



NCUU

NATURE COAST

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

7633 N. Florida Ave (Hwy 41)

Citrus Springs, FL 34434

352-465-4225

Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

Website: <http://www.ncuu.org>

April, 2020

President's Message

As I sit here writing this instead of getting ready to go service at NCUU, I was reminded of an article written by Lama Willa B Miller, "Living in This Strange Moment Together." I found it in the Buddhist online magazine Lion's Roar.

Yesterday, I went to my local drug store to purchase a thermometer for a loved one who was spiking a fever at home. As I entered the small neighborhood store, I noticed it was more crowded than usual.

As I walked down the aisles, I noticed that there were bare shelves. There were small tags for toilet paper, hand sanitizer, gloves, and thermometers. I asked the pharmacist if there were any, and he repeated perhaps for the hundredth time that day, "All gone .. I'm sorry."

On the street as I drove home, I noticed these signs: a young man stopped to stuff a dollar bill into a can of a street person; a truck flashed its lights at me, yielding for me to turn; traffic halted for two geese to waddle slowly across four lanes of parkway. This strange moment in time is eliciting unexpected acts of kindness, even while we feel as if we're in a dream.

Illness and death are life's great equalizers. A fever is a fever. A virus seeks a host. We are all potentially at risk. We are all trying to quell the spread together.

Fear is an invitation. It is not an invitation to weigh risks or to adjust the externals. It is an invitation to look deeply within and befriend oneself.

We are sitting with the unknown. The unknown is exactly what pulls the veil. It offers a glimpse in the truth that nothing is ever certain. This world with all its beauty and all its vibrancy is just so because it is not fixed, because everything is contingent. Life's natural cousin is uncertainty.

The final gift is kindness; we are all in this together. Be kind to each other.

Thanks,
Rob

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 5th – no service – (former annual meeting date) – Members, please see the announcements for further details.

A follow-up newsletter will be sent in April, if services resume this month.

This message is going to all members of NCUU: Due to our inability to safely hold a face-to-face NCUU Annual Meeting all voting members of NCUU in good standing will receive an Absentee Ballot for this year's election via postal mail. According to our Bylaws a voting member in good standing is defined as follows:

“VOTING MEMBER: To be a voting member in good standing members shall have made a contribution of record of resources or time to the Fellowship within the twelve months prior to the date of vote, and have signed the membership book not less than six months before actively participating as a voting member.”

Below are the instructions for competing and returning the Absentee Ballot. These instructions will also be included in the postal mailing.

1. Please indicate your vote as either YES or NO by placing an X in either the YES or NO box for each item on the ballot.
2. Fold and place your completed ballot in the smaller envelope marked “OFFICIAL NCUU ABSENTEE BALLOT”
3. Seal the smaller envelope to ensure your vote will be confidential.
4. Place the smaller envelope into the larger envelope that has been pre-addressed to the Nominating Committee Chair.
5. Seal this outer larger envelope to ensure the integrity of your vote.
6. Return the pre-addressed, stamped larger envelope by mail to Jeanne Wright, Nominating Committee Chair, 9414 SW 191st Terrace, Dunnellon, FL 34432.
7. Return envelopes must be post-marked April 05, 2020 or earlier to be counted.

Your OFFICIAL NCUU ABSENTEE BALLOT envelope will be opened and counted by the Nominating Committee at a future time yet to be determined.

Once again on behalf of the NCUU board of directors I thank you for taking the time to submit your Absentee Ballot. It is very important that voting members in good standing submit an Absentee Ballot. NCUU Bylaws require that a quorum of 40% of voting members in good standing vote for the candidates and approve the budget.

Jean McCauley
NCUU Clerk

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Rob DeRemer
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Jean McCauley
Directors	Tom Hibberd, Bree Hill, Shirley Leonard, Linda Myers, Pam Ricker and Sheila Woods

NCUU Committees

Audio/Visual	Gordon Hart
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Available
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Available
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Long Range Planning	Bob Madeiros
Membership	Holly Alexander
Music	Sally Smith-Adams
Newsletter	Amy Haiken
Nominating Committee	Judy Capone, Jeanne Wright and Peter Freeman
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
Publicity	Available
Property	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Religious Education	Available
Social Activities	Available
Social Justice	Don Wright
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	John Comer
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, April 13th (Second Monday of the month) at 10:30 AM.

If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please send it to the clerk, Jean McCauley, about a week in advance.

Announcements and News

Social Service Help Line

Wellcare, A Health Insurance Company, Has Set Up A Help Line For Social Services. If You Need Assistance, Call 1-866-775-2192.



Let's Connect!

During this time of uncertainty, let's stay connected to each other. Please take a moment to call, text or email a member or two each day. Calls are especially nice for those who don't have email, are ailing or are grieving. Just check the newly revised Directory, print or save it and use it to help lift the spirit of our members.

