



# 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.*

May 2024

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

## Headlines ....

- [Minister's Note](#)
- [Game Nights](#)
- [Coffee House Concert](#)
- [Sunday Potluck](#)
- [Beltane Ritual](#)
- [Women's Night](#)

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

### Save the Date

- May 3—Women's Night  
May 10, 24—Game Group  
May 13 & 27 —Let's Chat Group  
May 15 —BoT Meeting  
May 21—Buuk Club  
May 29—Wednesday Night Supper

### **Yoga with Tish Every Tues at 5:15**

Find these events and more on our church calendar at the link below.

<https://localendar.com/public/hvuuchurch>

## Upcoming Church Services - 11:00AM Sun

**May 5, 2024, Rev. Sapp**  
*The Rhythms of Nature*

The Sixth Source of Unitarian Universalism is "Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature" Today we explore those rhythms by exploring mythologies from around the globe, and pondering what they mean for us as Unitarian Universalists.

**May 12, 2024, Rev. Sapp**  
*And Everything Else*

Throughout this church year Rev. Tiffany has been exploring the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism as listed in the current version of Article II. But there have been changes proposed to Article II which will remove the listing of the six sources. What will replace it, and is it an improvement?

**May 19, 2024, Rev. Sapp**  
*Come to the Gray Side*

May the Force Be with You, Unitarian Universalists! This Sunday our pulpit and music is packed with Star Wars fans as we explore what this piece of modern mythology has to teach us about good, evil, and everything in between.

**May 26, 2024, Jen Heglar**  
*Good Grief*

## Social Justice in the Public Square

Have you ever wondered what I do on days other than Sunday? If you've been curious, this newsletter series is for you. In this third article in the series, we are going to be talking about the Ministerial Fellowship Committee's (MFC) fourth competency, "Social Justice in the Public Square"

By identifying this area as an important competency, the Unitarian Universalist Association's MFC is taking a clear position that ministry cannot exist solely within the walls of our building, but that our values must be brought out to the street and made visible.

And our congregation has been pretty darn visible, and I have played my part in that.

We are a regular and joyful presence at Tri-Pride. We have made the news for our innovative and compassionate Giving Tree two years in a row. Whenever the weather doesn't cancel it, our congregation is present at the Martin Luther King Day prayer walk. We've marched for Reproductive Freedoms. We've come out in support of a local teacher who lost his job for teaching kids that White Privilege is real. We tabled at the Drag Show protest at ETSU last year and I got to work with my Episcopal colleagues to stand between the counter protestors and the people coming in to the show. All these opportunities for us to participate collectively as a congregation fall under one of the Public Statements that our congregation has voted on to collectively support. Using these Public Statements has been the way that our congregation indicates what matters we are willing to stand up for publicly as a congregation.

I've also participated individually, not representing the church, in several matters that the church does not have Public Statements on. When I do this, I do show up as a Unitarian Universalist minister, but not as a representative of our church and our church's positions specifically. (And HVUUC's bylaws support that). I was very involved in the work of United Religions Initiative. I've had a chance to participate in a water blessing organized by APEC and friends. I'm a regular attendee of the UU Tennessee Action Network's organizing meetings. I've participated in a Sex Ed and Spirituality roundtable forum which gave me a chance to articulate the UU Values I learned in OWL training. And I have worked with a collaborative history storytelling group to bring more awareness of the landmark Tennessee Supreme Court case of Ford v Ford that impacted the history of slavery in our state.

This is all work that I am very proud of. And I couldn't have done any of it without this congregation's commitment and passion for social justice in this world. One of the things the MFC does with this paperwork is ask us to report on the congregation's commitment to this growing edge of mine, because they too recognize that this is a ministry that is best done together. I'm so grateful for the work of the social justice team, and that they invite me to walk alongside them.

This year we're looking forward to working with the DEI Alliance, we're already thinking about Tri-Pride and the Rainbow festival, and a Peace Event is in the words for May which you can read more about elsewhere in this newsletter. And undoubtedly, other matters will come up that will invite us to bear witness to our Unitarian Universalist values in public.

I want to thank all of you for your commitment to living our values beyond these walls.

