



# 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.*

March 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 March 1
- Meet the Minister for Visitors March 21 @ 11:45AM
- Kids Coffee Hour March 28 at 10:30AM
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM

Up to date church info is always available at [www.hvuuc.org](http://www.hvuuc.org)

## Stewardship Budget Summary

The file linked here [Pledge and Budget Info 2021](#) contains a comparison of the current year budget and initial estimates of what next year expenses and income may be.

From these values, one can determine a target for total pledges, and a summary of factors that contribute to the increased need for pledges is described. Hopefully this provides the full context to understand the request that has been made.

**Deadline request for pledges is March 31st.**

If there are any questions, please direct them to the Stewardship Trustee; you can use the email address [stewardship@hvuuc.org](mailto:stewardship@hvuuc.org) to do so.

## Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

**March 7**—*The 7 Last Words about the Bible and Evolution*, Rev. Jeff Briere

The Bible and the Theory of Evolution need not be at odds. They're both right.

**March 14**—*A Conversation with Margaret Fuller*, Rev. Jeff Briere

Margaret Fuller was an author, a Unitarian and an early feminist, who hung out with Ralph Waldo Emerson. She pays us a visit today.

**March 21**—*The Unity in Community*, Rev. Jeff Briere  
Today's lesson is simple: Stick together

**March 28**—*Challenging The Myth Of Powerlessness*, Eric Bannan

You are changing the world whether you like it or not! Inspired by David LaMottes's book and work for social justice we will explore how our everyday choices make more difference than we realize. We will take a look at how big change can be made up of small changes.

## The Caring Team is Here to Help

When you face troubles or sorrows, your friends at the HVUUC Caring Team are on call and ready to offer confidential help. We organize meal trains for meal deliveries, arrange grocery and medicine delivery, help you find community organizations for specific needs, and more! As well as always offering a friendly ear, ready to listen.

Your Caring Team, Cynthia, Joy, Joseph, Alicia, Lynn, Freda, and Brandi. You can contact us via email at [caring@hvuuc.org](mailto:caring@hvuuc.org) or by phone [423-477-7661](tel:423-477-7661) (press 1)



## **Kitchen of Hope Monday, March 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](mailto:KOH@hvuuc.org)



## **All Church Picnic Saturday, August 7**

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

Bring a dish to share and whatever you wish to grill, a drink, and a chair. Paper plates, napkins etc will be on hand.

Play, chat and chill together and meet our new minister (we hope!!)

## **Meet the Minister**

Hello to all you virtual visitors out there! Would you like to know a little more about us?

Sign up for a virtual "Meet the Minister" on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 11:45 a.m.

Sit down with a cup of coffee or tea and chat with our minister, Jeff Briere, and a few members. We could find out a little about each other. You can ask any questions you have, like "what the heck is Unitarian Universalism anyway?" or "is this a place where it's okay to have doubts?" or "is this a place where I can feel a sense of community?" or "will my whole authentic self be welcomed?". Or just watch and listen and sip. We might even swap recipes (I'm thinking steamy hot soups.)

If you have been curious about us, this will be your chance to check us out. Just email [visitor@hvuuc.org](mailto:visitor@hvuuc.org) and say you would like to sign up for Meet the Minister.

## **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](mailto:DRE@hvuuc.org)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 March is Joseph Viola. Contact Joseph at [caring@hvuuc.org](mailto:caring@hvuuc.org) or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

**Thank You** to our February coordinator Joy Boyd!

### 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:** Michelle 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)