



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.

February 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 March 31
- Religious Education Kits for Kids are available! See page 4 for info.
- Kitchen of Hope February 1
- Racial Justice Program Tuesday, February 16 and 23 at 7pm
- Pledge drive kickoff February 21
- Kids Coffee Hour February 28 at 10:30AM
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM

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

Looking for a few good people to help lead us into the future

Even though we can't gather in person right now, our church is alive and well, and our work goes on!

The Nominating Committee is starting to look for nominees for the 2021-22 Vice President, Programs Trustee, and three new members for the Nominating Committee. With a new minister coming, this is an exciting time to be involved in guiding and sustaining our church.

Position Descriptions can be found in the Member's Area of our website hvuuc.org. Contact the office if you need the password at office@hvuuc.org.

If you might be interested in any of these positions, or have any questions about them, please contact us by February 15 at NomCom@hvuuc.org.

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

February 7 - Say Their Names, Rev. Jeff Briere
Although Unitarian Universalism is overwhelmingly comprised of white people, there are Blacks and other marginalized people in our ranks. Today we identify them.

February 14 - True Love, Rev. Jeff Briere
A few love stories taken from the book by Robert Fulghum.

February 21 - Stewardship Is Not a Class for Airline Attendants, Rev. Jeff Briere
Today begins our annual stewardship campaign .

February 28 - Our Shaky Voices , Linda Good
Honoring both Black History Month and Women's History Month, guest Linda Good explores the life and words of Audre Lourde, and the power of speaking out.

Pledge Drive Approaching

It's that time of year again to get ready for the Annual Pledge Drive! We have a number of things to be excited about for the future (e.g. a new minister, eventually gathering in person again), and we look forward to pulling together in continued support of the HVUUC vision for our area.

Please anticipate a few activities in the near future. On February 21st, the Stewardship Committee will provide an overview of expenses and income this year, proposed budget changes for next year, and the targets of the pledge drive to enable our goals and obligations. The pledge cards will be distributed, and through March, pledge information will be collected.

Please be on the lookout for these communications and take time to consider what you value in the church community and services.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Stewardship Committee, please email stewardship@hvuuc.org.

February is National Heart Awareness Month

According to the CDC heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States. Here are 5 ways to Celebrate America Heart month.

1. Exercise
2. Know your Risk Factors
3. Get a Check Up
4. Eat Healthy
5. Reduce Stress

We want you back at Church when this Pandemic has subsided. Until then, Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Well!

Kitchen of Hope Monday, February 1

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



Search Committee Update

The search committee received a list of quality applicants early in January. Currently they are reviewing ministerial records and interviewing top choices, and they will make offers to precandidates on January 23.

The next step will be speaking with references and precandidate weekends, where select applicants preach at neutral pulpits and meet more extensively with the search committee as we all proceed in our process of discernment.

The congregation is curious about what is going on, and the search committee knows it is important to share our progress. Please remember, though, that the search committee has a covenantal duty of confidentiality, so we cannot share anything more. Please respect these boundaries, which protect the reputation of our congregation and of ministerial applicants.

The search committee is grateful to the ministers who have expressed an interest in serving with us and to members and friends of HVUUC who helped us develop a well-rounded snapshot of our congregation.

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

Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge Workshop Tuesday Nights February 16 – March 9

In support of Black History Month, Dr. Noel Marshall and Bob Warner are offering a 4-week program on Racial Equity and Social Justice. This program will focus on subsequent weeks on voting, education, public health, and criminal justice reform. The program is inspired by the 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge of the Knoxville and Cleveland YWCAs.

The program will include video shorts, highlighting both the issues and some solutions, plus 30 minutes for participant discussion. The intention is to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership.

The program will be a 90-minute Zoom video meeting, held for 4 consecutive Tuesday nights starting February 16 at 7:00pm.

Registration will be via Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racial-equity-and-social-justice-challenge-workshop-tickets-139047706433>

“Walk-ups” are welcome as well. EACH OF THESE SESSIONS WILL BE STAND-ALONE, so you need not attend all sessions to participate.

For additional information, you can contact Bob or Noel at NoelBob@LightPartners.org.

“Participation in an activity like this helps us to discover how racial injustice and social injustice impact our community, to connect with one another, and to identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination. This is an exciting opportunity to dive deep into racial equity and social justice.”

~ YWCA Greater Cleveland

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!

New IRS Charitable Deduction Provision

The Internal Revenue Service has a special new provision that will allow people to easily [deduct up to \\$300 in donations to qualifying charities this year](#), even if they don't itemize. Taxpayers are encouraged to take advantage of this provision.

If you need a tax statement of your donation for year 2020, please contact Ramesh at pledge@hvuuc.org

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.



Gathering Guidelines

The Board of Trustees (BoT) voted to continue to hold virtual services and to continue the previously advertised facilities usage guidelines until **March 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

To reach the Caring Team coordinator for February, Joy Boyd, email caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our January coordinator Lynn Scarborough!

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

Treasurer: Deb Helmer treasurer@hvuuc.org

Stewardship Trustee: Charlie Miller stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org

Programs Trustee: Wendy Hearl programs@hvuuc.org

Facilities Trustee: Greg Kramer facilities@hvuuc.org

Secretary/Historian: William Kauffman boardsecretary@hvuuc.org

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

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