



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.

January 2018

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

Headlines

- Women's Group January 5 at 6:30PM
- UU 101 January 7, 14, 21 at 12:30PM
- Re-Covenanting Listening Circles January 7 at 12:30PM
- Casual Game Night January 13 6PM
- Potluck Lunch January 14
- Wednesday Night Supper January 24
- It's Complicated Game Night January 27
- White Supremacy Teach In January 28

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

White Supremacy Teach In

Please join us with loving hearts and open minds on January 28, 2018 for a White Supremacy Teach-In. To date, over 600 Unitarian Universalist churches have participated in the Teach-In which was created by BLUU, the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism.

This is a collaborative project with an intention to recognize the White Supremacist system that our culture operates within, and will give us guidance on how each one of us can help to dismantle it.

There will be a fundraising lunch option and childcare available.

"It's not about whether an individual person considers themselves a white supremacist. It's about how we're all influenced by the everyday messages we receive in our culture, by decisions that we make without even really thinking about it." - Sofia Betancourt, UUA Interim Co-president

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

January 7 *Let It Go and Bring It On*, Rev. Briere
A ritual of letting go and a ritual of taking on.

January 14 *The Next 95 Theses*, Rev. Briere
What's in the future for Unitarian Universalists?

January 21 *Being White*, Rev. Briere
White Supremacy and White Privilege

January 28 *Hope in Action*, Social Justice Committee
We are often a hopeful bunch. Hope is the fertile ground in which ideas about justice and social action can grow. Join the social justice committee as we explore the concept of hope. We will look at the concrete ways we as individuals, as a congregation, and as a community manifest our aspirations as action. And we will challenge ourselves to dream bigger.

Re-Covenanting Listening Circles January 7th

The re-covenanting team invites you to attend a listening circle on January 7th, at 12:30, after worship. The team hopes to better understand your needs and wants to listen to your suggestions and ideas. They hope to present a new covenant for congregational approval at the Annual Meeting in April. The meeting should last 90 minutes or less. Refreshments and child care will be provided.

UU 101 January 7, 14, 21

UU 101 is a 3-session class on the history of Unitarian Universalism, the Unitarian Universalist Association and this church. Also, a chance to share your spiritual journey with simpatico people. Led by the Rev. Jeff Briere and other veterans of church life. Sundays January 7, 14, and 21 at 12:30PM. Sign up at office@hvuuc.org

Covenant Groups

The following covenant groups are open to new members. If you are interested in joining, contact the facilitators at the email addresses below.

The Creative Spark

Imagination. Play. Originality. This Covenant group will focus on how to Spark your Creativity. Each meeting we will watch Ted Talks on The Creative Spark and let the flame burn in a group discussion and creative activity. The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday from 5p-7p February through May. Group limit will be 6 and this will be a closed group once it begins.

Facilitator: Megan Dew creativeCG@hvuuc.org

Free Range

The Free Range Covenant Group is an ongoing group and is open to new members. Spouses are welcome.

Location: Emerson room, REZ

Date and Time: 2nd & 4th Mondays 6:30-8:30PM

Facilitator: Greg Kramer freerangeCG@hvuuc.org

“PPP”: Pheelings & Phun through Photography

We'll decide on a theme before each meeting. Examples: “My sacred place”, “happiness”, “it's complicated”. Everyone will bring to the meeting an image they have captured that speaks to the theme and we'll share our reflections that arise from everyone's images. Don't worry – its not an art contest. The covenant group emphasis on sharing our experiences is the important thing here.

Location: Susan B. Anthony room, REZ

Date and Time: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7-9PM

Facilitator: Dave Calvert and Inge Franjione
photographyCG@hvuuc.org

Music Covenant Group

In the Music Covenant Group, we will get to know each other better by exploring meaning and memory evoked by particular pieces of music. At each meeting, group members will have an opportunity to share a piece of music that relates to the topic for the meeting, and talk about the associated emotions and thoughts that are conjured up. Musical talent is not required; mostly we will be sharing recordings, but performances are certainly welcome, too!

Location: Reeb room, REZ

Date and Time: 2nd and 4th Sundays 6-8PM.

Facilitators: Wendy Hearl and Brandie Worley
musicCG@hvuuc.org

Safety Team Being Formed

Greg Kramer, the Facilities Trustee, is forming a Church Safety Committee to write policies and define church safety measures.

