



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 2022

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

Headlines

- [Message from the Minister](#)
- [Fellowship Opportunities](#)
- [Social Justice Committee](#)
- [Fiscal Flash](#)
- [Fifth Sunday](#)
- [Reopening Update](#)

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

The photo to the right was taken by Ref. Tiffany on January 3rd after the first snow of the season.

The image was captured on our walking trail at HVUUC and the sign reads "Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished".
—Lao Tzu

Upcoming Virtual Church Services

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

January 9—*There Are No Rockstars Here*, Rev. Sapp
Using Emergent Strategy and our Congregation's Vision Statement, we explore interdependent power structures as an alternative to top-down power structures, and imagine how that might influence how we work together.

January 16—*King Out of Context*, Rev. Sapp
As Martin Luther King Jr Day rolls around, you start seeing a lot of quotes from Rev. Dr. King about Love. And undoubtedly that has been foundational for his vision and his message. But his love is a radical, world-transforming love, and sometimes we miss that his love was a justice-oriented, incarnational love. Let's put Dr. King back into the context of his world-changing work.

January 23—*Discovering America Again*, Rev. Clyde Grubbs
As Christmas approaches, we explore how the figure of Jesus and the mythology of his birth can inform our work for justice. He has always sided with the poor and the oppressed, and there are still people doing this good work in his name.

January 30—*The Langston Center*
Adam Dickson, Supervisor of the Langston Center in Johnson City will be our guest speaker on January 30th. The Langston Center is a jewel in our midst. [Click here](#) to read their latest newsletter and learn about many opportunities coming up.



Message from the Minister

New Opportunities for Connection

Happy New Year Holston Valley UU Friends and Family,

It's hard to know what 2022 will hold for us, but as we continue to adapt to our ever-shifting world, I am excited about some new opportunities for in-person connections (for those who are ready to do so). We are still on Zoom Sunday mornings, but there are a variety of ways to meet together in smaller groups to meet the need for the face-to-face interaction that so many of us crave. Keep a look out for these upcoming opportunities

Visioning Circles:

As the new year begins, I want to spend some time with you envisioning the future of our congregation by using Listening Circles. A listening circle is a small group where all present have committed to listening deeply to each other, and to speak from the heart. Our time of listening and sharing will center around our congregation's vision statement:

"We work together as a church to transform ourselves, our community, and our world by sharing love, pursuing justice, and seeking wonder."

My goal is to hear from each member and friend of this congregation through these Visioning Circles before this year's pledge drive concludes. It should be our Vision that is driving our community's work, which means I need to understand what you believe our Vision is calling us to do.

Our groups will have no more than 9 people (plus me) to maintain our congregation's current safety protocols, and there will also be Visioning Circles meeting on Zoom.

More information about Visioning Circles will be released through our Congregational News blogs later this month.

Pop-Up Religious Education:

The Religious Education collaborative is organizing one-time, small-group, religious education opportunities with varied content depending on the passions and interests of the provider. We've got a lot of really interesting people in our community who could share their wisdom on a wide variety of subjects, and you're probably one of them! While teaching an entire class series can seem daunting, gathering a one-time small group to discuss a really interesting TED Talk that you found or teaching a few interested people how to knit might seem more manageable. If you have the idea, the Religious Education Collaborative can help you make it a reality with scheduling, promoting, and booking your small group. Look in the Religious Education section of our Newsletter, or in the Congregational News Blog for more information soon.

Self-Initiated Connection Opportunities:

You don't have to wait on the church to organize an opportunity to connect. I've heard from people who have organized small watch-parties at their homes to enjoy Sunday morning services together. Other folks are cooking brunch in each other's homes. Families can organize a "meet at the park day" informally on the HVUUC Families Facebook page. Not every connection has to be an official church activity. I hope you will reach out and find ways to connect with each other creatively. As we move into this new year, let's do it with Connection and Creativity leading the way.

And don't forget that I'm available for one-on-one connection opportunities at the church and online, you can reach me at minister@hvuuc.org

With gratitude,
Rev. Tiffany

Religious Education is excited to announce a new fellowship opportunity!

