Sapp
This online only Zoom service will explore big-business tactics to increase our consumerist tendencies, and the impact that it has on the environment on this Earth Day. Annual Meeting will follow online.

Pledge Drive Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual pledge drive. Our vision to "transform ourselves, our community, and our world by sharing love, pursuing justice, and seeking wonder" wouldn't be possible without your support.

If you are still interested in pledging for the coming year contact stewardship@hvuuc.org.

In Your Own Words

As promised, my Newsletter submission this month is exploring some of the finer details of what I heard during Listening Circles. The truth is I have 66 pages of notes from 8 learning circles that heard from 40 people, so even this newsletter article can't capture the breadth and depth of your input. But I'd love to share some highlights, knowing that the overarching themes of Justice, Making Connections, and Working Together were already represented in my March 13th sermon (which you can see on [Youtube here](#) if you missed it).

Here are some things you said. If they're in quotations then I'm quoting the person. If they're not in quotations then I am paraphrasing:

About the Pandemic and Reopening:

- "I am eternally grateful to all involved in the technology part of keeping us together."
- We need to celebrate all those folks that kept the church alive, that made sure we have Sunday Services that work
- "I saw groups of people diligently trying to stay connected. It's huge that people put the effort in"
- My core group of church friends have been sustaining me outside of formal church events and experiences during the pandemic, but I don't feel like I've expanded my social connections in the church lately
- Many expressions of empathy and concern for families with young children, complications around vaccines and the general difficulty of pandemic life for young families
- "I drifted away" during the pandemic but "I think we're ready to go back"
- When we reopen, no one is going to like the restrictions but seeing each other face to face is going to be worth it.
- "I teach, so when I get to the weekend I am all Zoomed out"
- "For the two years of the pandemic I have not missed one service. It has really kept my life in order and has made such a difference for me."
- "The Reopening Committee has done a beautiful job."
- "I am not ready to go back, AND I'll be there."

About Justice:

- This church is "an island of sanity in our area"
- "People don't know that 5 liberals exist in the Tri-Cities"
- We need to find ways to be more accessible and inclusive to people with less financial resources
- "I'd like to see the church as a whole getting on the bandwagon about 1 or 2 special issues..." Have a Goal!
- "if you're not aware of Matt Hawn shame on you" (go ahead and google his name, I'll wait LOL)
- PRIDE
- Other UU churches are working toward affirming the 8th Principle and I'd like to see us do that too (you may have to look that one up too: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>)
- "Social Justice is *all over* our Principles"
- "challenge us and hold our hands as we approach our blindspots"

About our Needs:

- “I’ve forgotten how to be social. I need practice being with people.”
- I’m looking for ways to get involved and stay connected that is NOT on a Sunday morning because of scheduling challenges
- We’re proud of how this church has changed its culture around kids, 30 years ago this place was not accommodating to families at all
- This sense that we’re loved by our minister and our congregation fills me up, “it’s scary, interesting and I like it.”
- Music is where I get my sense of awe and wonder
- I’m inspired by passion rather than guilt trips
- Covenant groups are how I connect
- The music has been upgraded a thousand times in the last 15 years
- Sometimes we don’t follow through with new people, they sit by themselves and don’t get talked to at coffee hour. We need to do better with this.
- Communication is Key
- We need unstructured hang out time

About Volunteering:

- “I do see the same group of people carrying the church.”
- “it feels like we’re just rotating people around... we need to get more people taking responsibilities”
- Regarding the ebb and flow of committee work: “if no one’s willing to step up then maybe it’s time to let it go.”
- I’m seeing the next generation beginning to carry the load and it’s really exciting: “we were those people a generation ago”

About our Aspirations:

- “Hybrid churches are never going to go away, and I don’t think they should go away.”
- This church started by encouraging people to join the church and grow, but now we are becoming visible allies. We are living out of Principles visibly. Supporting others who need our support and see what they can teach us.
- The future of this congregation is tied to becoming visible in the wider community
- Our future is in Community Outreach
- I would like a 1 year plan, a 5 year plan, where we really give our resources to a specific thing. A serious targeted focal point to work on collectively for a while
- “I would love to see us evangelize our UU-ness”
- Campus ministry at ETSU
- “We’ve come a long way, we don’t need to stop now.”
- I hope people bring their friends, and that once they get here they are welcomed
- “People need us and we need them.”

I think your words speak for themselves. Our church is not a static thing, but a community of people committed to our growth, to each other, and to doing our part for a more just world. I’m honored to journey with you, and let’s keep the conversation going!