There are some very simple things we can do as church members to reduce concern about church safety. To do such work it is best practice to invite church congregants to join the work. A congregant is a member or a friend of the church, so don't exclude yourself.

If you're interested email Greg at facilities@hvuuc.org

Margi's Notes

Sunday Choir Schedule

8:50-9:25AM “Junior” Choir. Until the numbers are such that we need to divide this group up, this will include any children and youth who are interested in singing together. Right now, the youngest participate is age 3, and the oldest is, I believe, 12. This group will perform for church whenever they have something prepared.

9:30-10:15AM “Parent” Choir. This is an opportunity for parents who would like to sing to come together and participate while their children are in RE. Other adults who are willing to come to an early rehearsal are welcome, as well. We'll prepare music that suits our interest and ability, and we'll sing for church whenever we have something ready.

10:30-10:45AM “Hymn” Choir. Anyone who wants to lead hymns may participate in this group. If you are not already on the mailing list, let me know so I can get you MP3s of upcoming hymns. Since we only have about 15 minutes on Sunday mornings to prepare, it helps to have a hymnal at home and to practice with the MP3s that I send out.

Contact Margi at choirdirector@hvuuc.org

Fellowship Opportunities

Women's Group January 5

January women's group is this Friday, January 5th, 6:30PM at the home of Cynthia G. in Jonesborough. Everyone who identifies as a woman is welcome to join us for food, fun and fellowship. January is our "Dirty Santa" gift exchange night. This is always a fun night. Please bring a wrapped gift, traditionally something you received as a gift, but you don't want/need. It can also be something from your home that you no longer use, or even something new. We draw numbers and start opening gifts, trading and stealing according to house rules. This is a great night to start attending or renew your interest in hanging with the ladies. As always, please bring a snack and/or drink to share.

For address, check your directory or email womensgroup@hvuuc.org

Casual Game Night

The second Saturday of most months from 6:00-9:30PM. All ages are welcome! We have a playroom, a trampoline outside in a fenced yard, and kid-friendly board games. Bring yourself and optionally any cohorts, games, snacks, or drinks. Sharing is encouraged. Come whenever you want, leave whenever you want. If you arrive late you may have to hang out and observe while in-progress games wrap up. Mark your calendar for months and months to come! For location email gamegroup@hvuuc.org

Quilt Group

The quilt group meets twice a month. Check the church calendar for dates. If you plan to come please bring an iron, a rotary cutting mat, rulers, and cutter, and/or a sewing machine and thread (don't forget your power cord and foot pedal). This is a fellowship opportunity, not an obligation. If you can come and would like to come, please join us--no experience necessary. If you can't come or really don't want to come, don't worry--no guilt necessary. [church calendar](#)

BuuK Club

New members are always welcome to join us in the REZ on the third Tuesday September through May from 10:00AM to noon. We meet in the Susan B. Anthony room except for special meetings in December and May where we meet at a member's home. buukclub@hvuuc.org

Wednesday Night Supper

Join us at 6:30PM on the 4th Wednesday of most months for Wednesday Night Supper! The dinner is cooked by church members and there is no agenda besides an opportunity to get to know one another better. The menu will be advertised about a week before the dinner. Cost is \$5/adults, \$2.50/children. Please RSVP to WNS@hvuuc.org to ensure we have enough food for everyone.

It's Complicated Game Night

The fourth Saturday of most months from 6:00-9:30PM. An adults-only board game night at the church where the games don't HAVE to be complicated, but it's okay if they are. No experience required.

- Timing: starts at 6pm... bring food/snacks for yourself or to share
- Location: we'll be in the REZ
- Viability: need to have at least a few definite Yes responses on the Facebook group by the morning of the event or will cancel (no hard feelings)

No experience with complicated games is okay! They can seem overwhelming during rules explanations but they usually start to make sense after muddling through a few rounds.

Please make sure to arrive promptly so you can get to playing right away and not have to wait for a game to finish. These games often take over an hour to play.

Covenant of UU Pagans Candle Making/Blue Moon Celebration

January 27th 2018 11:00AM to 11:00PM (January 31, 2018 is a Blue Moon) 11:00AM to late evening. We will dip and pour candles, have a covered dish luncheon/dinner and Love Offering. For questions contact Sallie at cuups@hvuuc.org

Life Span Religious Education

What's Happening in the RE Zone?

