

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>

August, 2020

President's Message



We Are Unitarian Universalists

We are brave, curious, and compassionate thinkers and doers. We are diverse in faith, ethnicity, history and spirituality, but aligned in our desire to make a difference for the good. We have a track record of standing on the side of love, justice, and peace.

We have radical roots and a history as self-motivated spiritual people: we think for ourselves and recognize that life experience influences our beliefs more than anything.

We need not think alike to love alike. We are people of many beliefs and backgrounds: people with a religious background, people with none, people who believe in a God, people who don't, and people who let the mystery be.

We are Unitarian Universalist and Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, atheist and agnostic, believers in God, and more. On the forefront of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer inclusion for more than 40 years, we are people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We seek to welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths and your doubts, your worries and your hopes. Join us on this extraordinary adventure of faith

Yours in service,

John Comer

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, August 2, 2020
Speaker – Dr. Jeffrey Nall



Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D. is a civically engaged father and professor who lives in Vero Beach. He teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. Dr. Nall also teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Dr. Nall can be reached at www.JeffreyNall.com.

Topic: "The Wisdom of Feminism"

August 18, 2020 will mark the 100-year anniversary of the feminist movement's success in winning women the right to vote in the United States. As we approach this milestone, Dr. Jeffrey Nall, adjunct professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, contends that honoring our feminist foremothers requires more than commemorating their achievements. We must also learn the insights that facilitated their successful struggle for social justice, and then integrate those insights into our own lives. In short, the best way to honor our feminist foremothers is to exemplify their wisdom and excellence in our own efforts to honor human dignity and create a more just society in the 21st century.

Sunday, August 9, 2020
Speaker – Rev. Dee Graham



Intrigued and challenged by her Christian youth, the Rev. Dee Graham explored an eclectic route on her spiritual quest before discovering strength in theology and the Unitarian Universalist ministry. She earned her MDiv at Starr King School of the Ministry at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA in 1993.

Topic: “This is NOT the End of the World”

Who doesn't have nagging fears about real life upheavals like Coronavirus, challenges to the status quo of American norms, increasingly visible violence from law enforcement plus our own military dispatched to US cities? Doomsday prophets and even Biblical revelations magnify insecurity and threaten the end of the world.

Don't believe it. While we may not recognize the future, that doesn't mean we won't have one. We'll look to science, religion, and history for a new perspective on what may be ahead.

Sunday, August 16, 2020
Speaker – Dr. Greg Cavanaugh



Greg Cavanaugh is the chair of the Department of Communication at Rollins College. His research and teaching focuses on communication that fosters diversity and inclusion as well as analyzing ritual practice as a mode of communication. A 2013 winner of the President's Award for Diversity and Inclusion at Rollins College, he is a founding member of the Rollins College Safe Zone program, an LGBTQ+ advocacy and ally program. As a Unitarian Universalist himself, Dr. Cavanaugh has given talks at several lay-led Central Florida UU congregations about a range of issues including how to become a welcoming congregation.

Topic: "The Challenge of Becoming "Welcoming"

In the current American political and cultural climate, perhaps nothing is more important than generating a truly welcoming attitude toward every identity. Many people of good conscience often assume that their overt acceptance of a marginalized group sufficiently constitutes a welcoming attitude. Truly becoming welcoming, however, often involves a deeper self-analysis, a mindfulness of the many ways that our attitudes and actions sustain majority identities. In this talk, Dr. Cavanaugh explores the challenges of identifying and resisting decades and even centuries of heteronormativity in order to craft a truly welcoming approach to LGBTQ+ identities.

Sunday, August 23, 2020
Speaker – Lynne Westmoreland



Lynne Westmoreland has been a UU for about 40 years with a So. Baptist upbringing. After a 30 year career as a pianist and a teacher, she is now a human educator, teaching on the intersectionality of environmental ethics, social justice, animal protection, and media and culture. She is also currently involved in facilitating “Death Cafes”, and is in pursuit of certification as an end of life doula. She likes remembering that she will die, and also that she remembers to live her life fully and in the moment.

Topic: We Can't Breathe

We find ourselves in a perfect storm of events that are breath taking in their scope and severity. Impending climate collapse, Covid-19, racism, species extinction, the collapse of our democracy, and so very much more, have most of us feeling that it's hard to breathe, to relax, to focus, and to find hope. How do we take back our hope in these times? How do we remember to breathe deeply so we can continue to do the social justice, environmental, and spiritual work that we, as UUs have committed ourselves?

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Speaker – Joe Wetzel



Joe Wetzel studied linguistics under a graduate fellowship. He was in academia as a French professor and over the years became fluent in Spanish, German and Italian. Literature in those languages is his hobby. He entered the business world in mid-life. He has eclectic tastes, and became a student again since retiring in 2000, concentrating mainly on history and political science. A Unitarian for half a century, he tends to bring a UU attitude to topics he studies or writes about when he imagines he has something to contribute. His first book is titled: Our Unique Heritage: *Lest We Forget*.

Topic: Political Correctness: Should We Follow It Wherever It Leads?

The *Am. Heritage Dict.* defines Political Correctness as:

“Conforming to a particular sociopolitical ideology or point of view, especially to a liberal point of view concerned with promoting tolerance and avoiding offense in matters of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation.” However, some claim it means extravagance, elitism, an obsession, intimidation, censorship, and outright deception. One reads regularly that Political Correctness (PC) has run amok. My plan today is to offer for your esteemed consideration a short historical survey of PC usage, using concrete examples from the news. As we go, we can consider seriously what we think our UU principles suggest we might do in such cases.

NCUU Board of Directors

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

NCUU Committees

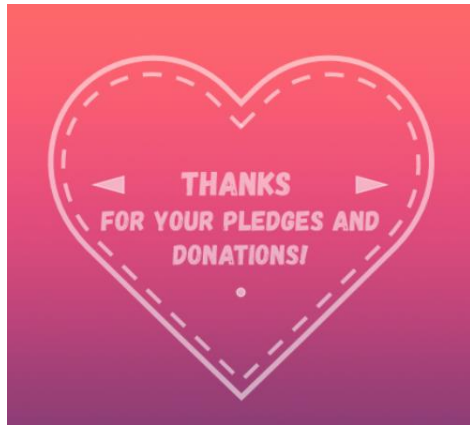
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Bylaws	Amy Haiken and Gordon Hart
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Available
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
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	Margo Wilson
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, August 10th (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-elect, Margo Wilson (clerkatncuu@gmail.com), about a week in advance.

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



A Survey is Coming!



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

By now you should have received a Committee Survey via e blast or mail, if you don't have email. This is from the NCUU Council of Committees (Committee Chairs).

- Please click on the [link](#) and watch the video first. (Thanks, Amy!)
- Then read about what responsibilities and activities each Committee does.
- Fill out the [form](#) with what Committee(s) you are already in or are interested in joining.
- Submit the form or mail it back in the stamped envelope.

Thanks for assisting us to include you in all we do!

Connie Hart, VP and The Council of Committees



Media and Technology Committee

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. 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 **August 22 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.

Caring Committee

Wanda Brown, Abby Madeiros and John Comer have offered to assist in calling people in our Congregation who may need to be cheered or just chat. Thank you! If you know of a person in the Congregation who is ailing, hospitalized or in need of cheer, please let me know, and one of us will do so.

This past month:

Ned Davis had an ablation and then had a pacemaker put in. He is doing much better! Charlotte Langley is not doing well in her nursing home rather isolated. She can't get to the phone or have visitors.

Sandy Sondheim broke his leg hiking, is home after surgery and is "scooting" around.

John Comer's father is back at John's house after leg surgery, and is doing better.

Everyone try to stay well and healthy!

June Wetzel continues with Hospice care at home.

Best wishes,
Connie Hart, Caring

Send Sunday Morning Announcements To:

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 an hour before the heat builds up, you are welcome!

Bree Hill

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!

August Birthdays



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

Scott Forbes

Art Jones

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.

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 if you are interested.

Thanks,
Amy

Women's Suffrage Celebration



Citrus County's Centennial celebration

NCUU has supported Citrus County's Centennial celebration plans. Originally scheduled as a live event on August 22, we have been forced by Covid-19 to go virtual.

A video of a shortened version of the program is being made, and will be posted on a number of sites including NCUU's face book. Featured in the video will be: Sally Smith-Adams, Pam Ricker, Maralyn Boysen, and Jean McCauley. Members of the NCUU Board generously contributed to the costs. The first airing will be online of the face book of Citrus Centennial of Women's Suffrage.

The County libraries will also celebrate by showing the video on August 22, at 11 AM, at Central Ridge Library. The branch libraries will show it the following week. The libraries practice social distancing and masking.

Linda Myers
Coordinator

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.





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.



UU the Vote Phone banking with New Florida Majority, July 30, August 6 & 13

Hello Florida UUs!

UU the Vote is very excited to launch a partnership with the New Florida Majority (newfloridamajority.org). New Florida Majority (NFM) is working to turnout millions of voters in Florida. They are reaching out to people who are marginalized and get targeted for voter suppression. They are also reaching out more broadly as people are concerned about the pandemic, about policing and criminal justice reform, systemic racism, climate change and how all this relates to the elections. We're very grateful for their work. Supporting this progressive statewide community organization is very much appreciated - and needed! Do take a look at their website, you'll be inspired.

We will be hosting three phone banks on Thursday evenings -- July 30, August 6, and August 13 from 6:00-8:00 pm ET.

Please sign up for the July 30 phone bank at secure.everyaction.com/vQLzJ8NgzEqJK9pGBGvSnQ2. We'll have sign up links for the August 6th and August 13th phone banks soon.

When you sign up you'll receive more info and the zoom link for the event, so make sure to save it! They will also be sending out more specific information about the script and who and where we are calling as we get closer to July 30th.

New Florida Majority staff will be orienting and training us. We'll be using the Open Virtual Phone Bank platform to make our calls. You will need a phone (for audio) and a laptop, tablet, or iPad. The platform will be doing the dialing automatically for us, and we'll record people's answers on our laptops etc. We'll get trained right at the phone bank. We'll be together on Zoom for our training and can check in throughout the phone bank with our trainers if questions arise as we're making our calls. It's a great system and easy to do.

This is an all hands on deck moment! Please sign up and help us recruit more volunteers. You can forward this message, send people the sign up link, send it to your lists, post in your newsletters, and share the sign up link on Facebook. We have a goal of 150 UUs and friends in Florida making calls! If everyone recruits 2-4 people we can make and even surpass that goal. People understand what a crucial moment we are in, in Florida, and in our nation.

We hold the phone banks on Zoom so that we are able to make our phone calls together. We gather in, get oriented, trained in the first 30 minutes of the phone, make our calls for an hour and half, and debrief and celebrate our results at the end of the session. Working this way is fulfilling, faithful, and fun! I'm so glad to be in it with you!

In faith & hopefulness,

Susan

Susan Leslie | Unitarian Universalist Association

Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director | Organizing Strategy Team

Phone (617) 948-4607 **Cell** (617) 272-5386 | sleslie@uua.org | www.uua.org/justice | www.uuthevote.org
uua.org | [Twitter](https://twitter.com) | [Facebook](https://facebook.com)

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.