



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 2023

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

Headlines

- [Minister's Note](#)
- [Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Pledge Drive](#)
- [Facilities News](#)
- [Treasury Report](#)
- [Social Justice](#)

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

Save the Date

April 2—Multicultural Book Club

April 7—Women's Night

April 9—Easter Egg Hunt

April 12&26—Let's Chat Group

April 21—Game Night

Every Wed—Yoga with Tish

No Brunch Bunch this month!

Find these events and more on our church calendar at the link below.

<https://localendar.com/public/hvuuchurch>

Upcoming Church Services - 11:00AM Sun

April 2, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp
Transgender Day of Visibility

Transgender Day of Visibility is March 31st. Founded by Rachel Crandall in 2009 as a way to celebrate the presence and contributions of transgender and non-binary people in our communities.

April 9, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp
Everything is Holy Now

What do we mean by Holy? And does declaring everything "Holy" diminish the meaning of the word, or enhance it?

April 16, 2023

Foster Care programs, and the needs in our community.

A panel interview with our own Jon Anderson, a clinical therapist for Camelot's in Kingsport, and Jacob Meadows, a foster care recruiter and trainer with Youth Villages. They will talk about foster care numbers and the needs here in our region.

April 23, 2023, Rev Sapp
Earth Day Work Day

This very special gathering invites you to come in clothes you don't mind getting dirty, as we get to work around the church! Religious communities, especially Buddhist temples, have a cherished tradition of making caring for our land and building a spiritual practice. This Sunday we will begin with a blessing and then divide into groups organized by our Facilities Task Force to work on projects that are much needed for the building and our grounds. We will still have nursery, we will have a project for the kids, and we will have tasks for people who need gentler sitting tasks as well. If you've never participated in a work day before you will really enjoy the camaraderie that is built, and the satisfaction that comes from seeing our sacred space renewed!

April 30, 2023, Rev. Sapp
Community of Communities

In a congregation of our size it is impossible to personally know everyone in our congregation, but through affinity groups, fellowship groups, covenant groups, working groups and religious education we can create an environment where meaningful connections flourish. Rev. Tiffany will reflect briefly on how these interlocking circles of small communities within the larger community can help us thrive. Come for the service and stay for the annual congregational meeting!

Seven Questions about proposed Article 2 Revisions

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Article 2 Revision workshops. Great conversation and insights came out of both meetings. One exercise that we engaged in was a Question List during these workshops, with the promise that I would share them with the congregation. I think that these Questions could be helpful for all of us. So here they are:

Q. What is the purpose of the proposed Article 2 Revision?

A. We are a Living Tradition that has intentionally built methods for changing and updating our movement into our very identity. The founders of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism all saw the way that antiquated religions could hold themselves back by getting over attached to ancient inscrutable texts that could not be criticized or updated. Because we didn't want to fall in that trap, we wrote a process for re-examining Article 2, our foundational identity statements, into our bylaws. Every 15 years, an Article 2 Study Commission is formed to re-examine Article 2 and see if changes are needed. These proposed revisions come out of this mandate as part of our process as a movement. The votes at General Assembly will indicate whether these changes are something that we UUs really need to stay current at this time.

Q. Is there something wrong with our current Principles?

A. Not really. This proposed revision is an engagement in our living tradition process (see the above answer). A lot of the wording from the Principles is actually contained in the proposed revision. There will be a link to the full wording in the Article 2 Study Commission Report: I encourage you to take a good look at it if you're curious. There have been two areas that people have identified as shortcomings in the Principles that are addressed in the proposed revisions. First, that "Love" isn't mentioned in our Seven Principles at all. Second, that the Principles aren't really oriented toward what we do or actions that we take. One of the goals of the proposed revisions were to address those two points.

Q. How is this related to Eighth Principle Work?

A. The proposed revisions to Article 2 may be trading the Seven Principles for these new proposed values, but the language of the Eighth Principle is very much in these proposed values in the revision. The language of the Eighth Principle reads "we covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions" In the proposed revision, we see that under the value of Justice, we have a lot of the same language: "Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression." The similar wording is intentional, the proposed Article 2 revisions are doing the same work as the Eighth Principle.

