

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>

August 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jeanne and I have been members of NCUU for 12 years, and we have experienced loving engagement with many enlightened and caring members over that time. Many of our friends have died or moved away to be with their families. But their legacies remain embedded in the NCUU spirit and are being continually enriched by new members and friends and by UUA innovations. NCUU is a mandala: beautiful, dynamic, and forever evolving, thanks to our many altruistic and talented volunteers. The past two years have been challenging, but NCUU is emerging with exciting goals and a positive outlook.

I look forward to assisting in our collective pursuit of new and ongoing initiatives. Some of these include the following:

- A defining feature of Unitarian Universalism continues to be social justice and its many foci, some of which can be found on the Social Justice page of the NCUU website. We have now revived the monthly “Kitchen Table Forums” after a two-year, COVID-induced hiatus, and we welcome suggestions for topics and discussion leaders.
- The long-standing goal of increasing the racial and age diversity of our congregation must be pursued with renewed vigor, and I know that many members share this intent.
- Long range planning for future facility enhancements is consistent with the diversity and congregational growth goals.

- Over the course of the coming year, we should try to reach a consensus regarding the proposed “8th Principle” and its wording in preparation for casting our NCUU vote at the UUA Assembly in 2023. Several members feel that this should be given high priority, and I suggest that a Kitchen Table Forum be devoted to an open discussion on this topic.
- Returning to in-person services and gatherings with growing numbers of attendees is very comforting and rewarding. But by teaching us how to hold virtual meetings, the pandemic has also opened new horizons and made it possible for us to hear speakers who are remote from Florida. Hybrid services should continue for some time to come.
- Beyond adherence to our well-defined and irrefutable principles, UUs are not constrained by any dogma, prescribed doctrine, or set of scriptures. Spiritual pathways at NCUU are at least as numerous as our membership and are far from static. With the impending reinstatement of Religious Education, we should be able to share spiritual enrichment with each other openly and without judgment.

As we continue our journey to wholeness together, let us celebrate diversity and remain mindful of the critical needs of our congregants, humanity, and nature.

Namaste,
Don Wright

SUNDAY SERVICE

NCUU will not have services during August. Visits are scheduled to other houses of worship. Contact Jean McCauley if you would like info on carpooling at jeaniebeanincu@yaho.com or (352) 746-9398.

- **Aug. 7, 11 a.m.**, Brooksville UU Church in the Pines at Profound Revelations Studio, 316 W. Jefferson St., Brooksville 34806.
- **Aug. 14, 11 a.m.**, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 2105 W. Georgia Road, Crystal River 34429. Georgia Road is just west of and behind Nature Coast Health Care.
- **Aug. 21, 10:30 a.m.**, Tri-County UU (Villages) 7280 SE 135 St., Summerville 34491.
- **Aug. 28, 10:30 a.m.**, The Redemption Center Church, the Rev. Al Hopkins, 6616 W. Gulf to Lake Highway, #7623, Crystal River (next to Rocco's Pizza).

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Don Wright
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Margo Wilson
Directors	Rob Deremer, Carole Goodman, John Ivens, Shirley Leonard, Lowell Smith, and Mike Taylor

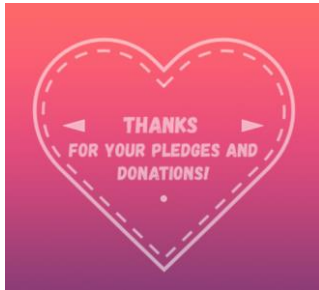
NCUU Committees

Building	Matthew Ciszewski, John Comer, and Lowell Smith
Bylaws	Open
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Jeanne Wright and Dolores Harding
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill
Facebook	Jean McCauley, John Comer, and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Long-Range Planning	John Comer
Media and Technology	Gordon Hart
Membership	Holly Alexander
Music	Sally Smith-Adams
Newsletter	Amy Haiken
Nominating Committee	Abby Madeiros, Jeanne Wright
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
Property	Matthew Ciszewski, John Comer, and Lowell Smith
Religious Education	John Ivens
Social Activities	Matthew Ciszewski and Pam Ricker
Social Justice	Linda Myers
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	Jean McCauley
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Monday, Sept. 12 (Second Monday of the month – no meeting in August) 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), 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 are open. 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

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.

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

Finance Committee

The next scheduled finance committee meeting is 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, via Zoom. It's open to all interested parishioners. For more information, contact Chairwoman Shirley Leonard, reportersr@hotmail.com, or at (781) 264-5098.

Shirley

Request for an Assistant Treasurer

The Finance Committee is looking for a parishioner with accounting experience to serve as assistant treasurer. Knowledge of QuickBooks helpful. Contact Chairwoman Shirley Leonard, (781) 264-5098, or email reportersr@hotmail.com if interested.

Announcements

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



Eighth Principle

The Social Justice Committee has set dates this fall to discuss and vote, as members of the NCUU congregation, on the adoption of the 8th Principle:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 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.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

Kitchen Table Forum to discuss the 8th Principle: 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22.

Ballots will be distributed to NCUU members in the mail two weeks in advance of November 12. Ballots need to be returned by Nov. 12.

Please direct any questions and concerns to John Ivens, bsnevister@gmail.com

SHARE THE PLATE

The Board has selected Athenas Wildlife Sanctuary Inc. to receive our Share the Plate donations in August. The sanctuary is committed to care for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife, with the goal of rehabilitation and release of native species, as well as to promote conservation and understanding through education. The sanctuary is in Brooksville. For more information, see the website: athenaswildlifefl.org.



A LABOR DAY OF LOVE

Our Labor Day speaker Prof. Jeff Nall brings us a unique program about bell hooks, a major black feminist lesbian theorist. From our perspective, the suffragettes were racist and classist, and sought to imitate the power structure of white patriarchy.

Stay up-to-date on feminism.

hooks wrote about 30 works, including children's books. She wrote her first book at 19.

hooks chose "love" as a theme. What could be more UU?

I recall that NCUU has presented only two "older" black feminists: Florida's own Zora Neale Hurston, who gets coverage with festivals in nearby Eatonville, and poet Fran Harper.

Wildhart Photography

The photographs on the walls of the sanctuary can be purchased with 50% off the purchase price going to NCUU.

Talk to Gordon Hart if interested.

Please check out wildhartphotography.com for more of Gordon's photographs.

The same deal will be honored if someone from the congregation wants to order a photo from the website.



Grounds Work Day

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

hooks is what today's young people are studying, reading, and quoting. Don't miss your chance to catch up and catch on. ... The Sunday Service is Sept. 4 at 10:30 a.m.

Why visit other churches in August?

We start with a visit to a small, offbeat UU congregation in Brooksville. The congregation's struggles to finance its work and survive almost breaks your heart. As individuals, they have much to offer; let's do some work together.

The Black Church is the heart of the black community, but also an American story. It is one of the only institutions in this nation that has not been permeated by supremacist and racist ideologies. It is the oldest institution in the U.S. that's been created by and led by Black people. Generations looked for justice, equity, and inclusion.... such as Blacks seek today. To learn about this community, come learn about this church and its leaders. