

**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>

**July, 2020**

## **President's Message**

Happy July UU's,

As we celebrate our nation's birthday, let us take a moment and reflect on what is happening today. Now more than ever we need to be diligent and vote every time there is an election. Make sure you are researching every Candidate.

The church is functioning behind the scenes to ensure when it is a proper time to come back, there will be exciting new chances.

Technology is and will play a big part of NCUU from now on. And as such we have new committees being formed and consolidated as the board of directors have been working hard to make sure our church is flowing with the times.

May this pandemic be a time where our connections deepen, even if our routines change. #UUAnywhere #Unitarian  
#Universalist

Yours in service,

John

# SUNDAY SERVICE

**Sunday, July 5, 2020**

Speaker – Dan Gribbin



Dan Gribbin retired from college teaching after 37 years to enjoy the outdoors in Florida and to play folk music. He spent the bulk of his teaching career as Prof. of English at Ferrum College in Virginia, but he has also taught African-American Literature and American Literature at the University of Central Florida. He and his wife Martha live in Daytona Beach Shores and are members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ormond Beach, where he serves as Co-chair of the Worship Committee. He has also been known to photograph shore birds.

## **Topic “Nature and the American Spirit”**

This presentation, focusing on “respect for the interdependent web of all existence,” ends with the following statement: “You’ve got to be a little crazy to identify so strongly with nature. Thank goodness we have these crazy revolutionary voices to point the way.” The revolutionary voices are American writers William Cullen Bryant, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Walt Whitman. They point us toward nature as the manifestation of spirit that flows through all living things, a guide to our “free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” This presentation will focus on our “respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part”, our 7th UU Principle.

**Sunday, July 12, 2020**  
**Speaker – Laura Pedersen**



Laura Pedersen is an author, playwright, and former New York Times columnist. Her latest books are *LIFE IN NEW YORK* for adults and *DANA DIGS IN* for children. Laura was raised in the Amherst, NY, UU Church and for the past thirty years has attended All Souls in New York City. Laura is an ordained interfaith minister and has given sermons at UU churches around the country and in the UK. Laura is also the daughter of long-time member Ellen Pedersen.

**Topic: “In All Fairness”**

If you think of the world as an invisible jigsaw puzzle in which we’re all dependent on one other, during the past few months the connections between those pieces has become much more visible. We’re facing difficult questions about what inequality means for individual communities, but also as a nation and around the globe. Today we’ll look at what fairness means and the collective cost of being indifferent to inequality.

**Sunday, July 19, 2020**

**Speaker – Rod Broker**



Rod Broker is a retired academic and clergy-person with a background in communications, counseling, and non-profit management. He and his wife Doris now reside in Leesburg. They have traveled extensively by RV in the US and via cruise ships to the shores of much of the rest of the world. Rod's other interests include lifelong learning, website development, and the Chicago Cubs.

**Topic: "One Nation ... Indivisible"**

While some hear and see the Pledge of Allegiance as a patriotic ritual which helps to celebrate and unify our nation, others see it as a wedge that brings division and causes disenfranchisement. The not-so-simple history of the Pledge is something that inclusive and inquiring people might want to know more about.

**Sunday, July 26, 2020**

**Speaker – Rev. Katy Korb**



Rev. Katy Korb is a very busy UU Minister and we are delighted to be able to have her speak.

**Topic: To be Announced**

# NCUU Board of Directors

President	John Comer
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Jean McCauley
Directors	Amy Haiken, Tom Hibberd, Bree Hill, Shirley Leonard, Pam Ricker and Sheila Woods

## NCUU Committees

Audio/Visual	Gordon Hart
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Bylaws	Amy Haiken and Gordon Hart
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Available
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Long Range Planning	Bob Madeiros
Media and Technology	Gordon Hart and Amy Haiken
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	Matthew Ciszewski and Pam Ricker
Social Justice	Don Wright
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	Rob DeRemer
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

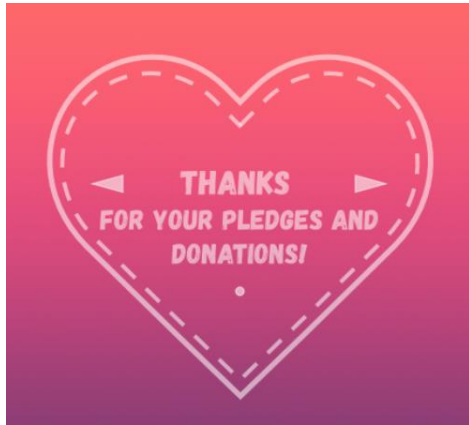
## Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> (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 ([ncuclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ncuclerk@gmail.com)), about a week in advance.

