



# NUUSLETTER

The Newsletter of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church  
always available online at [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org)

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

December 2021

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

## Headlines ....

- [Green Arts Festival Dec 1-4](#)
- [Pancakes and Jam Dec 26](#)
- [Note from our Treasurer](#)
- [Reflections on Gratitude and Grief Dec 5th](#)
- [Reopening Update](#)

Up to date church info is always available at [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org)

## Zoom Services

It has been a joy to interact with you more during our live zoom services each Sunday.

We appreciate your grace and patience as our staff and volunteers adjust to this new format and continue to perfect our mastery of this exciting new opportunity to connect.

While perfection may not be possible, connection is our true goal.

For up-to-date information and relevant zoom links please visit:  
<https://hvuuc.org/worship-services>

Recordings of the zoom services will also be available afterwards on our YouTube channel at [HVVUUC YouTube](#)

## Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

**December 5—*Beloved Differences***, Rev. Sapp  
With all our diversity in Unitarian Universalism, what unites us? And how do we then use our differences to make the world a better place? This exploration of the theological concept of the Beloved Community gets some help from Dungeons and Dragons.

**December 12—*Festivals of Light***  
Festivals of Light is our annual recognition of several sacred traditions' winter holy days. We light candles and celebrate the dark short days of winter together. We will use a combination of zoom- (real time) readings and (recorded) music for a wonderful experience of our church community. Do bring candles as you join us in this joyous occasion.

**December 19—*Love Incarnate: Christian Liberation Theology***, Rev. Tiffany Sapp  
As Christmas approaches, we explore how the figure of Jesus and the mythology of his birth can inform our work for justice. He has always sided with the poor and the oppressed, and there are still people doing this good work in his name.

**December 26—*Pancakes and Jam***  
Our beloved community event, Pancakes with Jam, will go on, virtually! We can all make pancakes for ourselves on December 27th, and enjoy them from the comfort of home, while we watch our community of musicians - of all levels and ages - share their talents with via a prerecorded line up.





Happy Holidays!

This is the time of year that the gifts of being part of a religious community that draws from many Sources becomes quite apparent. Hanukkah has begun, the Winter Solstice is a few weeks away, and we're hearing Christmas Carols everywhere. A popular meme says from November 1st to January 15th there are 29 holidays observed by 7 major world religions. I haven't fact-checked that but I know there are a lot, and even more if you count holidays that are not from major world religions, like HumanLight, Festivus and Hogmany.

It seems that no matter where you personally find your truth and meaning, the season is inviting us to gather in the warmth of friends and family and celebrate. We experience this blending of traditions most poignantly here at Holston Valley UU Church during our Festivals of Light celebration, which will be December 12th this year. I hope you will join us on Zoom to gather with your church family and celebrate the growing of the light.

An additional way to gather with a diverse community this year is through United Religion Initiative's "Gathering for Grief and Gratitude" on December 5th at 3pm this year. This gathering may be especially meaningful to the many of you who have expressed grief over the passing of Rev. John Shuck this year. Rev. Shuck was the minister of First Presbyterian of Elizabethton for many years and played a significant role in URI. In addition to hearing prayers from several faith traditions on the theme of Grief and Gratitude, we will get to honor three community leaders who have passed away this year, one of them being Rev. Shuck. Information about how to connect to this Zoom service can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter and also on the URI-NETN facebook page.

I'm grateful for all the ways we can gather and celebrate our diversity during this time. I'm also grateful to Greg Kramer for getting a fresh coat of paint in my office. I hope that many of you will be able to swing by (with your masks) during office hours and see how my freshened up office looks.

With so much to be grateful for,

Rev. Tiffany,  
minister@hvuuc.org

# The Green Arts Festival is live!



Never fear--you can still do your holiday shopping from the safety of your home--while supporting local artisans and HVUUC's Social Justice/Green initiatives (10% of all sales goes to the church).

**HURRY! Shopping ends Saturday Dec 4th at 5:00 PM**

You can find more details at:

<https://hvuuc.org/events/2021/11/19/green-arts-festival-2021>



Oh deer, this group thought religious education was open! Guess they herd wrong.

We look forward to the day we can all be face to face again but you know what they say, absence makes the heart grow fawnder.

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

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 email [grocerycards@hvuuc.org](mailto:grocerycards@hvuuc.org) for more information.

Thank you for continuing to participate!



## Reflections on Gratitude and Grief

Join us December 5th at 3pm to reflect not just on Gratitude, but also how Gratitude interweaves with Grief at a very special gathering across all faith communities.

United Religions Initiative - Northeast Tennessee Cooperation Circle has traditionally hosted an in-person community Gratitude Dinner. This will be the second year in a row that URI NE-TN will be holding our "Gratitude Dinner" on Zoom due to concerns around Covid-19 transmission.

