

NCUU

NATURE COAST

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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Citrus Springs, FL 34434

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Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

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

October, 2020

President's Message



What is the 8th Principle?

We covenant to affirm and promote:

Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

Personally, the things I like about it is that it makes beloved community a specific goal. I also like that it specifically calls for inward growth in a way that is directly tied to beloved community, not just to collective spiritual growth.

I also respect the effort to acknowledge America's particularly storied history in regards to race inequality, while not making the principle exclusively about race.

I also like the specific call for diversity. I think even in predominantly white communities, it is a powerful reminder to reach out explicitly to LGBTQ+ communities, folks of different socio-economic status, and even to interfaith and humanist organizations.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Speaker – Jennifer Hancock



Jennifer Hancock is the author of several best-selling and award-winning books and is the founder of Humanist Learning Systems. Not only was she raised as a Humanist, she is considered one of the top speakers and writers in the world of Humanism today. Her professional background is varied, including leadership positions in both for-profit and non-profit sectors.

She teaches Humanism – a combination of Love, Rationality, Science and Responsibility. Her courses will give you hope. They will help you simplify your life by reducing the complexity of the problems you face, which will, in turn, help you reduce your anxiety. Finally - because this is all science based – it will work.

Jennifer is a board member for the 'Center for Freethought Equality' and the USA Chapter of the International Humanistic Management Association.

Topic: "The Humanist Approach to the True Holy Trinity"

In her book, *The Humanist Approach to Happiness*, Jennifer Hancock outlines what she calls – the True Holy Trinity of Ethics. Unlike the Biblical Trinity, this trinity is about focusing on three key ethical ideas and using those ideas to help make more ethical decisions and live life in a more actively humanistic way.

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Speaker – Rev. Brock Leach



Brock Leach is a Unitarian Universalist minister and an affiliated community minister of the UU Church of Sarasota. He currently works for the Unitarian Universalist Association as Executive Consultant for Emerging Ministries, helping develop and lead denominational efforts to support religious innovators. He is also on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), the denomination's international human rights agency, where he was formerly on staff.

At home in Sarasota, Brock serves on the boards of Children First, Sarasota County's Head Start agency, the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, and the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition. He chairs the Professional Advisory Group for Pastoral Care at Tampa General Hospital, is an advisor and board member for several social enterprises, and an executive mentor for the Global Good Fund's fellowship program for social entrepreneurs.

Topic: "Reality TV or Me?"

I have only a tenuous grasp of quantum physics and the concept of parallel universes, but I'm pretty sure those of us in the current universe have conjured up some very different realities for ourselves. In the best case, each of us only has a narrow window into the larger reality that animates our world, but we're good at imagining what we can't see. Yet, what reality we choose to construct matters to our wellbeing in untold ways. This morning, we'll think together about constructing healthy ones.

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Speaker – Dennis Wooldridge



Dennis E. Wooldridge is a native of Wood River, Ill., and later from Cape Girardeau, Mo., where he graduated from High School and Southeast Missouri State University (1983, BA in Communications). Dennis served in the US Navy for four years as a Journalist aboard the USS Nimitz and USS Conyngham. After leaving the service, he began a career in Radio and Television that spanned nearly 40 years, retiring in 2010 to begin his Communication and Coaching business, NovelQuest Productions. Dennis has always had an interest in community service, lifelong learning, politics and public policy, social justice, and civil rights. Dennis is an active member of Toastmasters International, serving in several leadership capacities, including 2011-2012 District 84 Governor, and as a member of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors. Dennis is currently serving as Vice President of the Volusia/Flagler Chapter of the ACLU. In his spare time, Dennis is an active “Facebooker,” gamer, and novelist.

Topic: “What makes people cling to conspiracy theories?”

In today’s hyper-political world, conspiracy theories seem to be more prevalent than ever before. How can anyone believe that elitists are running pedophile rings out of pizza shops and cannibalizing the children to extract a mythical, youth-defying substance; that the new messiah has come in the form of Trump, who will herald the end days, or that COVID19 is from 5G towers? Today, we’ll look at some of the most popular flights of fancy and discuss some of the ramifications of living in a conspiracy-rich culture.

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Speaker – Linda Starkweather



Linda has been an activist, theatre artist and teacher for over 40 years working as a director, designer, actor and producer first in her hometown of Kalamazoo, MI, then in Rochester, NY since moving to the Finger Lakes area in 1994, and is now a snowbird, living in Dunnellon, FL for the past 6 winters.

Linda and her partner Lynne Westmoreland have delivered several sermons here at NCUU and she is honored to be speaking again today thanks to our new 'virtual virtuosity'.

Topic: The need to be right is a form of violence

They each carry a sign. Pro Life...Pro Choice....The more they argue the louder they get. The louder they get the more they get in each other's face. One gets hit with spittle so they hit the other one with a sign. The one that gets hit gets a buddy, so the other gets 2 buddies.... war ensues, blood is shed - crusades and jihads promising peace but delivering blood. **It all starts with the need to be right. The need to be right is a form of violence".**

NCUU Board of Directors

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

NCUU Committees

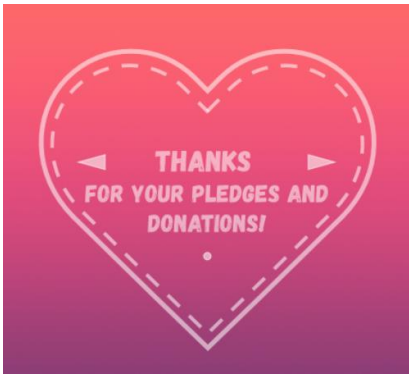
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Bylaws	Amy Haiken and Gordon Hart
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill and Sheila Wood
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
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
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, October 12th (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, Margo Wilson (clerkatncuu@gmail.com), about a week in advance.

