



TRI-CITIES U.U. REVIEW

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.

February 2012

136 Bob Jobe Road Gray, Tennessee 37615 (423) 477-7661

Headlines

- Women's Group Friday, February 3rd at 6:30PM
- Greatest Show on Earth—Open House and Dinner February 4th at 5PM
- New to UU DVD Sunday February 4th at 12PM
- Potluck Lunch February 12th
- Needlecraft Group February 12th at 1PM
- Midwinter Bonfire February 12th at 1PM
- Warrior's Journey meeting February 12th at 1PM
- Bookbinding Workshop February 18th at 6PM
- Town Hall Meeting February 26th at 12:30PM
- WNS February 29th at 6:30PM
- Up to date church information at www.hvuuc.org

Rev. Luck featured on *Religion for Life* this Week

Religion For Life can be heard on WETS Thursdays at 8 pm with a rebroadcast Sundays at 2 pm. It can also be heard on WEHC Mondays at 1 pm following "Fresh Air" The host of the program is Rev. John Shuck, the minister at First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethton, TN. If you can't catch in at those times, you can listen to the podcast anytime at <http://religionforlife.podomatic.com/>

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

February 5th—*Sacred Ground of Being*, Reverend Luck and the Covenant Group Facilitators

We'll be looking at the small group ministry of HVUUC. We'll hear from the covenant group facilitators and learn about the new groups which are forming.

February 12th—*Evolution Sunday*, Reverend Luck

February 19th—*You've Got Your Troubles and I've Got Mine*, Charlie Mattioli

February 26th—Reverend Luck

The Greatest Show on Earth (HVUUC version) Saturday, February 4th at 5:00PM



Come one, come all! On Saturday, February 4th we will have a celebration of fun and fellowship: past, present and future. Drop in anytime between 5:00 and 8:30 pm. We have compiled everyone's photos from church events and activities into a slide show that will run continuously during the evening . . . hence the theme: "The Greatest Show on Earth". Everyone is encouraged to wear circus attire if they so desire. We'll also have games, heavy hors d'oeuvre (dinner equivalent), wine and door prizes. The focus is on demonstrating to all congregants what a

precious family we are and what a variety of opportunities we offer for fellowship and social justice. The "future" part of it will be a brief and interesting word from our sponsor: the requisite presentation by Stewardship Trustee David Kashdan about the budget, but with less emphasis on operating expenses (BOR-ING!) and more about special projects (hmmm??...). Families with children and newer congregants are especially encouraged to attend. Children are welcome to participate, but childcare will be provided too, from 5:00 to 8:00PM



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HVUUC Calendar

Wednesday February 1

9:30am HVUUC Sangha

Thursday February 2

7pm Metaphysical Group

7pm Independent Study Group

Friday February 3

6:30pm Women's Group

7pm Articulating Your Faith-Bristol

Saturday February 4

5pm-Open House and Dinner

Sunday February 5

9:30am Adult & Children's RE

11am Worship Service

12pm New to UU DVD

12:30pm Girl Scouts

4:30pm Writer's Group

Monday February 6

7pm Simplicity Group

Tuesday February 7

5:15PM Yoga

Wednesday February 8

9:30am HVUUC Sangha

6:30pm RE Committee meeting

6:30pm Religious Services meeting

Thursday February 9

7pm Metaphysical Group

Sunday February 12

9:30am Adult RE & Children's RE

11am Worship Service

12pm Potluck Lunch

1pm Needlecraft Group

1pm Midwinter Bonfire

1pm Warrior's Journey meeting

Tuesday February 14

5:15PM Yoga

Wednesday February 15

9:30am HVUUC Sangha

7pm Board of Trustees meeting

Thursday February 16

7pm Metaphysical Group

7pm Independent Study Group

Saturday February 18

3pm CUUPS Bookbinding

Sunday February 19

9:30am Adult & Children's RE

11am Worship Service

12pm Coffee, Snacks & Fellowship

12:30pm CUUPS meeting

5pm Senior Youth group meeting

Tuesday February 21

10am Buuk Group

Wednesday February 22

10am HVUUC Sangha

Luck's Leaf

*Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy G*d my G*d: Where thy diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.*

2 Ruth 1:16-17



These beautiful words are spoken by the biblical Ruth to her mother-in-law. Ruth's husband; Naomi's son has died. Naomi is trying to encourage her daughter-in-law to return to her own people and remarry, but Ruth knows that Naomi has no other and a woman alone in biblical times would not fare well. She'd more than likely die alone, sick and destitute. Both women in their love for each other want what is best for the other and they are more than willing to sacrifice for the other. Sacrifice is lovely at this level where each is caring and loving of the other, and the story ends well.

