



# 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.*

July 2023

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](http://www.hvuuc.org)

## Save the Date

July 7—Women's Night

July 5 & 19—Atheist Group

July 12 & 26—Let's Chat Group

July 16—Social Justice Call to Action

July 29—CUUPs Lughnasdh

Every Tues—Yoga with Tish  
(canceled July 4 and 11)

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

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

## Upcoming Church Services - 11:00AM Sun

**July 9, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp**  
*Our Lives Are Sacred Texts*

Unitarian Universalism is an open path that embraces pluralism and draws the circle as wide as we can. While saying our sources of inspiration and guidance for how to walk that path are "everything" is accurate, but doesn't give us the specific pointers that we may need. Today is the first in a series on Exploring our Sources, and our first Source is "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life"

**July 16, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp**  
*Lessons in Community from the Muppets*

It's the Muppet Show!!! What can these strange creatures of polyfoam and fleece teach us about ourselves, and community?

**July 23, 2023, Rev. Jen Raffensperger**  
*Uncovering Our Stories: The Radiance of the Divine*

We humans are meaning-making, pattern-seeking creatures. When we turn our attention to a text to discern its meaning and how it applies to our own life, we call that "exegesis." This week, we will examine two texts - one ancient and one modern - in relationship with one another and what they can tell us about the human need to search for answers, whether in the stars above or the ground below our feet, or anywhere in-between.

**July 30, 2023, Josh Long**  
*Climate Activist Josh Long*

There are so many problems we care about in the world. Unfortunately, Climate change may be the most pressing issue of our time because of its ability to make every other social justice concern far worse. Joshua Long is a recent seminary graduate and the Director of music ensembles at the UU church of Annapolis. He will come to share, through sermon and song, his journey to becoming a faith-based Climate activist and musician.

## Caring Team July 2023

BIG THANK YOU to Joy Boyd and Judy Tucker for their service as the team coordinators during the month of June.

The July coordinator is new member Peggy Wolfe, who will be joining Cynthia Goodman in training this month.

## July 2023 Newsletter: GA Report

Church Family, I have returned from Pittsburgh's General Assembly three days ago (as of the day I'm writing this, June 28th) and I am still marinating in the inspiring worship services, intriguing workshops, and the challenging but fulfilling work of governance for our Unitarian Universalist Association. There were several important votes that happened this year, and I want to let you know how they went.

### Article 2 Revisions

I've published a thorough update on the Article 2 Revisions on our website. You can find it by following this link: <https://hvuuc.org/congregation-news/2023/7/6/article-2-revisions-update-from-general-assembly>

### A Business Resolution on Divestment

A group of young adults proposed a Business Resolution about divesting Unitarian Universalist Association investments from fossil fuel companies. It was a broad and ambitious proposal which included divesting from any banking entity that did business with fossil fuels, and a full review of group funds to investigate if any of them contained fossil fuel investments. The Business Resolution also called for these divested funds, (around \$800,000 worth) be used to pay reparations.

The young adults behind this resolution made an impassioned plea and challenged us all to consider the impact of actually living our values. Many spoke first-hand of their experiences with the water defenders who protested pipelines being built through Indigenous lands.

Many progressive leaders of within our Unitarian Universalist Association asked us to not vote for this Business Resolution because of the severe financial impact to our Association that it would create. Though it is worth noting that no un-elected UUA staff commented either way, because they are forbidden from speaking for or against voteable General Assembly business in their employment contract.

The Business Resolution did not pass with 68.3% of the votes against, and 31.7% for. While the Resolution didn't pass, which will secure the Association's financial stability this year, I believe that these powerful words and actions shared by our young people will encourage our future leaders to address these divestment concerns. Watching this process was a good study for me in how sometimes even when you don't win, you do succeed in getting your message across. Our new UUA President is listening.

