



# Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News

7633 N. Florida Ave (Hwy 41)  
Citrus Springs, FL 34434  
352-465-4225

 Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists  
Website: <http://www.ncuu.org>

**January, 2019**

## President's Message

Healthy Happy Holiday to all for the coming New Year!

We miss Joan Burnett; please keep her in your thoughts.

Mending Wishes for Mark Woods, Roger Adams, Wanda Brown, David Koveleski and all Our Members and Friends.

We will miss Gordie and Carol Dinmore moving to Virginia. Best Wishes on their new life and adventure.

I'm looking forward to a new Patio enclosure in the coming New Year.

The Birthday Club will be Celebrated on Sunday January 6th, 2019.

We have member interest in a Cruise Club for all to be discussed over Wine and Cheese at Book Club on Saturday Jan. 12, at 3:00 pm. The 'New Jim Crow'.

God Speed,

Joe Verdi President

# Sunday Services

1/06/19 Speaker: Rev. Marni Harmony

**Background:** Ordained in 1974, Marni served churches in State College, PA and Brookfield, WI before being called to Orlando, FL, where she served for 20 years. She then enjoyed two wonderful Interim ministries in Marietta, GA and Tarpon Springs, FL. UU since age 7, Marni received her B.A. from Tufts University; a Th.M. from Boston University School of Theology; an M.S.W. from the University of Wisconsin and a D.Min. from Columbia Seminary. She makes her home in Orlando with her spouse Nancy and their animal companion dogs Finn and Wilson. She eats lots of vegetables, plays the Irish whistle, and takes chocolate seriously.

**Topic:** "Towards A Theology of the Stranger"

**Summary:** Dutch theologian Henri Nouwen considers one of the most important movements of the spiritual life to be reaching out to other human beings, an action he called the movement from hostility to hospitality. It's not always easy in a world full of strangers

1/13/18 **Speaker:** Susan Garrison

**Background:** Susan Garrison is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ormond Beach and has been UU since the 1970s. She considers herself an "explorer" and a "traveler". As a former librarian and educator, she learned and guided others in learning ... and continues to do so. "I love questions," says Susan. "I actually love them more than answers." She is a storyteller, Toastmaster, mah jongg player, and obsessive reader.

**Topic:** "Close Enough"

**Summary:** As goal driven individuals, we are able to plan, organize, and accomplish, but what good does it do? Let's consider the value or lack of value of measurable success and explore another way to measure ourselves, our experiences, our relationships, and our life journey.

1/20/19 **Speaker:** Laura Pedersen

**Background:** Laura Pedersen is a bestselling author, playwright, and former New York Times columnist. She was the youngest person to hold a seat on the American Stock Exchange and in 1994 President Bill Clinton honored her as one of 10 outstanding young Americans. She had a TV show on the Oxygen network and has appeared on Oprah, David Letterman, Good Morning America, Primetime Live, The Today Show, CBS This Morning and other national programs. Her most recent book, Life In New York, won the 7 Sisters Award for best nonfiction. Laura is a lifelong UU and ordained Interfaith minister.

**Topic:** “We’ll All Go Together”

**Summary:** The decisions we make as a collective society matter more than any individual choices we make. And if there’s no common good there can be no society. On the local, national and international level, the inequality that results from tending only our own gardens is harmful to everyone’s health and leads to social dysfunction. We’ll examine the potential for unforced cooperation among opposing parties, different religions, egoists, and superpowers.

1/27/18 Speaker: Rev. Katie Culbert

**Background:** Pastor Katie Culbert graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School. She was the Director of Religious Education at the UU Church of Tampa eight years and the Intern Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota for two. She currently works as a chaplain at Tampa General Hospital and lives with her husband JD and two children, Desi and Casey in Tampa. Her passions are family ministry, Unitarian Universalist evangelism, social action and sparking the imagination of UU leaders in thinking of bold new ways to create religious community

**Topic:** “Guiding Principles For a Free Faith”

**Summary:** The Five Smooth Stones of Liberal Religion: Many know that Unitarian Universalism is grounded in seven principles and six sources but there is more to it. (MUCH MORE!) One influential Theologian, James Luther Adams, outlined five additional principles in a philosophy called the “Five Smooth Stones.” Let us gather to celebrate these foundational marks of a liberal faith: Evolution, Freedom, Justice, Agency and Hope.

