



# NCUU NEWS



The **November, 2017**, monthly newsletter of the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists  
 7633 N. Florida Ave. (Hwy. 41) Citrus Springs, FL 34434    352-465-4225    [www.naturecoastuu.org](http://www.naturecoastuu.org)

## President's Message

November provides us with a wonderful holiday, Thanksgiving. I love this holiday because we don't have to buy and wrap presents, decorate our houses, trim a tree, or send Thanksgiving cards. All we do is eat. Of course, there are those of us who must cook, and bake, and get our houses ready for guests...(me), but somehow, it's different. After a long, hot summer, our Thanksgiving holiday gives us a time to reflect on our blessings.

One of my most heartfelt blessings is being a member of the Nature Coast UU, and judging by our faithful members and friends who attend Sunday services each and every week, I'd say I'm not alone in this sentiment.

Why do we love the NCUU? Let me count the ways:

- Our fellowship offers a dynamic service each Sunday. We are treated to sermons performed by UU Ministers, Lay Speakers from all parts of Florida, wonderful sermons given by our own brilliant members, special services such as the Flower Service and the Water Service given by our Earth Centered small group ministry, and delightful skits written by Tom Hibberd and performed by the NCUU Players.
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- We have wonderful social events such as our monthly Pot Luck Supper, St. Patrick's corned beef and cabbage luncheon, and our Easter pot luck feast. Also, we offer many social justice programs with dynamic speakers.
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- We are a congregation of kind, gentle, and devoted people who pitch in to help where and when we can both physically and financially. Baton Rouge, Haiti, Houston, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands' victims have benefitted from our small congregation's donations, and I'm sure we have helped many people.

- For as long as I've been a member, and even before that, we've collected money from our congregants, then shopped for Christmas presents for needy children from the Citrus County Family Resource Center's Christmas Gift Program. Carol and Gordon Dinmore inherited the spearheading of this program from Muriel Chess; and Bree Hill, Sandy and Monique Sondheim, and many others have helped shop throughout the years.
- We collect and deliver non-perishable food for the CUB program each week, which helps fill the shelves of their food pantry.
- Each year, we donate bags and bags of school supplies and deliver them to a local elementary school in Citrus County. This year, we delivered the supplies to the Citrus Springs Elementary School.
- After our annual Animal Blessing service, we donated several cans and bags of dog and cat food, which was delivered to the Animal Shelter in Inverness, to be donated to local food pantries for needy folks' pets.

This year, our Thanksgiving Day Pot Luck Feast will be directed by new members, Bill and Valerie Howat. They will roast the turkey(s), and the attendees will bring the side dishes and desserts, yum! I'm sure all of you will have a wonderful time.

I will be home, baking and cooking for 10 people. When the day is over, I'll be exhausted, but still, I love this holiday.

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Pam

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

11/05/17 **Judi Siegal**, a lay speaker who has been very instrumental in the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement in Ocala.

**Her topic: *Todah: the Jewish Expression of Gratitude.*** She is also including a story of the first Thanksgiving that she wrote especially for this presentation.

11/12/17 **Cliff Jackson**, a lay speaker.

**His topic: *Aden's Introduction to Jonathan Livingston Seagull.***

11/19/17 **Barry Pendry**, a special friend of NCUU

**His topic: *Into the Forest of Grief: Awakening in the Face of Impermanence***

11/26/17 **Rev. Sara Zimmerman**, a semi-retired UU minister.

**Her topic: *Into the Woods with Ralph Waldo Emerson: Sources of Unitarian Transcendentalism in His Journals and in His Essay "Nature".***

Sally Smith-Adams

## November Birthdays

If your birthday is in November, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor: [erickson872@att.net](mailto:erickson872@att.net); 847-682-7527. Thanksgiving and Kate's birthday will be celebrated at our Potluck Dinner on November 17.

11/13 Kate Smith



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## Thanksgiving Potluck

Bill and Valerie Howat have graciously volunteered to spearhead the Thanksgiving Day Pot Luck. We will have a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer for those who will attend and also, what each person will bring to the feast. If you have a guest or two, that is fine, but we need you to list the number of people you will bring so that Bill and Val will be able to prepare enough turkey and stuffing to accommodate the number of guests.