February is the month of love we say though of course it is the month of much else. This morning I am thinking about a meditation I just read about the cliché' of looking for love in all the wrong places. Colleague David S. Blanchard reminds me that we look for love in the obvious places, and as a result we are often disappointed.

Let us be reminded that love is found in hard places too. It is just as valid, maybe more valid in those hard places because it is not so easily assessable....often it is downright hard work....the work of love. There can be love in being told we are wrong. There can be love in sharing regret. There can be love in telling hard truths. There can be love in letting the one(s) you love leave you. There can be love in limiting destructive behavior. There is love in grief.

None of the above is the love promised by fairy godmothers or in fairy tales, princes on white horses and princesses. Blanchard says it s the kind of love experienced by frogs and dwarfs--- imperfect and real, I'd say, like our love and like us. And yet we don't give up; we keep on trying "to get it right" because we must—we care enough to enter the fray. This harder love brings us closer to finding the missing pieces of ourselves that we need to make us more whole.

Love comes to us often when we are not looking; we might not recognize it for what it is at the time. Perhaps we could keep our eyes open, especially this month, to see the love around us....love we take for granted possibly, in our well-worn relationships, or love that calls us to our higher ways of being, love that makes us kinder, or love that says, *No*.

We are changed by our love, stretched and grown by our commitments to the work—sometimes hard work-- of love. Blessed be you lovers of life as you go your ways each day with eyes and hearts open to the love in your lives. JL

Thursday February 23

7pm Metaphysical Group

Saturday February 25

2pm Baby Shower for Kara Clouse

Sunday February 26

9:30am Adult & Children's RE

11am Worship Service

12pm 4th Sunday Luncheon

12:30pm Town Hall meeting

Monday February 27

7pm Couples Covenant Group

Wednesday January 25

9:30am HVUUC Sangha

6:30pm WNS

7pm CCT

Last Chance to be chosen as a UUA General Assembly Delegate!

The **UUA General Assembly** is our association's once-a-year national conference where delegates from UU churches from all over the nation meet to determine goals and policies for the organization, attend inspirational workshops, and enjoy music, social gatherings, and worship experiences.

The HVUUC Board will be choosing 3 delegates for the 2012 conference at their February board meeting. Delegates would have to provide their own transportation, registration, and boarding/food costs as there are no funds in our budget for this. But if you would like this exciting experience and an opportunity to represent our church in important matters, please contact Charlie Mattioli pastpresident@hvuuc.org to be considered for board nomination to this event no later than the second week in February, 2012.

The 2012 General Assembly will be in Phoenix, AZ, June 20-24.

More information including costs, programs, etc. can be found at www.uua.org/ga/2012.

President's Corner

While the support and engagement of all its congregants is important to the fulfillment of its mission and ministry throughout the year, the month of February brings unique opportunities to show support for HVUUC in tangible ways. On Saturday, February 4, we are all invited to "The Greatest Show on Earth."

This is our chance to demonstrate our commitment to our church through pledges of monetary support for the programs of the church. But February is also a month in which many of us will be asked by the Nominating Committee to contribute time and talent to the church by assuming leadership positions. Although the church cannot operate without monetary support, it likewise cannot operate without our contributions of time and talent. If the Nominating Committee demonstrates their trust in you by asking you to assume a leadership position, please give it thoughtful consideration and say yes if you can. These roles, while presenting many challenges, also present an opportunity for personal as well as spiritual growth. And perhaps most importantly, they offer the chance to get to know other congregants better and experience deeper interactions and fellowship with them.

Jo Anne Medlin, President, Board of Trustees

Town Hall "Dot" Meeting February 26

Mark your calendars and plan to attend a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, February 26th in the Sanctuary at 12:30pm after the 4th Sunday lunch. CoM (Committee on Ministry) is bringing in a moderator to assist us in a "dot" meeting that will be used to assess the congregation's opinions about the Expanded Sunday Program (instead of CoM's annual Survey Monkey survey). Childcare will be provided for children of all ages.

Here is how the dot meeting will work: The moderator will bring up a broad list of topics primarily related to the Expanded Sunday Program. Your comments will be recorded on chart paper and posted on the walls of the room. Then you will be given adhesive dots to attach to items that reflect your opinion on topics that matter most to you. At the end of the meeting, CoM will make a record of your desires (via the dots) and report the results to the Board of Trustees. And you will have a chance to see how your fellow congregants feel about the same issue(s).