# NCUU Board of Directors

President	Joe Verdi
Vice-President	Sheila Woods
Clerk	Holly Alexander
Directors	Rob Deremer, Gordon Dinmore, Bree Hill, Linda Myers, Nancy Pettus, Ellen Saunders

## NCUU Committees

Audio/Visual	Gordon Hart
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Carol Dinmore
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Joan Burnett
Facebook	John Comer, Connie Hart, and Nancy Pettus
Finance	Stan Brumaghim
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Membership	Connie Hart
Music	Sally Smith-Adams
Newsletter	Amy Haiken
Nominating Committee	Joan Burnett, Pam Ricker, Sandy Sondheim
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
Publicity	OPEN
Property	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Religious Education	Joan Burnett
Social Activities	John Comer
Social Justice	Available
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	John Comer
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

## Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, January 14th at 2 PM.  
If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please send it to the clerk, Holly Alexander, about a week in advance. (Second Monday of the month)

## January Potluck

The next potluck will be celebrated on Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.



## Religious Education This Course is important to All Of Us

During the month of January, Lynne Westmoreland will be offering a course on Mindful Communication. The course will meet on 4 Saturdays, January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th from 10AM until noon. The first meeting will focus on Marshall Rosenberg's "Non-Violent Communication: Create Your Life, Your Relationships, and Your World in Harmony with Your Values" and will serve as the central theme of our four weeks together. We will, however, build on Rosenberg's pedagogy and include weeks on "Deep Listening and Mindful Speech", "Silence: Complicity or Encouragement?" and "The Practice of Loving Kindness". The course cost will be \$25.00 and each participant is encouraged to have read Rosenberg's book before the January 5th gathering.

And a brief bio:

Lynne Westmoreland is a humane educator, combining education from that field with Buddhist training and indigenous spirituality, and is a long time UU. Her current encore career work includes teaching meditation, facilitating spiritual growth groups, and speaking in churches and local communities about our interdependence and our ability to shape this time in our evolutionary history. She has been a speaker at NCUU twice. Her latest sermon was about kindness.



## Membership Committee Notes

Happy New Year to all our NCUU Members and Friends. We are seeking some Friends to become Members of our wonderful Congregation. Please check out the new pamphlet in the rack in the foyer entitled "Belief and Belonging".

January 27<sup>th</sup> will be our first official "Bring a Friend to Service" Sunday. The UU Rev. Katie Culbert will do an uplifting talk and we'll have some great refreshments afterward. Please invite some friends and/or family to join us that Sunday.

Would you like to be a greeter? See Holly Alexander.

Are you interested in sharing why you belong to NCUU with the congregation? Please see Connie Hart.

We're going to bring in the new year with **new T-shirts!** Please listen for announcements and watch for emails. Also check the bulletin board for details on styles and sizes. The price will be \$15.00. Thank you, Amy Haiken, for your lovely new design taken from the art in the front of the sanctuary.



## January Birthdays



If your birthday is in January, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor:

ahaiken@bellsouth.net. Birthdays will be celebrated the first Sunday of each month acknowledging all birthdays.

1/2 Jeanne Wright  
1/4 Sue Gill  
1/5 Dan Eisaman  
1/12 Bob Madeiros  
1/18 Sheila Woods  
1/23 Gordon Hart  
1/27 Joan Burnett  
1/31 Amy Haiken

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### Emergency Mental Health Info

Several times we have gotten calls at NCUU for emergency mental health information. We often refer them to 211. Citrus County is short of residential treatment facilities including immediate Baker Act in patient care:

**The Centers** on so Lecanto Highway (491) can provide outpatient, substance abuse, and telephone assistance if the person is on **medicaid**. 352 628-5020. Residential care, there, requires private payments.

**Life Stream** has been given the contract to provide for indigent persons with **no** insurance. They are not fully set up yet in Citrus. Their crisis line goes to a central spot from which they determine where and how to proceed 352-315-7500. It is hoped that this agency will provide better mental and substance abuse aid.

Most of the funds for this public program comes from Lutheran Services plus the County, with County authorization.

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## Ladies Luncheon

Our NCUU Ladies' Luncheons will resume the last Tuesday of each month. See details and sign-up sheet on foyer table and come join us.

-- Peg Gotz

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### Caring Committee

Please inform the Caring Committee if an NCUU member is ill or in need of some cheer. Carol will keep in touch with ailing congregants, as well as our snowbirds.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this very fulfilling job, please contact Carol Dinmore at 352- 419-5515

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### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Monday, January 21, 2019 at 11:00 am.  
Please contact Sandy if you are interested in attending. Many of us have signed up for this great event. We plan to meet up in town, so all of us can caravan together.

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### Send Sunday Morning Announcements to:

[ContactNCUU@gmail.com](mailto:ContactNCUU@gmail.com) with For Announcements in the subject line. Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

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### NCUU Choir Practice

NCUU Choir practice are on Sunday mornings, at 9:00 a.m.

