



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.

October 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.
- Women's Group Friday, October 2 Focus Group Zoom Meeting at 7PM
- Kitchen of Hope October 5
- Kids Coffee Hour Oct 4 & Oct 18
- Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop October 17
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM
- Online Service Auction Nov 12—14

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

Fall Service Auction!

Bidding starts

Thursday, November 12 at 9AM

Bidding ends

Saturday, November 14 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.

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 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)

Oct 4 - *The Meaning Life*, Rev. Jeff Briere
"What is the meaning of life?" is a question that bothered Leo Tolstoy. This service provides answers from several people.

Oct 11 - *Spiritual but Not Religious*, Rev. Jeff Briere
A service in which several Unitarian Universalist ministers respond to the statement, "I'm spiritual, but not religious."

Oct 18 - *Beyond Categorical Thinking*, Amanda Schuber
Bias is an inescapable part of the human experience, but what we do with, and how we react to our biases is very much in our control. While our natural instinct may be to put things into categories and boxes, there is a space that can enrich our interactions with everyone around us, the space beyond boxes.

Oct 25 - *Weavers and Threads*, Eric Bannon
When we tell a story, we weave together the threads of our personal experience and beliefs; we express our values, even sometimes unintentionally. We will explore how our personal stories connect us as families and as a community.



Online Service Auction

November 12 at 9AM through
November 14 at 6PM

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.

Women's Group

This month we will be participating in a Focus Group organized by the search committee. Please click the link below to register.

October 2 at 7PM: People who identify as women

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvcuyurTkvGNCUm94bLhSuFrPu4ndABriG>

A graphic with a white background. On the left, two hands are shown holding coffee cups. The text 'Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!' is written in a large, bold, black font. To the right, there is smaller text: 'Help us create community by hosting coffee hour via Zoom' and 'Training and support avail!'. At the bottom right, the email address 'CoffeeHour@hvuuc.org' is listed.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Help us create community by hosting coffee hour via Zoom

Training and support avail!

CoffeeHour@hvuuc.org

Hymnal Count

The Music Committee is trying to get an accurate count of our hymnals. We just need a count, so if you have one at home, we won't ask for it to be returned.

Just email Ann at Music@hvuuc.org with the following information.

Singing the Living Tradition (gray hymnal)

- regular
- large print, part 1
- large print, part 2

Singing the Journey (teal hymnal)

- regular
- large print
- spiral bound



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.

Focus Groups and Cottage Meetings for Ministerial Search Committee

The search committee has scheduled a series of online focus groups and two online cottage meetings over the next couple of months. These will do two things: 1) Let the search committee gather information they need for the search, and 2) allow deep sharing as a community about how we're doing and what we want our new minister to know.

Focus groups and cottage meetings will both use the small group ministry format of active, compassionate listening. If you have any questions, please contact search@hvuuc.org

Please register for each meeting at the links below.

Focus Groups

Schedule: Attend as many as apply

Oct. 2, 7 p.m.: People who identify as women <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvcuyurTkvGNcUmg4bLhSuFrPu4ndABriG>

Oct. 4, 12:30 p.m.: People who identify as LGBTQ+ <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvf-ggrD8jGNJfKyFKH05Tggqxp00dLlLe>

Oct. 18, 12:30 p.m.: People who identify as pagan/wiccan/nature-based faith/practice https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMscuupqjlpE9KjoxU_J1ZnYwShVNEWXhJk

Nov. 1, 12:30 p.m.: Those who identify as people of color <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArdeyprjojGdez66NXBeBeKxFSODYvpz8d>

Nov. 8, 12:30 p.m.: People with disability or mobility/accessibility issues <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcucO-przkiHNYKdsbXIZ7-kOLWQsHljvrQ>

Nov. 15, 12:30 p.m.: Guardians <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMocu-hrDkoGtfQr6IXGMEM4JNKLvPmd1uk>

We've already held focus groups for current and past presidents, current and former caring team and memorial hospitality members, and youth 12-18 years old.

Each focus group will address the way the church and a minister might best attend to its needs. We seek to hear voices of historically marginalized groups as well as groups that might have especially important insight to a minister's role within our church.

Each focus group is limited to people who identify with the specific group; if you do not identify as a woman, for instance, please do not attend that focus group.

People might participate in more than one focus group. For example, if a person with an accessibility issue also is a guardian and identifies as LGBTQ+, they might attend three different focus groups.

As much as possible, facilitators and scribes for focus groups either identify as part of the group OR are identified as active allies of the group.

Cottage Meetings

Schedule: Attend only one

Oct. 11, 12:30 p.m. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vd-ugqTljHdwbYclnjA0fwcACmWd15QHd>

Oct. 25, 12:30 p.m. <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pcO2prDkuE9P1R9rK8o2NZjvjaKmYXzTf>

Each Cottage meeting will break out into several groups, each facilitated by a search committee member. This is an opportunity for congregants to hear and share a broad range of perspectives.

Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop and Service

Saturday, October 17 from 10-11:30 a.m. AND 1-2:30 p.m. Beyond Categorical Thinking Virtual Workshop. Registration required: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMuduyqpi4sH9zF8kQuXieRxsh8-ZekkcJC>.

Pre-workshop survey—please fill out when you register: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/z69rpgk0e4s7b5/>

Sunday, October 18 beginning at 11 a.m. Beyond Categorical Thinking Virtual Service. Same time, same place as usual.

THINK OF A MINISTER. DON'T THINK OF AN ELEPHANT.

Chances are, you thought of both. And distinct images perhaps came to mind.

In terms of a minister, what images came to mind?

Was it a person of a particular gender, race, or age?

Beyond Categorical Thinking is a highly recommended part of the search process for our congregation. In finding the person who would be the best match as our minister, we could potentially overlook or even let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us.



The HUUUC Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in Beyond Categorical Thinking, a virtual workshop that allows the entire congregation to explore our hopes and concerns for a new minister, learn more about the search process, and see how our own history (both personal and congregational) might interfere with our efforts in this search.

This professional workshop is facilitated by the UUA's Rev. Amanda Schuber, who has been facilitating Beyond Categorical Thinking for 15 years!

This workshop is mandatory for the search committee and strongly recommended by the UUA for the board and all our members and friends 16 years and older.

If you have any questions, please contact search@hvuuc.org

Treasurer's Corner

October 2020

Thanks for your support of our church. I'm still learning a lot about the responsibilities of being treasurer, but I will try to answer any questions you have. Ramesh Munjal is continuing as the receiving treasurer and Brad Helmer has accepted the job of disbursing treasurer, with me overseeing both activities. I'll give a summary of the church's finances in the newsletter every quarter. The first quarter of the fiscal year looks very good due to generous pledge donations and decreased spending. If you need anything, please contact me at treasurer@hvuuc.org - Deb Helmer.

Treasurer Summary Report – First Quarter 2020 - 2021			
	First Quarter Actual	First Quarter Budgeted	First Quarter Actual minus Budgeted
Income	49609	44889	4720
Expenses	36171	44889	-8718
Income minus Expenses	13438	-	13438

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!

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, October 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.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

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.

Caring Team

The Caring Team coordinator for October is Joseph Viola. Contact at caring@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 Press 1.

Thank You to our August coordinator Cynthia Goodman!

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!



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