So come, join the discussion, and place your dots on things that matter to you. If enough people need it, CoM (without an outside moderator) will provide the same opportunity after the Wednesday Night Supper on February 29th. Please contact Tish Kashdan (dtkashdan@chartertn.net) to let her know if you require a reprise meeting on the 29th.

Fellowship Opportunities

HVUUC Women's Night Out!

Join the women of HVUUC for their monthly Women's Night out the first Friday of the month. This month it's on Friday, February 3rd at 6:30PM at Jen Margeson's home in Johnson City. Please bring the usual drink or food contribution. If you need directions to Jen's house, contact Womens-group@hvuuc.org.

Bookbinding Workshop

CUUPS is holding a Bookbinding workshop on February 18th from 6-8:30pm. Come and join us as we learn how to make two different styles of books! We will start with an easy pamphlet style book and then learn to create a second book using the Coptic stitch method. The cost for the workshop and materials is \$5.00. Feel free to bring any scrapbook paper or other decorations you might like to use to embellish your new books. Bring a finger food to share and be prepared for a fun night of crafting and community. See you there!

MACHO Men's Group Retreat

The MACHO (Men Achieving Community Helping Others) retreat is on April 20-22, 2012 at Sterchi Lodge, near Del Rio, Tennessee. A fun time is guaranteed! Men new to HVUUC are very encouraged to attend. Cost is only \$30 for lodging the entire weekend. An additional cost for meals will be determined later. Make checks payable to Macho Men and either give to Tim Cox at church or mail to HVUUC PO Box 8383 Gray, TN 37615. Questions? contact macho@hvuuc.org.

HVUUC Needlecraft Group

February 12th at 1:00PM in the sanctuary. Join us the second Sunday of each month after potluck as we make hats and shawls for chemotherapy patients.

At our meeting on February 12th we will continue the class on loom knitting. This is for beginners to learn to loom knit in the round for hats and for more experienced loom knitters to use a square or rectangular loom for shawls. Bring your loom, yarn, current project and join us.

We will be placing a tote in the back of the sanctuary for donations of yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks and looms for learning crafters to use as they begin their crafting journey.

New to UU?

The 1st Sunday of each month we will show a DVD introduction to Unitarian Universalism in the REZ. It is primarily for newcomers, but everyone is invited. Meet in the foyer after the service.

Midwinter Bonfire

Join us outside after potluck on February 12th. "Smudge" your friends, let go of your worries, and raise your aspirations to your higher power. Alternatives will be available for small children, too, so everyone can participate. Free and fun--'cause who doesn't love a good bonfire!

Hero's Journey Informational Meeting

Hero's Journey, the HVUUC Veteran's support group, will be having a brief informational meeting after potluck on Sunday February 12th for members of our congregation. This will be an introduction to the outreach program and group members and leaders will be around afterwards to answer questions. If you are a veteran or know a veteran in the local community, make plans to attend.

Frog Drum Workshop

Please join CUUPS in a making of joyful noise to welcome spring on Saturday, March 17th from 6-9pm. We will be playing and painting our own unique frog drums, as seen at the Green Arts Fair. The cost is \$15.00 per drum.

*Pre-registration and Payment (Cash, Check or Paypal) is required by Feb. 19th.

*Please bring a potluck dish to share for dinner.

*Contact Shanna Thibeault, Oreon Millard or Sallie McAllister for more information.

Sign up by e-mail to CUUPS@hvuuc.org.

Senior High Youth Group

Game Night--February 19, 5-8 p.m. in the Fred Ball Room at church. If you came to the lock-in, your dinner is covered. If you did not, please bring \$5 to cover dinner.

Wednesday Night Supper

Join us for WNS on Wednesday, February 29th at 6:30PM. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children. You must RSVP to WNS@hvuuc.org by Tuesday, February 28.

Life Span R.E.

Adult R.E. 1

Adult RE Group #1 meets on Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Meditation Hall. Beginning January 29 and extending through approximately the first week of May, we will be listening to and discussing lectures from the series, "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong. Books are also available for participants. If you have any questions about Adult RE, please send an Email to AdultRE@hvuuc.org.

Adult R.E. 2

Adult RE 2 meets on Sunday at 9:30 AM in the Susan B. Anthony room in the REZ. Beginning on November 6 - through February 5 the class will be **Parents As Resident Theologians**.

