



# NUUSLETTER

The Newsletter of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church  
always available online at [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org)

*The mission of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is to promote spiritual growth, religious freedom, and ethical action.*

July 2021

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

## Headlines ....

- Gathering Guidelines have been Updated—see page 4 for details
  - Kitchen of Hope July 5
  - Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM
  - Church Picnic August 7
- Up to date church info is always available at [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org)

## All Church Picnic Saturday, August 7

Everyone is invited to Shelters #28 and 30 at the Eastman Recreation Area at Bays Mountain on Saturday, August 7 after 4:30pm.

Be on the lookout for updated gathering guidelines for this event coming later this month

Play, chat and chill together and meet our new minister, Rev. Tiffany Sapp!

## Formation of the Reopening Task Force

The Board of Trustees of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (HVUUC) recently formed a Reopening Task Force. This group is charged to research and provide the board with a comprehensive recommendation of the steps, criteria, and protocol for opening in-person activities at HVUUC.

[Read more about the Task Force here.](#)

## Upcoming Virtual Church Services

11:00AM Sundays at [HVUUC YouTube](#)

### July 4—*Soapbox Sunday*

Soapbox Sunday has become a tradition in many congregations. In this special service, members and friends exercise their right to free speech and "get up on their soapbox" to tell us something about which they are concerned or passionate.

### July 11—*Trauma and Triggers: Flipping the Script*, Charis Carter

**July 18—*Growing Up in the 60's and 70's***, Bryan Kleske  
Older folks born and raised UU can be a bit rare. Learn of one life-long UU's experiences and perceptions growing up UU in NY in the 60's and 70's.

### July 25—*Music Sunday*

## Smoky Mountain School of Elements & Magic Can Come to Your House this Summer!

Headmistresses Moonphase and Caldwell have stirred up a fantastic camp-in-a-box for you. If you "attend," you'll see some of your favorite professors in short prerecorded video lessons and you'll receive a box with everything you need for 15 classes!

Want to finish everything in 2 days? Give it a try!  
Want to savor the lessons for months? That's fine, too!  
The camp-in-a-box will include supplies for wand-making, divination, transfiguration, music, herbology, and so much more!

We have a tiered pricing structure so Smoky Mountain School is **accessible to everyone regardless of ability to pay**. If you cannot pay for these classes at all, that's cool. Please [sign your kids up](#) anyhow--there will be no difference in the experience they or you have.

If you can support our professors and purchasing supplies, we offer [three other tiers of payment](#) as well as an [opportunity to provide a scholarship](#) for one or more campers. We anticipate camp-in-a-box will mail by July 6.

## Kitchen of Hope Monday, July 5

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](mailto:KOH@hvuuc.org)



## Annual Report of Endowment Fund

HVUUC Board of Trustees

The HVUUC Endowment Fund has now been in existence for 12 full calendar years. As of December 31, 2020 the Endowment Fund had a balance of \$158,932.86. This represents an increase of \$24,940 from the previous year. The increase is due to a gift from Raj and Sharmi Mehta, former members of HVUUC, (\$10,000), a bequest from Michael Jones (\$5,000), memorial gifts totaling \$480, and investment income of \$10,221 less the amount distributed to the church operating budget. With the exception of a small amount of cash held in the Church's checking account, the funds are invested in the Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund. Over the life of the fund total investment returns have amounted to \$37,081. Currently the Wellesley Income Fund has a 1-year return of 14% and a 10-year return of 7.6%. These returns are in keeping with our Endowment Fund policy of protecting the portfolio from high volatility while providing a reasonable rate of return.

As you know, the Endowment Fund makes an annual distribution to the Church equal to four percent (4%) of the average balance for the previous three calendar years. Consequently, during the first month of the Church's fiscal year (June, 2021) the Endowment Fund will transfer to the Church's checking account \$4,428. This is \$1,633 more than the amount transferred in 2020.

According to the Endowment Bylaws approved by the congregation, determination of how the distributions from the Endowment Fund should be used is as follows.

"The use to be made of distributions from the Fund is determined by the congregation as part of its customary budgeting process. Generally, use of monies from the Fund shall be used as "seed money" to fund items such as, but not limited to: enhancing the ministry of the Church, subsidizing new initiatives and capital and major repairs. Distributions from the Fund may continue for these enhancements for reasonable start-up periods until the funding mechanisms are developed."

Submitted by Jo Anne Medlin,  
Endowment Committee Chair

# Treasurer's Corner

## Fiscal Summary 2020/2021

The financial summary for the fiscal year 2020/2021 is shown below. Despite the challenges, we actually exceeded our anticipated income from pledges for the year! As expected, our auction income was low and our plate income was zero. Our resulting total income was \$12,612 below budgeted. Because expenses were only 92% of the budgeted amount, we still had a surplus for the year of \$2,070. This surplus allowed us to pay our full requested amount to the UUA annual fund, begin a designated fund for future employee health insurance with \$500, and bolster the capital repairs fund by \$1570. Even with the difficulties from the pandemic, we have accomplished many things this year, which says much about the strength of this congregation.

### Treasurer Summary Report – Fourth Quarter 2020 - 2021

	Totals for FY 2020/2021	Budgeted amounts for FY 2020/2021	Totals for the FY 2020/2021 Actual minus Budgeted
Income	166,944	179,556	-12,612
Expenses	164,874	179,556	-14,682
Income minus Expenses	2,070	-	<b>2,070</b>

The full treasurer's financial spreadsheet is in the member's section of the church website. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Deb Helmer at [treasurer@hvuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@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](mailto: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.