Our Potluck Dinners are held on the third Friday of each month. We hope to see you on Friday, Nov. 17.

Joan Burnett

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## Welcome, Amy and Mike

New members, Amy Haiken and Mike Taylor, met 30 years ago while working overtime at Siemens. A few years later, they married in Boca Raton, FL. Both are engineers by trade, though Mike made a career change a few years ago, working in maintenance at an Independent Living facility. Amy works as a software engineer for a major Japanese software company. They moved from Boca to the Orlando area, and relocated to Dunnellon three years ago. They now live on 20 acres with their two dogs, four horses and four chickens. They are very progressive and felt at home when they visited NCUU several months ago, and shortly afterwards decided to join this warm and friendly congregation.

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## ATTENTION! Do you like to sing?

The NCUU Choir officially starts rehearsals:

Sunday, Nov. 5th, 2017  
at 9:00 a.m.

Come and join us!!

Sally Smith-Adams

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## Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. It was decided by the Sunday Service Com. and approved by the congregation that we will not have a morning service on December 24, but rather, we will combine the Sunday service with our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7PM. We will have a sign-up sheet for those who do not drive at night so that a neighboring member of our congregation may drive you to church and take you home.

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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, **Nov. 3rd**.

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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## Humanists of North Central Florida

The Humanists of North Central Florida are hosting Herb Silverman author of, "An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land" at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist fellowship on Friday, November 13 at 7PM.

Herb is founder and president of the Secular Coalition for America, and author of, "Candidate Without a Prayer". He is also Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the College of Charleston.

Bert Gagnon

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## Ladies' Luncheon

The NCUU November Ladies Luncheon will be Tuesday, November 28, (last Tuesday of the month).

Sign-up sheet, directions, and menu sheet are in the foyer. If you have any questions, contact Peg Gotz (527-4113) or Julie Macdonald (465-5646)

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## Membership Committee

We are pleased to announce that we have two new members this past month. They are Bill Howat and Valerie Hawkes-Howat. They will be valuable members in our Congregation. They are already helping to print our orders of service, assisting in the kitchen on Sunday mornings and are members of the Earth Centered Small Group Ministry. Please welcome Bill and Valerie!

Our new website will be up and running soon. A few knowledgeable members are needed to update the website on a monthly basis. Please see Gordon Hart if you are interested in this important voluntary endeavor. Some Internet Technology experience is essential.

If you see visitors that you don't know, please make them feel welcome. You may find a new friend with many things in common. Thanks!

The next Membership Committee Meeting is Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M

Connie Hart, Membership

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## Council of Committees

Please note the meeting is this coming Thursday, **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at 2 pm. a bit earlier than previously suggested.

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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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## Where There's a Will, There's a Way

We hope to create a durable presence for Unitarian Universalism, in Citrus, Marion, and other nearby counties, that will extend over decades, beyond our lifetimes. Accordingly, please consider including the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists in your will. This will help to ensure a lasting legacy, for future generations as well as for ours.

The Finance Committee

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## Denominational Affairs

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Tarpon Springs has invited us to the installation of the Reverend Robert Murphy on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 10:30 AM. For details, see the invitation posted on the bulletin board.

Joan Burnett

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## Earth Center Small Group Ministry

We are a focused, lay-led small group that deepens and expands the ministry of our NCUU Congregation. We focus to build and deepen community relationships.

The members of our group have made a commitment to one another and to the spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of our group's participants.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 15, at 3 PM (Third Wednesday of the month).

Joan Burnett

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## Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2:30-3:30 at the church. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings.

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## Religious Education Assistance Needed

We love to have children come to NCUU with their parents. If you would like to help out with the children present once a month for 20 minutes during the service, please contact Connie Hart; conlhart@gmail.com. Many thanks.

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## Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, Nov. 13, 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)

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## “Faith of the Founding Fathers” Following up Joe Wetzel’s October Address to Our Congregation

In October, Joe Wetzel gave an excellent talk, “The Faiths of the Founding Fathers”. Joe very graciously provided our library with a copy of his presentation and it is in a binder for members to read. If you missed hearing Joe speak, check this out!