**December 5, 2021 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET**

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86823861243>

PASSWORD: JOY

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us!

More details here:

<https://hvuuc.org/events/2021/12/5/reflections-on-gratitude-and-grief>

# Pancakes with Jam

Our beloved community event, Pancakes with Jam, will be live on Zoom this year, December 26th, and will be a combination of live performances and some pre-recorded videos.

We can all make pancakes for ourselves on December 26th, and enjoy them from the comfort of home, while we watch our community of performers - of all levels and ages - share their talents with each other. Start working on your contribution now! Engage your family or budding young talent in your family!

## Deadlines

- A. Signing up to perform: **Monday December 20th**. Tell us if you plan to perform live, or will submit a pre-recorded video.
- B. Submit any pre-recorded videos, **Wednesday Dec. 22nd**. This allows our volunteer Tech person to test videos to ensure they work.
- C. Submit names, piece, and attributions: **Monday, Dec. 20th**. Legally, credit must be provided about the songwriters, lyricists, etc. if you cover their work.



## Anyone can sign up to perform for the jam event, but they must fit within these guidelines:

- 1 act per person, though you can be in several different group acts.
- Live group acts: must perform together via the same Zoom account and camera. There is a lag that makes singing and performing from separate Zoom accounts or households impossible.
- If you are not available 11 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Dec. 26th, you can submit a pre-recorded video. This should be submitted no later than Dec. 22nd.
- Up to about 4 minute length or less.
- You must supply full and correct attribution of song/piece. e.g. the original composer(s)/songwriter (s) by December 20th.
- Please indicate how you/each in the group, wish to be credited (first name only, first name last initial, full name). Children will be credited with their initials only.
- "Homegrown quality": we are looking for simple, homey, fun.
- Can be jokes, poetry, song, instrument, magic trick, etc.
- The session will be live streamed to YouTube for several months after. We wish for those who may be a bit shy about having their work seen by anyone, forever, to feel some level of comfort.
- Please consider safety and physical distancing guidelines: we encourage creativity among families and those in a safe 'pod.'
- Create an initial test video and assess volume. Listen at about ¾ volume: is it clear? It can be made softer but if too quiet, it cannot be made louder on the YouTube video.
- It is not mandatory but if you play an instrument, it is nice to see the instrument as well as face in the video.
- Your hosts will let you know the line up to expect when you or your family will be up by or before the morning of Dec. 26th.

Please email [PancakesAndJam@hvuuc.org](mailto:PancakesAndJam@hvuuc.org) if you have any questions, or contact Rosemary K. THANK YOU, Religious Services Committee



## From our Treasurer Directed donations to the church

If you want to send a donation to the church without writing a check, here are four easy ways.

1. You can set up your bank account to make direct payments to the church. There should be a tab in your bank account (called something like "Bill Pay") where you can add the church as a payee. There is no fee for this service. You will need the church's address : P.O. Box 8383, Gray, TN 37615

<https://www.moneyunder30.com/automatic-payments-explained>  
<https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/banking/online-bill-pay-what-it-is-why-you-should-use-it>

2. If you have an investment account, you can set up a Charitable Fund (or Donor Advised Fund) and make tax-advantaged donations. Several institutions already have our church in their system, which makes it even easier. If they need more information, please send me a note and I can give you what is needed.

<https://www.consumerreports.org/charitable-donations/donor-advised-funds-things-to-know/>

3. For those who are over 72 with an IRA account, some of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) can be donated as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) with an associated tax advantage. This needs to be set up with your institution.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kristinmckenna/2021/08/23/how-to-donate-your-rmd-using-qualified-charitable-distributions/>

4. A donation can be made from your Paypal account to the church using this link, also found under the Stewardship tab on the church website. Paypal charges about 2% for this service.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?  
to-ken=WJmWa0fiGWQom7SFLe6MLqoaQnCwm8FWVOWJTpzwX6sWUz8gfOIT3swmeKr0JAwnfJ1SJtAKdhYVcii9](https://www.paypal.com/donate?to-ken=WJmWa0fiGWQom7SFLe6MLqoaQnCwm8FWVOWJTpzwX6sWUz8gfOIT3swmeKr0JAwnfJ1SJtAKdhYVcii9)

We appreciate your continued 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.

Please add a memo with your donation from any of the above to specify what this is for.

As always, thank you for your continued support of this church.

Deb Helmer  
treasurer@hvuuc.org

### **Please remember your pledge.**

Make checks payable to "HVVUUC."  
Write "pledge" in the memo.

