



# 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.*

March 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

Mar 13—Brunch Bunch

Mar 17—Game Group

Mar 19—Spring Equinox Celebration

Mar 21—bUUK Club

Every Wed—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

**March 12, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp**  
*Improvisational Church*

How do we address uncertainty and change together? Can we make it fun? What do the lessons and rules of Improv groups and Jam Sessions have to offer us?

**March 19, 2023, Rev. Tiffany Sapp**  
*The Giving Tree*

This Christmas HVUUC did an experiment called "the Giving Tree" and it taught a lot of us about the power of generosity and community. This sermon is NOT about the Shel Silverstein book, but is about Generosity as a spiritual practice

**March 26, 2023, Charlie Mattioli**  
*Spirituality Amid the Duty of Car Maintenance*

A Unitarian Universalist and a Methodist meet in an auto dealership. The UU owns an Avalon, the Methodist a Toyota 4Runner. But that's not what their conversation is about. Listen in on their conversation that at times is funny, profound, frustrated, and deeply personal. Only the packaging is creative. The ideas, questions, conversations, and frustrations are all real ones from somewhere along my spiritual journey. Hopefully, it might deepen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism and in learning about my spiritual journey get you thinking about your own.

## SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

March signup sheet posted on the bulletin board located in Fellowship hall near kitchen.

This valued social hour can't happen without volunteers!

Committees can volunteer for the month with two people each Sunday. This helps greatly.

Have questions or need more info...just email [coffeeshour@hvuuc.org](mailto:coffeeshour@hvuuc.org)

Sign up for daily or weekly news and event emails at our website here: <http://ceepurl.com/c7GW3H>

# Always be Training Your Replacement

Several years at General Assembly I had an opportunity to attend a Berry Street Lecture about leadership in our Unitarian Universalist movement. The presenters had gotten their first taste of leadership in the youth movement, and had come to all of us ministers and future ministers to discuss what they had learned about organizing through UU youth programs.

Their message felt especially relevant as Elandria Williams and Barb Greve were both serving as the Unitarian Universalist Association's co-moderators. Elandria and Barb were both strikingly young to be holding these positions of high authority and responsibility. And they had both also begun their journey of lay leadership in Unitarian Universalism as youth as well, learning many of the same lessons that I would hear at the Berry Street Lecture.

And now I'm going to pass this lesson on to you all, but rather than make you listen to an entire lecture for it, I will sum it up in five words!

## **Always Be Training Your Replacement**

This is as much of an attitude or an awareness more than it is anything else. It doesn't mean you need to formally recruit anyone to be "in training" for the work that you're doing right now. Far from it, actually. What it means is inviting someone to join you in your work, and to show them things you're doing that work for you.

The reason why this was so important for the youth movement was that youth only have four years in high school before they're moving on to the next thing. This means that they literally cannot get away with waiting to find their next replacement. From day one, a youth leader is looking for the next, slightly younger person, to take under their wing, so that when it comes time to find the next round of leaders, there are many already prepared to take up the mantle.

### **So today's newsletter article is an invitation:**

If you're already leading, look around you and see who you can invite to work alongside you. You don't need to ask them to be your replacement, but you absolutely can teach and share knowledge as you do this work together.

If you're not leading yet, take a close look at what you're doing. Because in this context Greeting and Making Coffee is leadership too. Because it's something you can teach someone else how to do. Just a simple invitation to join in the fun, work by your side for that particular Sunday morning. "Good morning friend! I'm here handing out bulletins and helping people get oriented, you want to hang out with me and do it together?"

And if you're really not leading yet, then this might be a great chance to "manage up." To approach someone doing a job you're interested in and asking if you can help.

Many hands make light work is a cliché because it's true. There's a unique kind of satisfaction that comes from bringing others into our circle. So let's do it!

Rev Tiffany  
minister@hvuuc.org

# Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

## Volunteer Opportunity

Some work will be taking place this month in which two people will be volunteering their time for two full days. As a thank you, the church would like to provide them with lunch.

The dates are tentative because the weather is a factor, so this would be a task that may need to be filled on short notice. At the moment, the dates are during the week.

If you're interested in providing a light lunch, please email Doug at [facilities@hvuuc.org](mailto:facilities@hvuuc.org)

## Nothing says "Spring" like....

Yes, that's it, Cleaning! The date is set; mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 23**. Our service for the day is our service for the day and the focus is revitalization. Following RE, please join your family, friends, and potential new friends in the sanctuary for 'Service Sunday', beginning at 11:00.

Bring your family members and your elbow grease. While you're there, enjoy conversation, exercise, a tummy full of pizza, and hopefully a clear sky. Take home fond memories and fun pictures.

Special skills are appreciated but not required. There is a variety of tasks we need to accomplish so everyone can find something to suit their interest, age, and talent. The list is mighty!

Examples include; window washing, spider web demolition, library organizing, hymnal corral, and general cleaning. If you prefer the great outdoors, consider shrubbery control, leaf relocation, pressure washing, and playground maintenance. Do not feel restricted by these lists; more opportunities await.

Equipment and tools are appreciated. Pizza and drinks are provided. The nursery will be available.

You will find a reminder and more details in the April newsletter.

Contact [facilities@hvuuc.org](mailto:facilities@hvuuc.org) for questions.

See you there!

## Spring Equinox Celebration

The spring equinox, sometimes called Ostara or Eostre, will occur on March 20 at 5:24 PM EDT. In the Northern Hemisphere it celebrates the emergence from the dark months into the time of equal light, and the Earth's awakening from its sleep into new life and new growth.

