



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 2023

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

Headlines

- [Minister's Note](#)
- [Summer RE Activities](#)
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Up to date church info is always available at www.hvuuc.org

Save the Date

June 2—Women's Night
June 4—Multicultural Book Club
June 11—New Member Ceremony
June 12—Bruunch Bunch
June 14 & 28—Let's Chat Group
June 18—CUUPs Summer Solstice
Every Tues—Yoga with Tish

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

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

Upcoming Church Services - 11:00AM Sun

June 4, 2023, Rev Tiffany Sapp
Lighten Up

Humor is healing. Let's celebrate the human sense of humor this Sunday, and how it can make our lives better.

June 11, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp
Theodore Parker

A Transcendentalist and an Abolitionist, Theodore Parker was a Unitarian minister in the 1800s that inspired a wide gamut of thinkers and writers including Martin Luther King Jr and Abraham Lincoln. Today we learn a little something about this important figure in Unitarian Universalist History

June 18, 2023, Charlie Miller
How do we bridge the gap from meaning to moral?

As Unitarian Universalists, we share an ethical framework in our principles. Our individual moral stances may vary yet they converge in a democratic process to this common ground. Presumably the purpose of the 4th principle, how we search for truth and meaning, is to inform how we should act in the world. Yet knowing a truth or finding meaning in a narrative does not directly provide a moral direction. How do we bridge the gap from narrative to a personal moral? One must acknowledge a feedback loop from our communal ethic back to the individual. I'd like to introduce the concept of moral constructivism as a framework for investigating this question. The outcome should provide interesting questions for the individual to wrestle.

June 25, 2023, Sheila Ennis
Timshel and The Nature of Evil

What is Evil? Where did it come from? How does it manifest in the world about us? How do we recognize in others and in ourselves? Can we do anything to stop it, or even avoid it? These are questions that have confounded us since the beginning of time. Let's explore them using sacred writings, story, and art.

Atheist Group

The Atheist Group meets every first and third Wednesday at an off campus location from 6:00—8:00PM. Anyone that's interested in attending can email atheists@hvuuc.org for more information.

Summer Reading Time

so many of the summers of my youth were characterized by Summer Reading Lists. So as summer is happening all around us, I asked my colleagues what they would recommend for a congregation's summer reading. I've only read one of these, but they come recommended from sources I trust:

FICTION

Becky Chamber's Wayfarer Series: "Becky Chambers writes heartfelt, feel good, inclusive sci-fi. They are character-driven books that ponder what it means to be a sapient species, whether human, artificially intelligent, or other. They should be read by computer programmers as well as philosophers."

Seanan McGuire's Wayward Children Series: "the Wayward Children follow a set of characters who've somehow managed to find a doorway to a magical world (think Lucy and Edmund walking into a wardrobe and stepping into Narnia) and is spit back out only to try to find that world again. That's how the first novella starts, by introducing us to Eleanor West's Home for Wayward Children, and then following the story of Nancy."

"We Deserve Monuments" by Jas Hammonds: "Lovely black, queer young adult novel" and "Family secrets, a swoon-worthy romance, and a slow-burn mystery collide in We Deserve Monuments, a YA debut from Jas Hammonds that explores how racial violence can ripple down through generations."

NON-FICTION

"Who Do We Choose To Be" by Margaret Wheatley: "Summoning just the right mix of sober-mindedness and tenderness, the author explores the pattern of collapse of complex civilizations. America's chaos is already here with a culture that is caught up in consumerism, celebrities, scandals, and the omnipresence of war. The time is ripe for leaders whose charisma rests not in power plays and aggression but in the healing qualities of compassion, discernment, and presence." -significant Buddhist influences

"Incantations for Rest" by Atena O Danner: "Incantations for Rest is an invitation to slow down and explore every kind of rest, providing sacred space for those exhausted by the demands of a racist, ableist society. The 2022 volume of the inSpirit Series, this stunning collection of poems, meditations, and magic by poet-activist Atena O. Danner is an examination of spiritual spaces, a love letter to Black well-being, and medicine for BIPOC people." -Unitarian Universalist author

"What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be?" anthology: "What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be? explores the challenge of climate disruption and ecological disaster through poems, essays and interviews. By offering diverse responses from a worldly selection of multicultural voices, the book provokes examination and inspiration."

"Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto" by Tricia Hersey: "Far too many of us have claimed productivity as the cornerstone of success. Brainwashed by capitalism, we subject our bodies and minds to work at an unrealistic, damaging, and machine-level pace of work — feeding into the same engine that enslaved millions into brutal labor for its virtuous benefit. Our worth does not reside in how much we produce, especially for a system that exploits and dehumanizes us. Rest, in its simplest form, becomes an act of resistance and a reclaiming of power because it disrupts and pushes back against capitalism and white supremacy."

Happy Reading, and Happy Summer!