Joe also supplied a list of books (see below) to help members who are interested in reading about his topic. The books are not in any order, and due to space and time restrictions, the authors’ names aren’t provided.

Sheila Wood

The Faiths of the Founding Fathers  
The Religious History of America  
The Godless Constitution  
Decision in Philadelphia  
Liars for Jesus (Vol. I and Vol. II)  
Miracle at Philadelphia  
History of Corruptions of Christianity by Joseph Priestley  
The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution  
The Philosophy of the Enlightenment  
The Founding Fathers in the Age of Enlightenment  
Founding Mothers  
The Story of American Freedom  
Separation of Church and State  
Founding Principle of Religious Liberty  
The Founding Fathers and the Place of Religion in America  
The Enlightenment in America  
Divided by God  
George Washington The Forge of Experience 1732-1775 D. McCullough  
One Nation Under God  
John Adams by D. McCullough  
The Separation of Church and State  
The Federalist Papers  
Benjamin Franklin An American Life  
The Life and Major Writings of Thomas Paine  
Stealing God's Thunder  
The Origins of the American Constitution  
On the Two Wings (Humble Faith and Common Sense)

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## **Zen Sitting Group**

We meet on Fridays at 3:45 PM at the church (except for the 3rd Friday when potluck is on). For subsequent sitting locations please confirm with: Barbara Ewing DeRemer at: 352-795-5736.

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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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**Send Sunday Morning Announcements to:**

**[ncuuannouncements@gmail.com](mailto:ncuuannouncements@gmail.com)**

Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

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## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please remember that the deadline for

November's Newsletter is **November 27**.

Send to: [erickson872@att.net](mailto:erickson872@att.net)

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## **Sunday Service Committee**

Next meeting is Monday November 27, at 10 AM.

(Last Monday of the month)

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## **NCUU Board of Directors**

President ..... Pam Ricker  
Vice-President..... Sheila Woods  
Clerk ..... Holly Alexander  
Directors .....Irene LeMon  
Tom Hibberd, Gordon Dinmore, Nancy Pettus,  
Rob Deremer, and Ellen Saunders

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## **NCUU Committees**

Building ..... Carol & Gordon Dinmore  
Calendar ..... Linda Myers  
Caring Committee.....Carol Dinmore  
Choir Director ..... Sally Smith-Adams  
Denominational Affairs ..... Joan Burnett  
Facebook ..... Available  
Finance ..... Stan Brumaghim  
Librarian ..... Tom Hibberd  
Membership ..... Connie Hart  
Music ..... Sally Smith-Adams  
Newsletter .....Kerry Erickson  
mailto: [erickson872@att.net](mailto:erickson872@att.net)  
Nominating Committee..... Connie Hart,  
..... Rob DeRemer  
Photographer .....Gordon Hart  
Piano: Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods  
Publicity ..... OPEN  
Property .....Carol Dinmore  
Religious Education .....Joan Burnett  
Social Activities .....Available  
Social Justice .....  
Sunday Service .....OPEN  
Treasurer (Acting) ..... Nick Kalfas  
Announcement Email: [ncuuannouncements@gmail.com](mailto:ncuuannouncements@gmail.com)  
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Thank you, Sheila, for sharing this inspiring poem with all of us!

**Allow Yourself**  
By Catherine Pulsifer (2009)

Allow yourself to dream,  
And when you do, dream big.  
Allow yourself to learn,  
And when you do, learn all you can.

Allow yourself to laugh,  
And when you do, share your laughter.  
Allow yourself to set goals,  
And when you do, reward yourself as you move forward.

Allow yourself to be determined,  
And when you do, you will find you will succeed.  
Allow yourself to believe in yourself,  
And when you do, you will find self-confidence.

Allow yourself to lend a helping hand,  
And when you do, a hand will help you.  
Allow yourself relaxation,  
And when you do, you will find new ideas.

Allow yourself love,  
And when you do, you will find love in return.  
Allow yourself to be happy,  
And when you do, you will influence others around you.

Allow yourself to be positive,  
And when you do, life will get easier.

