



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.

June 2021

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

Headlines

- Gathering Guidelines have been Updated—see page 4 for details
- Kitchen of Hope June 7
- Soap Box Sunday Deadline June 8
- Virtual Reception for Rev. Briere June 17 at 7PM
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM

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

Virtual Reception for our retiring minister Rev. Jeff and Kate Briere

We hope you join us and participate in the virtual farewell to thank Jeff and Kate for their enthusiasm and dedication to the UUA ministry as they start a new life journey here in East Tennessee!

When: Thursday, June 17, 2021

Time: 7-8 PM

ZOOM Registration Link:

<https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJMvdeGsqDIuG9dq1q4xjxQy3mxy9CfzR16y>



Upcoming Virtual Church Services

11:00AM Sundays at [HVVUUC YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvUUC)

June 7—Welcoming Congregation Renewal, Wendy Hearl
Learn about the Welcoming Congregation Renewal designation. Why do we want it? What are we doing to get there? PLUS Board incoming and outgoing acknowledgements.

June 13—Loving Happiness, Jonna Rae Bartges
Some easy things you can do to empower yourself in your pursuit of happiness.

June 20—Being Transgender and Christian
Aaron shares what it means to him and his own journey and relationship with God.

June 27—St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jos deWit
Jos de Wit, a chemist at Eastman Chemical Company and a cradle Roman Catholic, tells you about St. Vincent de Paul Society. This charity, almost 200 years old, consists of lay Catholics who help those in need, about 90% of whom are not Catholic themselves. Jos tells you how the groups work in general, and relates some specific ways they have been able to support families and individuals in our community this past year.

Smoky Mountain School of Elements & Magic Can Come to Your House this Summer!

Headmistresses Moonphase and Caldwell have stirred up a fantastic camp-in-a-box for you. If you "attend," you'll see some of your favorite professors in short prerecorded video lessons and you'll receive a box with everything you need for 15 classes!

Want to finish everything in 2 days? Give it a try!
Want to savor the lessons for months? That's fine, too!
The camp-in-a-box will include supplies for wand-making, divination, transfiguration, music, herbology, and so much more!

We have a tiered pricing structure so Smoky Mountain School is **accessible to everyone regardless of ability to pay**. If you cannot pay for these classes at all, that's cool. Please [sign your kids up](#) anyhow--there will be no difference in the experience they or you have.

If you can support our professors and purchasing supplies, we offer [three other tiers of payment](#) as well as an [opportunity to provide a scholarship](#) for one or more campers. We anticipate camp-in-a-box will mail by July 6.

Kitchen of Hope Monday, June 7

No volunteers are needed for Kitchen of Hope this month, but we are still serving meals.

The Kitchen of Hope is still serving meals to folks in need. In fact, the numbers have risen to 200+ a day. In an effort to keep volunteers and guests as safe as possible, the logistics have changed. Instead of a sit-down community meal, we now must serve to-go meals only, at the door, one at a time. We have adapted to this situation. And we, too, want to limit potential exposure for you.

Until things get back to normal, 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.

Thanks for all you do! Our community is infinitely better for your caring and commitment!

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



All Church Picnic Saturday, August 7

Everyone is invited to Shelters #28 and 30 at the Eastman Recreation Area at Bays Mountain, after 4:30pm.

Bring a dish to share and whatever you wish to grill, a drink, and a chair. Paper plates, napkins etc will be on hand.

Play, chat and chill together and meet our new minister, Rev. Tiffany Sapp!

Soap Box Sunday Service Deadline June 8

This service features four to five home-grown presentations, each one about 4 minutes long (400-500 words).

We know that our youth probably have a LOT to say about the current state of our country and environment and their future, so we encourage young people to participate, as well. Have you been to a protest in the last year or two? Why and what about? Tell us.

The July 4th service will be a virtual format (pre-recorded, on line). So if you volunteer and are selected, you can say what you wish to say from the comfort of your home. All help about how to record and deliver your recordings will be provided by the service coordinator, including coming to you to record your piece if that helps. If public speaking puts you off, your coordinator can offer some help there, too, and brainstorm creative options.

If you are interested or want to bounce a potential idea off a coordinator, please email soapboxsunday@hvuuc.org or reach out to Rosemary K.

Deadline: interest - before June 8th. Actual written work and video recordings need to be done by June 15th. This seems early but it helps organizers who are going to be away in July. Thank you.

Formation of the Reopening Task Force

The Board of Trustees of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (HVUUC) recently formed a Reopening Task Force. This group is charged to research and provide the board with a comprehensive recommendation of the steps, criteria, and protocol for opening in-person activities at HVUUC.

[Read more about the Task Force here.](#)

World Unity Week

A FREE ground-breaking online gathering June 19-26, where global changemakers will come together to connect, celebrate and advance the emerging good unfolding in the world. Unity Earth and its nearly 200 hundred co-convening organizations represent a reach in the tens of millions. You will find something of interest during WUW. AND - it is an open-forum - so if YOU want to bring a presentation or experience to the entire world – THIS is YOUR MOMENT!

World UNITY Week attracts a multi-cultural, intergenerational community beyond borders, at the intersection of science and spirituality, embracing indigenous wisdom, story-telling, music, conscious activism and so much more.

Key conversations during World UNITY Week spotlight topics as: collective climate action, partnerships for peace, global governance, interfaith and interracial harmony, sustainable and regenerative development, the role of business and economics, human rights, disarmament and other key elements of a new kind of future that we are called to create together.

Thousands of conversations. Hundreds of featured presenters. 8 Days. ONE World.

Learn more and register (FREE) at: <https://worldunityweek.org/>

If you have questions about being involved – contact Bob Warner at: NoelBob@LightPartners.org

Treasurer's Corner

Grocery Cards Still Available for Purchase

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

The cards we currently have in our possession were purchased well over 8 weeks ago. They are kept in ziplock bags and are not exposed to anything.

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!

Please Remember Your Pledge

Please continue your 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.

The best way to donate at this time is by check. Electronic donations are also possible, but they take a small percentage of each transaction, so the church will not receive your entire donation.

Mail to:
HVUUC
PO Box 8383
Gray, TN
37615

Write "pledge" in the memo line.



Thank you!

Gathering Guidelines

The Board of Trustees (BoT) voted at the May 19, 2021 meeting to **make changes to the facilities usage guidelines** and to **continue to hold virtual services**. These new guidelines will be through August 31, 2021 **Or** when the new Reopening Task Force has provided recommendations to the BoT.

A Reopening Task Force has been formed to research and provide recommendations to the BoT. There will be more communication about this task force's charge, membership, and progress in the coming weeks and months.

The following **NEW Gathering Guidelines** for small groups at our facilities (inside and outside of buildings) are now in place.

We strongly recommend continuing to use online forums for small group/committee/team meetings. However, the HVUUC Board has voted to allow people on site for activities as needed.

- Only **1 group** may meet at a time **inside the church building or on the deck**. To **schedule a room or the deck** for your meeting or workgroup and to make sure other groups are not already scheduled, please contact Karyn at office@hvuuc.org to reserve your group on the church calendar. You can check the calendar to make sure there are no conflicts at: <https://localendar.com/public/hvuuchurch>

To locate the church calendar from the church website (hvuuc.org), go to the "News & Events" menu and select the 3rd item, "Church Calendar" from the drop-down menu.

Gathering Guidelines for **Inside** Church Facilities:

- **No children's activities** allowed at this time.
- Groups of **10 people and less**
- **Social Distancing of 6 feet** should still be maintained between people of different households/pods.
- Guidance on **face masks in small groups** (please bring your own):
 - ⇒ If the group is a **mix of unvaccinated and vaccinated** people **OR** if **vaccination status** of all attendees is **unknown: All attendees should wear a mask.**
 - ⇒ If it is known that **all attendees** are **fully vaccinated AND all agree: Attendees can choose to not wear a mask.**
 - ⇒ The Fred Ball room (fellowship hall), sanctuary, and deck are the best meeting areas. The REZ is available if all of the above guidelines can be followed.

Must **wash hands** with soap and water for 20 seconds upon entering buildings, or use hand sanitizer and let air dry. Hand sanitizer is in several locations (foyer, kitchen, REZ), to be used as needed.

Gathering Guidelines for **Outside** Church Facilities:

- **No children's activities** allowed at this time.
- Guidance on **social distancing of 6 feet between people of different households/pods.**
 - ⇒ If the group is a **mix of unvaccinated and vaccinated** people **OR** if **vaccination status** of all attendees is **unknown: All attendees should social distance.**
 - ⇒ If it is known that **all attendees** are **fully vaccinated AND all agree: Attendees can choose to not social distance.**
- Groups of **20 people and less** are allowed if social distancing can be maintained in the location.
- Masks are not required for groups meeting outside.

Online Sunday services (on YouTube) will continue during this time. Virtual Religious Education (RE) activities for preschool through 12th grade will continue. Please register your children at [RE Reg form](#)

To schedule a Zoom Meeting

If your small group/committee/team would like to use Zoom, fill out the form here and on the website under the New & Events tab. <https://hvuuc.org/schedule-a-zoom-meeting>

Gathering Guidelines for **Outside** Church Facilities:

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 - ⇒ If it is known that **all attendees** are **fully vaccinated AND all agree: Attendees can choose to not social distance.**
 - ⇒ Groups of **20 people and less** are allowed if social distancing can be maintained in the location.
 - ⇒ Masks are not required for groups meeting outside.

Guidelines common for **Inside and Outside:**

- **Meals** should be **sack or box lunches**, no family style meals, ie pizza. No water coolers or other communal drinking, ie punch. Maintain 6 feet of distance during meals.
- **If you are ill**, have a fever/cough, are someone who is at increased risk, or traveled to endemic areas infected with COVID-19, **please stay home** and enjoy online content and fellowship.
- **Must clean** commonly touched hard surfaces like door handles, light switches, tables, counter tops, metal surfaces (chair backs), etc., **when finished.**
- Please use the cleaning wipes and/or bleach solution and paper towels in the foyer, kitchen, and REZ for cleaning/disinfecting after each visit.

Whenever possible **do not share work tools**. If sharing occurs, wipe down handles with disinfecting wipes before returning the tool.

	Max. Number of people	Social Distancing	Children	Masks
Inside Gathering	10	Yes	No	Yes: if group is mix of vaccinated/unvaccinated OR status unknown No: if all are fully vaccinated AND agree
Outside Gathering	20	Yes: if group is mix of vaccinated/unvaccinated OR status unknown No: if all fully vaccinated AND agree	No	Not required

Membership

Caring Team

The Caring Team coordinator for June is Alicia Culbertson. Contact Alicia at caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our May coordinator Brandi Hayes!

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.

2020-2021 Board of Trustees

President: Dana York president@hvuuc.org

Vice President: Ann Livengood vp@hvuuc.org

Past President: Tom Burns pastpresident@hvuuc.org

Treasurer: Deb Helmer treasurer@hvuuc.org

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Facilities Trustee: Greg Kramer facilities@hvuuc.org

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Membership Trustee: Michele Markstrom-Frisch membership@hvuuc.org

Minister

Rev. Jeff Briere: 477-7661 (office) minister@hvuuc.org

Director of Religious Education

Sarah White DRE@hvuuc.org

Music Director

Charis Carter musicdirector@hvuuc.org

Church Secretary

Karyn Cross 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