



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.

July 2022

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

Headlines

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



Scan the QR code above to register your children for religious education classes this fall! To ensure we are aware of allergy and ability challenges and that we have a way to contact guardians, registration is required in both the nursery and RE classes.

Upcoming Church Services

11:00AM Sundays

July 10—*Meet the Moment: Reimagining Radical Faith Community*, Rev. Sapp

Rev. Tiffany offers her reflections inspired by her learning and exploring at 2022's General Assembly

July 17—*The CRT Panic and its Effect on Public Education*, Matthew Hawn

An external political environment has created a manufactured panic surrounding Critical Race Theory that affects public education. Lawmakers in states across the country are either introducing or passing legislation banning “divisive concepts” from public colleges and universities and k -12 public schools.

On July 17th, Matthew Hawn will be discussing the consequences of these laws for teachers, students, and the public education system and his personal experience over the last year after the dismissal.

July 24—*A Picture of the Future: Offerings of Hope from Science Fiction*, Rev Sapp

Science fiction has been one way toward exploring the big questions of life. And often, the way they present the future makes suggestions about our deepest hopes and our deepest fears. We'll focus on Star Trek today, but the genre has a lot to offer whether you're a trekie or not!

July 31—*Consent and Bodily Autonomy (5th Sunday)*, Rev. Sapp, Cindi H

What is Consent Culture and why is it so important? And how is it connected to a women's right to choose? Our first Principle has a lot to say about these things.

Minister's Note

Beloved friends and members, it's been quite a year! By the time this newsletter is out I will have been the minister here for 11 months. With ongoing pandemic concerns, and all the work around reopening, and the urgent-feeling need for a more just world, it has been a whirlwind!

Understanding that things will never completely "settle down" (and that I'd be bored in a job that did), I'm recognizing the need to visit more of you all at your homes or parks or on the back porch of the church. Especially for those of you all who have been unable to join us in person.

If you would like me to swing by and see you, could you let me know by emailing minister@hvuuc.org, or calling the office during office hours to set up a time?

I'm so grateful to be a part of this community, and a part of the living tradition that is Unitarian Universalism. And I'm so grateful for each of you. As we begin to move into year 2, please let me know if you'd like a visit.

With joy and thanks,
Rev. Tiffany

Back Up Childcare Needed

Sometimes our paid childcare staff have to cancel on us last minute due to life or sickness, and we're looking for a few volunteers to be on a "backup" list. If we have a cancellation we will call down the list to see who is available. Because these things happen last minute, we'd love a long list so we have a variety of people to contact.

If you can help us in this way, please email childcare@hvuuc.org for a background check and to get on the list.

Teachers Needed

This congregation has really showed up and showed off with volunteering to be RE teachers this year! I have been overwhelmed with gratitude. We need a few more people to fully staff all classes and give us a substitute or two.

The RE Collaborative likes to have 8 teachers for each class so that the rotation is full enough to provide plenty of Sundays every month for teachers to meet their own spiritual needs by attending Adult RE.

We will be hosting a teacher training after the service on August 14th, and its going to be a fun time. Please reach out to me at DRE@hvuuc.org if you would like to help guide the future leaders of Unitarian Universalists!

Hostesses Needed for Women's Night

We are looking for a few good women to host our monthly Women's Nights gathering.

So what does hosting involve? Maybe cleaning up a bit, putting out some set ups/drinks and then our great group of women will bring the party to you. We need hosts for the rest of this year (except October) starting July 1.

If you haven't experienced Women's night and you identify as female, come join us on the first Friday night of each month.

Email womensgroup@hvuuc.org for more info.

Fragrance Free Zone

Did you know that we have people in our community who have fragrance sensitivities that make it very difficult for them to be in spaces where there are perfumes and other scents?

For that reason we have designated the side of the sanctuary closest to the Fred Ball Room as a "Scent-Free Zone".

If you wear perfumes or scented lotions please sit on the other side of the sanctuary. There are signs marking the "Scent-Free Zone."

Roe V. Wade reversal

Many members of HVUUC have been supporting area programs and organizations which provide for reproductive freedom and sexual health for many years. With the recent adoption of a Church Statement of Support for Reproductive Freedom and Sexual Health on July 9 and the US Supreme Court overturning of Roe v. Wade on June 24, the need for increased understanding of how we can live our congregational Statement is underway. The creation of current and emerging resources is underway. Additional efforts will be expanding in the months to come.