RE Pop Ups!

We believe that in continuing to adapt to COVID-19, connection in small groups will be one of our greatest assets, and our hope is that by assisting in organizing RE Pop Ups, we can facilitate more connection in both youth and adults.

What is an RE Pop Up? Glad you asked!

It's one-time, small-group, religious education opportunities with varied content depending on the passion of the provider.

What are you passionate about? TED Talks? Sign up to host a Pop Up at the church where you watch a Ted Talk (or 2...) with other interested folx from the church!

Tie Dye? Book your pop up outside on church grounds in warmer weather and let the young and young at heart sign up to make UU Uniforms!

Ukuleles? Book a Pop Up and strum with other musically inclined UU's!

OK, here's how it works:

There can be no more than 10 folx in the reserved space at the church.

Contact Sarah W (DRE@hvuuc.org) to assist in organizing and reserving the Pop Up you'd like to host.

Each Pop Up will have 8-9 reservations available using a reliable online ticketing system. We will set this up for you!

Inaugural Pop-UP!

Sarah W and Cindi H will offer a UFO Pop Up in January as a demo! Come join us with your unfinished Objects, and we can share our space as we work on those pesky crafts or tedious tasks that have been sitting around waiting to be finished. We can connect and chat and maybe even help each other, making it fun to finish together. Watch for the announcement and registration link to join us this month!

Fiscal Flash

January:

The financial summary for the first half of the fiscal year 2021/2022 is shown below. Though our pledge amounts are below expected levels, our expenses have also been low and that has helped offset the income shortfall. We are financially strong and ended the first half of our fiscal year with a surplus of \$4389.

Treasurer Summary Report – Second Quarter 2021 - 2022

	Totals through Second Quarter	Budgeted amounts through Second Quarter	Totals through Second Quarter Actual minus Budgeted
Income	\$73,973	\$82,530	-\$8,557
Expenses	\$69,584	\$82,530	-\$12,946
Income minus Expenses	\$4,389		\$4,389

There were several significant expenses this quarter, the largest was the yearly insurance payment of \$5900. However, our auction was very successful, raising \$9,200 as income. There was also a very generous response to donate monies for the capital repairs fund.

The full treasurer's financial spreadsheet is in the member's section of the church website. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at treasurer@hvuuc.org. - Deb Helmer.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

With social justice, in its many forms being the very essence of so many UU Principles, the Social Justice Committee is preparing for a busy year. The Committee has already met multiple times in the last couple months, participated in a Washington County Black & White Dialogue program and “Sided with Love” at the recent Sullivan County Board of Education Meeting in support of a tenured schoolteacher dismissed for his engagement with students on the subject of white privilege.

The Committee will focus its attention on different themes in each of the 4 quarters of 2022 while offering resources and opportunities for engagement in each of the focus areas all year long. We welcome the entire Congregation to join us in our collective efforts to bring justice to our community and our Nation.

The focus of our works is:

Q1 = Undoing Systematic White Supremacy (2022 UAA Statement of Consciousness)

Q2 = Environment and Climate Action

Q3 = LGBTQ+ Action

Q4 = Homelessness/Hunger in our Hometown

5th Sunday Offering

NAACP to receive 5th Sunday Offering - January 30

In keeping with our First Quarter 2022 Social Justice Committee focus on Undoing Systematic White Supremacy, our church contributions for the 5th Sunday Offerings will be going to the Johnson City – Washington County Branch NAACP.

The work of the Branch has been ongoing since its re-chartering in 1978. For more information, visit: <https://jcwcnacp.org/>

Please add a note in the memo section of your donation that this is for 5th Sunday offering for NAACP.

Black Lives Matter

The Social Justice Committee is dedicating the first quarter to Undoing Systemic White Supremacy.

One way to be an ally to our black neighbors is to support their businesses. Here is a handy list to help you.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Sf4kWaA0wyzLsJyIPcsbBwj8-EwwThpVczhy2TFnlgw/htmlview>



HVUUC Social Justice members at recent Sullivan County Board of Education Hearing in support of teacher Matthew Hawn

Members of the Social Justice Committee attended a recent Sullivan County Board of Education hearing considering reinstatement of teacher Matthew Hawn, dismissed after teaching his high school students about white privilege.