### Our New President

Rev. Sofia Betancourt was elected to a six year term as the next Unitarian Universalist Association President, winning 95% of the votes. If you want to learn more about her, you can visit her campaign website: <https://sofiabetancourt.com/>

### Actions of Immediate Witness

Every year the Unitarian Universalist Association can choose up to three Actions of Immediate Witness statements to support, which encourage congregations to support social justice causes that connect to Unitarian Universalist Values. I'm sure you will be hearing more about these soon. This year they are:

- Protect the Dreamers, the Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) with a Pathway to Permanent Residence
- -Rise Up to Stop Cop City
- Organizing for Health Equity

What amuses me about this report that I'm making to you today, is that this is a LONG report, and I'm leaving so much out! General Assembly is a rich experience of learning, connection and democracy. Maybe next year you'll want to serve as a delegate? Next year's General Assembly will be 100% online, so cost will not be an obstacle!

# Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

## Summer Religious Education

We have some great Summer RE classes lined up for July! Take a look at the list below and come join us when you are able!

- **July 9** - Making Bird Houses w/Derek Sennes and Libby Ridley
- **July 16** - Surgery w/Stephanie Hart and Sophia Peterson
- **July 23** - A Window Between Worlds - RE and Covenant w/Justin Ridley and Jessica Bouchard
- **July 30** - Astronomy w/Mike Frisch

Don't miss out on these great opportunities! For questions and inquiries contact Justin Ridley at dre@hvuuc.org

## Kitchen Renovation Update

And there was much rejoicing!

Here is good news: After long hours (months) of toil, the kitchen renovation is finished! Hooray!

We have new and refurbished cabinets, a fancy sink, and updated countertops. The food service area is now stain-proof so there's no more crying over spilt coffee. Lighting is improved with new LED fixtures. We also have new ranges and under-cabinet microwaves. The paint is fresh and so is the floor tile, including hallway, bathrooms, and fellowship space. The water heater is also new and more efficient.

To prevent further cold weather challenges, PEX piping is in place throughout the kitchen. Additionally, volunteers installed tons of insulation.

We extend a thank you to everyone involved with the recovery and restoration of the kitchen and adjacent spaces.

A hearty thank you in particular is sent to our main influencers, Michael Richards and Dave Kashdan for their energy, hard work, and generosity with their time and talents in bringing this to completion.

-Doug Chaffin

## Kitchen of Hope Volunteers

We are looking for more volunteers at the Kitchen Hope in Kingsport to prepare meals, serve and clean up. This is a great opportunity to help the less fortunate in our community.

We need volunteers for the 1st Tuesday of every month. It is a 2 hour slot, mostly 3:00-5:00, but could use your services earlier as well.

To volunteer, or for more information, please contact: hunger@hvuuc.org

## July Treasury Report

The financial summary for the fiscal year 2022/2023 is shown below. Our income was above the budgeted amount due to strong support of the auction and pledges. Our expenses were only 98% of the budgeted amount giving a surplus for the year of \$12,941. This surplus is critical for funding major spending that is not part of the annual budget. This year it was divided between the Capital Repairs fund (\$11,647) and the Capital Projects fund (\$1,294). Clearly the support of the congregation has us in a very strong financial position allowing necessary repairs to the church. These include replacing rotting boards on the old deck and replacing windows with rotting frames in the minister's and DRE's offices. We also supported four different charitable organizations through fifth Sunday collections and continued our support of Kitchen of Hope with donations of money and time.

## Treasurer Summary Report - Fiscal Year 2022-2023

	Fiscal Year Actual	Fiscal Year Budget	Actual minus Budget
Income	\$186,054	\$176,184	\$9,870
Expenses	\$173,113	\$176,184	-\$3,071
Income minus Expenses (Surplus)	\$12,941	-	\$12,941

## Social Justice News and Initiatives

### Environmental Focus Group: Summer Matinee and Tomatoes

Join in for the celebration of this summer's backyard tomato harvest! We are gathering on Sunday, July 30th at 1245 in the kitchen for a tomato sandwich and matinee. Attendees are encouraged to bring their homegrown tomatoes to share. We also need bread (home-baked or not). Chips, pretzels, pickles, or other sandwich sides that do not require utensils are welcome.

Flavored bubbly water will be available. In further appreciation of the tomato season, gazpacho is on the menu. YUM!