## Social Service Help Line

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Wellcare, a health insurance company, has set up a help line for social services. If you need assistance, call 1-866-775-2192

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**Wireless amplifying headphones are now available at the rear of the sanctuary. See Gordon Hart or Gordie Dinmore for assistance on Sundays.**

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## UUA Congregational Poll

Each year, member congregations such as the N.C.U.U report annual membership and financial figures through the certification process, which determines UUA dues, delegates for General Assembly, and other key statistics.

Part of the certification is the Congregational Poll. This year the Poll asks us, members of the NCUU: Should the draft Statement of Conscience entitled "Democracy Uncorrupted" be placed on the final agenda of the 2019 General Assembly? The vote choices are Yes, No, or Abstain.

Please see this website which is a draft Statement of Conscience:

<https://www.uua.org/action/process/csais/corruption-of-our-democracy/2016-2020-csai>

Members are asked to read and decide their opinion on the Action Issue.

The congregation will be polled in mid-January. Our response, Yes, No, or Abstain, will be recorded as part of the certification in the UUA.

Thank you,  
Sheila, V.P.

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## Grounds & Gardens Day

The **First Friday** of every month is **Grounds & Gardens Day** at NCUU.

Do you like to work outside in the yard and garden? Whether weeding, trimming, planting, raking, the NCUU Yard and Garden Crew always needs help. Please come Friday morning.

Gordie Dinmore and Bree Hill are usually there by sun-up. (*The rest of us usually are not.*) We're normally done by 10:30 - 11:00.

Sally Smith-Adams

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## Newsletter Deadline

Please remember that the deadline for February's

Newsletter is **January 23 2018.**

Send to: [ahaiken@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahaiken@bellsouth.net) and put 'For Newsletter' in the subject line.

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### **Karen Fournier**



Karen Fournier comes to us from Massachusetts, home of the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots. She is an avid sports fan and majored in physical education in college.

Karen spent the early years of her marriage raising three children and teaching elementary school. After accepting an early retirement incentive from the state, she discovered barbershop harmony and sang with the Sweet Adelines.

Even though her daughter became a youth minister at churches in Ohio and Virginia, Karen was not a regular church goer. After her husband died in 2013, she felt the need to become part of a congregation and decided to attend a nondenominational church in a neighboring town in MA. She was so drawn in by the amazing UU minister that when she came to Florida, she searched for a UU fellowship. She attended the church in Summerfield for two years. Last November she moved to Dunnellon to be closer to her son's future retirement home. She discovered NCUU and immediately felt at home here. She is now ready to become a member and do her part.

Welcome Karen!!!

## Member Message

### Message from Jean Brown

Dear Family and Friends,

This is my fifth and final season as a snowbird writing to you from beautiful Inverness, FL. I love it here and will miss it terribly. But time marches on. Now that I am eighty, I need to prepare for the last phase of my life. Being a Unitarian and a humanist and having quirky OCD tendencies, it is time for me to stay physically in proximity to my family and close to my doctors and insurance coverage which are all centered in the Pittsburgh area. So, my mobile home is for sale. I'll put the particulars at the end of this letter in case you know of anyone who might be interested.

My daughters are now beautiful, middle-age women with homes, families, and careers. My grandchildren, 21, 19, 16, are mature young adults with education goals and jobs. I'm proud of all of them. As a high school cheerleader, Monica, 16, will be going on a one week trip to Hawaii December 16th. Rae-Ann will be a chaperone and Terrill is going too, so the three of them have been involved with serious fundraising for this exciting trip.

Returning to my retirement community, Longwood at Oakmont, is always a pleasure. I miss it and all my Pittsburgh friends while I am in Florida. But returning to Pittsburgh's winter weather is not a pleasure. I don't look forward to snow, ice, and wind chill temperatures. Heck, I don't even like temperatures in the sixties!

It's been fun hosting visitors in FL the last five years including my brother, Dan, from Omaha, my daughters, son-in-law, and three grandchildren from Pittsburgh, Carolyn Becker from Chicago, Marge Stern from CA, and Pat McKenty, Margaret Groninger, Anne Ducanis, Marvin Fields, Penny Soldatus, Kathy Bowser, Margot Critchfield, Chris Michaels,

Eileen & Stuart Hastings, all from Pittsburgh. Joe and Joyce Ellwanger from Milwaukee stopped for a Pittsburgh visit on more than one occasion. I hope to be here in Inverness until the end of March. If you will be in the area and can stop, let me know.

I am two-thirds of the way through reading Michelle Obama's best selling memoirs, "Becoming." I love it and highly recommend it. I am reading more slowly now to keep from coming to the end.

Enjoy the holidays! I look forward to the yearly news I will receive from you.

Love,

Jean