## Announcements and News

### NCUU Pledges



#### [NCUU Pledges and You Video](#)

Our Fellowship is still functioning and has ongoing expenses. Click the above link if you are viewing this on your email to watch the video. We will be “open and up and running” as soon as it is safe. Please find it in your generous hearts to keep your pledges and gifts up to date. Many thanks to all of you. Checks should be sent to:

Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist  
P.O. Box 94  
Holder, FL 34445

Connie Hart

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### A Word of Gratitude

Thank you for the generous donations to the Bridge Project in Dunnellon.

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Linda Myers

### A Survey is Coming!



Do you have a great idea or ability you can share with NCUU?

Toward the end of July you'll receive an email with a video and a survey or a letter if you don't have email. Please watch the interesting video that Amy put together and read the information you receive on our Committees. Consider your talents and abilities (you know you have them). Simply fill out the survey checking Committees on which you already serve and what Committee or Committees you are interested in serving. Many hands make light work! Please follow the directions and submit the form. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you,  
Connie Hart, V.P. and The Council of Committees

## Media and Technology Committee

We are happy to announce that NCUU has its own Zoom account. Don, thank you so much for letting us all use your Zoom account for Sunday Services, as well as other meetings!!!

Please use the following request form for scheduling a Zoom meeting:

<https://forms.gle/13xthsAFNXJg2T7n9>

Gordon will put the meeting on the calendar, and either Gordon or Amy will create the Zoom session and send the link to the host's email address. If you are sending a meeting request that is fewer than 7 days in advance, the form should be filled out and you should call either Gordon or Amy to alert us. The Zoom link will be included in the meeting's detail section in the regular calendar. The host can then share the Zoom link with the committee members.

### Newsletter and Website

All request entries should now be sent to the email address [ncuu.news@gmail.com](mailto:ncuu.news@gmail.com). That will make it easier to keep all requests organized in one place. There is a misunderstanding that the website will be updated when members send in a request. For the most part, the website will be updated once a month. If time permits, there will be occasional updates to the announcement or Sunday service webpages. We're unable to accept new requests during the newsletter/website monthly update period, due to time constraints. If there is an immediate need for the information to be available for all members and friends, an email should be sent.

### Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That The Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **July 24 2020**. **Please Adhere To This Deadline, Otherwise The Newsletter And Website Won't Be Updated On-Time, or it won't appear in the issue.** Send To: [ncuu.news@gmail.com](mailto:ncuu.news@gmail.com).

## Caring Committee

Please take a few minutes to call, text or email a member that you haven't been in contact with for a while. This can really make a person's day, especially if they have been mostly shut in for several months. Save your calendar that Wanda just sent out recently and check in with someone. Please let me, John Comer or Abby Madeiros know if you hear of someone who has been hospitalized, ill, or in need of cheering. Try to do something every day that makes YOU happy too.

Best wishes,  
Connie Hart, Caring

### July Birthdays



If your birthday is not included, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor: [ahaiken@yahoo.com](mailto:ahaiken@yahoo.com). Birthdays will be celebrated for now with a card from the Caring Committee. Please take time to text, call or email these members this month.

Abby Madeiros	Tom Hibberd
Cindy Paynter	Ned Davis
Connie Hart	Peter Freeman
Pam Reader	

### 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.



## Grounds Workday

Even if NCUU is closed right now, plants and weeds keep growing! If you are looking for a way to get out of the house, maintain social distancing (6ft to whatever you comfortable with) and get some fresh air and exercise, Sally and I would be happy for you to join us on the first Friday every month between sunup and 11 AM. Even if it is for just a hour before the heat builds up, you are welcome!

Bree Hill

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### Message From Your NCUU Clerk

The next meeting of the NCUU Board of Directors will be on **07/13/20**. Items for the Meeting Agenda need to be received by the Clerk one week prior to the meeting which is **07/08/20**. For next month the Board of Directors meeting will be on **08/03/20**. Items for the Meeting Agenda need to be received by the Clerk one week prior to that meeting which is **07/06/20**.

Please submit in electronic format what you propose to add to the agenda to [ncuclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ncuclerk@gmail.com)

Please be aware that agenda items must be approved by the president of NCUU. Additions to the Meeting Agenda after these dates will only be accepted if they are emergency items that affect the day-to-day- operations of NCUU.

The Board thanks you for your cooperation in helping the Board of Directors meetings run smoothly and efficiently. You can access our NCUU Bylaws, the Policy & Procedures Manual and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes under the **Members** section of our website at [www.ncuu.org](http://www.ncuu.org)

## 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.



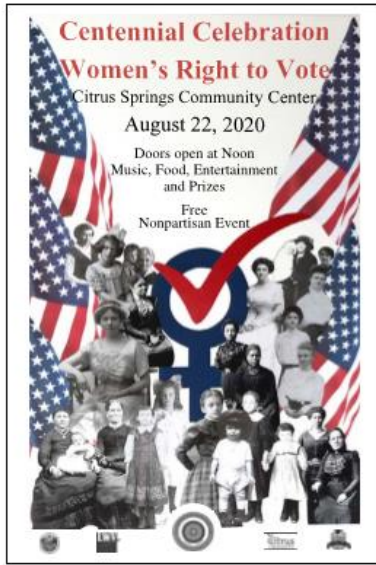
Unitarian Universalists have been part of every movement in US history, and we are ready to show up for the 2020 election like never before. Our forebears and ancestors gave us the blueprints for seeking justice in the world and speaking truth to power.

