



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.

May 2021

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

Headlines

- All in person Worship Services and Religious Education classes have been suspended until June 30
- Religious Education Kits for Kids are available! See page 4 for info.
- Kitchen of Hope May 3
- Women's Group at Dana's Farm Friday, May 7 at 6:30PM
- Path to Membership Class May 16 at 11:45AM
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

May 2—*Justice: Just Do It*, Rev. Jeff Briere
What is the purpose of our church? What are we supposed to be doing?

May 9—*My Mother Taught Me...*, Rev. Briere
Today's service will celebrate all that our mothers taught us.

May 16—*Serve Somebody*, Rev. Jeff Briere
The title of today's service is taken from a Bob Dylan song. Ya gotta serve somebody.

May 23—*The Choices We Make*, Tom Neilson

May 30—*Memorial Day*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A remembrance of a few people who have left us.

Rev. Tiffany Sapp Called to Ministry at HVUUC!

We are delighted to announce that Rev. Tiffany Sapp was called to ministry by a unanimous vote of members at our annual meeting today, April 25, 2021. Rev. Tiffany will begin her formal service with HVUUC on August 1, 2021.

Rev. Tiffany first felt the call to ministry as a youth and followed a beautiful, difficult, joyful, inspired path to join us in ministry now. She served as an intern minister at HVUUC in the 2018-19 church year, and she served pastoral training and residencies at the James H. Quillen Veterans Administration Medical Center and the Johnson City Medical Center.

Rev. Tiffany's spiritual journey has led from her roots in the United Methodist Church through pagan spirituality to a fully integrated Unitarian Universalist identity. She is passionate about pastoral care and interfaith work and currently is treasurer for the Northeast Tennessee United Religions Initiative Cooperation Circle.

When asked what ministry she hopes is ahead of her, Rev. Tiffany replied, "Now more than ever, our world needs Unitarian Universalism. We need communities committed to justice, equity, and compassion. Congregations where our people can be cared for, educated and inspired, so that they can then go and do the work that will transform this world for the better."

Entering ministry with a church now is different than at any other time in history, and Rev. Tiffany is up for the challenge. "Whether we are connected virtually or in person," she says, "I will support this congregation as it builds and strengthens its community through pastoral care, inspirational worship, and leadership that lifts up HVUUC's vision and mission."

Rev. Tiffany is prepared and excited to walk with our congregation into the future. She says, "Ministry is something that we do together, it isn't the sole realm of the minister."

Kitchen of Hope Monday, May 3

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 (we hope!!)

Women's Night Friday May 7 at 6:30PM

Join us at 6:30pm on Friday, May 7 at Grand Oak Farm for a long needed gathering of HVUUC Women!

Dana will have a socially distant bonfire and s'mores. Please bring a mask and gloves for the snack table, a camp chair, and the usual snack and/or drink to share.

Come on out and let's celebrate the season! For Dana's address or questions, please respond to womensgroup@hvuuc.org.

Paid Caregiver Position Available

The Charles family is creating 2 paid caregiver positions to stay with John Charles. John is doing well but still needs a caregiver with him at all times.

Position 1- Full time, 37 hours Monday-Friday
Position 2- Part time, as needed

Please contact the Caring Team at 423-477-7661 or Caring@HVUUC.org

Religious Education RE Kits and Kids Coffee Hour

We are so excited to be offering RE Kits. The first ones were delivered the middle of June and then every other week until we are meeting in person again. To register for the kits go to <https://hvuuc.org/religious-education-registration-form>

Please send me photos of your children and youth enjoying the activities!

I am also thrilled to announce that I will be hosting a Kids Coffee Hour on Zoom 2nd and 4th Sundays from 10:00-10:30AM (the Sunday on the week between kit deliveries), to chat with your children. I want to connect with them and get their feedback on the kits and see what they created. This is new territory for all of us, so I don't have an agenda for the chat. It's just to connect with one another and engage.

There is an extra level of privacy to these Zoom chats.

Sarah White, Director of Religious Education
DRE@hvuuc.org

Nefarious Evil-doers Are At It Again!

A relatively new member of our congregation was attacked recently by a scammer who tried to pry money out of their pocket by impersonating me. Thankfully, they called me before they acted on the message, and I disabused them of the notion that I was trying to raise money for some cause.

This has happened before, and I am sorry that a congregant fell for it the last time and forked over a few hundred dollars. I am not the only minister who has been impersonated and I regret I cannot stop this activity.

