



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.

March 2022

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

Headlines

- [Message from the Minister](#)
- [Religious Education News](#)
- [Fellowship Art Pop Up](#)
- [Social Justice News](#)
- [Reopening Plan](#)

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

Do you know where the AED's
(Automatic External Defibrillators) are
in the church and how to use them?

Remember, that our Church has two AED's. (Automatic External Defibrillator). One is located as you enter the sanctuary on the right hand far wall. The second is in the REZ (Religious Educational Zone) as you enter on the left-hand side.

[Click here](#) to watch the helpful video called "AED DEFIB Demonstration". The short 4-minute video could save a life!

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

11:00AM Sundays at [HVVUUC YouTube](#)

March 6—*Not Knowing but Searching Anyway*, Rev. Sapp
Our free and responsible search for truth and meaning, in this diverse setting, can take a lot of different forms. How can agnosticism, skepticism and humanist teachings help us to keep this search responsible? This auction-winner sermon invites us to spend some time with our 4th Principle and our 5th Source.

March 13—*The Vision that Guides Us*, Rev. Sapp
"We work together as a church to transform ourselves, our community, and our world by sharing love, pursuing justice, and seeking wonder" That's our church's vision statement. How are we living it?

March 20—*Signs of Spring*, Rev. Tiffany Sapp
This outdoor, in-person service will be highly interactive and will focus on the walking trail around the property. There will be a video option for those not comfortable meeting in person or who are unable to walk the trail.

March 27—*Roofers, Rocks, and Rituals: The Role of Community in Healing Veterans*, Chaplain Michael J. Woods
In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus heals a paralytic man, but he would never have encountered Jesus unless his four friends carried him to the house, ripped a hole in the roof, and lowered him down. Healing is a communal act where God meets our deep hunger for wholeness. When one person finds wholeness, we all find wholeness.

Trigger Warning: Difficult matters of trauma and moral injury will be presented that could be difficult for some people to hear. Chaplain Woods will offer a talkback session immediately after the service on the back deck for anyone interested or who have follow up questions about his topic.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for reopening Sunday services

Message from the Minister

When I was a kid, I always loved maps. During long road trips and cross-country moves I would pass the time looking at landmarks and bodies of water, getting excited if I saw the real-life connection to the piece of paper in my hand.

Later when I got older, I would sit in the passenger seat next to Mom during the moves, proud to be her navigator in times before GPS. I loved seeing all the different ways to get from point A to point B and to see if I could come up with the best route. And the map gave me a sense of security, that as long as I knew where we wanted to go, had a map, and could read road signs, that we would get where we wanted to go eventually.

This month our community embarks on a new journey, and the maps we might have used are all out of date! We are reopening to in-person services while maintaining our online presence. We feel like it's time, based on feedback from you all, and using new guidelines the UUA released in January.

Road Map to Reopening

But we can't use our old maps to get there, the landscape has changed! Instead, just about every committee and leadership team at Holston Valley UU is working together to draw a new map, even as we continue to walk the changing landscape! There is no doubt that we will be learning as we go as we figure out what works and doesn't work, prioritizing safety and inclusion all the way.

As of right now our plan is to be open for the in-person option on **March 13th**. This hinges on a lot of pieces falling into place first. So maybe it's not just that we're drawing the map as we go but also clearing the trail as we go! I'm feeling optimistic about the date, AND flexibility will be key as we set all of this up.

How Can You Help?

Oh I'm so glad you asked. First, we are going to need a lot of volunteers: Ushers, Greeters, Video Camera Operators, a Childcare Coordinator and Video Techs for both online and in-person will be needed for just the bare-minimum re-opening. Look for more information about this [elsewhere in the Newsletter](#), and in your email.

Second, familiarize yourself with the plan and its restrictions. It can't be a free-for-all especially in the High Risk category that our Risk Assessment Team has determined. You can take a look at the High Level protocols here (<https://hvuuc.org/level-3-high>) and can find a link to the whole plan here (<https://hvuuc.org/reopening-plan>).

And finally, please offer our volunteers, staff and leaders as much flexibility, patience, and gratitude as you can. There will be adjustments and a learning curve for both the in-person and online gathering as we learn a new way again, so a little grace will be appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you soon, online and offline.

Rev. Tiffany
minister@hvuuc.org

Religious Education News

To our wonderful HVUUC families,

As we look to reopening our church after 2 years weathering the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to write to you all about what is going on within the Religious Education program.