Am I the only one who clawed and scraped her way to the finish line of 2017? This past year was incredibly challenging for me, and I can't help but think I wasn't the only one who struggled. With a new year upon us, I'd like to share what is in the horizons of 2018:

- There is tremendous growth happening in the Our Whole Lives program! On January 2nd Cindi Huss, Ann Livengood, Megan Dew and myself are doing an OWL presentation at the monthly Women Matter meeting.
- We have also been asked to do a presentation for the board at Girls, Inc. The board is interested in offering OWL as one of their after school programs.
- We will be hosting the K-6th facilitator training at our church in October 2018, which will allow our congregation to be able to offer OWL for grades K-12!

We will be offering a HARRY POTTER SUMMER CAMP at our very own church on July 9th-13th! Mark your calendars! We will need volunteers who are ready and willing to immerse themselves in the magical world of Hogwarts. Stay tuned for advertising later this month!

Our PreK-1st grade class and our Harry Potter class are in need of Religious Education teachers to join the ranks.

This is not a heavy commitment. We aim to have 6-8 teachers per class so that you are in the class only 1-2 Sundays a month.

Perks: ...

- This is a critically important way to serve our congregation
- You earn bragging rights
- Those PreK-1st kids are so stinking cute
- You can play with magic in the Harry Potter class
- You can play outside with the PreK-1st class
- At the end of the RE year you get a catered dinner in your honor
- This is an opportunity to live and teach our UU values out loud

Please let me know if you are willing to help out and serve! Sarah at DRE@hvuuc.org

Youth Religious Education

Youth Religious Education classes are from 9:30 to 10:45AM on Sunday morning. Nursery care is available during Youth RE classes for children birth-age 3 (or not potty trained).

[Youth Religious Education](#) Find out which class your child is in this year and be sure they are registered! If you haven't registered your child yet, please click here [RE Registration](#)

At 11:00AM children can head to the sanctuary for the sermon. The younger children (kindergarten and younger) can either go straight to childcare after RE or they can attend the service until the Story, after which the children go as a group to childcare.

Adult Religious Education 1

Adult RE 1 began a new series on Sunday, September 10th *Why Evil Exists* – 36 lectures from The Great Courses, Professor Charles Mathews, Ph.D., University of Virginia

The "problem of evil" is one of the oldest and most fundamental concerns of human existence. Since ancient times, questions surrounding evil have preoccupied every major religion, as well as many of history's greatest secular thinkers, from early philosophers to contemporary social theorists.

Whether we view it in theological, philosophical, or psychological terms, evil remains both a deeply intriguing question and a crucially relevant global issue. From organized terrorism to genocidal conflicts, from environmental destruction to the ongoing nuclear threat, human actions that most of us would consider evil play a central role in the dialogue between nations and peoples, affecting not only our well-being, but the very survival of our civilizations. No single aspect of human life is more relevant to the question of our social evolution—to the goal of a healthier, more humane world.

adultre1@hvuuc.org

Holston Valley Sangha

Holston Valley Sangha meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11AM in the meditation hall, upstairs in the RE Building. After a half-hour silent meditation we will listen to and discuss *Coming Closer to Ourselves: Making Everything*

the Path of Awakening by Pema Chödrön.

www.dharma4et.org

Adult Religious Education 2

Adult RE 2 meets in the Susan B. Anthony room in the RE Building at 9:30AM Sunday mornings.

Building the World We Dream About is a Unitarian Universalist program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. It consists of 24 two-hour workshops, with Taking It Home activities, reflections, and readings to be done between workshops. The program creates opportunities for participants to practice dreaming our world otherwise, and then commit to new, intentional ways of being.

Adult RE 2 is a fragrance-free class, please be respectful of those that are sensitive to fragrances. AdultRE2@hvuuc.org

Social Justice

Kingsport Kitchen of Hope 1st Monday of the Month

In the basement of the Full Gospel Mission on Sevier St in Kingsport, is a tiny kitchen staffed entirely by volunteers that feeds dinner 6 days a week to 100-130 people. Diners have ranged from infant to 88. For many of them, it's their only meal of the day. The church serves dinner at the Kitchen of Hope the first Monday of each month. How can you help? Glad you asked.