Q. The "Inclusion Clause" of the Proposed Revisions has largely remained unchanged but has added "especially those with historically marginalized identities." If the goal is to be inclusive, isn't that enough? Why add "especially" any special group?

A. This line appears to be added because of the difference between what we say we believe and what we actually do. During the surveys and the cottage meetings that led to the development of these proposed revisions, people of color and transgender people expressed that there have been times and places where they have not felt included or welcomed in all Unitarian Universalist spaces. This line is an acknowledgement that we are committed to overcoming those obstacles and inequities in our movement as a whole.

Q. What happened to the Sources?

A. Instead of a list of six sources, we now have an “Inspirations” section that reads “As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings that help us to live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts and cultures in which they were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.” I believe that this statement is trying to encapsulate the intention of the six sources list while making it even broader. The statement is essentially saying “everything” is a source, which is something that is probably very apparent in the way I use pop-culture in a lot of my services. I do, however, find a lot of value in naming specific sources and am sad to see it absent from the proposed changes.

Q. Are these mutually exclusive options?

A. Yes and No. They are mutually exclusive in that only one is going to be named in the legal document of the Unitarian Universalist Association bylaws. And whichever one is named there will probably get the most common use, especially as time marches on. However, that is the only way that they are mutually exclusive. We just said that “everything” is a source, and that would include older and newer statements of UU identity. Personally, I plan on continuing to draw on the Principles, Sources *and* Values in our continued work here regardless of whether the vote favors the Principles and the Values.

Q. Will any of this change or limit what you can do as a minister?

A. Absolutely not, not even a little. See the above answer! We are a free church with a free pulpit. We govern ourselves at the local church level. And our longstanding traditions support that the minister is free to speak how they see fit from the pulpit.

I hope this is helpful to you! Remember, that this is not a decided thing, but is voted on at General Assembly this year, and if it passes, it will be voted on at the next General Assembly as well. We would like for you to provide feedback to our delegates. Please use this link to provide feedback for Holston Valley UU’s delegates so that they can represent you at General Assembly <https://forms.gle/ijbX5TBsLafZztL87>

And here’s the full report of the Article 2 Study Commission, which includes the full language of the proposed revision, as well as an explanation of their processes. <https://www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf>

Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

Women's Night—April 7

1st Friday Women's Night is at the home of Mary Williamson. 6:30-9:30 pm. Bring your favorite snack or beverage to share.

We may have a special activity that you can join in with the group if you like. It's always a fun and relaxing time to just get together and chill. This is your chance to meet new friends and greet old pals.

Parking is available on the street, but limited in the driveway. We look forward to seeing you!
For more information e-mail
womensgroup@hvuuc.org

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Help needed in April and May!

We currently have zero Coffee Hour volunteers for the upcoming months. We can't keep this valued tradition without you!

Please see new sign up poster in the Fred Ball Room. If you need a trainer indicate that next to your name.

Do you love to bake?? Drop off your homemade cookies at the church kitchen any Sunday.

Email coffeeshour@hvuuc.org with any questions.

Church Picnic Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to help organize our annual church picnic this August!

Email fellowship@hvuuc.org

Service Sunday, April 23, 2023

The 2023 spring "Service Sunday" is right around the dusty corner! Roll up your sleeves (or just wear short sleeves and skip all that rolling) and join your family and friends in revitalizing the HVUUC building and grounds. To share in the service, please gather in the sanctuary following RE at 11:00 on April 23rd .

We plan to work outdoors and indoors. Bring tools or equipment if you are able. Rakes, tarps, shrubbery clippers, leaf blowers, pressure wash-

ers, dusters, cleaning cloths, and other implements handy for refreshing and reorganizing our environment are appreciated. There will be standing, sitting, and moving around tasks so you can choose which is best for you.

Be on the look-out for pizza and drinks. The nursery will be open. Contact facilities@hvuuc.org for questions.

Curious About Joining Our Church?

There will be a Path to Membership Class on Sunday, May 28 from 12:30-2:30 pm. Childcare will be provided. This is a class that helps those considering membership learn more about our church and the opportunities for involvement. Although the class does not commit you to membership, it is a necessary precursor for joining our church. It also allows you to get to know a small group of people on a more personal level.