The CUUPS celebration of Ostara will take place on Sunday, March 19 th , at 2:00 PM, at HVUUC, 136 Bob Jobe Road, Johnson City TN.

This will be an Open Circle event, welcoming all Practitioners, guests, children, and those who are curious about Ostara and how we celebrate it.

Please feel free to bring items to decorate our celebration space. Greenery, spring bulbs, flowers, and eggs are traditional symbols of this time. Other items featured in your own celebrations are also welcome.

## Game Night

Game Night is friendly competition in a supportive environment, playing modern board (and card) games.

**WHEN:**  
Friday March 17, 6:30—10:00

**WHERE:**  
Join us on the lower floor of the REZ for fun and fellowship.

Wear green this month for St. Patrick's Day!

## Girl Scout Collection

Girl Scout seniors Alexis, Moth, and Olivia are working on their gold award project, collecting period products for a local high school. They aim to improve access to period products for high schoolers and to eliminate period poverty.

They will have a well-marked bin set up near the front door starting the 5th of March specifically for collecting period products. This collection will be going on from March 5th to March 19th.

Thank you for supporting troop 543's efforts and for supporting teens in need of period products.

## Social Justice News and Initiatives

### Peace Works Focus Group:

**Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** “Nuclear Dangers” with Noam Chomsky, Daniel Ellsberg and others. March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 2 PM ET. ZOOM Meeting ID: 885 7965 9956 Passcode: 917787

**Saturday, March 18:** United Religions Initiative NE TN welcome all to their OPEN HOUSE at The Philosopher’s House; 7-8:30 PM: More Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/760688108794252>

**Sunday, March 26:** People’s Hearing for Nuclear Awareness to Expose the Dangers of Nuclear Weapons Work at Nuclear Fuel Services – Erwin, TN. Johnson City Library; 2 – 5 PM. More Information: <https://fb.me/e/3hxJJEPcN>

**April 10:** War and the Environment Online Class: [https://worldbeyondwar.org/war-and-the-environment-april-10-may-22-2023-online-course-registration/ZOOM Conference](https://worldbeyondwar.org/war-and-the-environment-april-10-may-22-2023-online-course-registration/ZOOM%20Conference) – all are welcome

**SAVE THE DATE: July 15:** Visit to the Peace Pentagon ([www.peacepentagon.net](http://www.peacepentagon.net)) in Independence, Virginia.

### Anti-Racism Focus Group: SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023 AT 1 PM

#### Multicultural Book Group

As the congregation continues to deepen its learning around the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and building a multicultural Beloved Community, we will be reading the UUA’s Common Read for 2023: “Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism” This book provides several case studies of Unitarian Universalist congregations doing this work, and we hope it will give us some inspiration for our own work!

We will take our time moving through this book, with a preliminary meeting on Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm to establish our covenant, distribute books, and work on some important foundational definitions. After that we will meet monthly on the first Sunday of the month after church, taking one chapter per meeting.

Please contact [antiracism@hvuuc.org](mailto:antiracism@hvuuc.org) to sign up or for more information.

### ADVOCATING DEMOCRACY FOCUS GROUP: ‘TIS THE SEASON

No, not THAT “season.” The Tennessee legislative “season”. These are the months when the State legislature is defining the spirit, tone and direction of the State by enacting laws that will effect the lives of ALL Tennesseans. Health care. Education. Human rights. Voting rights. Environment. Poverty. Homelessness.

Our opportunity as UUs living the UU Principles, is to be aware of the legislative discussions and decisions being made. Two of the best resources for non-partisan evaluation of these discussions and issues are the state chapters of the ACLU and the League of Women Voters. Being informed is an invitation to exercise YOUR civic duty to providing YOUR input to YOUR legislators. You can learn about the Tennessee issues and sign up for (legislative) alerts at: <https://www.aclu-tn.org/> and <https://www.lwvtn.org/>

## Health/Disability Focus Group:

East TN Disability Day of Mourning Virtual Vigil 2023  
Wednesday, March 1 · 6:00 – 8:00pm EST  
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/hso-vnek-qky>  
Or dial: (US) +1 414-909-7333  
PIN: 336 634 426#

Sunday March 12 @ 2:00 PM

Health care affects everyone, but the issues surrounding it are numerous and complex. We all need informed, well-reasoned, and practical knowledge in order to understand what the issues are and identify effective options, strategies, and solutions for addressing urgent health care access needs.

Join the League of Women Voters of Northeast Tennessee on Sunday, March 12, at 2 p.m. for our educational program featuring Judy Roitman, executive director of the Tennessee Healthcare Campaign, to gain information we can use to better understand and address health care issues in Tennessee. This free event will take place in the Community Room at Food City, 920 N. State of Franklin in Johnson City, and is open to the public. For more information, email [lwv.netn@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.netn@gmail.com)



The Tennessee legislature just passed two bills targeting the LGBTQ+ community. One will ban public drag performances and the other will strip trans youth of their right to seek gender-affirming care. They want us to sit by quietly as our rights are taken away, but ETSU students are standing up and fighting back!

On March 31 a drag show and story hour will take place in protest of these new laws. Proceeds will go toward paying performers and building queer and trans political power in Tennessee. There will be some amazing performers, state representatives and community leaders who will talk about how we can stand up to the bullies in Nashville.

Thanks to YDSA and others who are helping to make this event a reality!

## Caring Team

MARCH 2023 COORDINATOR: Cynthia G.

MANY THANKS to Linda Good for her caring help in February.

We ask for and welcome any new volunteers for this very Important church work. Please consider being on the team.

Contact [caring@hvuuc.org](mailto:caring@hvuuc.org) for assistance or more information.

## 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!

## 2021-2022 Board of Trustees

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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)