# Gathering Guidelines

The Board of Trustees (BoT) voted at the May 19, 2021 meeting to **make changes to the facilities usage guidelines** and to **continue to hold virtual services**. These new guidelines will be through August 31, 2021 **Or** when the new Reopening Task Force has provided recommendations to the BoT.

A Reopening Task Force has been formed to research and provide recommendations to the BoT. There will be more communication about this task force's charge, membership, and progress in the coming weeks and months.

The following **NEW Gathering Guidelines** for small groups at our facilities (inside and outside of buildings) are now in place.

**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 as needed.

- Only **1 group** may meet at a time **inside the church building or on the deck**. To **schedule a room or the deck** for your meeting or workgroup and to make sure other groups are not already scheduled, please contact Karyn at [office@hvuuc.org](mailto:office@hvuuc.org) to reserve your group on the church calendar. You can check the calendar to make sure there are no conflicts at: <https://localendar.com/public/hvuuchurch>

To locate the church calendar from the church website ([hvuuc.org](http://hvuuc.org)), go to the "News & Events" menu and select the 3rd item, "Church Calendar" from the drop-down menu.

## Gathering Guidelines for **Inside** Church Facilities:

- **No children's activities** allowed at this time.
- Groups of **10 people and less**
- **Social Distancing of 6 feet** should still be maintained between people of different households/pods.
- Guidance on **face masks in small groups** (please bring your own):
  - ⇒ If the group is a **mix of unvaccinated and vaccinated** people **OR** if **vaccination status** of all attendees is **unknown: All attendees should wear a mask.**
  - ⇒ If it is known that **all attendees** are **fully vaccinated AND all agree: Attendees can choose to not wear a mask.**
  - ⇒ The Fred Ball room (fellowship hall), sanctuary, and deck are the best meeting areas. The REZ is available if all of the above guidelines can be followed.

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.

## Gathering Guidelines for **Outside** Church Facilities:

- **No children's activities** allowed at this time.
- Guidance on **social distancing of 6 feet between people of different households/pods.**
  - ⇒ If the group is a **mix of unvaccinated and vaccinated** people **OR** if **vaccination status** of all attendees is **unknown: All attendees should social distance.**
  - ⇒ If it is known that **all attendees** are **fully vaccinated AND all agree: Attendees can choose to not social distance.**
- Groups of **20 people and less** are allowed if social distancing can be maintained in the location.
- Masks are not required for groups meeting outside.

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>

## Gathering Guidelines for **Outside** Church Facilities:

- **No children’s activities** allowed at this time.
- Guidance on **social distancing of 6 feet between people of different households/pods.**
  - ⇒ If the group is a **mix of unvaccinated and vaccinated** people **OR** if **vaccination status** of all attendees is **unknown: All attendees should social distance.**
  - ⇒ If it is known that **all attendees** are **fully vaccinated AND all agree: Attendees can choose to not social distance.**
  - ⇒ Groups of **20 people and less** are allowed if social distancing can be maintained in the location.
  - ⇒ Masks are not required for groups meeting outside.

## Guidelines common for **Inside and Outside:**

- **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, tables, 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.

Whenever possible **do not share work tools**. If sharing occurs, wipe down handles with disinfecting wipes before returning the tool.

	Max. Number of people	Social Distancing	Children	Masks
Inside Gathering	<b>10</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes:</b> if group is mix of vaccinated/unvaccinated OR status unknown  <b>No:</b> if all are fully vaccinated AND agree
Outside Gathering	<b>20</b>	<b>Yes:</b> if group is mix of vaccinated/unvaccinated OR status unknown  <b>No:</b> if all fully vaccinated AND agree	<b>No</b>	<b>Not required</b>

## Membership

### Caring Team

The Caring Team coordinator for July is Joseph Viola. Contact Joseph at [caring@hvuuc.org](mailto:caring@hvuuc.org) or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

**Thank You** to our June coordinator Alicia Culbertson!

### 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](mailto: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.

### 2020-2021 Board of Trustees

**President:** Dana York [president@hvuuc.org](mailto:president@hvuuc.org)

**Vice President:** Ann Livengood [vp@hvuuc.org](mailto:vp@hvuuc.org)

**Past President:** Tom Burns [pastpresident@hvuuc.org](mailto:pastpresident@hvuuc.org)

**Treasurer:** Deb Helmer [treasurer@hvuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@hvuuc.org)

**Stewardship Trustee:** Charlie Miller [stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org](mailto:stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org)

**Programs Trustee:** Wendy Hearl [programs@hvuuc.org](mailto:programs@hvuuc.org)

**Facilities Trustee:** Greg Kramer [facilities@hvuuc.org](mailto:facilities@hvuuc.org)

**Secretary/Historian:** William Kauffman [boardsecretary@hvuuc.org](mailto:boardsecretary@hvuuc.org)

**Membership Trustee:** Michele Markstrom-Frisch [membership@hvuuc.org](mailto:membership@hvuuc.org)

#### Minister

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

#### Director of Religious Education

Sarah White [DRE@hvuuc.org](mailto:DRE@hvuuc.org)

#### Music Director

Charis Carter [musicdirector@hvuuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@hvuuc.org)

#### Church Secretary

Karyn Cross [office@hvuuc.org](mailto:office@hvuuc.org)

Submissions for each month's newsletter are due by the last day of month to [newsletter@hvuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@hvuuc.org).  
Up to date information can always be found at [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org)