Rev. Tiffany

Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

Summer Religious Education

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

- June 4 - Nature Play w/Susan Cadwallader
- June 11 - Geology w/George Cross
- June 18 - Dutch Oven Cooking w/Greg Kramer
- June 25 - Sacred Spirals: The Math of Nature, Art, and Balance w/Cindi Huss

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

First Friday Women's Group

June 2nd, Friday 6:30 - 9:30 pm

June Host:
Dana Ensor

Look for the balloon marker on the mailbox!

Bring your favorite snack or beverage to share for this casual monthly gathering. Meet new friends renew old ones.

As always, all who identify as women are welcome.

For further information email womensgroup@hvuuc.org

CUUPs Summer Solstice

Celebrate the Summer Solstice with the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. We will be looking forward and looking back with the help of the Phoenix. Bring your tarot cards if you have any, for a journey unlike any other at this eclectic pagan ritual.

All are welcome! Email cuups@hvuuc.org with any questions.

General Assembly Congregational Feedback Gathering

On Tuesday, June 13th at 7:00pm you can meet with Rev. Tiffany and our General Assembly Delegates to hear about upcoming votes at General Assembly and give your feedback about them.

During this zoom meeting we will cover:

- The contested Nominations Committee vote
- A Business Agenda item about the UUA divesting from fossil fuels investments

During this time we will not discuss the Article 2 Revision Process as we have already spent quite a bit of time doing that this year.

Use the zoom link below to join the gathering.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpdeyqjstE9Z>

Cast Your Vote on the UUA's Proposed Article 2 Revisions

Please use the google form below to give feedback and indicate your voting preferences to the people who will be representing you at General Assembly this year. Deadline is June 5.

<https://forms.gle/dph2iELNg3QkFtJG6>

To see the full Article 2 Study Commission Report visit: www.uua.org/files/2023-02/article-II-study-report-2021-23.pdf

If you missed the workshops, you can find the Q&A by visiting:

<https://hvuuc.org/congregation-news/2023/4/10/seven-questions-about-proposed-article-2-revisions>

Scam Alert

Please be warned that there is an email scam that uses a fake email address impersonating the minister to request urgent assistance with an unspecified task, and/or financial assistance - often in the form of gift cards.

If you aren't sure and want to check the message's veracity, call the HVUUC office, or start a NEW email using the correct email address (minister@hvuuc.org or office@hvuuc.org), and ask. NEVER send gift card numbers or financial information via email or otherwise.

Social Justice News and Initiatives

Homeless/Hungry Focus Group:

THANK YOU! Joel Kellogg, Founder/President of HOPE for Bristol, gives thanks for the 5th Sunday Offering of almost \$1,000 from our HVUUC community. Social Justice Committee member, Emily H., presented the check to Joel who was on a “Gentlemen’s Bike Ride” and apologized for his unusual dress. All Good and Thank You HVUUC!

HELP NEEDED: The Social Justice Committee is looking for 1 more volunteer to help serve meals at Kitchen of Hope in Kingsport. The time and day is 3:00-5:00 on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Mary Williamson to volunteer.



Peace Works Focus Group

JULY 15: CoCreating Peace at the Peace Pentagon: Multiple organizations from TN, VA and NC are planning a day at the Peace Pentagon in Independence, VA (www.peacepentagon.net). Activities will include a tour of the 22 acre campus, pot-luck lunch and an International Flag Ceremony lead by the Fumi Johns Stewart, Executive Director of World Peace (www.worldpeace.org) and other activities. Car-pooling available from Pinnacle; overnight camping/cabins on site possible for an extra charge. Event Donation: \$10. Interested in learning more? Contact: Peace@HVUUC.org for more details. ALL WELCOME! Facebook Event Link with more details: <https://fb.me/e/3EMFizEny>

Environment Focus Group

JUNE 25: The Sullivan County Democratic Party is hosting a screening of the new documentary “TO THE END” on Sunday, June 25 at 2:00pm at the Bristol Library. Filmed over four years of hope and crisis, “TO THE END” captures the emergence of a new generation of leaders and the movement behind the most sweeping climate change legislation in U.S. history. The film follows four exceptional young women - Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, activist Varshini Prakash, climate policy writer Rhiana Gunn-Wright, and political strategist Alexandra Rojas— as they grapple with new challenges of leadership and power and work together to defend their generation’s right to a future.



Advocating Democracy Focus Group:

MAY 21: members of the Social Justice Committee attended a teach-in hosted by the NE TN League of Women Voters featuring Washington County Commissioner Jodi Jones. Jodi highlighted the structure and purpose of all local (County) government and tested us on the typical ignorance of citizens to the significance of the civic responsibility to participate in local government elections, decisions and actions. Video: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvnetn/videos/583327713781924>

Caring Team

Thank you to our April Coordinator Brandi Hayes

The Caring Team coordinator for May is Alicia Culbertson.

Contact Options: Email: caring@hvuuc.org
or find a Candle Card on the church cabinet

You may also call the office 423 477-7661

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