Rev. Tiffany

# Upcoming News and Events at HVUUC

## First Friday Women's Group

May 3, 2024, 6:30-9:00

**Focus:** spring cleaning 'stuff swap', optional

Our monthly First-Friday Women's night is for all those who identify as women. It is for fellowship and to lift each other up and to be lifted.

The date is My 3rd, at the beautiful hillside home of Denee M. in Elizabethton. If weather is good we can be both in and outdoors. Reach out to WomensGroup@HVUUC.org or the office for the address. Parking is pretty good, but carpooling is always encouraged. Carpooling "the party before the party."

You are welcome to bring a snack or beverage to share, but if that is a barrier for you coming, just come as you are and enjoy.

The focus for this event is a "Spring-Cleaning Stuff-Swap". Since many are doing some level of spring cleaning, it is a fun idea to have us bring something you no longer need or want for gifting or trade. Participation is optional and you don't need to bring something to be able to pick up something. The only rule being nothing is left behind at the host's home.

## Game Nights

There will be TWO Game Nights in May on the second and fourth Fridays, **5/10 and 5/24**.  
**6:30pm – 10pm**

We play board games and card games in the spirit of inclusion and fun. We always teach the rules to the games, so you don't need to know anything in advance. If you are curious about it, just show up ready to have some fun. If you want to bring a game that you love (and can teach to others), please do! Snacks and all ages welcome.

## Beltane Ritual—Friday May 3

CUUPS will host a ritual of Beltane celebrating the beginning of summer. Activities will include a ritual observation, a bonfire and dancing at the maypole. Preparation and decoration begins at 5 pm and doors open at 7 pm. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner if you would like.

Email [cuups@hvuuc.org](mailto:cuups@hvuuc.org) with any questions.

## HVUUC Concerts—Andrew McKnight

May 4th, 6:00PM

Come enjoy an eclectic family-friendly performance by acclaimed singer/songwriter Andrew McKnight!

And come hungry, because we will be selling nachos, Mexican-style food, and non-alcoholic beverages!

(BYOB is ok for adults who want alcohol) Food is priced separately depending on order from menu.

Award-winning singer/songwriter, guitarist and poet from northern Virginia's Blue Ridge. Nationally-acclaimed singer/songwriter and guitarist celebrates rural America, weaving his masterfully crafted songs, humorous stories and poetic drama into a musical soundscape sketched with shades of Appalachia, tasteful slide and jazzy blues, feisty anthems, and rustic folk.

Emails [musicdirector@hvuuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@hvuuc.org) with questions.

## Coffee Hour

THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

To sign up see our calendar next to the large coffee urn by bulletin board. June volunteers needed NOW so please sign up. Hurry!

Please take a turn... we love our UU Sunday Coffee hour.

Or email [coffeehour@hvuuc.org](mailto:coffeehour@hvuuc.org) with any inquiries....

BIG THANK YOU From your UU FELLOWSHIP TRUSTEE

## Sunday Potluck Volunteers Needed

Remember how much we all loved monthly Sunday Potlucks after church? It's time to get them going again! But we need a coordinator to make sure the notice gets published (so people know to bring in food that Sunday), and to line up folks to set up and clean up.

Call Kim Ray or email [potlucks@HVUUC.org](mailto:potlucks@HVUUC.org) if you're interested.

## Under G-d Film Screening

Sunday, May 5 @12:00PM

HVUUC, the RE Collaborative, and RISE: Healthy for Life invite you to a documentary film screening of Under G-d, on Sunday, May 5, at 1:00 pm. A light meal will be provided after the service before the screening begins.

**Under G-d**, A film by Paula Eiselt

Under G-d is a documentary short about the national Jewish response to the Dobbs Decision woven through the lived experiences of impacted women and the various lawsuits currently being launched by Jewish and interfaith leaders to challenge the overturning of Roe v. Wade, state by state.

We will watch the film together, then facilitators from RISE will lead a discussion on the film and what actions we can take together in our community/state/country.

See the trailer below and visit the Facebook page to RSVP:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1137351984178387/?ref=newsfeed>  
Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4aB-3Bxw3c>

For questions or more information contact Justin Ridley - [dre@hvuuc.org](mailto:dre@hvuuc.org)

## Dance, Pray and Eat for Peace

There are over 110 official armed conflicts occurring in the world today. We need Peace. We see conflict and strife all around us as politics divide us into factions. We need Peace. Our Principles call for the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. We need Peace.