The number of participants will be limited to 10. Get your name on the list, if you haven't already, by emailing membership@hvuuc.org. There is also a sign-up sheet on the side counter in the sanctuary.

Please provide the following information when you sign up:

Name, email, phone, and how you prefer to be contacted. If you require childcare, please provide the number of children and their ages.

We look forward to your participation!

Pledge Drive Last Call

We have reached 96% of our pledging goal and we are wondering if a few more pledges could get us all the way!

This proposed budget is a 5% increase from the current year's budget which is actually under inflation rates.

If you have already submitted your pledge, thank you! If you haven't yet, would you please consider submitting a pledge ASAP?

Email to stewardship@hvuuc.org

No pledge is too small. Every little bit helps!

2023 HVUUC Annual Congregational Meeting

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 30th immediately following the church service in the sanctuary. Childcare will be provided. Anyone who has been an official member of HVUUC for at least 60 days as of April 30th is eligible to vote at the meeting. Items on the agenda will include:

- 2023-2024 Budget
- Slate of Nominees for Board of Trustee positions
- Other items as necessary

HVUUC's by-laws allow members to add items to the agenda at the Annual Congregational Meeting. If you have an issue you feel should be on the agenda, please submit it to president@hvuuc.org by April 7th. Please submit items in the form of a motion ("I move..."). It would be helpful to discuss your motion with the President to develop wording that makes it actionable with the fewest possible modifications.

You will receive a complete agenda as well as a finalized budget for congregational approval at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

The slate of nominees for Board positions and Nominating Committee will be sent out at least 20 days prior to the meeting. Additional nominations may be made by members provided that notice of the nominees has been given to the President (president@hvuuc.org) at least ten (10) days in advance of the Annual Meeting.

At this time, we are working under the assumption that this Annual Meeting will be in-person only. However, we hope to have the ability to set up a hybrid Zoom/In-person Annual Meeting so that members who do not want to attend an in-person meeting can still be involved. We'll let you know about that option as soon as possible.

Please contact Ann Johnson if you have any questions. president@hvuuc.org.

Scam Alert!

Scam Alert! Hackers are at it again posing as Rev. Tiffany in emails.

Please remember that no one from the church will ever contact you asking for money or favors that involves spending personal funds on an errand for our staff.

If something doesn't feel right, it's probably not right! Please help us spread the word so no one is fooled.

Slate of Nominees for 2023/2024 Fiscal Year

In accordance with HVUUC Bylaws, here is the slate of nominees developed by the nominating committee for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year. These will be voted on at our 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting on April 30th immediately following the Sunday Service.

Board Members

- ◇ President: Dottie Blades (current Vice President)
- ◇ Vice President: Tish Kashdan
- ◇ Past President: Ann Johnson (current President)
- ◇ Secretary: Alicia Culbertson
- ◇ Stewardship Trustee: Greg Kramer
- ◇ Programs Trustee: Bradley Quick

Nominating Committee

- ◇ Wanda Earp replaced a member in February 2023 and will serve one more year. She will be the Chairperson.
- ◇ Michele Markstrom Frisch - 2 year term.
- ◇ Dana York - 2 year term.
- ◇ Sarah Sanders - 1 year term replacing a member who has resigned.
- ◇ George Cross - 1 year term replacing a member who will be moving to the board.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Meeting provided that notice of the nominees has been given to the President (president@hvuuc.org) at least ten (10) days in advance of the Annual Meeting (by April 20th); the President will give advance notice to the congregation of any proposed floor nominations. The consent of each nominee must have been obtained.

Please contact Ann Johnson (president@hvuuc.org) if you have any questions.

Treasury Report

April:

As we end the third quarter of our 2022/2023 fiscal year, our income is \$27,404 ahead of our spending thanks to your continued support and the conscientious use of our funds. The summary table of our finances for the third quarter is shown below.

Treasurer Summary Report - Third Quarter 2022-2023

| | Totals through third quarter, actual | Budgeted amount through third quarter | Totals through third quarter, actual minus budgeted |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Income | \$145,936 | \$132,138 | \$13,798 |
| Expenses | \$118,529 | \$132,138 | -\$13,609 |
| Income minus Expenses | \$27,407 | - | \$27,407 |

This quarter has been very active. We raised \$368 for One Acre Café with a fifth Sunday collection. Also, the Green Arts Festival raised \$120 for the Green Sanctuary fund, used for projects to reduce power usage in the church. Work has begun to install new windows in the Minister's and DRE's offices to replace rotting wood and improve insulation. Repairs have also begun to the damages in the kitchen and the Fred Ballroom from the flood that occurred over Christmas. We have been able to start this work with the money we have saved in our Capital Repairs fund, and happily, will be refunded from our insurance.