Since many are asking, "what can I do?" (besides register and vote in ALL elections), here is a local action and a guide to possible broader actions:

Keep Abortion Safe and Legal In Bristol - <https://gofund.me/5a6d86f9>

How to support abortion access in a post-Roe America - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/25/how-to-support-abortion-access-rights-us-roe-wade-funds?>



Northeast Tennessee Stands with Poor People's Campaign

On June 18, a delegation from northeast Tennessee boarded a bus and traveled through the night to the Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers Assembly and Moral March on Washington. The energy, as the riders stepped off the bus was electric.

A lot was to be learned from five hours of stories of the dark underbelly of humanity in our country. We heard of the pain, the humiliation, the suffering of my brothers and sisters. ...and, of the children of this country. One could clearly see a country not living its declared values, potential and, certainly not living its promise.

There is much work to be done and the NE-TN delegation will continue it's work within the Poor People's Campaign's efforts. You can see a replay of the Assembly and the Movement Declaration to Re-construct American Democracy with the intended 7 steps before the mid-term election at: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18/>

Additionally, Noe and Bob had the honor of interviewing PPC Co-Founder Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis during World UNITY Week on June 24 at: <https://www.facebook.com/worldunityweek/>

Social Justice Committee

POLL WORKERS

Did you know that you can sign up to be a poll worker in your county during elections? It is my understanding the poll workers are supposed to be evenly divided between parties, however, it seems that does not happen in our area because one party tends to dominate our area. Call or go by your local election office and complete a fairly generic form to be a poll worker. You will then have a training date set before the next election so that you understand what your roles and responsibilities are and what they are not. I'm very excited to be a poll worker now in Carter County. Please consider joining in your county!

TRI-PRIDE

After a couple of years of pandemic absence, the TriPride Festival and Parade IS BACK!! It will be held this year on August 27th for the first time in Bristol. Once again, HVUUC will be a sponsor.

As TriPride says, this will be the first city-wide public Pride Parade and Festival in Bristol. We are making history again this year by having the parade down State Street in both Bristol, TN and Bristol, VA. We are the first Pride event in the nation to occur in two states simultaneously!

The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. and the festival begins immediately after, around 12:00 p.m. The TriPride Festival, presented by Eastman, is a FREE, good for all ages event that will feature live performances, vendors and exhibitors, health services, food trucks, and beer and liquor drinks. Previous years in Johnson City (2018) and Kingsport (2019) had an estimated 10,000 attendees!

So, what does all of this mean for HVUUC? It means we need to get a group of volunteers to spend time at the HVUUC booth, march in the parade and generally just have a great time as we have in past years. For those who plan to march, you may bring your well-behaved dog this year! Please contact the Social Justice Committee or Dottie Blades to sign up for this great event!

WHITE SUPREMACY

We are always looking for tools to confront white supremacy and the historic and current racism in our area, state and nation.

There is much wringing of hands and jaw-flapping in our State about education of our children about systematic racism. This article may provoke some thoughtful ideas about how to do things differently.

"Should you teach your children about racism? Of course – here's how" by Ibram X Kendi: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/jun/25/ibram-x-kendi-how-to-teach-children-about-racism?>

RECYCLING

The Social Justice Committee is working on a number of projects that will be rolled out for congregational involvement in the months ahead. One that will have us live our commitment to the small steps we can take right here in the Church is to update our Church recycling program.

New signage the Fred Ball Room Recycling Center and other procedures will be coming soon. Please help us walk or talk for Our One Common Home.

FOOD DONATIONS

REMINDER – Food Donation Program

Please bring food items which will be donated to local food pantries beginning June 6th. The wagon will be in the entrance hall.

What to bring?

Here's some suggestions: <https://gwrymca.org/blog/25-best-items-your-food-bank-needs-most>

Caring Team

June coordinators really shared the spotlight! Thank you to Linda G., who needed help (urgent scheduling changes) and so Joy B. stepped in to share the tasks at hand. Without a glitch our tasks were handled with ease. Kudos to both for true team work to help our church families in need!

Big Big Thank You!
July coordinator is Joy B.
call the office if needed at
423 477-7661, or email
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

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.

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