



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.

August 2020

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

Headlines

- All in person Worship Services and Religious Education classes have been suspended through September 30
- Religious Education Kits for Kids are available! See page 3 for info.
- Called Social Justice Meeting Sunday August 2 at 11:30AM (must register)
- Kitchen of Hope August 3
- Speak Easy Information Session Wednesday August 5 7PM (must register)
- Kids Coffee Hour Aug 9 & Aug 23
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM

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

New Minister Search

Despite these challenging times, the Search Committee continues their work to have a new minister in place by August 1, 2021.

Picnic Cancelled

The HVUUC annual August church picnic at Eastman is cancelled this year. We hope to plan again for 2021.

Fall Service Auction 2020?

Brainstorming is currently ongoing as to how an online auction with items that could safely be purchased and redeemed might work. Get your brain working on things you could offer and look for more information to be rolled out soon!

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

August 2 - *Rules for Being Human*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A service based on a few lessons from ancient Hindu tradition

August 9 - *Humanism's Greatest Hits*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A broad critique of humanism. It's a dead end.

August 16 - *Some Assembly Required*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A service that explores building a theology for yourself, some that all Unitarian Universalists must do.

August 23 - *Report from General Assembly*, Rev. Briere Dana York, Rosemary and Bryan Kleske bring us their impressions of the 2020 virtual GA.

August 30 - *Harrowing of the Heart: Discerning the Sacred in a Hospital Bed*, Juniper Stinnet
Hospital chaplains, coming from a wide array of theological traditions and personal backgrounds, find themselves in the heat of this experience, enter into all the possibilities a human life might contain, humanizing the impersonal, witnessing to suffering on all its scales, and provide the soft human edge to what is so often an impersonal context, particularly in a time of global pandemic. How does one discern divinity and the sacred in the very room where death is happening? What does healing mean when there isn't a reliable, quick cure? Make room for the holy within your heart and join us as we enter into worship together.

Juniper is a third year seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School and a graduate from ETSU where she studied Bluegrass music and Philosophy. She is an intern minister at Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, and a resident chaplain at Johnson City Medical Center while she undergoes Clinical Pastoral Education. Juniper is an advocate and activist for LGBTQ+ peoples in Knoxville and the surrounding area and serves as a chaplain to the local transgender community.

Social Justice Call to Action Meeting

August 2, 2020 - 11:30 AM on Zoom

[Click here for Zoom Meeting Registration](#)

Black Lives Matter Statement to be voted on:

Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church denounces all forms of institutional racism and cultural violence. We stand in ongoing solidarity with Black people, indigenous people, and people of color harmed by both past and present injustices.

The recent vigilante and police killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Rayshard Brooks, among others unnamed and unacknowledged, represent the system of white supremacy. We decry and mourn their sufferings, as well as the conditions that produce such acts.

Peace and equity are often difficult to achieve under conditions of deep injustice. We must all work to eliminate racism in our families, our neighborhoods, and our places of work and worship by first learning to make changes in ourselves.

As Unitarian Universalists, our first Principle affirms the worth and dignity of every person. Keeping this always in our consciousness, we invite all church members, congregants, and friends of the church to pause with deep self-reflection on the ways in which we are called to confront and combat these forces.

At Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church we must help create a beloved community where Black Lives Matter.

For more info: <https://hvuuc.org/events/2020/7/18/social-justice-call-to-action-meeting>

Speakeasy Informational Session

A plan has been developed to group church members and friends together, like extended families. The members of each group would 'covenant' or 'promise' each other that they will wear masks as mandated, sanitize hands frequently, and socially distance at work and in public, in order to be able to meet as a group like a family and not have to wear masks when together.

Want to know more?

Register below in advance for an informational Zoom session on Wednesday, Aug 5 at 7 PM.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYofuCqgD8sHNNtloH0KyuC19-vPpl8Doja>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Thank you!

Pandemic Task Force

thinktank@hvuuc.org

(Note: This is an aggressive plan that is meant to reward the diligent with a closer, family experience, that we think will result in deeper relations. But it may not be right for you or your household. You might prefer a Zoom version of Speakeasies or enjoy other offerings the church is providing for social interaction.)

Stay tuned for more announcements of future opportunities!

Adult Religious Education

There is interest in our adult church friends and members to have an online Adult RE class.

This is wonderful!

What could this look like?

Our members and friends in Adult RE 1 can virtually resume viewing and discussion of Great Courses! This could be done via Zoom by one person screen sharing the session with the rest of the attendees. Once the video is done, the person can stop screen sharing and participants can discuss it just as they usually would! If the Great Courses curriculum is on a DVD, the person screen sharing will have to have a computer that can play DVDs.

Our members and friends in Adult RE 2 can resume viewing and discussion of The Good Place! This could be done via Zoom by one person screen sharing an episode from Netflix with the rest of the group. Once the video is done, the person can stop screen sharing and participants can discuss it just as they usually would!

If you are interested in these options, read more here: <https://hvuuc.org/congregation-news/2020/7/28/adult-religious-education>

Kitchen of Hope Monday, August 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.squarespace.com/donate> please indicate it is for Kitchen of Hope
To donate food: Contact Kim at KOH@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!

Religious Education Summer RE Kits and Kids Coffee Hour

We are so excited to be offering Summer 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

Game Night: Online

The church Game Group has gone online! We are using Zoom and a website called Board Game Arena (BGA) to play board games and chat on the second and fourth Saturday evenings at 7pm. In our first get-together we even reconnected with a few church friends who had moved out of our area. Newcomers are very welcome to join! You'll just need to create a free account at BGA and have an internet- and webcam-enabled computer or laptop.

If you are new to this online version, please contact Kirk in advance at gamegroup@hvuuc.org with interest and/or questions.

Gathering Guidelines through September 30, 2020

The Board of Trustees (BoT) has voted to continue to hold virtual services and church-wide activities online through September 30, 2020. We are watching the Covid-19 cases in our area and will decide at our August BoT meeting about extending this decision through October. The following Gathering Guidelines for small groups at our facilities (inside and outside of buildings) 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 3rd 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.

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>

From [LightPartners](#): Two significant world-wide virtual events coming in August that are about peace and justice. All are welcome to join us for these very special gatherings.

Hiroshima Nagasaki 75 ~ Healing Souls ~ Healing Nations ~ August 5

Come listen to Voices Calling for Peace. The program will include messages from Hibakusha Survivors, the Chernobyl Experience, the Fukushima Experience, a World Peace Flag Ceremony, a special message from Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima and more...

The time will also include a THE GLOBAL SYNCHRONIZED MEDITATION at the exact atomic moment when the bomb fell on the City of Hiroshima in remembrance of all who have suffered in war, for a healing of souls, a healing of nations and to envision a new world of planetary Oneness, Harmony and everlasting Peace. Bring your hearts, your community, your tribe to exponentially converge in our love for humanity and planet earth. MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH

Join this historic moment. Watch online event here: www.worldpeace.org

In the USA - August 5th

6:00pm - 8:00pm EDT / 3:00pm - 5:00pm PDT

For more information email:

info@worldpeace.org or May Peace Prevail on Earth on FaceBook

From Ferguson To The World

On August 9th, 2020, exactly six years after 18-year-old Michael Brown was fatally shot by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, a day of remembering and healing will take place throughout the world. Lesley McSpadden, Michael Brown's mother said, "*All mothers want justice for their child, but until we get it we are seeking healing.*"

Black SON Day was created by Dr. Marty K. Casey, founder of UnGUN Institute, to globalize the many initiatives that have emerged since the Michael Brown killing.

"The whole world has been watching these events unfold, causing extreme trauma," said Dr. Casey. *"Now we must react, respond, and reset our emotions in order to heal. On Black SON Day we can collectively join forces and begin to heal spiritually."*

The event is in partnership with numerous global networks and partners and will include the following:

Host an online forum for collaboration on how to move forward

Incorporate the arts as part of community response to traumatic events

Introduce The UnGUN Institute H.E.A.L. Method™

This virtual live event will take place twice on Sunday August 9th:

Session 1 - 3:00 -6:00 PM CDT (2pm Central Time USA)

Session 2 - 18:00 - 21:00 PM CDT (5pm Central Time USA)

This event will feature an open Q&A session with leading experts on healing trauma, the telling of personal stories from families who have been traumatically affected by senseless acts of violence and learning to UnGUN and disarm trauma. There will also be dance, music and other arts. The program will conclude with a DJ'd dance party aimed at creatively disarming trauma from our minds, bodies, and souls.

Many more details of the day's engagement options are at the Facebook event page for Black SON Day.

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". The password is the same one that you used on the old website. If you need the password, email office@hvuuc.org.

Once you log in, you can see a recent member directory, get a reimbursement form, see our tax exempt certificate, the board policies and procedures, and board meeting minutes.

Caring Team

The Caring Team coordinator for August is Cynthia Goodman. Contact her at caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our July coordinator Lynn Scarborough!

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!



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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