Front row: Guerry McConnell, Rev Tiffany Sapp and Dottie Blades; back row: Bob Warner and Noel Marshall.

Social Justice Sunday

Adam Dickson, Supervisor of the Langston Center in Johnson City will be our guest speaker on January 30th. The Langston Center is a jewel in our midst. Here is a link to their latest newsletter and many opportunities to learn and share coming up.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CONT...

CLIMATE CHANGE 2022

Why will 2022 will matter for climate action?

As the world picks up speed in its race against climate change and moves forward from the 2021 Glasgow Climate Change Conference, let's look at ten key global events in 2022 that will shape critical conversations and influence public policy decisions around one of the most defining issues of our time.

23 - 27 January | 5th UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5) | Doha, Qatar

Link: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/why-2022-will-matter-climate-action-0>

UUA on LGBTQ

Where does Unitarian Universalist stand on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Justice issues? Your Social Justice Committee will focus on these issues in the third quarter of this year. Learn more about UUA's position here: <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq>

Sierra Club Conservation Committee

"A new Sierra Club Conservation Committee is serving Washington, Sullivan, and Greene Counties. Holston Valley Regional Conservation Committee invites people who are interested in social and environmental issues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting 6pm at the HVUUC.

HVRCC is a highly motivated volunteer group whose members get involved to make our area a better place to live."

Please remember your pledge.

Make checks payable to "HVUUC."
Write "pledge" in the memo.

Mail to:
HVUUC
PO Box 8383
Gray, TN 37615

Thank you!



HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness/Hunger in our Hometown.

Don't miss the Johnson City Press focus on this important local issue.

Dec 15 - Homelessness is intractable, but could housing first be a solution? - https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/news/homelessness-is-intractable-but-could-housing-first-be-a-solution/article_a96677b2-5479-11ec-a99d-f3c3bd44d06b.html

Dec 16 - Living in the shadows: Homelessness in Johnson City - https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/news/living-in-the-shadows-homelessness-in-johnson-city/article_3bef9cc6-5c22-11ec-ac9e-e7a6d4fe7414.html

Dec 16 - City police tasked with homeless camping control, but also provide options for services - https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/news/city-police-tasked-with-homeless-camping-control-but-also-provide-options-for-services/article_7e1e37ac-5834-11ec-82ac-cf6339bbbc43.html

Dec 16 - Program coordinator shares stories of homeless students - https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/news/program-coordinator-shares-stories-of-homeless-students/article_58a73000-47f9-11ec-ad84-c79cf0b76dbf.html

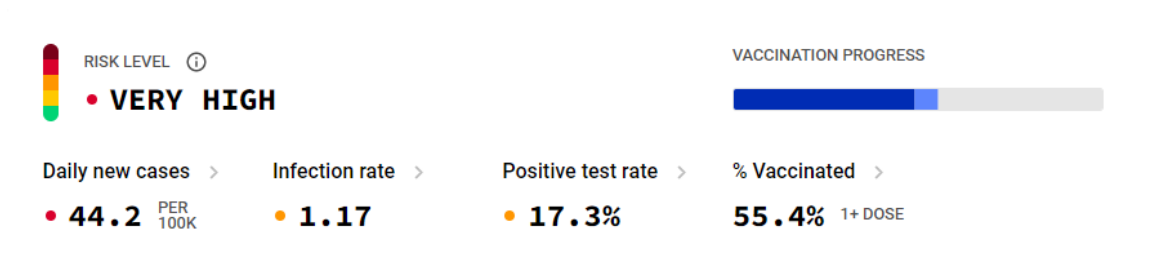
Dec 16 - Homeless students find stability in a Johnson City Schools program - https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/news/homeless-students-find-stability-in-a-johnson-city-schools-program/article_56b441a2-52cb-11ec-ad83-03d9fd6a2b3e.html

Dec 19 - Op-Ed - Read our series on homelessness - https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/opinion/read-our-series-on-homelessness/article_942f396e-6028-11ec-9999-678ff63c9ad5.html