Won't you join us for one evening dedicated to Peace? Friday, May 24th.

All are invited to dance, pray and eat for peace. Come for the entire evening OR just the parts that speak to you.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DANCE: 5:30-6:30:** We will gather on the back porch to learn the Universal Dances for Peace. These are fully accessible intergenerational dances: there are modifications for people who have movement limitations and children are very welcome! Dances are taught and led by Rebecca Nunley. Please consider bringing a minimum of \$5 donation in gratitude for Rebecca and her musicians

**PRAY: 6:30-7:00:** Join us in the Sanctuary to offer prayers and songs for peace. There are currently 114 wars throughout the world, and we will be praying for everyone effected by those wars.

**EAT: 7:00-8:00:** Revive the time-honored tradition of finding peace by gathering around a shared table with a simple meal. Let's share some vegan soup, bread and gluten-free crackers as we create peace between ourselves and envision peace for the world.

Email [minister@hvuuc.org](mailto:minister@hvuuc.org) with any questions.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Food Workshop

Adam Dickson of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Alliance is back with us to lead us in a workshop designed to help us think about our own Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work within HVUUC and how we can support this vision of inclusiveness for our Tri-Cities area.

A free light vegan meal will be provided at 6:00pm, and the workshop will begin at 6:30pm. Let us know you're coming at [showup@hvuuc.org](mailto:showup@hvuuc.org)

For more information about the DEI Alliance visit <https://deialliance.org/>

If you want to go deeper into this learning, join Rev. Tiffany and our Social Justice Chair for the 2024 DEI Summit on May 17th in Kingsport: <https://deialliance.org/summit/>

## Social Justice News and Initiatives



### Fifth Sunday Offering

HVUUC welcomed DEI Alliance for its 5th Sunday Donation on 3/24/24 and raised \$400 for the organization.

Adam Dickson, who serves on the board of DEI Alliance, is pictured in the photo accepting the check with Emily Hand, SJC Chairperson.

Adam will return to HVUUC on 5/9/24 at 6pm to provide a DEI workshop.

## Caring Team

May Coordinator: Dan Coughlin & Peggy Wolfe

Contact [caring@hvuuc.org](mailto:caring@hvuuc.org) to communicate any needs in our congregation.

THE CARING TEAM CARES ABOUT YOU



## 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 twice 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Grocery Cards Available for Purchase

Food City and Ingles grocery cards are available and can be mailed or delivered to you!

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!

## 2023-2024 Board of Trustees

**President:** Dottie S. Blades [president@hvuuc.org](mailto:president@hvuuc.org)

**Vice President:** Tish Kashdan [vp@hvuuc.org](mailto:vp@hvuuc.org)

**Past President:** Kim Ray [pastpresident@hvuuc.org](mailto:pastpresident@hvuuc.org)

**Treasurer:** Deb Helmer [treasurer@hvuuc.org](mailto:treasurer@hvuuc.org)

**Stewardship Trustee:** Greg Kramer [stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org](mailto:stewardshiptrustee@hvuuc.org)

**Programs Trustee:** Bradley Quick [programs@hvuuc.org](mailto:programs@hvuuc.org)

**Facilities Trustee:** Doug Chaffin [facilities@hvuuc.org](mailto:facilities@hvuuc.org)

**Secretary/Historian:** Alicia Culbertson [boardsecretary@hvuuc.org](mailto:boardsecretary@hvuuc.org)

**Membership Trustee:** Cynthia Goodman [membership@hvuuc.org](mailto:membership@hvuuc.org)

**Minister:** Rev. Tiffany Sapp: 477-7661 (office) [minister@hvuuc.org](mailto:minister@hvuuc.org)

**Director of Religious Education:** Justin Ridley [DRE@hvuuc.org](mailto:DRE@hvuuc.org)

**Music Director:** Charis Carter [musicdirector@hvuuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@hvuuc.org)

**Office Administrator:** Jessica Bowman [office@hvuuc.org](mailto:office@hvuuc.org)

**Video Tech Support:** Donnie Barnett [tech@hvuuc.org](mailto:tech@hvuuc.org)

Submissions for each month's newsletter are due by the last day of month to [newsletter@hvuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@hvuuc.org).