The menu changes monthly. Volunteers are needed to help cook, serve and clean up.

Set up/cooking: 1:00-3:30

Servers: 3:00-5:00

Cleaners: 4:45-6:00

The kitchen is quite small, so if you want to help, please contact the coordinator so we don't end up with too many cooks in the kitchen!

You can also help by donating food or money for food. Or if you'd like to bake cookies, cupcakes, or other desserts ahead of time (note: we cook for 150, so if it's too much, you could always split this with another baker)

Like to plan ahead? We do this the first Monday of every month, so pencil us in with a big red pen! Volunteer at KOH@hvuuc.org

Please contact Kim Ray if you can help this month kitchenofhope@hvuuc.org.

Hunger In Our Neighborhood Event

The Hunger In Our Neighborhood team has come up with a brilliant idea to help you remember to collect food for our area food pantries. AND they're turning it into a fun craft for kids. During the White Supremacy Teaching workshop on January 28th kids aged 5 and up will meet in the Fellowship Hall to decorate cloth grocery bags for distribution to congregants (one bag per family). The cloth bags will serve as a reminder to bring your donations and will hopefully spur environmental ethics.



Kids should meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30PM. Parents/guardians are welcome, but not required. For more info or questions email socialjustice@hvuuc.org

Family Promise Network

One part of our church's Social Action is to participate with Family Promise Network, both in Johnson City (Hopwood UMC) and Kingsport (St. Luke UMC). The program's purpose is to help homeless families achieve and sustain independence. One night per quarter we provide a meal and overnight presence to the FPN guests of the host churches. Our meals are simple and overnight duty consists of sleeping in your private room and assisting with breakfast the next morning.

Occasionally our Fifth Sunday offering will go to support this program, the money usually shared equally with each location.

When the next request for volunteers goes out, please consider helping with this important and much appreciated part of our church's outreach.

IHNKingsport@hvuuc.org

IHNJC@hvuuc.org

January Food Donations

Bring your donations of **Potatoes (canned or whole), potato flakes, potato soup** for this month's Hunger in Our Neighborhood collection. You can also now donate pet food. Donations will be shared between the Jonesborough Food Bank, Hunger First in Kingsport, and our own food pantry. Remember, the themes are for fun....not rules!

2017-2018 Board of Trustees

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Secretary/Historian: Tom Burns boardsecretary@hvuuc.org

Membership Trustee: Peggy Perez membership@hvuuc.org

Minister

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

Church Secretary's Office Hours

9:00am-3:00pm, Tuesday & Thursday 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

HVUUC On-Line News Group: Our yahoo news group is an online service that provides our congregation the quickest method of communicating news, announcements, and schedule changes. To join, or update to a new e-mail address, send an e-mail to hvuuc-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com indicating your full name, address and phone number where you can be reached. If you don't have e-mail, please call the church at 423-477-7661 to receive the newsletter by US mail.

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Look for other UUA news and other UU Church newsletters at the UUA Website: www.uua.org

Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church Calendar

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u> <u>Adult RE 2 (R2)</u> <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u> <u>Adult RE 1 (R6)</u> <u>11 am - 12 pm</u> <u>Worship Service</u> <u>12 pm - 1 pm</u> <u>Fellowship Hour</u>	January 1 New Year's Day <u>12 pm - 5 pm</u> <u>Kitchen of Hope</u>	2 <u>5:15 pm - 6:30 pm</u> <u>Yoga (R6)</u>	3 <u>9:30 am - 11 am</u> <u>Sangha Meditation (R6)</u> <u>7 pm - 8 pm</u> <u>Zumba (F1, F2, K)</u>	4 <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Tri-Cities Metaphysical Group (F1)</u> <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Independent Study Group (R1)</u>	5 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>Quilt group (F1, F2)</u> <u>6:30 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Women's Group</u>	6
7 <u>9 am - 10:30 am</u> <u>Choir Practice (S)</u> <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u> <u>Children's R.E.</u> <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u> <u>Adult RE 2 (R2)</u> <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u> <u>Adult RE 1 (R6)</u> <u>11 am - 12 pm</u> <u>Worship Service</u> <u>12 pm - 1 pm</u> <u>Fellowship Hour</u> <u>12 pm - 1:30 pm</u> <u>Recovenanting Listening Circles (R2, R3, R4, R5)</u> <u>12:30 pm - 2:30 pm</u> <u>UU 101 (R1)</u>	8 <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Free Range Covenant Group (R2)</u>	9 <u>5:15 pm - 6:30 pm</u> <u>Yoga (R6)</u>	10 <u>9:30 am - 11 am</u> <u>Sangha Meditation (R6)</u> <u>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm</u> <u>Zumba (F1, F2, K)</u> <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>RSC (R4)</u>	11 <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Tri-Cities Metaphysical Group (F1)</u>	12 <u>6 pm - 8 pm</u> <u>Girl Scouts (F1, F2, K)</u>	13 <u>6 pm - 9:30 pm</u> <u>Casual Game Group</u>
14 <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u> <u>Children's R.E.</u> <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u> <u>Adult RE 2 (R2)</u> <u>9:30 am - 10:45 am</u>	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 <u>10 am - 12 pm</u> <u>bUUk Group (R1)</u> <u>5:15 pm - 6:30 pm</u> <u>Yoga (R6)</u>	17 <u>9:30 am - 11 am</u> <u>Sangha Meditation (R6)</u> <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Board of Trustees Meeting (R4)</u>	18 <u>6:30 pm - 8 pm</u> <u>Eckankar (R2)</u> <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u> <u>Tri-Cities Metaphysical Group (F1)</u> <u>7 pm - 9 pm</u>	19 <u>9 am - 12 pm</u> <u>Quilt group (F1, F2)</u>	20

Adult RE 1 (R6) 11 am - 12 pm Worship Service 12 pm Potluck Lunch 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm UU 101 (R1) 6 pm - 8 pm Music Covenant Group (R5)			7 pm - 8 pm Zumba (F1, F2, K)	Independent Study Group (R1)		
21 9:30 am - 10:45 am Children's R.E. 9:30 am - 10:45 am Adult RE 2 (R2) 9:30 am - 10:45 am Adult RE 1 (R6) 11 am - 12 pm Worship Service 12 pm - 1 pm Fellowship Hour 12:30 pm - 2 pm RE Collaborative (R4) 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm UU 101 (R1) 1 pm - 3 pm CUUPS Monthly Meeting (F1, F2, K)	22 7 pm - 9 pm Free Range Covenant Group (R2)	23 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm Yoga (R6) 7 pm - 9 pm Covenant Group Facilitators (R2)	24 9:30 am - 11 am Sangha Meditation (R6) 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Wednesday Night Supper	25 7 pm - 9 pm Tri-Cities Metaphysical Group (F1)	26 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (F1, F2, K)	27 10 am - 11 pm CUUPS Candle Making/Blue Moon Celebration (S, K, F1, F2) 6 pm - 9:30 pm Complicated Game Group (R1, R2, R3, R4)
28 9:30 am - 10:45 am Children's R.E. 9:30 am - 10:45 am Adult RE 2 (R2) 9:30 am - 10:45 am Adult RE 1 (R6) 11 am - 12 pm Worship Service	29	30 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm Yoga (R6)	31 9:30 am - 11 am Sangha Meditation (R6) 7 pm - 8 pm Zumba (F1, F2, K)	1 7 pm - 9 pm Tri-Cities Metaphysical Group (F1) 7 pm - 9 pm Independent Study Group (R1)	2 Groundhog Day 9 am - 12 pm Quilt group (F1, F2) 6:30 pm - 9 pm Women's Group	3

<u>12 pm - 1 pm</u> <u>Fellowship</u> <u>Hour</u>						
<u>12:40 pm - 2:30</u> <u>pm</u> <u>White</u> <u>Supremacy</u> <u>Teach In</u>						
<u>1 pm - 3 pm</u> <u>Hunger in Your</u> <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Event (K, F1, F2)</u>						

MEETING ROOMS: (S) Sanctuary, (MR) Music Room, (F1) Fellowship Hall-near kitchen, (F2) Fellowship Hall-near patio, (K) Kitchen, (R1) REZ Susan B. Anthony room, (R2) REZ Ralph Waldo Emerson room, (R3) REZ Joseph Priestley room, (R4) REZ Henry David Thoreau room, (R5) REZ James Reeb room, (R6) REZ Meditation Hall (B) Basement PROJECTOR: (P) Projector Reserved
Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church