Beginning February 12 – April 15 the class will be **Building Your Own Theology**.

Please email any questions about Adult RE to AdultRE@hvuuc.org.

Holston Valley Sangha

We are still meeting regularly on Wednesday mornings in the Meditation Room from 9:30AM-11AM. Our sessions begin with a half hour of silent meditation, then move on to teachings and discussion. We are currently listening to Real Happiness by Sharon Salzberg. We also meet Friday from 6:30-8:30pm at the Appalachian Dharma & Meditation Center in Johnson City.

There is also a 4-hour session (10am-2pm) every 2nd Saturday at the ADMC Center. For complete description, or if you have any questions, please contact Marina Munjal (mmunjal@charter.net)

Social Justice

February Food Donations

Share the love! Bring in Red or Heart ♥ Healthy food to share with Hunger First in Kingsport, and the Jonesborough Food Bank. Remember, the theme is for fun... not rules!

Social Justice

IHN JC Volunteers Needed!

I'm still looking for 2 others to become volunteer coordinators, along with Rosemary Kleske and me for the next twelve months. I've just received the calendar from IHN for 2012 and the dates we'd be needed to coordinate volunteers will be:

April 2-3, July 9-10, October 15-16

This means that each coordinator would only be responsible for arranging for cooks and overnighters to stay at Hopwood Church ONCE A YEAR. After doing it alone for seven years, I thought the idea of co-coordinators might be an easy way for us to continue our commitment to serve as a support church in the Interfaith Hospitality Network of JC, and allow me to pursue other volunteer opportunities. I could always serve as your backup and would offer support and guidance to help you familiarize yourself with 'how it's done'. If you long to act as a volunteer, but feel you just don't have the time to commit to something regularly, this is an easy answer-just once a year! It doesn't get any easier than that, and the 'work' (all done from your home, via email and phone calls) can be very rewarding. If you have questions, or would like to discuss this opportunity, please email Sam at IHNJC@hvuuc.org

Senior Youth Service Project Recycle, Reuse!

The senior youth has adopted this service project and will put a receptacle in the church soon, so start collecting and keep your eyes peeled: Bays Mountain Park has contacted a company to make free park benches from recycled plastic bags. 10 full 30-gallon yard bags makes a bench!

What Can be Recycled (All material must be clean, dry and free of food residue.)

- Plastic Grocery Bags
- Plastic department store bags
- Newspaper and magazine sleeves
- Dry-cleaning bags
- Plastic Bread bags
- Plastic Produce bags
- Toilet paper/Paper towel over-wrap
- Stretch film (no household saran wrap)
- Zip lock bags

Fiscal Flash

Donation Documentation for Taxes

Those needing a letter documenting their donations to HVUUC for calendar year 2011 for IRS purposes may request such a letter by sending an email to Frank Shuler at Treasurer@hvuuc.org

HVUUC Selling Grocery Store Prepaid Cards!

HVUUC sells Food City, Ingles, and Kroger prepaid shopping cards. The cards are for sale in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. The church makes 5% on each sale. The Kroger cards are refillable at the store, the other cards we don't make any money on if you refill them, so please throw them away when they are "empty" and buy a new one at church. They can also be used for purchasing gas at the stores that have gas stations.

Generous Gifts

Endowment Fund

HVUUC has received the following contributions to the Endowment Fund.

In memory of Tom Jones- Greg and Betty Kramer

In memory of Allen Palmer-James and Jo Anne Medlin

Music Program

Get Involved in the Music Program at HVUUC

The Music Program is always looking for additional people to share their talents with the congregation. Music is an important way that we help create our spiritual space at HVUUC and whether you are a newer member or a long-time member with a talent you are ready to share you are welcome.

Should you be interested in singing in the choir or in helping to provide "special music" for Sunday services, please send an e-mail message to Teri Sandoval at music@hvuuc.org

Community Information

Religion For Life on WETS

The role of religion in society will be explored on a new program, a joint production of public radio stations WETS-FM/HD (89.5 MHz) in Johnson City, TN and WEHC-FM (90.7 MHz) in Emory, VA. *Religion For Life* can be heard on WETS Thursdays at 8PM with a rebroadcast Sundays at 2PM. It can heard on WEHC Mondays at 1PM following "Fresh Air" The host of the program is Rev. John Shuck, the minister at First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethton, TN. Prior to entering the ministry, Shuck was a radio broadcaster at stations in Boise and Seattle.

