



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.

December 2020

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

Headlines

- All in person Worship Services and Religious Education classes have been suspended until December 31
- Religious Education Kits for Kids are available! See page 3 for info.
- Kitchen of Hope December 7
- Green Arts Fest Online Dec 10-12
- Kids Coffee Hour Dec 6 & Dec 20
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM
- Pancakes and Jam Dec 27—Musical submissions due by Dec. 15
- New Years Day Hike to Chimney Top

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

Thank You for Participating in our Fall Service Auction!

We would like to thank everyone who was able to participate in the virtual version of our annual service auction this year.

From the auctioneers perspective, it was a great success. There were very few problems that arose during the 3 day auction and we brought in \$7,322 for the church budget!

Fingers crossed we'll be back to our normal in person auction next fall!

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

December 6 *The Emperor's Tea*, Rev. Jeff Briere
There are many stories of gifts being given at this season. This service contains a cautionary tale about mistaking the wrapping for the gift.

December 13 *Festivals of Light*
A beloved celebration of many traditions around this time of year from many faiths.

December 20 *The Grinch and Ebenezer Scrooge*, Rev. Jeff Briere
Two characters who are universally disliked return every Christmas: The Grinch & Ebenezer Scrooge. Why?

December 27 *Pancakes and Jam: Virtual*
Our beloved community event, Pancakes and Jam, will go on this year, virtually. We can all make pancakes for ourselves, and enjoy them from the comfort of home, while we watch our community of musicians - of all levels and ages - share their talents with via a pre-recorded line up.

New Years Day Hike

The tradition continues with a New Years Day Hike to Chimney Top Mountain. We will meet at Dane Faulkner's house, unlike previous years. There's a lot of parking at his place.

Please be prepared for a windy hike because we will on the mountain top. Please bring at least 1 quart of water and a snack. Masks are required as we gather to start the hike. Good hiking shoes are really needed, the trail is very steep. I will have flagging tape to mark the trail for those who choose to come later or prefer to stay away from the pack.

A head count is needed, so please email Greg K. at facilities@hvuuc.org and let him know if you plan to come.

Dane Faulkner: 345 Sugar Hollow Lane, Fall Branch, TN

Green Arts Festival

Shopping starts Thursday, December 10 at 9AM

Shopping ends Saturday, December 12 at 6PM

Never fear--you can still do your holiday shopping from the safety of your home--while supporting local artisans and HVUUC's Social Justice/Green initiatives (10% of all sales goes to the church).

This year our annual Green Arts Festival will be entirely online. All submissions and shopping will be done using the Auctria website. This is the same website we just used for the church service auction.



Go to www.auctria.com/auction/greenartsfestival now to submit items or to peruse the many offerings so you're ready to shop when we "open the doors" on December 10. You will also be able to shop using the Auctria mobile app on your phone. Go to the app store on your mobile device and search for the Auctria app. When it's installed, the home screen will have the option to Enter an Event. Enter greenartsfest.

Shopping, Checking Out and Paying

On December 12 at 6PM, the shopping will be over and a statement will be emailed to you for the contents of your shopping cart. If you finish your shopping earlier and want to check out, email greenarts@hvuuc.org and a statement will be sent to you.

You have several options to pay:

- 1) Venmo to Kim Ray
- 2) Paypal to aardvarkart@kjay.com
- 3) Cash (exact change will be most appreciated)
- 4) Check to Kim Ray

Pick Up or Delivery

- 1) You can pick up your treasures on Monday, Dec. 14 between 8 AM and 8 PM at Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 136 Bob Jobe Rd, Gray, TN
- 2) If you pay by Venmo or Paypal, you can also choose to purchase "Delivery" for \$10, and your treasures will be delivered to your doorstep on Monday Dec. 14. (Tri Cities only) Purchases must be paid for before delivery is made.

Submitting Items for Sale

If you would like to offer arts/crafts/homemade items for sale, contact greenarts@hvuuc.org for further information.

Make those lists and check them frequently, as new items are added often!

Send any questions to greenarts@hvuuc.org.

Pancakes and Jam!

Sunday, December 27

Our beloved community event, Pancakes and Jam, will go on this year, virtually. We can all make pancakes for ourselves on December 27th, and enjoy them from the comfort of home, while we watch our community of musicians - of all levels and ages - share their talents with via a pre-recorded line up.



Start working on your musical contribution now.

Deadline for submissions: by or before December 15th.