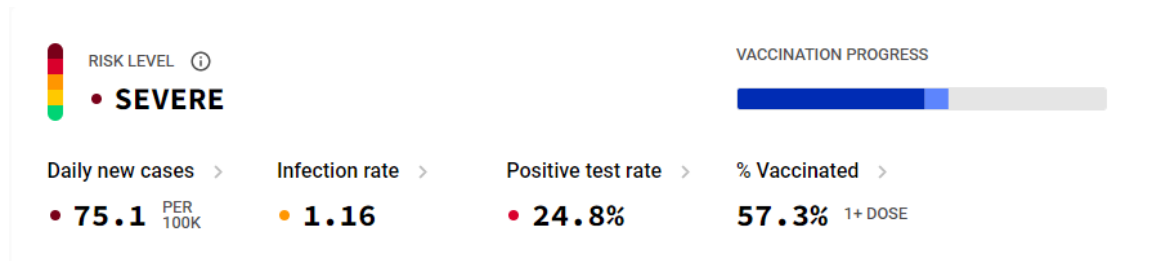
Dec 20 - 'We're humans': Homeless people share perspectives - https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/news/were-humans-homeless-people-share-perspectives/article_4620f4e4-5446-11ec-bf65-6bd989009d74.html

Our congregation's Sunday Services are currently 100% online because our region is still in the Severe Risk (Red) category. A partial reopen that contains both an in-person and a zoom option for Sunday services will be an option only after our entire region has been in the Medium Risk (Yellow) category on covidactnow.org for thirty days.

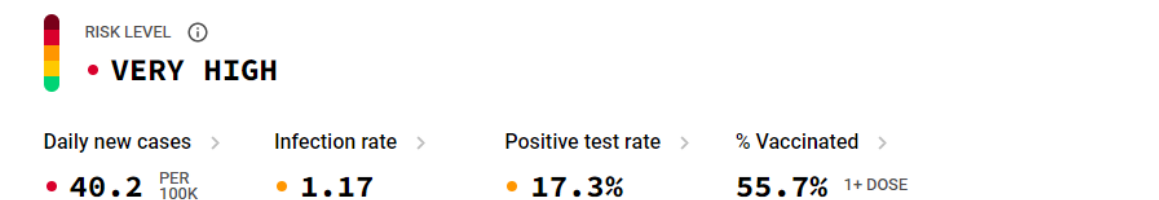
Kingsport Metro Area - November 2021



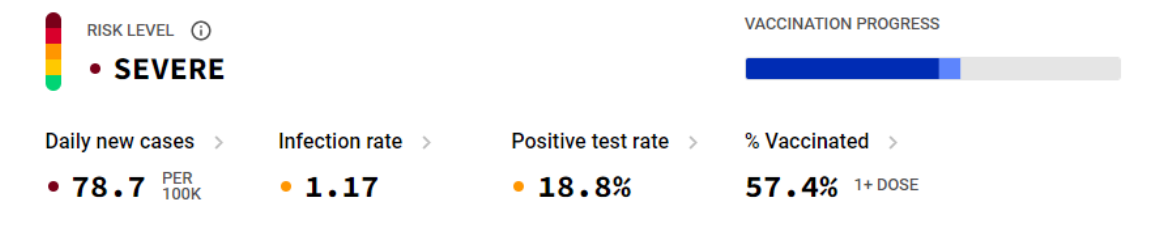
December 2021



Johnson City Metro Area - November 2021



December 2021



For full details about our Congregation's Reopening Plan please visit: <https://hvuuc.org/reopening-plan> and click on the link to the Reopening Plan

Membership

Caring Team

Joshua B. Is CT coordinator during January 2022.

And many thanks to Alicia C. For her assistance during December 2021.

Caring Team extends wishes to all for good health and much happiness in 2022!

Kitchen of Hope

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.

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

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.

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.

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 via Paypal at <https://hvuuc.org/donate> 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!

2021-2022 Board of Trustees

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Sarah White DRE@hvuuc.org

Music Director

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Office Administrator

Jessica Bowman 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