



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.

November 2022

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

Headlines

- [Minister's Note](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Social Justice](#)

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

Save the Date

Nov. 4—Women's Night
Nov 12—Gratitude Dinner
November 19—Service Auction
Dec 11—Green Arts Festival
Dec 18—CUUPS Yule
Jan 23—8th Principle Workshop

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

Upcoming Church Services - 11:00AM Sun

Nov 6, 2022, Rev. Tiffany Sapp,
Remembering

This time of year contains many traditions for remembering those who have passed away this year. This interactive service will remember those we've lost.

Nov 13, 2022, Rev. Tiffany Sapp,
Forgiveness

There are times when the choice to Forgive is a choice for personal sanity. There are other times when we choose not to forgive, often as a way of holding boundaries for ourselves. It's a tricky issue, and not as simple as I once believed it was.

Nov 20, 2022, Dian Gorsira,
Holy Disruptions, Holy Resilience: Trauma and Spiritual Care

Utilizing our religious traditions and resources, how might we disrupt trauma-laden narratives in order to reorient persons toward holistic resilience?

Nov 27, 2022, Mrs. Margeson,
Success in the Public School Classroom

Mrs. Margeson believes that diversity and inclusion are keys to better learning outcomes for all. She will share her philosophy of education and the remarkable results she has achieved in the classroom. She promises to keep in mind that this is not an educational conference.

Service Auction 2022

It's that time of year where we can offer our gifts to the congregation and raise volunteer hours & money to support the church throughout the year. You can donate items, services, experiences, and the congregation will bid to buy these items. The auction provides both the benefits of income for the church and an opportunity to engage as a community.

We will continue to record all auction items on the web-based platform, Auctria, as in the past several years. You can utilize the Auctria website or mobile app now to donate items. Please go to <https://auctria.events/2022HVUUCauction> now and start entering those donations!

Proposed Changes to UUA'S Article II

Friends, this month's newsletter article is a little complex, and is about potential changes proposed for the Unitarian Universalist Association's organizing documents. While I will be addressing this proposal in more detail from the pulpit at a later date, the Article II Study Commission is offering a series of feedback sessions in November that you may want to participate in, so I wanted to make you aware of this proposal in time to participate in these upcoming sessions.

What Are These Proposed Changes?

In 2009 calls to re-examine how we are using and living our Principles as a religious movement began in earnest, through recommendations that came out in a series of denomination-wide studies. In response to these requests for re-examination, the Unitarian Universalist Association's Board formed a Study Commission to look at possible changes to Article II of our Bylaws, which include the Seven Principles and the Six Sources. In response to feedback and brainstorming sessions both during and following the 2022 General Assembly, the study commission has released a proposed entire re-write of Article II.

In this proposal, the Seven Principles that so many of us are familiar with are replaced by Seven Core Values: Love, Justice, Generosity, Evolution, Pluralism, Equity and Interdependence. Instead of Six Sources, they make a very broad statement about how "we draw upon and are inspired by, the full depth and breadth of sacred understandings, as experienced by humanity." I cannot even begin to summarize the content of these changes without preaching an entire sermon here, so instead, I suggest that if you have any interest in this at all, that you visit the page of the Article II Study Commission and read the full DRAFT of their recommendation:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

On that page there is also a schedule of the upcoming feedback sessions and a chance to sign up to participate and share your feedback.

When the Study Commission released this draft, they submitted it with the following suggestions about how to read the draft, which are inspired by Appreciative Inquiry practices.

They suggest you read it three times:

1. Read it the first time to observe how it makes you feel.
2. Read a second time, observe what it makes you think.
3. Finally read it a third time before thinking about any suggestions.

There's a lot to consider regarding these proposed changes, and I'm still thinking it all over myself. My initial impressions are in uncomfortable tension with each other (and I am reminding myself that being uncomfortable isn't actually a bad thing, but an opportunity to grow).

First, when I read the seven values that they've named, without thinking about what they're supposed to replace, I feel like they definitely fit how I live out and talk about my Unitarian Universalism. In very deep and meaningful ways.

Second, I definitely feel a sense of attachment to our Principles and our Sources as they stand now, and it worries me to see a proposal that takes them out of our foundational organizational documents. Surely, I will not be the only one who is processing complex feelings and thoughts around this proposal. And that good news is that we have lots of time to do some inner and outer work around this proposal.

