



# 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 2022

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

## Headlines ....

- [Minister's Note](#)
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- [Social Justice](#)

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

## Upcoming Church Services - 11:00AM Sun

**Dec 4, 2022,**  
*Festivals of Light*

Beloved celebration of many traditions around this time of year from many faiths including Hinduism, Humanism, Buddhism, Christianity,, Paganism, and Judaism.

**Dec 11, 2022, Rev. Tiffany Sapp,**  
*The Five Smooth Stones of Unitarian Universalism*

Unitarian Universalist theologian James Luther Adams proposed the "Five Smooth Stones of Religious Liberalism" as five features of Unitarian Universalism that will be essential to transforming our world, back in the 1970s. They are: Justice, Freedom, Community, Optimism and the idea that Revelation is Continuous (which many people now call "Growth" or "Evolution." Fifty years later these five smooth stones can still help us along our journey.

**Dec 18, 2022, Rev. Tiffany Sapp,**  
*Honor the Dark*

As winter solstice approaches, we explore the metaphors of darkness and light, and see what they both have to offer us. Metaphor is one of the important ways that we build meaning and symbolism into our lives, and may have a bigger impact than we intended. What have been the unintended consequences of associating "dark" with "evil," and how can we adjust our metaphorical language to hold a more expansive view of the human experience?

**Dec 24, 2022,**  
*The Christmas Story, Cookies, and Carols*

All ages are invited to come hear the Christmas story as we celebrate Christmas Eve with traditional carols & cookies. Singing will begin at 7 PM in the sanctuary, followed by cookies, fellowship, & more modern holiday songs in the Fred Ball Room. Participants are encouraged to bring a plate of cookies to share if you like (totally optional—come either way!) Beverages will be provided.

**No Service Christmas Day, Sunday December 25!**

## Save the Date

Dec. 2—Women's Night  
Dec 11—Green Arts Festival  
Dec 17—Festivus Potluck  
Dec 18—CUUPS Yule  
Dec 31—New Years Eve Hike  
Jan 23—8th Principle Workshop

Sign up for daily or weekly news and event emails at our website here: <http://ccpurl.com/c7GW3H>

The office will be closed Tuesday Dec 27 and Thursday Dec 29. Happy Holidays!

# Communication is Key

*"Communication leads to community." - Rollo May*

My friends, during this holiday season, it seems like we have a LOT going on! And while there's a lot of information going out about our events, services, and service projects, if you're not plugged into our communications channels it's easy to miss something. So today I'm going to outline for you the best ways to stay connected, with a little help from Jessica, our Office Administrator.

**E-News:** This is the best way to keep in touch with what's going on in general. If you sign up for our E-News, you will receive regular emails about announcements and events. There are two ways to sign up for E-News. One is to share your email and check the box to subscribe to E-News at the Visitor's table, in the guest book. The other is to visit [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org) and scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page where you'll find the words "Mailing List Sign-Up" When you sign up make sure to select "Daily Digest" for both options.

What if I'm signed up for E-News and am not getting daily emails? It is probably going to your "Spam" or "Promotions" folder in your email. Every email system is different and that's not something that we can influence here in the office. But I did find this article helpful for understanding Spam folders for Gmail users: <https://www.gmass.co/blog/spam-folder/> If you've tried everything else to no avail, go ahead and try the steps above to complete the sign-up process again. And if that doesn't work either reach out to Jessica at [office@hvuuc.org](mailto:office@hvuuc.org) and she will do her best to help you.

**Facebook:** Facebook is not as reliable of a news sources as E-News but it can be a great way of creating community. Our main church Facebook page is "Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church" and you can find that here: <https://www.facebook.com/HVUUC> There's also groups for specific interest groups at our church like: "HVUUC Families Group" for parents, grandparents and families, which you can get to by Searching, or using this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/322264247847147> "CUUPS of HVUUC" for the Unitarian Universalist Pagans among us, which you can get to by Searching or using this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/134044436685993> (if there are other specific interest groups, or you would like to start one, email me at [minister@hvuuc.org](mailto:minister@hvuuc.org))

**Newsletter:** While you can get this Newsletter through E-News, we also print out several hard copies every month and keep them on the Visitor's Table with other information about our community. Feel free to take one to bring to a friend, especially if electronic communications are more challenging for them!

**Emerging Communications Areas:** As time goes by and we find more Gen Z folks in our congregation (Gen Z is currently from age 10 to 25), email and Facebook are going to become less effective. We don't currently have better ways to communicate, but are open to discovering how to reach others. If you are one of our younger friends, or if you know one who is tech savvy and available to help, please reach out to me at [minister@hvuuc.org](mailto:minister@hvuuc.org) so we can talk about what new and more effective ways of communicating may look like!

How can I help? We have a small and mighty communications team and could really use some extra help. It would be ideal to have a person committed to keeping up with our Facebook communications to lighten that load on our communications team. And we could also use additional communication team member support in general. If you'd like to become part of this work just email me at [minister@hvuuc.org](mailto:minister@hvuuc.org)

In addition to all of these ways of communicating, you may find our website, Sunday morning announcement slides, pulpit announcements and printed bulletin space helpful. However you find out what's going on, I look forward to seeing you at our many special gatherings this month, from our Festivus Potluck on the 17th, to CUUPS Yule celebration on the 18th, to Christmas Eve service on the 24th. Whatever you do this holiday season, may you find rest in the early nights, and warmth around your hearth fire!

# Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

## Curious About Joining Our Church?

There will be a Path to Membership Class on Sunday, January 15 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 current assumption is that we will be able to hold this class in-person. We will limit the number to 10 participants. Get your name on the list early by emailing [membership@hvuuc.org](mailto:membership@hvuuc.org). There will also be a sign-up sheet on the side counter in the sanctuary.

Please provide the following information: 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!

## Green Arts Festival

Support local artisans while you do your holiday gift shopping & find great swag for yourself, too. An enticing variety of arts, crafts, and delicious edible goodies await. And sales help to support HVUUC's Green Initiative.

This year the Green Arts Festival will be online from 9AM on Nov 21- noon on Nov 29 AND in person from noon-2PM on Dec 11.

If you want to shop online, you can access the catalog through the HVUUC.org website—click on the Green Arts logo. You will have the option to pay online with PayPal or Venmo. You'll see payment instructions when you check out—be sure to label your payment as "to a Friend" so we don't inadvertently get charged extra fees. You can also purchase "Delivery" & your items will be delivered to your home after the in-person sale on Dec 11.

If you'd rather pay by cash or check, you can do so when you pick up your items at the in-person sale.

If you want to shop in person, vendors will be in the Fred Ball Room from noon-2PM on Sunday Dec 11. You can pay with any of the 4 options and take your items with you.

NOTE: Some vendors will be ONLY online and some ONLY in person—so be sure to check both venues—you don't want to miss anything! The online catalog will continue to grow as artists submit their items—check back often.

## Festivus Potluck

The atheists of HVUUC are celebrating the holiday season with a Festivus Celebration on Saturday, December 17th at 5pm.

Bring your favorite holiday dishes, and heathen friends for an evening of fun and irreverent fellowship. All friends in the congregation, atheist or not, are welcome.

For questions or to let us know you're attending please email [atheists@hvuuc.org](mailto:atheists@hvuuc.org).

## CUUPs Yule December 18, 2:00PM

And the Wheel turns.....

Welcome to our first Sabbath of the new year! Known to some as Midwinter, others as Iul or Yule, join us in celebrating our version of YUUL. This will be an Open Circle event, welcoming all Practitioners, guests, children, and those who are merely curious as to what YUUL is and why we celebrate it.

Please feel free to bring items to decorate our celebration space. Oak and holly, ivy and birch, mistletoe, Robins and Wrens are all traditional symbols of this time. Other items featured in your own celebrations are also welcome.

## New Years Eve Hike, Dec 31, 10:00AM

We've Moved our traditional New Years Day Hike to New Years Eve. This is a difficult and slippery hike. Take a view on top of Chimney Top Mountain Please let us know if you're coming.

**Meet at 345 Sugar Hollow Lane, Fall Branch, TN 37656.**

This is a difficult hike and a slippery trail. Come and enjoy the vista from the top of Chimney Top Mountain and have some tea at the top.

Email [greg@hvuuc.org](mailto:greg@hvuuc.org) to sign up for this fun event.

# Social Justice News and Initiatives

This has been a very busy month for the Social Justice Team. Among other things: Bob Warner and Guerry McConnell represented HVUUC at the local NAACP Annual "Freedom" Banquet. Rev. Tiffany and many HVUUC members attended the United Religions Initiative Gratitude Dinner. So many have shown up to help with SJ projects. And we are thankful that more folks have joined!

Welcome to new members: Tristan, Courtney, Jon, Emily, Diane, Lori, and Olivia. We are so GRATEFUL for you – and your t-shirts are on order!

## Undoing White Supremacy

The Social Justice Committee hosted a second postcard writing event to encourage voter turnout in Georgia. Although the postcards were not partisan, they did empower black voters to learn where and how they can vote.

Thank you to all that contributed to this most successful event!

## Homelessness and Hunger

Michael Gillis of Hunger First, received the 5th Sunday donation from Bob Warner of the Social Justice Team. He was very grateful for the \$1,300 contribution. Michael reported that Hunger First held its grand opening November 21 at its new location: 1697 Lynn Garden Dr., Kingsport. They offer food as well as clothing but no housing at this time. That is a future goal as the need is great in Kingsport.



Love our HVUUC community!



Michael Gillis of HUNGER FIRST gratefully accepts HVUUC donation from Social Justice Member, Bob Warner.

GRAND OPENING!  
November 21st, 9 - 6 PM  
1697 Lynn Garden Dr.  
Kingsport, TN  
VISIT US!

THANK YOU!

## The Giving Tree

Thanks to everyone for donating so generously to The Giving Tree. We had a great group decorating the tree last Friday. We have been restocking every day or so and the items are going fast. We know word has gotten out on the streets and those in need are finding our tree! WE STILL NEED MORE DONATIONS PLEASE. The items that seem to go the quickest are hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, socks, and underwear. If you have items to donate, please place them in the large bin provided in the sanctuary next to the bookshelves. Also, WE HAVE HAD A GREAT RESPONSE IN DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY! Perhaps this could expand next year??



## Caring Team

Special \*thank you\* to Freda Love for assistance during November 2022.

December Caring Team coordinator for HVUUC is Alicia Culbertson.

For assistance please call 423 477 7661

or email [caring@hvuuc.org](mailto:caring@hvuuc.org)

## 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 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](mailto:grocerycards@hvuuc.org).

Thank you for continuing to participate!

## 2021-2022 Board of Trustees

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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)