The matinee in the sanctuary is, *The Biggest Little Farm*, a story spanning eight years of a California couple's building of their sustainable farm. A note: The movie takes place on a working farm. There are some scary scenes and scenes of animal illness and death.

### Peace Works Focus Group:

It was a very busy month for our Focus Group!

**June 21:** Bob Warner submitted an Action for Immediate Witness to the UU General Assembly. It got a lot of attention and praise, however, not enough votes to put it on the agenda. Like a copy? Email: [Peace@hvuuc.org](mailto:Peace@hvuuc.org).

**July 2nd:** Noel Marshall gave a Soapbox Sunday talk about Denuclearization. It has many references for study and action. Like a copy? Email: [Peace@hvuuc.org](mailto:Peace@hvuuc.org)

**July 15th –** The Peace Focus Group will be co-hosting “Co-Creating Peace” at the Peace Pentagon in Independence, VA. Many different faith and activist groups are attending. ARE YOU? All the info here: <https://fb.me/e/26oDJKTDN> If you are not on facebook, Email: [Peace@hvuuc.org](mailto:Peace@hvuuc.org) for flier.

**August 6th:** Nuclear Prayer Day will be celebrated by many local organizations including HVUUC. For more information: <https://www.uri.org/nuclear-prayer-day>

### LGBTIA Focus Group:

**June 24th:** Thank you all you came out to volunteer at our booth at the Rainbow Festival! The SJC sincerely appreciates your time and effort to make the day fun and successful! We had an awesome 8x5 Pride flag with “Love is...” written on it that we asked people to write their responses on! The flag is entirely filled up with responses! We got so much attention that day due to the flag, and people LOVED it!

**July 7th:** LGBTQIA+ meeting on July 7th, 5:30, Google meets. Going to be talking about tri-pride and reflecting on rainbow festival! <https://meet.google.com/jju-tzwj-esq>



Co-Creating PEACE at the Peace Pentagon  
Saturday, July 15, 2023



Join us for a wonderful day of Peacemaking at the Oracle Institute campus:

Peace Pentagon  
88 Oracle Way  
Independence, Virginia  
[www.PeacePentagon.net](http://www.PeacePentagon.net)

**THIS DAY OF PEACE WILL INCLUDE:**

- 10:30 ~ Tour of the Oracle Institute Campus & Turtle Island Labyrinth Walk**  
Led by Oracle Institute founder, Rev. Laura George
- 12:30 ~ Introductions and Potluck Picnic Cookout**  
Beef & Veggie burgers and drinks provided  
Prayer offerings by participating organizations
- 2:00 ~ Sacred Fire & World Peace Flag Ceremony at Peace Pole Medicine Wheel**  
Led by Fumi Johns Stewart, Executive Director of May Peace Prevail on Earth
- 3:00 ~ Peace on Earth Game discussion in the Peace Pentagon**
- 4:00 ~ Snack & Bathroom Break at River House**
- 4:30 ~ Water Blessing at the New River (oldest river in the Western Hemisphere)**  
Led by Rev. Becky Suzik with Music & Moment of Awe!

**MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH**

**EVENT DONATION: \$10**

**Overnight/Onsite Camping/Cabins available for extra charge.**

**More Info: [peace@hvuuc.org](mailto:peace@hvuuc.org)**

## Caring Team

Have an urgent need?  
Are you ill?  
Are you in the hospital?  
Can you help out?  
Want to join our team?  
We're looking for new members.  
Contact CARING@HVVUUC.ORG



THE CARING TEAM CARES ABOUT YOU



## 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!

## 2023-2024 Board of Trustees

**President:** Dottie Blades [president@hvuuc.org](mailto:president@hvuuc.org)

**Vice President:** Tish Kashdan [vp@hvuuc.org](mailto:vp@hvuuc.org)

**Past President:** Ann Johnson [pastpresident@hvuuc.org](mailto:pastpresident@hvuuc.org)

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**Secretary/Historian:** Alicia Culbertson [boardsecretary@hvuuc.org](mailto:boardsecretary@hvuuc.org)

**Membership Trustee:** Cynthia Goodman [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

Justin Ridley [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)