There are a lot of details involved in the reopening procedure. Please take time to carefully read the guidelines, found here: <https://hvuuc.org/reopening-plan>

A Few Guidelines

Currently we are at Level 3 (High), and there are a few important things to note about this as the church plans to gather for in person worship in March:

- Adult Religious Education **can** meet, complying with room capacity, masks, etc.
- Childcare for unvaccinated children 6 months-4 years will be available **during the church service**. All other children will be invited to attend the service and sit with their family pod.
- Social hour after the service will happen outside on the deck.
- No food or drink to be consumed inside the church or REZ.

Again, please take some intentional time to familiarize yourself with the reopening plan.

Fellowship Pop Ups

Currently, Religious Education is assisting folks in hosting RE Pop Ups. These have been such joyous and fun opportunities for Fellowship! Pop Ups are a one time event where we help someone coordinate an afternoon of fun or education. We have had a Game Day for all ages, an evening working on our Unfinished Objects, and in March we are having a Community Mural pop up to explore our feelings of the COVID 19 experience. We are in need of more Pop Up hosts, so please contact Sarah at DRE@HVUUC.ORG to discuss some fun ways you can host!

Listening Circles for Families

Religious Education is planning to execute a comprehensive RE program for children and youth in the fall of 2022. In preparation for that we, with Rev. Tiffany, are offering two opportunities for families to participate in Listening Circles. The two dates are April 15th and April 23rd, both on Zoom. Registration links will be available soon!

While I am full of joy as we move toward reopening, I am also aware that not everyone is ready for that. This continues to be a complex experience for us all. Please know that I am available for you to answer questions, chat, and support you and your family.

In Fellowship,
Sarah

Path to Membership

There will be a Zoom Path to Membership class on **Sun. March 6, 2:00-3:30PM**

This is a class that helps prospective members learn more about our church and the opportunities for involvement. The class does not commit you to membership, but is a necessary precursor for joining our church. The class also lets you get to know a small group of people on a more personal level.

If interested please contact membership@hvuuc.org

Church Work Day

Mar 5



MORE DETAILS UNDER "EVENTS" AT HVUUC.ORG

Workday, inside and out. Spring is about to happen, so let's start to prepare for being outdoors at the church. We'll also clear the lower parking lot for a planned service on the 20th.

Contact Greg at facilities@hvuuc.org with any questions.

Please remember your pledge.

Make checks payable to "HVUUC."
Write "pledge" in the memo.

Mail to:
HVUUC
PO Box 8383
Gray, TN 37615

Thank you!



Volunteers Needed

To resume in-person services, we need some cheerful volunteers. If you're planning to join us in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, please consider being part of the action. We need volunteers for the following activities:

Outdoor greeter—take touchless temperatures, make sure folks have masks & sanitize their hands, direct parents with children under 5 to Childcare

Indoor greeter/usher — hand out bulletins, help folks find seats, collect offering at end of service & direct folks to the deck for Social Hour

Video camera operator/tech — record the service, help Rev Tiffany prepare it for on-line use

Child Care Coordinator — help find & organize Child Care workers

Child Care Workers — ANY leads for these paid positions will be most appreciated!

If you're looking forward to in-person church, & are willing to lend a hand to make that happen, please email reopeningtaskforce@hvuuc.org today.

Tell us which of these activities you'd like to do—or ask questions. Details & training will be provided.

COVID Reflection and Community Mural Pop-up

The Religious Education Collaborative is offering a COVID Reflection and Community Mural Pop Up on **Saturday, March 12th**. This seems especially appropriate since we first suspended in-person services on March 15, 2020 and are planning to resume them on March 13, 2022!!!

This is an all-ages, intergenerational opportunity that will allow participants to examine individual and community COVID feelings. Children and youth are encouraged to create in a different room from their own adults so everyone gets to participate fully in the process.

This event will involve RE programming and ART!

There are two time slots available.

- 12:00-2:00PM
- 2:30-4:30PM

We will have paint, crayons, colored paper, March 2020 church newsletters, markers, glue, double-sided tape, etc—more than enough stuff to get our art on!

Remember that masks are still required. We hope to see you all at this meaningful community Pop Up!

For more information and to reserve your spot visit the [event page here](#).

Social Justice Committee

Donation to NAACP



Our congregation's generosity spread into the community recently when Rev. Tiffany and Bob Warner, our Social Justice Committee Chair, presented our Social Justice Sunday 5th Sunday collection of \$572 to the Johnson City – Washington County Branch of the NAACP. Branch President Tavia Sillmon, accepted the funds with deep gratitude and a commitment that the funds would be put to good use in the organizations awareness and education efforts. Thanks to all who contributed.