-Rev. Tiffany

New Playground Work Day

- Saturday April 2 - 9:00-3:00PM
- Saturday April 9 - 9:00-3:00PM



Contact Greg at facilities@hvuuc.org with any questions.

Thank you to Dana York for the gorgeous display of flowers on the dais behind the podium at the March 27th service.

If you couldn't enjoy them in person, they are visible on that service YouTube video."

Chaplain Michael Woods follows up his guest sermon with us, held Sunday March 27th, with resources for veterans and their families.

[Click here for this helpful resource.](#)

We are offering two Listening Circles in April to give you an opportunity to share what you would like to see in our future Religious Education programming.

- Friday, April 15th from 6-7:30
- Saturday, April 23rd from 10-11:30

Both of these will be hosted on Zoom. Please [click here to register!](#) Once on the event page, pick the time slot you would prefer and then click "RSVP".

Religious Education

Religious Education is thrilled to announce that Adult RE 1 has resumed in a NEW LOCATION!

The group will meet from 9:30-10:45 on the first floor of the REZ, second room on the right.

Some important things to know about this:

- The curriculum is The Great Courses. The group will watch a short video related to religions, science, philosophy, etc and follow it with a group discussion.
- The facilitation will rotate among the group members. This means that each week someone is responsible for unlocking the building, turning on the DVD, encouraging discussion from the provided guide, taking attendance, and locking the building back up.

Please contact Sarah White at DRE@hvuuc.org if you have any questions! We are so happy to be in person with our community!



Treasurer's Note

As we begin the fourth quarter of our 2021/2022 fiscal year, our income is \$15,138 ahead of our spending, thanks to your continued support and the conscientious use of our funds. The summary table of our finances for the first three quarters is shown below.

The full treasurer's financial spreadsheet is in the member's section of the church website. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at treasurer@hvuuc.org. - Deb Helmer.

Treasurer Summary Report – Through Third Quarter 2021-2022

	Totals through third quarter	Budgeted amount through third	Totals through third quarter Actual minus budgeted
Income	\$117,792	\$123,795	-\$6003
Expenses	\$102,654	\$123,795	-\$21,141
Income minus	\$15,138	-	\$15,138

Social Justice Committee

GINI Energy Checklist

Green Interfaith Network strives to be a model for green faith communities in the Southern Appalachians and to become a spiritual voice for environmental sustainability in the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia region.

This April, during Earth Month, GINI is promoting household energy-savings initiative to raise awareness of how natural resources are used in our homes.

A checklist is available to allow individuals to examine energy use in their own homes. Carol Landis of GINI met with the Social Justice committee and asked that we include congregation participants in a tally of those who view the checklist and hopefully make decisions about conserving energy.

We encourage you to follow the link, review the checklist, think about your energy saving strategies, and answer the 4 questions on the form below.

[Click here to go to form.](#)

Recycling

On April 22 the 53rd Earth Day will be observed. As UU's we are connected to Earth Day through our 7th principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. One thing individuals can do to respect this interdependent web is reduce the waste we add to our environment. One method for waste reduction is recycling which removes materials from the waste stream and makes use of them as raw materials for production of new items. The following list gives places in our area that collect items for recycling:

Sullivan County has numerous 24-hour recycling drop-off locations and two transfer stations for additional items. Hazardous chemical collection sites are scheduled periodically, normally 1 per year. A downloadable info sheet with an acceptable items list is available here: <https://sullivancountyttn.gov/?mdocs-posts=pdf-for-website&mdocs-cat=>

State mandates require the City of Bristol, Virginia to maintain a 25% recycling rate. In an effort to make recycling more convenient, the Recycling Center locations have been adjusted to be more centrally located throughout the City. All locations will now accept commingled and cardboard materials. For a list of locations see:

<https://www.bristolva.org/440/Recycling>

Johnson City/Washington County Recycling

Kroger – 112 Sunset Drive, JC – takes glass, paper, aluminum, cardboard, and plastic containers, some of which are different from JC City recycling

ETSU Recycling Center – 325 Treasure Lane, Campus – along with plastic, paper, cardboard, and aluminum, this site takes metal of all types, including cans THIS CENTER IS OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY <https://www.etsu.edu/sustainability/what-we-do/recycling.php>

City of Johnson City - City recycling website: <https://www.johnsoncitytn.org/services/recycling.php>

City of Johnson City - Allowable items pdf. https://files4.revize.com/johnsontn/document_center/public_works/solid_waste/recycling_guide.pdf

City of Johnson City - Drop Off Sites <https://www.johnsoncitytn.org/services/recycling.php>

Washington County - Recycling Website: <https://www.washingtoncountyttn.org/197/Recycling>

Washington County - Convenience Centers <https://www.washingtoncountyttn.org/346/Convenience-Centers>

Recycling is an important step to take to reduce waste that might otherwise be dumped in landfills, burned or end up in the oceans. However, there are steps that can be taken to reduce the amount of waste itself.

