

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

**December 2021**

## SUNDAY SERVICE

**Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021**

**Speaker** – Adele Jacobson



As a child, Adele loved music, but never got serious about it until she retired. A musician she played with introduced her to therapeutic music, and the training she needed to become a certified music practitioner. When she started playing locally, she recognized the need for more musicians, as she could not satisfy the need for the music by herself. She started *Music in Medicine*, as a nonprofit three years ago to expand therapeutic music within Citrus County. They play in hospitals, a hospice facility, and a skilled nursing facility/memory care unit.

**Topic:** Music in Medicine

Adele spoke to our congregation in 2019. Today, she will give a brief refresher about what Music in Medicine is, what they do, and the progress they have made in meeting their mission. She and her team will demonstrate the various styles of music used for different patient conditions. The balance of time will be music presented by a student intern Sue Silber and the vice president of Music in Medicine, Jim Davis.

**Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021**  
**Grand Opening at the Fellowship**

**Speaker** – Gaia and Kurland Davies



Gaia and Kurland Davies spent most of their adult years studying psychology and learning to be counselors. They are spending their senior years studying being human and learning to be of service to our fellow humans and Earth. They are also exploring many different spiritual beliefs and practices. They try not to take themselves too seriously.

**Topic:** 'Tis the Season!

Yes, we know -- The Christmas decorations have been up for months! And we are sick of them and holiday music! But from late November to early January, there are a dozen or so holy days, festivals, or commemorations of different religions, spiritual practices, and philosophies. As Unitarian Universalists, we respect the essence of all these sources of wisdom. Some of us participate in these celebrations. Gaia and Kurtland will take you on a brief and occasionally humorous exploration of some of these special days and look at the questions of how these days are related to each other and to our UU principles and sources. They will explain how we can honor them in these times.

**Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021**

**Speaker** – Greg Greenway



Greg Greenway was born in Richmond, Va., and after graduating from the College of William & Mary, he moved to Boston, Mass., for its rich singer/songwriter tradition. Since then, Greg has played Carnegie Hall, been heard on NPR's "All Things Considered," and "Folk Stage," and had his song, "Driving in Massachusetts," played on "Car Talk." He was a founding member of the highly successful folk trio, Brother Sun, and is now, when not touring solo, one half of "Deeper Than the Skin: A Musical Presentation on Race in America," with his friend of over 30 years, Reggie Harris.

**Topic:** This is the Time to Build Bridges of Love

Greg was born and raised in the city of falling statues, Richmond, Va. He was told a story that had been passed on for centuries, unchallenged, as truly all of America has. The warm, funny, wonderful people who raised him and taught him who he was, had no reason to doubt that story; nothing in their world contradicted it. But, "The times, they are a-changing." As the dissonance became more and more prevalent between the story he was told and what he was experiencing, Greg entered a state that he believed reflected what is happening in America. Confronted with the truth of America's racial history, some are in denial; some are trying to build bridges. Where does the hope come from? It comes from looking honestly at what came before us, refusing to be paralyzed by the unvarnished truth, and seizing upon our positive gifts to bend power to bend toward justice. If we truly believe in our First Principle, we will invest our lives in building bridges.

**Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021**

**Speaker** – The Rev. Ben Bortin



The Rev. Ben Bortin graduated from the University of California with a major in history, specializing in Asian history. He is also a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. He has served as minister for UU congregations in Duluth, Minn., and Staten Island, N.Y., and as Membership Coordinator for the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. Currently, he is a chaplain at Zucker Hillside Psychiatric Hospital in Queens, N.Y.

His denominational and community involvements have included serving as President of the UU United Nations Office and on the board of Project Hospitality, an organization serving homeless and other limited people in Staten Island, N.Y.

**Topic:** New Year, New Resolves, New Hope

Judaism tells us the new year begins in September, the start of the year for many public schools and UU congregations. The Chinese say the year begins in February, and the Persians say it starts in March. But the global consensus tends to hold that the curtain rises on the new year on Jan. 1.

We need new beginnings in life. A new year gives us an opportunity for emotional and spiritual renewal, for a new dawn, however dark the hours leading up to it have been. We joke about breaking resolutions as soon as we make them – but some are kept, which enhance and even save lives. With the new year comes new possibilities, and indeed, new hope.

# NCUU Board of Directors

President	John Comer
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Margo Wilson
Directors	Amy Haiken, Bree Hill, John Ivens, Shirley Leonard, Lowell Smith, and Don Wright

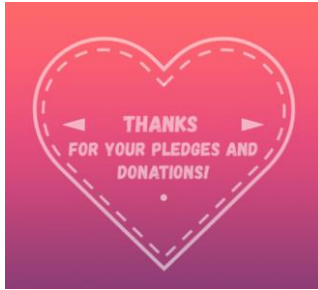
## NCUU Committees

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	Jean McCauley, 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	Abby Madeiros, Jeanne Wright, and Mike Taylor
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
Property	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Religious Education	John Ivens
Social Activities	Matthew Ciszewski and Pam Ricker
Social Justice	Don Wright
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	Jean McCauley
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

### Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Monday, Dec. 13 (Second Monday of the month) at 10:30 a.m. If you want to place an item on the board agenda, please send it to the clerk, Margo Wilson ([clerkatncuu@gmail.com](mailto: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” Dec. 12. 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 Fellowship  
P.O. Box 94  
Holder, FL 34445

Connie Hart



## Announcements

Send Sunday Morning Announcements To:  
Contactncuu@Gmail.Com Write “For Announcements” in the subject line. Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.