What Are We Going to Do?

Here are some initial steps we can take as a congregation regarding the proposed re-write of Article II:

- If you have the initiative to read up on the proposal, and attend the feedback sessions that are being held now through mid-November, I encourage you to do so.
- I will be offering a two-part sermon on the work of the Study Commission, and the proposed changes, on January 8th and January 15th.
- We will have a series of Listening Circles and/or Discussion Groups in February and March around these proposed changes
- Our delegates to General Assembly this year will have the significant responsibility of hearing Holston Valley UU's feedback and voting to represent our congregation at the 2023 General Assembly. We should take special care in our process of choosing our delegates and instructing them of our wishes this year.
- We will keep looking at the Eighth Principle as all of this is going on: we have been assured by Paula Cole Jones, who is involved in both the Eighth Principle project and the Article II Study Commission, that continuing to do work on the Eighth Principle will be a worthwhile endeavor. Because if the revisions don't pass then the Eighth Principle continues to be an important possibility for our community's future. And if the revisions do pass, then our work around the Eighth Principle connects strongly to the seven values that are being proposed, especially Justice, Equity, Interdependence and Love.

What Isn't Changing?

This news of potential changes may cause some anxiety, so it's important to me that we take a look at what isn't changing.

First, remember that these are proposed changes, and that it will be a two-year process to see changes actually come to fruition. You can get information on what this long process looks like by visiting the Article II page link that I gave you earlier in this article.

Second, the autonomy of local Unitarian Universalist churches to govern themselves remains. The provisions that make our congregation the final authority in congregational life and governance are outlined in a separate article of the bylaws entirely, which is not up for debate or revision. We remain a free and independent church, regardless of how these revisions go.

Third, Unitarian Universalist freedom of belief is still sacrosanct, and is even spelled out in section C-2.5 of the proposed Article II revisions.

Fourth, Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church will continue to be a place where we build loving and accepting community, where we work together for justice, and where diversity and equity are celebrated.

I know this is a lot to take in, and I hope you can take some time to see how you feel and what you think about it all. I hope you'll work with me as I sort out my position, and that we continue to affirm that we need not think alike to love alike.

And I hope you will engage with our listening circles and our broad democratic process as we find our way.

With Curiosity and Love,

Rev. Tiffany A. Sapp

Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

November Coffee Hour

Caring Team covering as follows:

11/06 Joshua Beckett, Betty & Mike Jackson

11/13 Alicia Culbertson & Kim Ray

11/19 Linda Good & Brandi Hayes

11/27 Freda Love & Dan Coughlin

Email coffeeshour@hvuuc.org with questions.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Foster Care Signs

Please see Jon Anderson after the service or call him at 423-483-1177 if you'd be interested in a Camelot Foster Care yard sign from his work with foster children.

The signs aren't very big. 24 inches tall and 32 inches wide.

Attention—HVUUC BrUUnch Bunch

Regularly scheduled brunch for November and December is cancelled.

The BrUUnch Bunch will resume monthly meetups in January 2023.

Anyone interested in hosting or have any questions contact brunch@hvuuc.org.

Thank you for a fun 2022 and may we gather again in the New Year!

Green Arts Festival

Support local artisans while you do your holiday gift shopping & find great swag for yourself, too. An enticing variety of arts, crafts, and delicious edible goodies await. And sales help to support HVUUC's Green Initiative.

This year the Green Arts Festival will be online from 9AM on Nov 21- noon on Nov 29 AND in person from noon-2PM on Dec 11.

If you want to shop online, you can access the catalog through the HVUUC.org website—click on

the Green Arts logo. You will have the option to pay online with PayPal or Venmo. You'll see payment instructions when you check out—be sure to label your payment as "to a Friend" so we don't inadvertently get charged extra fees. You can also purchase "Delivery" & your items will be delivered to your home after the in-person sale on Dec 11.

If you'd rather pay by cash or check, you can do so when you pick up your items at the in-person sale.

If you want to shop in person, vendors will be in the Fred Ball Room from noon-2PM on Sunday Dec 11. You can pay with any of the 4 options and take your items with you.