- Anyone can submit a performance for the jam event, but they must fit within these guidelines: 1 act per person, though you can be in several group acts.
- Up to about 4 minute length.
- You must supply full and correct attribution of song/piece. e.g. the original composer(s)/ songwriter(s).
- Please indicate how you/each in the group, wish to be credited (first name only, first name last initial, full name).
- "Homegrown quality": nothing polished or overly produced. Those who have edited or put together videos, or combined separate voices for choir and personal works are not available to help for this event, so we are looking for simple, homey, fun.
- The video compilation will be aired on December 27th for all to enjoy at home. It will be left up on YouTube for a short time to be determined. We wish for those who may be a bit shy about having their work seen by anyone, forever, to feel some level of comfort.
- Ideally, your video should be oriented horizontally (landscape).
- Please consider safety and physical distancing guidelines: we encourage creativity among families and those in a safe 'pod.'
- Create an initial test video and assess volume. Listen at about $\frac{3}{4}$ volume: is it clear? It can be made softer but if too quiet, it cannot be made louder on the YouTube video.
- It is not mandatory but if you play an instrument, it is nice to see the instrument as well as face in the video.

You can contact PancakesAndJam@hvuuc.org and a location for uploading your video will be provided. If you have questions, feel free to contact the provided email or contact Rosemary K.

THANK YOU,
Religious Services Committee

Facilities Report

By Greg Kramer

What's been happening to the Church while we've been physically distanced?

This is an update to the congregation about some of the changes being made at the church while Sunday Services and other church activities are physically distanced.

Improvements and maintenance repairs continue even though we are not meeting at the church. The biggest change you will notice is that we have painted the Sanctuary and Foyer. In preparation to paint the Sanctuary, I had the entrance wall, which was a dark colored rough wood, covered with sheetrock and painted. This has really brightened up this area. The Sanctuary carpet has also been cleaned.

The workday on November 7th was a success, though we have more to do outside. Lots of leaves were raked, but there are more to do because we have so many oak trees which are reluctant to let go of their leaves. Various gardens were cleaned and trees behind the REZ were cut down. Our hiking trail was cleared and improved by the installation of benches so you can sit and enjoy nature.

Other changes include a French drain that was installed by the Nursery door. We unfortunately had the Nursery flooded and this drain was installed to divert water away from the door.

Joseph Viola has been repairing our old deck by replacing boards and joists.

We've hired a new custodian, Justin Garland.

Lastly, I've closed the foyer bathrooms until next year. I have found out during the workday when the old septic tank was uncovered, that the tank has a sewer leak and the field bed lines are crushed. It is going to cost approximately \$10,000 to hook these bathrooms to our new septic tank, so please consider this extraordinary cost as you plan for end of the year donations or next years pledge.

I wish you Happy Holidays and a safe New Year.



Treasurer's Corner

Direct donations to the church from your bank – it's easy!

Sending a donation the church directly from your bank is the same as setting up on-line BillPay. Using this function incurs no fees, compared to the 3% paid to PayPal.

There are two ways to set this up and both work fine.

- You can enter the church name and address as a payee, and the bank will send a check to the church.
- You can get the church's account number by emailing treasurer@hvuuc.org and enter this along with the name and address of the church. This will send your donation directly to our account. This makes it easier on our end since we don't have to submit the check to our bank.

That's it! No envelopes, no stamps, and no fees involved. Don't hesitate to email the treasurer at treasurer@hvuuc.org if you have any questions.

References (The information above is based on the section listed "Go through your bank")

<https://www.moneyunder30.com/automatic-payments-explained>

<https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/banking/online-bill-pay-what-it-is-why-you-should-use-it>

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!



RE Kit Drivers Needed

Did you know we are serving over 70 children in our distanced Religious Education program? This is incredible outreach!

We are in need of adding a couple more RE Kit drivers to our volunteer roster. We are in dire need for some extra help this Saturday. Are you able to assist either this one time only or on a rotational basis?

Please email Sarah at DRE@hvuuc.org!

Kitchen of Hope Monday, November 2

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



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

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>

Gathering Guidelines

The Board of Trustees (BoT) voted to continue to hold virtual services and to continue the previously advertised facilities usage guidelines until **December 31, 2020**.

We are watching the Covid-19 cases in our area and will decide at our September BoT meeting about extending this decision through November. We also took into account the [Covid-19 Survey Results](#) that the Pandemic Task Force compiled and shared with the congregation that showed that our congregation feels comfortable with staying virtual at this time.

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 December is Brandi Hayes. Contact caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our November coordinator Freda Love!

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.

2020-2021 Board of Trustees

President: Dana York president@hvuuc.org

Vice President: Ann Livengood vp@hvuuc.org

Past President: Tom Burns pastpresident@hvuuc.org

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Programs Trustee: Wendy Hearl programs@hvuuc.org

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

Minister

Rev. Jeff Briere: 477-7661 (office) minister@hvuuc.org

Director of Religious Education

Sarah White DRE@hvuuc.org

Music Director

Charis Carter musicdirector@hvuuc.org

Choral Director

Kate Briere choir@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