



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.

November 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 November 2
- Kids Coffee Hour Nov 1 & Nov 15
- Fall Outdoor Clean Up at Church Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9AM—4PM
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM
- Online Service Auction Nov 19 - 21
- Pancakes and Jam Dec 27—Musical submissions being taken now!

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

Fall Service Auction!

Bidding starts

Thursday, November 19 at 9AM

Bidding ends

Saturday, November 21 at 6PM

This year our annual auction will be entirely online. All donations and bidding will be done using the Auctria website. This is the same website we have used for donations the past few years.

You can go there to donate items now and bid on items when bidding begins. You will also be able to bid using the Auctria mobile app on your phone. More information on that will be coming.

Auction Items

You are encouraged to donate items that can be redeemed during the next year, assuming the same social distancing safety guidelines are in place next year that we are following this fall. The Pandemic Task Force has put together many ideas for items. See page 2 for more information!

You can go to www.auctria.com/auction/2020HVUUCaution now and start entering those donations!

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

Nov. 1 *An Uncertain Faith*, Rev. Jeff Briere
Most people who study history and culture believe we are in the Postmodern era. But what about our religion?

Nov. 8 *The Elevator Speech*, Rev. Jeff Briere
You are on an elevator with someone who befriends you and asks about your religion. You have just seconds to explain your faith and beliefs before the doors open and your new friend walks away. What do you say?

Nov. 15 *UU 101*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A concise, but comprehensive survey of Unitarian Universalism. We will cover 6013 years of religious history in just a few minutes

Nov. 22 *You Can't Go Home Again*, Rev. Jeff Briere
My sermon title is taken from the title of a book by Thomas Wolfe. Having played a character based on Thomas Wolfe in more than 2 dozen performances, I look homeward and find that it ain't there. But that's OK. Home, for me, only existed within.

Nov. 29 *Thanksgiving: When and How?*, Bradley Quick
The history of the thanksgiving holiday in human civilization, and how we can habitually be in the act of thanks.



Online Service Auction November 19 at 9AM through November 21 at 6PM

Send in Those Donations!

We would encourage you to donate items that can be redeemed during the next year, assuming the same social distancing safety guidelines are in place next year that we are following this fall.

The Pandemic Task Force has come up with a list of ideas:

- Baked goods/Preserves/etc. - one time offering
- Soup/Casserole/Bread - monthly for _x_ months - delivery/pickup arrangements flexible
- Murder Parties (they involve 8 people, and mostly sitting in one place)
- Tutoring - on line or in person
- Yard work
- Handy work
- Hand made Jewelry/Pottery/Fabric item
- T-shirt/Sweatshirt Memory Quilt - winner provides the shirts
- Pet sitting
- Dinner and a Movie (limit 10)
- Dinner and a Campfire
- Gently used items like nice clothing, tools, kitchen appliances/equipment
- Art or craft project (maybe even bring own art supplies, depending on what it is?). Some that involve teaching/instruction could be done virtually; some would be better in person.
- Hiking
- Kayaking
- Pool party? Of course all observing social distancing.
- Vacation rentals

Many offerings from past auctions would still work, just in smaller groups or outdoors instead of indoors.

Go to www.auctria.com/auction/2020HVUUCaution now and start entering those donations!

Be creative! We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Any questions can be sent to auction@hvuuc.org.



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Help us create community by hosting coffee hour via Zoom

Training and support avail!

CoffeeHour@hvuuc.org

Fall Clean Up Day Saturday, November 7 9AM—4PM

Volunteers are needed for a fall cleanup of the church grounds, as well as, some inside projects. We will be socially distanced, and jobs can be assigned prior to workday.

Contact Greg K. at facilities@hvuuc.org now to be assigned the job of your choice!

Projects include:

- Leaf raking around the church
- Weed and clean up the flower garden
- Clear the hiking path around the church
- Burn the debris pile
- Remove compost pile
- Weed the children's garden
- Weed around new porch, playground, and firepit
- Cleanup the Bocce court
- Repair and clean gutters

Photos!

We need to see your smiling faces!!! In honor of the up and coming Holidays, please send us a close up picture of your vibrant smiles!



I am doing a project for the Thanksgiving service in which I will create a slide show of smiles. Specifically, it doesn't matter if its a whole face or just the smile itself. I'll make whatever people send in work.

Due by November 8th.

Please send to Charis at: musicdirector@hvuuc.org

Game Night: Online

The church Game Group has gone online! We are using Zoom and a website called Board Game Arena (BGA) to play board games and chat on the second and fourth Saturday evenings at 7pm. In our first get-together we even reconnected with a few church friends who had moved out of our area. Newcomers are very welcome to join! You'll just need to create a free account at BGA and have an internet- and webcam-enabled computer or laptop.

If you are new to this online version, please contact Kirk in advance at gamegroup@hvuuc.org with interest and/or questions.

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 ¾ 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

Ministerial Search Committee

Final Focus Groups

Three online focus groups still are coming up in November—click the focus group to register for the Zoom:

- [People who identify as BIPOC](#)—Sun. Nov. 1, 12:30 p.m.
- [People with disabilities or accessibility/mobility issues and their carers](#)—Sun. Nov. 8, 12:30 p.m.
- [Guardians of people birth to 18 years](#)—Sun. Nov. 15, 12:30 p.m.

The search committee is holding these focus groups to understand more about how different people experience HVUUC and how the congregation would like a minister to engage with them.

Last Chance to Be Heard!

If you were/are unable to attend a particular focus group about a personal identity or one of the cottage meetings, the Search Committee would still value your input.

- Click a focus group/cottage meeting links below to go to a form about being a congregant with that identity.
- Everyone can participate in a cottage meeting; if you attended in person, please do not fill out a form.
- Please only fill out forms for focus groups that reflect your personal identity (there might be more than one), and only if you were/are unable to attend online.
- Names are collected in order to track participation but will not be linked with your answers.
- Please fill out and return these forms by midnight, Nov. 5, 2020.

[Cottage meetings](#)

[Caring Team/Memorial Hospitality past and present](#)

[Congregants who ID as BIPOC](#)

[Congregants who ID as LGBTQ+](#)

[Congregants who ID as pagan](#)

[Congregants who ID as women](#)

[Congregants with disability or accessibility/mobility issues AND their carers](#)

[Guardians of children birth to 18 years](#)

[Presidents past and present](#)

[Youth 12-18 years old](#)

Treasurer's Corner

November 2020

A very happy message from our treasurer, Deb Helmer:

On November 2, the last payment was sent to Eastman Credit Union to pay off our mortgage! We are now the debt-free owners of all of our grounds and buildings. This remarkable achievement is the result of your generosity and commitment to HVUUC. We should all be proud of this community. This demonstrates the financial stability that we've been able to sustain in our church through careful planning and conscientious management of our assets.

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 Summer RE Kits and Kids Coffee Hour

We are so excited to be offering Summer 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 November is Freda Love. Contact at caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our October coordinator Joseph Viola.

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