Learning about Racism and White Supremacy

The Social Justice Committee recommends this amazing interview with Dr. Clarence B. Jones for our continued awareness of issues related to our study of America's history and current social/political environment related to how we live the first two UUU Principles:

1. Remember Your Inherent Worth and Dignity
2. Justice, Equity, and Compassion.

As we wrap up Black History Month, here's a heart-touching interview with Martin Luther King's attorney and speech-writer, Dr. Clarence B. Jones. (Bring Kleenex.) A 91-year-old still teaching us from a life of compassion and sacred activism. <https://youtu.be/0KsRpZ8OE7s>

TriPride Parade

The initial TriPride parade and festival was held in Johnson City. It followed the next year in Kingsport. Covid stopped this event in both 2020 and 2021, but TriPride organizers believe the third time's a charm, with the annual LGBTQ parade scheduled for the streets of downtown Bristol on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022.

Not only will 2022's TriPride Parade and Festival mark Bristol's first pride event, it will also make history as the first single pride event hosted in two states at once. There will be entertainment, vendors, food trucks and much more.

The HVUUC Social Justice Committee will be actively involved in TriPride as we have been in the past. So...mark your calendars now and we will share additional information as we get closer to this fun and educational event!

Sacred Activism in TN

Many who want to be more informed citizens and act to support the UU Principles in our state public policy, decision-making protocols and demanding representation of these Principles, wonder what a trusted and timely source of information is. We know that if we have true representative governance and laws and polices which support a better future, we speak up for our values and desired future for our future generations.

This starts with being informed. The Social Justice Committee recommends two sources of better understanding of issues facing our communities. Both organizations are nonpartisan and deeply committed to the American Experiment. Both the League of Women Voters (LWV) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have national and state organizational structure to support better understanding of issues and resources to assist you in becoming a more thoughtful and engaged citizen.

ACLU of Tennessee: <https://www.aclu-tn.org/>

LWV of Tennessee: <https://www.lwvtn.org/>

LWV of Northeast TN: <https://my.lwv.org/tennessee/northeast-tennessee>

Reopening Update

As of March 1st we are at Level 3 - HIGH

1. Building will be open for:
 - Worship service (with online Zoom and YouTube option)
 - Meetings and group gatherings
 - Memorial Services
 - Rentals (COVID-19 waiver required, kitchen unavailable)

2. Group Leader, Minister, or DRE – COVID Safety Protocols & Responsibilities
 - Ensure masks are worn by everyone inside the building, 3 years of age and older, regardless of vaccination status
 - Ensure masks are worn by everyone outside for activities involving close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated
 - Limit group size to posted room occupancy, take attendance, and ensure people from different households are spread out (i.e., Social Distance)
 - Check temperatures and ensure hand sanitation upon entry.
 - Ensure all refreshments are consumed outside. No communal food. (Individually wrapped or bring-your-own OK)
 - Disinfect all high-touch surfaces (e.g., door handles, light switches) prior to and following the meeting.

3. Modifications
 - Social Hour on deck. No coffee or food will be served. (Individually wrapped or bring-your-own OK) Kitchen is closed.

UNVACCINATED	LOCATION	FULLY VACCINATED
	Inside--Worship	
	Groups Outside	
	Groups Inside -- Sanctuary, Fred Ball Room	
	Groups Inside – REZ Classrooms, Offices, Lower Level, Restroom	

Additional notes:

1. Groups are considered “Fully Vaccinated” ONLY when all members are fully vaccinated. If any member is not fully vaccinated, ALL members will follow “Unvaccinated” safety protocols.
2. Pre-recorded or instrumental music (non-wind instruments) indoors. Outside singing permitted with masks, social distancing.
3. It is expected that anyone who is sick will STAY HOME.

For full details about our Congregation's Reopening Plan visit: <https://hvuuc.org/reopening-plan>

Caring Team

Caring Team coordinator for March 2022 is:
Freda L.

For assistance email requests
to **Caring@hvuuc.org** for a quick reply.

You can also call the UU office at
423 477-7661, Tues. or Thurs., 9am -2:30pm
or leave a message anytime.

A big Thank You for February Caring coordinator
Lynn S.

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

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!

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.

2021-2022 Board of Trustees

President: Ann Livengood president@hvuuc.org

Vice President: Ann Johnson vp@hvuuc.org

Past President: Dana York pastpresident@hvuuc.org

Treasurer: Deb Helmer treasurer@hvuuc.org

Stewardship Trustee: Charlie Miller stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org

Programs Trustee: Bryan Kleske programs@hvuuc.org

Facilities Trustee: Greg Kramer facilities@hvuuc.org

Secretary/Historian: Dottie Blades boardsecretary@hvuuc.org

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

Minister

Rev. Tiffany Sapp: 477-7661 (office) minister@hvuuc.org

Director of Religious Education

Sarah White DRE@hvuuc.org

Music Director

Charis Carter musicdirector@hvuuc.org

Office Administrator

Jessica Bowman 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