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





## Women's Suffrage Celebration



August 22 is the date for the Citrus Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage. This project was began two years ago and includes NCUU members and also received personal donations from NCUU Board members. It celebrates 100 years since the August passage of the 19th Amendment .

We are proceeding with the planning for August 22. We hope The County will be more open and safe in August. Right now, our location (Citrus Springs Community Center) follows State directives. However, we have reserved October 17th as a back up.

Please "pencil in" August 22 and October 17. Hope to see you there.

Linda Myers

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## Past Speaker In The News



One of our past speakers, Lucille Davis, had a front page article in the Chronicle on the role of black women in Amendment 19 and beyond. Sunday May 10, front page of the Commentary section. If you missed it, she is giving another talk, August 11 for the League of Women Voters -- it may be zoomed. I will let you know.

Linda Myers.

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## Social Justice Committee

This [link](#) is an editorial on the World Health Organization is scheduled to appear in tomorrow's issue of Science. The underlying message is that effective solutions to global crises like pandemics and climate change require global collaboration. It is imperative that we all do what we can, even a tiny bit, to convince our leaders of this.

Don Wright

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## **Loving Energy by Pam Reader**

Pam Reader, one of our newest members, is a nurse, counselor and hypnotherapist. Pam has created a hypnotherapy session that she would like to share with all of our fellowship, especially with us all going through this stressful time with Coronavirus. It is highly recommended.

Please click on this [link](#) to her Youtube video.

Thanks Pam!



## **Upcoming Election**

Based upon the letter that the UUA lawyer distributed, members of our fellowship can participate politically within the congregation. Please refer to Davis Senseman's letter in the last section of this newsletter (question and answer 4). I would like to create a group of members and their friends to utilize an organization that sends postcards to voters. I have used this organization in the past, and they were very influential in helping particular candidates that hold similar values to UU principles.

Please let me know by email:  
[ahaiken@yahoo.com](mailto:ahaiken@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

Thanks,  
Amy



## Special Message to the NCUU Congregation from the Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee would like to encourage members of the NCUU Congregation to become active in writing letters to newspapers and legislative offices in support of UU principles in light of emerging crises. We cannot ignore the fact that an unprecedented suite of threats is converging and interacting in very negative ways. The pandemic, climate change, racial tensions, voter suppression, and economic inequities are reinforcing each other by the day and despite the encouraging recent ruling by SCOTUS, LGBTQ acceptance still has far to go. The future of the US and the world will depend on an immediate awakening to the urgent need for change. Many Nature Coast residents and policy makers are especially in need of being “woke”.

One thing our members can do is to help bring about that awakening by writing letters to newspapers, Congressional offices and state Legislators. Letters from as many members as possible is the goal. This does not necessarily mean that everyone has to compose something original. Messages from UUA, UUSC, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, League of Women Voters etc. can be repackaged. The Social Justice Committee is willing to help draft or edit things for others to submit. But we need multiple voices and signatures.

To avoid potential violations of our 501(c)3 status and UUA guidelines, it may be best for us not to explicitly represent NCUU but simply to do this as individuals. Statements representing NCUU positions must be approved unanimously by the Board of Directors and must be consistent with UUA recommendations.

If you have topics that you would like to address and would like help from SJC in the form of draft text modules, edits or names and addresses of your state and federal representatives please contact Don Wright ([ldwright@bellsouth.net](mailto:ldwright@bellsouth.net)). The simplest way to submit letters to the editors of local newspapers is to do it online. The hyperlinks for the Citrus County Chronicle and Tampa Bay Times are respectively: [https://www.chronicleonline.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_editor/](https://www.chronicleonline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/) and <https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/submit-letter/>. Gordon Hart and Linda Myers have assembled lists of contact information for our Federal and State Legislators and we can send that information out separately on request. To find your Florida legislator, go to <https://www.flsenate.gov/> and <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>. For Marion County, go to <https://www.ocalafl.org/government/marion-county-s-state-federal-legislators>.

Florida's US Senators are:

US Senator Marco Rubio  
284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3041  
[www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact](http://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact)

US Senator Rick Scott  
B3 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5274  
Email: [help@rickscott.senate.gov](mailto:help@rickscott.senate.gov)

Social Justice is a defining attribute of Unitarian Universalism; we must avoid silence in these perilous times of upheaval and cultural evolution.

## 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.