



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.

January 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.
- New Years Day Hike to Chimney Top
- Kitchen of Hope January 4
- Kids Coffee Hour January 17
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM

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

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 be 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

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

January 3 - *Let It Go and Bring It On*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A service dedicated to getting rid of what we don't want and amplifying what is good.

January 10 - *Adam & Eve*, Rev. Jeff Briere
Nearly everyone knows the story of Adam and Eve. It's part of our culture. But what does it mean for us?

January 17 - *King Day*, Rev. Jeff Briere
King Day is tomorrow, so today meet the real Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 24 - *The Lowest Difficulty Setting*, Rev. Briere
An examination of white privilege through the game, "Real Life."

January 31 - *Huschka House Transitional Living: A Place to Bloom*, Guest Speaker Donna Cherry

Donna Cherry is an Associate Professor in Social Work at ETSU and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in trauma. Most recently, she has co-founded and is the Executive Director of Huschka House Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to providing affordable transitional living and support services for youth, including those aging out of foster care, who are at-risk for homelessness. Donna is passionate about nurturing successful futures for these young adults to grow and become valuable members of our community.

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

State of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church - January 2021

From the Treasurer:

The Board of Trustees wants to inform the congregation of our financial stability as we enter 2021. The finances for the first half of the fiscal year have gone very well. In November, we paid the last mortgage payment and are now the debt-free owners of all our grounds and buildings. Our income has been good due to solid support from congregational pledges, and our expenses are down from what was budgeted (see table below). Overall, we are in a strong position at the start of 2021.

Treasurer Summary Report – Through Second Quarter 2020 - 2021

	Totals through Second Quarter	Budgeted amounts through Second Quarter	Totals through Second Quarter Actual minus Budgeted
Income	\$89,374	\$89,778	\$-404
Expenses	\$82,122	\$89,778	\$-7,656
Income minus Expenses	\$7,252	-	\$7,252

Keep an eye on your email for more updates from church committees and the Board of Trustees in blog posts during the month of January.



The burning of the church mortgage!

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!



Kitchen of Hope Monday, January 4

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

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 January, email caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our December coordinator Brandi Hayes!

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

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