These steps are now known as Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Repurpose. Our challenge is to determine how each of us can use those 4 Rs to lower the amount of waste created.

To better understand each of these, read this article in the TN Conservationist:

https://digital.tnconservationist.org/publication/?i=651532&article_id=3612187&view=articleBrowser&ver=html5

Social Justice Initiatives at HVUUC

Our UU Faith traditions compel us to constantly search for ways we can make a difference in the world by advocating for Social and Environmental Justice for all people.

The Contemporary Black Issues class, taught by Dr. Daryl Carter, at Langston Center, was full of news that we had heard; but didn't understand the impact on the Black community. This lesson has finished for now; and we seek more! There are many other educational opportunities available dealing with White Supremacy and Issues that affect the races differently.

A Message from Dr. Keith Johnson, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, ETSU "...history has not been kind to Africans and Black Americans. Yet, despite the hardships endured by these people, they participated in and significantly contributed to education, technology, engineering, business, medicine, and more ideas and industries that shape and support our culture." "I challenge you my friends, not to view African American history or Black history as separate from U.S. history. Africans and Black Americans were instrumental in building the U.S. and have made significant contributions from its humble beginnings."

PBS Passport Membership (\$5 per month) provides videos on subjects like "Driving While Black", "Black Businesses", "Tulsa", "August 8", describing the terrible discrimination and violence against the Black communities, and individuals.

ACLU Magazine- aclu.org. Spring 2022: "Divided Highways", discusses how the planned segregation of Black citizens was accomplished through the design of Interstates; and the current need for repairing these structures brings opportunities to remedy the situation.

Ongoing & Local events include:

Wednesday, April 6, Natasha Trethewey, discusses her New York Times bestselling memoir, "Memorial Drive." The book, released in 2020, won the Pulitzer Prize. Born in Mississippi in the 1960s to a Black mother and a white father, the book chronicles many aspects of Trethewey's life – including the murder of her mother. The event starts at 6 p.m. at the ETSU Foundation Grand Hall in the Martin Center for the Arts. The event is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Dr. Daryl Carter at carterda@etsu.edu.

Monday, April 11, 6-9pm, Black/White Dialogue- Tom Devert a black railroad worker, living in Erwin, TN, was winning big in a poker game. Too big, the white players thought. Hear the rest Of the story! from Tama Lunceford. The in-person event will be at Pro-To-Club, 509 W. Main Street, Johnson City, TN. Light refreshment will be served. BWD meets the 2nd Monday of every month. To be on the email list, contact bbwolff1937@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 24th, 7pm- Shine: Illuminating Black Stories. In the summer of 2020, Barter Theatre began collecting stories from our local Black communities as part of our Black in Appalachia Initiative, which seeks to ensure all voices in our region have a platform to be heard and celebrate. Barter Theatre, Abingdon.

Saturday, June 18th- Day trip-Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls. Leaving from Bristol, TN to the National Mall. Contact Bob Warner at sjchair@hvuuc.org

Membership

Caring Team

April CT coordinator is Dan C.

Thanks to Freda L. for her service in March.

For assistance email Caring@hvuuc.org or call the office.

Kitchen of Hope

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.

To donate money:

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

Via Paypal - <https://hvuuc.org/donate> (please indicate it is for Kitchen of Hope)

To donate food: Contact Kim at KOH@hvuuc.org

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". If you need the password, email office@hvuuc.org.

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

Grocery Cards Available for Purchase

Food City and Ingles grocery cards are available and can be mailed or delivered to you!

Cards can be delivered to mailboxes in the Johnson City or Kingsport area, and possibly to others areas. Of course, the cards could also be mailed.

We will happily accommodate your needs so that we can continue to generate a wee bit of income for the church.

If you are interested, please contact Dottie and Richard at grocerycards@hvuuc.org.

Thank you for continuing to participate!

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

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