



# 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.*

September 2020

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

## Headlines ....

- All in person Worship Services and Religious Education classes have been suspended through October 31
- Religious Education Kits for Kids are available! See page 4 for information.
- Women's Group Friday, September 4 at Grand Oak Farm from 6-9PM
- Kitchen of Hope September 7
- Kids Coffee Hour Sept 6 & Sept 20
- Online Game Group 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 7PM
- Meet Me In The Meadow September 19 5:30—8:30PM
- 5th Sunday Collection for Family Promise

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

## Meet Me In The Meadow Saturday, September 19 5:30—8:30PM

An outdoor picnic for all church friends and family! We will be scattered around a generous meadow in "pods". Each pod safely distanced from others. You can reserve your individual pod, distanced for your group or for yourself.

Playful games, competitions, and time to relax are all in the works, and perhaps, a movie or bonfire after dark. Bingo, a create-off, drum circle, music, and best of all a chance to see all of your favorite people! (there will be priiizies!)

Bring your own food, drinks, trash bags and chairs and we'll provide the space! This is an alcohol-free event. There are restrooms, no worries.

You will receive specifics and the location of the picnic after registering.

Please register by Tuesday, September 15! [Register Here](#)

## Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

**September 6** *Another History Lesson, Rev. Briere*

A service that explores some historical incidents that were not in the syllabus of your American History Class or any history class.

**September 13** *Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism, Rev. Briere*

A service that explores the contributions of William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker.

**September 20** *Three Questions about Religion, Rev. Briere*

Neal Sanders asked me three questions about religion: 1. Why did three monotheistic religions get their start in the Middle East? 2. Why do people need religion or feel religious? 3. What is sacred?

**September 27** *Report from General Assembly*

Dana York, Brittany Butler, and Bryan Kleske bring us their impressions of the 2020 virtual GA.



## **New Trustees Appointed**

With the resignation of 2 of our Trustees, the Board has appointed Charlie Miller to the Stewardship Trustee position and Greg Kramer to the Facilities Trustee position effective immediately.

We appreciate the service of those who filled these positions earlier this year.

## **Your Search Committee is Hard at Work**

### **Ministerial Search Tab on the Website!**

You might have noticed there is a new tab on the website: Ministerial Search. The Search Committee will add content you might find interesting on a regular basis, including area demographics, a brief history of our church, etc., so stop by every once in a while to see what we've added!

### **Congregational Survey May Determine our Future!**

Open no later than September 1-10! This confidential survey will help us develop a big picture of our congregation for our future minister—and for us!

It is not short, but it is VERY important, and we are aiming for at least 80% participation among members and friends 16 years of age and older.

Please take time to make your voice heard—we could have this minister for a generation!

### **Kids Survey!**

We want to make sure we hear from our children and youth as well, so we will be offering them the opportunity to fill out a survey of their own about what they value at our church. Stay tuned for details!

If you have any questions or concerns about the search process, just email [search@hvuuc.org](mailto:search@hvuuc.org).

## **Socially Distant Women's Night Is Actually Happening!**

Dana York is hosting a socially distant women's gathering on her farm this Friday night, September 4 at 6:00PM until the bugs carry us away. Please BYO EVERYTHING. This includes chair, bug spray, snacks, drinks. We will be outside and socially distant. The farm is right next to The Crossings Golf Course. Come on out. Address: 2579 Hwy.81 North, Jonesborough

[Womensgroup@hvuuc.org](mailto:Womensgroup@hvuuc.org)

## **Religious Education 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@HVVUUC.ORG](mailto:DRE@HVVUUC.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](mailto:gamegroup@hvuuc.org) with interest and/or questions.

## 5th Sunday Collection for Family Promise



As an update and a call for a 5th Sunday collection, the Social Justice Committee wants to share what is happening with Family Promise Network in Kingsport because it's been a while since we have communicated with you about our involvement with this shelter program.

The Family Promise staff is looking at the possibility of renting a few apartments to start the shelter program back until the churches can accept guests again. The families will still go to the day center as they would if they were in the churches. The location they are staying in is the only change.

Family Promise contacted us to ask if we are willing to assist with food during this time. The help can be in the form of taking food to the families or gift cards where the staff can purchase food for them. We would still follow the rotational schedule when the families would have generally been at St Luke's. After reviewing the results of our recent church survey and protecting congregants and the families in this program from COVID-19, we have decided that donating money (or gift cards) would be the more socially responsible thing to do. We have secured a coordinator from our church to work with an organizer at St Luke's to provide food or money for food purchases.

Our current fund for Family Promise is almost exhausted and thus we are using our 5th Sunday offering to build up this fund so that we can continue helping Family Promise as we have for many years.

### To Donate

**Send a check to:** HVUUC PO Box 8383 Gray, TN 37615. You can make the check out to HVUUC. Be sure to write Family Promise Network or FPN in the memo line.

**Donate via Direct Deposit from your bank:** Set this up with your bank for regular pledge payments or one time donations such as this. Read below for more information on Direct Deposit Donations or contact [treasurer@hvuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@hvuuc.org)

**For Paypal or credit cards:** Click here [PAYPAL](#). A note stating it is for Family Promise Network must be included so that it's not considered a pledge payment.

#### 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>

## **Kitchen of Hope Monday, September 7**

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](mailto:KOH@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!

## **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](mailto: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 through October 31, 2020

The Board of Trustees (BoT) voted to continue to hold virtual services and to continue the previously advertised facilities usage guidelines until **October 31, 2020**.

But there are still fun and creative social activities being planned. Don't forget to register for the [Meet Me In the Meadow](#) socially distanced church picnic happening on September 19th.

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.

## 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 3rd 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.

## 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>

## 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](mailto: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 September is Cynthia Goodman. Contact her at [caring@hvuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto:president@hvuuc.org)

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

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**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)

### Choral Director

Kate Briere [choir@hvuuc.org](mailto:choir@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)