WETS-FM/HD is a service of East Tennessee State University, and WEHC-FM is operated by Emory and Henry University. Podcasts will be at <http://religionforlife.podomatic.com/>

Interviews will include :

Rev. Jacqueline Luck of HVUUC in Gray, TN about Unitarian Universalism, Anthony Flacavento of S.C.A.L.E. about building local and sustainable economies, Sandy Westin of United Religions Initiative about religious cooperation, Thomas Hill of NYU about peacebuilding in the U.S. and Iraq, and Carol Delaney, professor emerita at Stanford, about her books on Abraham and Columbus.

PFLAG Meetings and Education

The Tri-Cities Chapter of Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) invites you to attend their regular chapter meetings, held the 3rd Thursdays of every month at 7pm on the campus of ETSU (Rm. 125 Rogers-Stout). Current PFLAG leadership (Keith Frederick, Michele Banner, Stacey Williams, and Beth Sluder) has instituted an Education Committee, led by Elizabeth Leigh-Paffenroth, in order to facilitate community education in the areas that impact LGBT individuals and their families. Each monthly meeting will include a brief education component. Reliably, however, most of the meeting is spent sharing stories, thoughts, and supporting one another.

Tri-Cities Stepmother Support

Calling all Bonus Moms! Tri-cities Stepmother Support Group meets monthly to share and empower one another to be successful stepparents. Constructive and group led. Join Us! Call Amy Benedict at 423-646-8148 for more information.

Membership Corner

Skip Jones remembers his grandmother with love. She would have been 102 years old Sunday (1/29/12), but died the Monday before her auspicious birthday. We remember him and his family.

Our condolences to Starla Wages on the recent death of her brother.

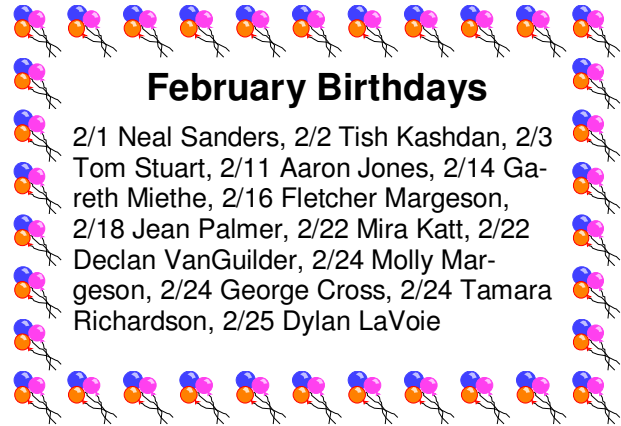
New to UU?

The 1st Sunday of each month we will show a DVD introduction to Unitarian Universalism in the REZ. It is primarily for newcomers, but everyone is invited.

Caring Team

Caring Team Coordinators for February are Lynn Scarborough and Wanda Earp. They can be reached by e-mail caring@hvuuc.org or by calling 423-477-7661 (Press 3).

Thank You to our January coordinators Louise Mayo and Deanna Richardson.



February Birthdays

2/1 Neal Sanders, 2/2 Tish Kashdan, 2/3 Tom Stuart, 2/11 Aaron Jones, 2/14 Gareth Miethe, 2/16 Fletcher Margeson, 2/18 Jean Palmer, 2/22 Mira Katt, 2/22 Declan VanGuilder, 2/24 Molly Margeson, 2/24 George Cross, 2/24 Tamara Richardson, 2/25 Dylan LaVoie

Thank You IHN Volunteers!

Many thanks to the following for their help with the Interfaith Hospitality Network participants at St. Luke United Methodist Church on Thursday, January 12: Cindi Huss who shopped, Anne Burns and Lisa Long and Ally Long, and Christine Barger and Tim Cox who over nighted and helped with breakfast on Friday morning. Our turn to help out again will be in April, so be on the lookout for the email asking for volunteers and do your share in assisting people back to self-sufficiency.

2011-2012 Board of Trustees

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Minister

Rev. Jacqueline Luck: 477-7661 (office), minister@hvuuc.org

Church Secretary's Office Hours

9:00am-3:00pm, Tuesday & Thursday - office@hvuuc.org

The HVUUC newsletter is published the first of each month. Please send submissions to newsletter@hvuuc.org for that month's newsletter before the 1st.

The HVUUC web site can 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.

To post a church related message send an e-mail to: hvuuc-news@yahoogroups.com

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