NCUU Pledges



[NCUU Pledges and Youtube 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

Social Zoom Hour

During this time of Social Distancing, we thought it might be nice to have a time to get together to talk, get to know each other and connect. So...

The Membership and Social Activities committees would like to invite to join us on Zoom for “Connect with Conversation” on Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M. Watch for the link in an e-blast from Connie to join in the fun. “See” you there!

--Connie

Sunday Service Committee

If you would like to give feedback on any or all our speakers, please click the link and do so at any time. The Sunday Service Com. appreciates your input.

[Speaker Feedback Form](#)

Thanks,
Pam



Voting

Margo Wilson wrote an amazing article about voting. Please visit our [Community Connections](#) webpage to read this article that discusses the history of voting, as well as important links to our tri-county Supervisor of Elections. Please feel free to share this article with your friends!

Thanks,
Amy

Message from the Social Justice Committee

As we all are acutely aware, these are unprecedented times. Not simply because of the pandemic and racial injustice, but also because of the complex interconnections among the pandemic, climate change, racial injustice, economic decline and unemployment. The sidelining of science and denial of factual information by many of our leaders has exacerbated all of these situations. The fact that the US has 4% of the world's population but 21% of the world's coronavirus deaths is evidence that ignorance and denial can be lethal. In the years ahead, projections indicate that denial of climate change and refusal to either reduce carbon emissions or plan for adaptation is likely to be even more lethal for future generations. Racial unrest is destined to continue so long as leaders and the general public continue to deny and fail to address the existence of systemic racism. And, tragically, it is people of color and the poor who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 and the impacts of global warming.

As Unitarian Universalists, there are some things that we can do to help make politicians and the public more aware of the changes in attitude and lifestyle that our future depends on. For starters, we can write letters to politicians and newspapers and we can support charitable organizations, such as UU Justice Florida (<https://uujusticefl.org>), UU Service Committee (<https://www.uusc.org>), Black Lives Matter, the NAACP (<http://www.naacp.org>), the Sierra Club (<https://www.sierraclub.org>) and our local and regional food banks. **Most importantly, in the upcoming election we can vote for informed candidates, at all levels of government, who are committed to social and environmental justice.** The Social Justice Committee welcomes all who may like to join.

Finance Committee

The finance committee recently reorganized and has begun holding regular monthly meetings. The scheduled meetings are for the first Saturday each month at 10 a.m. Committee members include Shirley Leonard, chairman; John Comer, Rob DeRemer, Jean McCauley and Karen Fournier. There is an opening for a sixth member or even more if people are interested in serving. Anyone interested should contact Shirley at (781) 264-5098 or by email, reportersr@hotmail.com.

Send Sunday Morning Announcements To:

Contactncuu@Gmail.Com Write "For Announcements" in the subject line. Deadline Is The Friday Before Sunday Service.

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That The Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **October 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.

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.

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.

Loving Energy by Pamela Reader

Pamela 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!

October 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.

Pam Ricker

Larry Johnson

Claude Clavette

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

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.

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.



Congrats to the Benner Family!

Jean and I traveled back to Long Island late August and since we've been back at the farm we've celebrated Bob's 78th birthday, our 50th wedding anniversary, And best of all, on the 19th we welcomed our fifth grandson, All 10 pound 14 ounces of him! Ellis Lee.

Our life here is so much more hectic than the one we live in Florida. In some ways it's more dangerous although I must say almost everyone wears a mask and seems to understand the threat more clearly than Floridians.

We'll be coming back the beginning of November. Stay safe!
Bob Benner

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 (6 ft 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

FIRST DAYS ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE MAILED TO VOTERS 2020*

Alabama	9/19	Maine	10/04	South Carolina	10/04
Alaska	10/09	Maryland	10/13	South Dakota	9/18
Arizona	10/07	Massachusetts	10/13	Tennessee	9/19
Arkansas	9/18	Michigan	9/19	Texas	9/19
California	10/03	Minnesota	9/19	Utah	10/13
Colorado	10/12	Mississippi	9/24	Vermont	9/19
Connecticut	10/03	Missouri	9/22	Virginia	9/19
Delaware	9/19	Montana	10/09	Washington	10/16
Florida	9/24	Nebraska	9/29	West Virginia	9/18
Georgia	9/19	Nevada	10/14	Wisconsin	9/17
Hawaii	10/14	New Hampshire	10/04	Wyoming	9/19
Idaho	9/19	New Jersey	9/19		
Illinois	9/24	New Mexico	10/12		
Indiana	9/19	New York	10/02		
Iowa	10/06	North Carolina	9/04		
Kansas	10/14	North Dakota	9/24		
Kentucky	9/14	Ohio	10/06		
Louisiana	9/19	Oklahoma	9/19		
		Oregon	10/14		
		Pennsylvania	9/14		
		Rhode Island	9/19		

*Data from <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/early-voting-table-7-when-states-mail-out-absentee-ballots>. Check with your local boards of election for specific info.



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.