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.

Social Justice News and Initiatives

SOCIAL JUSTICE – ENVIRONMENT FOCUS GROUP

- 1.) APRIL 30TH 5TH SUNDAY RECIPIENT: Environment Focus Group: The Social Justice committee has selected Hope for Bristol for our April 30th 5th Sunday donation. Joel Kellogg cofounder of the group will talk about the group's efforts to address environmental issues that affect Bristol. Please remember your donation on April 30th.



2.) MAY 7th Coffee Table:

The Environment focus group of the Social Justice Committee is inviting you to drop by or pull up a chair to our table during Coffee Hour on May 7, 2023, 12:00-ish. Our kaffeeklatsch focus this time is Informed Shopping plus Waste Avoidance and Management. Check out ideas gathered from our focus group or bring discussion of your planet-friendly home economics strategies, plastic repurposing projects, and great Farmers' Market finds to the table.

Contact environment@hvuuc.org as needed.

3.) THANK YOU!

On March 17 & 18, HVUUC bundled and delivered over 50 individual orders for trees from the Tennessee Environmental Council. This will be possible because of the willingness of each of you to contribute your time to the effort on 3/17 or 3/18. Thanks to Greg, Diana, Lori, Dana and Judy, Sue, Sophia, Mary, Noel, Bob, Guerry and Judy for stewarding new homes for over 500 trees!

SOCIAL JUSTICE – PEACE WORKS

1.) The Jones Room at the JC Library was full on March 26 to hear national scholars and activists bring awareness to Nuclear issues and byproducts affecting our area! The Appalachian Peace Education Center (APEC) sponsored the event. If you were not able to attend and would like to take action, the Green Interfaith Network (GINI), the Erwin Citizens Awareness Network and the Peace Committee of the Elizabethton Presbyterian church offer postcards that can be sent to relevant government officials. These will be available after church. Please sign and mail if you are called. For more information: peace@hvuuc.org.

2.) April 10: War and the Environment Online Class:

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/war-and-the-environment-april-10-may-22-2023-online-course-registration/>
ZOOM Conference – all are welcome.

3.) April 20 @ 6 PM ET: Disinformation Nation: How Partisan Politicians Distort History;

FREE webinar: Misinformation is on the rise. From cable news to social media, we're very aware that what we're hearing or reading could be wrong. And it seems our skepticism of the right's version of current events should extend to our history as well.

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disinformation-nation-how-partisan-politicians-distort-history-tickets-595024413037?aff=EventNewsletter0329>

4.) SAVE THE DATE: July 15:

Visit to the Peace Pentagon (www.peacepentagon.net) in Independence, Virginia.

Caring Team

Thank you to Coordinator Cynthia Goodman for March coverage.

April Caring Team Coordinator is Brandi Hayes

Contact Options: Email: caring@hvuuc.org or find a Candle Card on the church cabinet

You may also call the office 423 477-7661

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!

2021-2022 Board of Trustees

President: Ann Johnson president@hvuuc.org

Vice President: Dottie Blades vp@hvuuc.org

Past President: David Kashdan pastpresident@hvuuc.org

Treasurer: Deb Helmer treasurer@hvuuc.org

Stewardship Trustee: Charlie Miller stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org

Programs Trustee: Bryan Kleske programs@hvuuc.org

Facilities Trustee: Doug Chaffin facilities@hvuuc.org

Secretary/Historian: Michele Markstrom-Frisch boardsecretary@hvuuc.org

Membership Trustee: Cynthia Goodman membership@hvuuc.org

Minister

Rev. Tiffany Sapp: 477-7661 (office) minister@hvuuc.org

Director of Religious Education

Justin Ridley DRE@hvuuc.org

Music Director

Charis Carter musicdirector@hvuuc.org

Office Administrator

Jessica Bowman office@hvuuc.org

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