NOTE: Some vendors will be ONLY online and some ONLY in person—so be sure to check both venues—you don't want to miss anything! The online catalog will continue to grow as artists submit their items—check back often.

If you or someone you know would like to submit items (online &/or in person), contact greenarts@hvuuc.org.

Feel free to tell friends & family who might be interested—the more the merrier!

8th Principle Workshop

Led by Ms. Paula Cole Jones. Ms. Cole Jones' workshop will introduce the 8th principle and offer new insights for creating a congregational culture of inclusion. The workshop will:

- introduce strategies to achieve long term cultural change
- share a framework for how collaboration and accountability shape the racial and social justice history of institutions in the United States
- engage participants in an interactive experience of the transformative power of the 8th principle

This workshop will be held on Zoom on January 21, 2023

HVUUC is sponsoring 8 registrations, so spots are very limited!

To apply, please email Sarah White (DRE@hvuuc.org) to request the application.

Social Justice News and Initiatives

Vote Vote Vote!

November 8 – the moment to fulfill our sacred obligation as citizens of this great country. Without YOUR vote, the “American experiment” is incomplete. Many in our state “give up” because “there is only one party” here.” In fact, the dominate “party” in Tennessee is “those not voting.” 44% of eligible TN voters did not vote in 2020. The deeply held UU Principle related for democracy in our church, community and nation compels us to be a full participant – and invite others to do the same. www.Vote411.org will tell you all you need to know about how and where to vote.

Hunger First

Thank you everyone for your generosity this past Sunday for our 5th Sunday collection for Hunger First. So far, we have collected \$1,244.00 ! If you missed this, you may still (anytime!) write and send a check to HVUUC with a note stating that it is a donation for Hunger First.

Post Card Signing a Success!

Thanks to all who participated in the October 23 Voter Postcard Signing event. In 2 hours, 24 volunteers hand wrote and addressed 250(!) postcards to disenfranchised Black voters in Alabama encouraging them to get to the polls on November 8 and VOTE. (

Did you know that Alabama does not have ANY Early Voting? Another of the many voter suppression methods the state has in place – can’t get off work that day, too bad, you don’t vote!) Special thanks, also, to those who chipped in to purchase the stamps!



Food Donations

The Social Justice Committee would like to thank everyone for continuing to bring in canned goods and monetary donations for Hunger First in Kingsport and the Jonesborough Food Pantry. The donation wagon is in the foyer. We collect canned goods, paper products, bath items, etc. Also, money is a great way to donate, since it enables pantries to buy what is needed. Place your monetary donation in an envelope, and/or stick it into one of the bags in the wagon.

HVUUC Candyland Christmas Tree

HVUUC is sponsoring a Candyland Christmas Tree at Founders Park/Kings Common in Johnson City this year! Our tree will have new/unused free items for those in need to take from the tree. We will be asking for donations for this in the upcoming weeks. We will also need some elves to decorate and restock our tree from time to time. This will be fun!

URI Gratitude Dinner November 12

The annual gathering has been a significant Tri-Cities area community event to celebrate all that we have as blessings in our lives. After a 2 year COVID break, we are excited to be together again. ~ The program will include prayers, stories and ritual from representatives of many faith and belief traditions including Buddhist, Cherokee, Eastern Christian, Muslim, Pagan, Sikh, Western Christian.

Turkey and vegetarian option entrees, rolls, drinks and cake will be provided and you are invited to bring an appetizer, salad, side or dessert to share - particularly foods that represent YOUR culture.

This FREE (love-donations welcome) event will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 on November 12 at the Carver Recreation Center, 322 West Market Street in Johnson City.

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet – November 18

Theme: “Past, Present, Future” the banquet will be held at Munsey Memorial - United Methodist Church - 201 South Roan Street, Johnson City. Ubinibi-Afia will perform a one-act play, titled “Nancy” - a portrayal of Elihu Embre’s slave from Washington County, TN. Use this link to register: <https://givebutter.com/OmGVHI> Donation: \$45

Caring Team

Special thank you to Dan Coughlin for your work as the Caring Coordinator during October.

Our November Coordinator is Freda Love.

Please email caringteam@hvuuc.org with any needs.

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!

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.

Up to date information can always be found at www.hvuuc.org