## December 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.

Margo Wilson

Mike Taylor

Don Wright

Maralyn Boysen

Ginny Fitzgerald



## October 31 Service

Thank you to the entire Sunday Service Committee who produced the Oct 31 service on Halloween and Day of the Dead. They worked quite a few extra hours rehearsing and figuring out the Zooming from the fellowship building. John Ivens jumped in at the last moment, when another actor got sick. With luck, it has been recorded.

- Linda Myers



## NCUU Calendar

Please send additions, deletions, updates, and edits to Gordon Hart, gchshutterbug@gmail.com, so that he may keep the calendar updated on our website, ncuu.org.



## **Caring Committee**

Caring Notes from Connie: Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

First, the good news! After a long closure, we will be opening our doors to our Fellowship family at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12. Those who are fully vaccinated are invited to join us in person. We will socially distance and use masks to assist in keeping us safe. Others who wish to join us may do so via Zoom, as we will be Zooming and recording the services on the usual link.

Maralyn Boysen, a longtime active member, is recovering from a thoracic spine injury in a rehabilitation center. Please send card to Maralyn c/o NCUU PO Box94 Holder, FL 34445.

On a very sad note, two of our members passed away this month. Lynn Carole Baker passed after a long illness and hospitalization. Hal Butler passed away a few weeks ago. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn. Condolences may be sent to her at the address in our directory.  
-- Connie Hart

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## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee currently has only three members. We are seeking to fill two open positions. We meet once a month until preparations for the April annual meeting requires two meetings. Anyone interested in joining us should contact Shirley Leonard, chairwoman, at (781) 264-5098 or by email at reportersr@hotmail.com.

## **December Share the Plate**

December Share the Plate: Family Resource Center Kids' Christmas

The mission of the Family Resource Center is to strengthen the family unit and improve the quality of life for children and families in Citrus County. Families may be disrupted by homelessness, divorce, separation, economic crisis, sickness, and death. When the family unit ceases to function, children may run away or be lost to drugs or alcohol, suicide, or prison. Some of the resources available are parent education classes, information and referral services, work experience for handicapped students, a food pantry and clothes closet, and a separate outreach center that includes medical help for our homeless population.

Every year the Family Resource Center conducts a "Sponsor A Child for Christmas Project" that provides gifts to children who are in need and under the protection of the state. These children may be in foster care, shelter, protective supervision, subsidized child care, or housed in a shelter, or are being seen by a school social worker.

More information may be found at [ccfrc.org](http://ccfrc.org).

-- Holly Alexander

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## **New Website Section for Members Only**

Are you a member who has a business or service? If you would like to share the information about your business or service to the Members Only section of the website, please write what you would like and let Connie or Amy know. Amy will add it.

-- Connie Hart

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### **Grounds Workday**

Even though 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 feet to whatever you are 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 a.m. Even if it is for just an hour before the heat builds up, you are welcome!

Bree Hill

## **Share the Plate News**

Our "Share the Plate" collection for December will be our annual collection for Kids Christmas through the Family Resource Center. Last year we donated three bikes and raised \$570. Let's see if we can top that this year! Send donations to NCUU, PO Box 94, Holder, FL 34445 with "Kids Christmas" in the memo line. In October, Share the Plate raised \$265 for the African American Club of Citrus County Scholarship Fund. In November we collected for Friends of the Crystal River Archaeological State Park/"Moon Over the Mounds" Fundraiser. We received two thank you notes: one from the ACLU-FL for James Shaw's speaker fee and one from the Citrus County League of Women Voters for Savanna Mapelli's speaker's fee. With your help, NCUU continues to support local nonprofits.

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### **Newsletter Deadline**

**Please Remember That The Deadline** For The Next Newsletter Is **Dec. 23, 2021**. Please Adhere To This Deadline; otherwise, your material won't be included in the newsletter.

All request entries should 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. Please send the proofread text and photo attachments.

Amy

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## Religious Education Committee

Please share your ideas and suggestions for a religious education program at NCUU. Once we begin meeting face-to-face, if we offered activities for young children while their parents participated in our Sunday service, our congregation might seem more welcoming to young families. We also could also continue with adult religious education programs as we have in the past.

Please get in touch with John Ivens (cell: 352-513-4710) or email ([bsnevister@gmail.com](mailto:bsnevister@gmail.com)) with your thoughts and suggestions soon. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

John Ivens  
NCUU Board Member



### Pine Hill Cemetery Cleanup



Photo: Courtesy  
of the Chronicle

John Ivens and Linda Myers helped rake Pine Hill Cemetery. The poorly cared for cemetery has been historically African American, and there is discussion about government management.



## A Gift

Mark your calendar now For Dec. 19, NCUU Zoom. Come in from the cold, add the carrot to the snowman, light the fireplace, and tune into our Sunday, Dec. 19 Zoom, or better yet ... Come to the building for a widescreen seasonal concert.

Greg Greenway is a gifted UU musician, a member of Brothers Sun, along with Joe Jencks, and a stalwart in the contemporary folk community. He usually partners with Reggie Harris, ( another frequent UU participant) with stories of their shared memories. "Deeper Than Skin" is their album about kindred spirits from different worlds.

Greg almost always appears with a beret. I do not know why, as he has a nice head of hair.

This Zoomed concert is indeed a GIFT during this holiday season. Please attend in person or online and you will leave warmer and cheerier. Invite friends.