I can, however, give you some clues so that you can identify miscreants before you succumb to scams in my name. First, I would not ask you for money or assistance for myself. Just won't happen. If you receive a message from me that asks for money or assistance for a congregant in need, here are some considerations you should think about before sending money:

1. Consider the circumstances. It is extremely unlikely that I would approach, by electronic message, any one member or friend of this congregation, for monetary or physical assistance for another congregant or particular need. It is more likely that I would tap the Minister's Discretionary Fund. I might also involve the Caring Team, or maybe, the Stewardship Trustee. I might also make some sort of public announcement, like this blog post, which all could see.
2. Regarding e-mail, if you get a plea for assistance from me, closely examine the sender, which has both a display name and a return e-dress. The display name could be anything, from Donald Duck to Donald Trump. So if the display name is "Rev. Jeff Briere," treat it with suspicion until you examine the return e-dress. My return e-dress is <jeffbriere@gmail.com> and I am the only person who can send e-mail from that address. I don't send email from <jeffbriere@yahoo.com> or <jeffbriere@msn.com> or <minister@hvuuc.org.> The current scammer had a display name of "Rev. Jeff Briere" and return e-dress of <churchpastor5066@gmail.com>, which is an obvious giveaway.
3. I would not use Facebook nor any other social media platform to contact you about an emergency or a request for assistance. Just won't happen.
4. Examine the body of the message. I write complete English sentences, with a subject, an object and a verb. I use appropriate quotation marks, commas, periods and other such. If sentences begin with a lower-case letter, and they run on with no period, if they have screwy syntax, if they have stray apostrophes, you can bet I did not write them, no matter how much the message indicates I might be in distress.
5. In the current situation, the person who got scammed could not balance the crazy message they were reading with what they knew of me and my communication style. They called me to verify my request, which is a good idea. If you are suspicious, call me to see if I wrote you. Leave a message with the office.
6. Tiffany may want to amend these remarks, and she will do so later this summer.

Rev. Jeff Briere
Minister
Holston Valley
Unitarian Universalist Church

Treasurer's Corner

Don't forget, our fiscal year ends May 31. If you have any questions about the balance of your pledge for this year, please send an email to treasurer@hvuuc.org.

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 to continue to hold virtual services and to continue the previously advertised facilities usage guidelines until **May 31, 2020**.

We are watching the Covid-19 cases in our area and will reevaluate at our February and March BoT meetings about extending this decision further into the spring.

The following Gathering Guidelines for small groups at our facilities (inside and outside of buildings) continue to apply.

Gathering Guidelines for Inside and Outside Church Facilities

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 that must be held in person, e.g. work groups.

Only 1 group may meet at a time inside the church building. To schedule your meeting or workgroup and make sure other groups aren't 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 aren't 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 4th item, "Church Calendar of Events and Meetings," from the drop-down menu.

Additional Guidance

- No children's activities allowed at this time.
- Please do not bring children to any activity happening at the church.
- Groups of 10 people and less
- No more than 1 meeting of 10 people or less inside the church building.
- No more than 10 people in any 1 area of the outside property for workdays. For example, the entrance garden.
- Whenever practical, work projects should be divided into small groups or individuals.
- The Fred Ball room (fellowship hall), sanctuary, and deck are the only meeting areas that are open for use. The REZ is still off limits for meetings.
- People doing work projects may enter other locations, but must maintain at least 6 feet of distance while inside.
- Must wear a face mask (please bring your own)
- When working alone outside a face mask is not required. Face masks are required when working in groups of 2 or more.
- Anyone in the building must wear a mask.
- 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.
- Continue keeping a distance of 6 feet between people of different households.
- This is especially for inside activities but should also be adhered to when outside as much as possible.
- Whenever possible do not share work tools. If sharing occurs, wipe down handles with disinfecting wipes before returning the tool.
- 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, 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.

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>

Membership

Caring Team

The Caring Team coordinator for March is Joseph Viola. Contact Joseph at caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our February coordinator Joy Boyd!

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.

Memorial Wall

When we lose a member from our beloved community through death we honor their name and memory with our Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall is located outside to the right of the sanctuary and includes the name, year of our friend's birth, and year of their death.

In the year 2020 we memorialized 1 from our beloved community: Lloyd Powell Foster, Jr.

If you would like the name of someone in our community that has died to be added you can fill out the form found at Memorial Wall. Member's names may be added based on their documented request or the request of their family member or community friend.

Former members and non-members names may be added with board approval based on their documented request or the request of their family or community friend.

There is no cost to request a name be added to the memorial wall; however, the cost of adding a name to the wall is about \$125.00. If you wish to donate to the Memorial Wall please write 'Memorial Wall Fund' in the 'memo' line and mail with your next donation.

2020-2021 Board of Trustees

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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