**Mail to:**  
HVVUUC  
PO Box 8383  
Gray, TN 37615

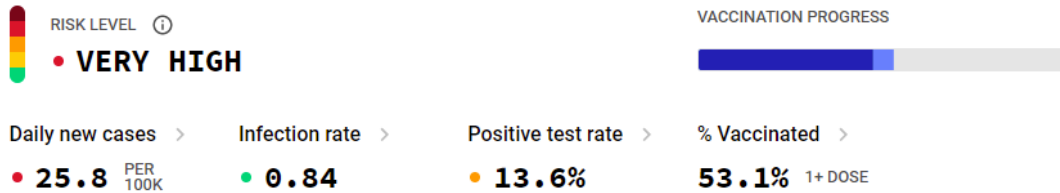


### **Thank you!**

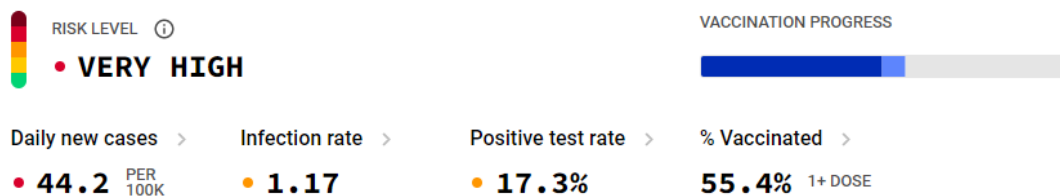
# REOPENING UPDATE

Our congregation's Sunday Services are currently 100% online because our region is still in the Severe Risk (Red) category. A partial reopen that contains both an in-person and a zoom option for Sunday services will be an option only after our entire region has been in the Medium Risk (Yellow) category on covidactnow.org for thirty days.

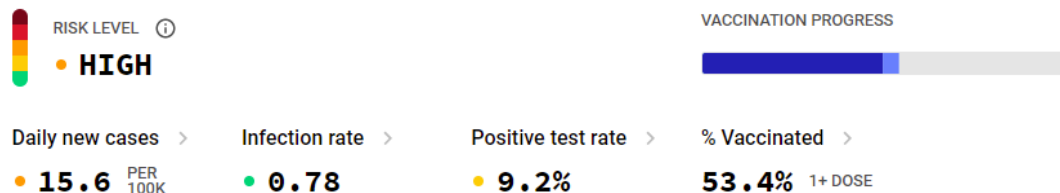
## Kingsport Metro Area - October 2021



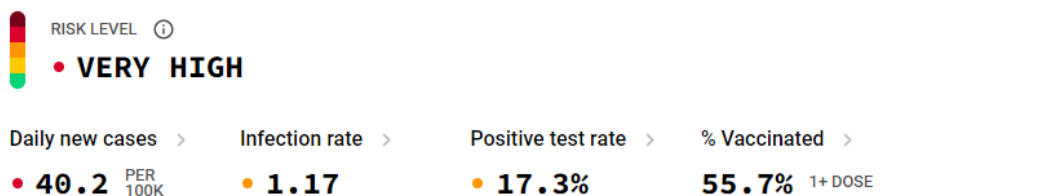
## November 2021



## Johnson City Metro Area - October 2021



## November 2021



For full details about our Congregation's Reopening Plan please visit: <https://hvuuc.org/reopening-plan> and click on the link to the Reopening Plan.

## Membership

### Caring Team

Thank you to Freda L. as the November coordinator.

December coordinator is Alicia C.

The Caring Team Wishes all good health and peace for your holidays and in 2022.  
Alicia, Brandi, Dan, Freda, Joshua, Joy, Linda, Lynn and Cynthia.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 certifi-



### 2021-2022 Board of Trustees

**President:** Ann Livengood [president@hvuuc.org](mailto:president@hvuuc.org)

**Vice President:** Ann Johnson [vp@hvuuc.org](mailto:vp@hvuuc.org)

**Past President:** Dana York [pastpresident@hvuuc.org](mailto:pastpresident@hvuuc.org)

**Treasurer:** Deb Helmer [treasurer@hvuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@hvuuc.org)

**Stewardship Trustee:** Charlie Miller [stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org](mailto:stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org)

**Programs Trustee:** Bryan Kleske [programs@hvuuc.org](mailto:programs@hvuuc.org)

**Facilities Trustee:** Greg Kramer [facilities@hvuuc.org](mailto:facilities@hvuuc.org)

**Secretary/Historian:** Dottie Blades [boardsecretary@hvuuc.org](mailto:boardsecretary@hvuuc.org)

**Membership Trustee:** Michele Markstrom-Frisch [membership@hvuuc.org](mailto:membership@hvuuc.org)

#### Minister

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

#### Director of Religious Education

Sarah White [DRE@hvuuc.org](mailto:DRE@hvuuc.org)

#### Music Director

Charis Carter [musicdirector@hvuuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@hvuuc.org)

#### Office Administrator

Jessica Bowman [office@hvuuc.org](mailto:office@hvuuc.org)

Submissions for each month's newsletter are due by the last day of month to [newsletter@hvuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@hvuuc.org).  
Up to date information can always be found at [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org)