Thank you!
Connie



Also... NCUU has two new additions to its sign!



April Birthdays



If Your Birthday Is In April, And Your Name Is Not On This List, Please Notify The Editor:

Ahaiken@Yahoo.Com. Birthdays Will Be Celebrated The First Sunday Of Each Month Acknowledging All Birthdays.

Wanda Brown	Mary Louise DeWolfe
Joe Wetzel	Phyllis Bernard
Judy Capone	Sandy Sondheim
Lynn Carole Baker	



Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That The Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **April 22 2020**. **Please Adhere To This Deadline, Otherwise The Newsletter And Website Won't Be Updated On-Time**. Send To: Ahaiken@Yahoo.Com And Put 'For Newsletter' In The Subject Line.



Send Sunday Morning Announcements To:

Contactncuu@Gmail.Com With For Announcements In The Subject Line. Deadline Is The Friday Before Sunday Service.



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



Social Activities Committee

The Social Activities Committee is in need of volunteers to help plan potlucks and other fun events, bring goodies for after services and take turns cleaning up the kitchen after coffee and discussion. Please make sure you thank Matthew C and Pam R as well as several others for their services. Contact Pam or Matthew if you can help in any way even 1 Sunday a month. Thank you!

"Share the Plate" to be Initiated by NCUU



On the second Sunday of each month we will take a second offering that will be donated to a different local charity every month. Charities will be selected by the Social Justice Committee. "Share the Plate" is practiced by many UU fellowships, suggested and sanctioned by the UUA, and will promote more visibility in our community.

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.

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

Please Join Us On A Committee. Help Needed!

NCUU Needs Your **Help** And **Assistance**, Especially If You Don't Presently Serve On Any Committees. ***Every Little Bit Helps, So...***

Please Talk To A Bod Member Of Committee Chairperson About Your Interests In Joining In The Work Of Our Congregation.



Unitarian Universalists have been part of every movement in US history, and we are ready to show up for the 2020 election like never before. Our forebears and ancestors gave us the blueprints for seeking justice in the world and speaking truth to power.

Press the control key and click on the image to view the following video.





Pamela and David Reader

We moved to Florida from Texas in October 2019. We love the area, people and activities and hope to get back to our normal abnormalities soon. David is a 30 year Navy veteran who served as COB on submarines. For the past 10 years we ran a small fish camp in Texas. Pam is an Air Force nurse veteran and worked as a hospice nurse/counselor/hypnotherapist. She co-authored a book called "The Pipe and the Pen" and produced a hypnotherapy CD called "Loving Energy". We enjoy the outdoors and heat and humidity! Lol We live on an island on the Homosassa River and are members of the Homosassa River Alliance, Homosassa Civic Club, Nature Coast Dragonboat Club, and Citrus County Democrat Club and of course recently joined Nature Coast UU! Stay safe and loving healing energies to all!

Special Announcement - UUA

Hello! My name is Davis Senseman and I am honored to be supporting the important work of UU the Vote by providing legal counsel regarding how congregations can engage in bold, effective electoral work fully within your rights and IRS status as 501c3 religious organizations.

I'm collaborating with the #UUTheVote team to provide comprehensive guidance around the issue throughout the campaign.

Here are four key questions that we've already heard from several congregational leaders:

Question 1: Can we openly preach, teach, or act about being opposed to war, or supporting the Green New Deal? Have these become partisan issues?

Response: YES YOU CAN. Unless you are persuading people to vote for/against a specific candidate, you are absolutely allowed to take a definitive stance on issues, including issues regarding actions of the current administration. Opposition to war, combating climate change, resisting oppression in all forms—these are foundational UU beliefs. They can and should be at the center of sermons and congregational work.

Question 2: Can we partner with an organization if they are not a 501(c)3?

Response: YES YOU CAN. Congregations can partner with c(4) organizations or unions to carry out charitable, nonpartisan activities consistent with the church's 501(c)3 status and mission. For UU congregations, that includes activities advocating for foundational UU beliefs.

Question 3: Can Individuals from the congregation (especially the minister) publicly endorse candidates?

Response: YES THEY CAN. So long as the individual is not speaking at an official church function, in an official church publication, or otherwise using the church's assets, and does not claim to speak as a representative of the church, they are free to endorse and speak publicly on behalf of any candidate.

Question 4: Can we ever host partisan activities in the congregation?

Response: YES YOU CAN, as long as the event is consistent with pre-existing space use policies (i.e. - you don't charge for space use and aren't charging the folks holding the partisan event, or you only allow groups invited by a member to use the building). Furthermore, your policies can include a requirement that any group using the space hold similar values to UU principles to avoid having to host groups whose partisan activities are contrary to UU beliefs.

The UU the Vote team is here for your questions and looks forward to helping all UU congregations engage in prophetic, nonpartisan work in support of our values in 2020. Join us at our January 12 launch!

Best,

Davis Senseman, Esq.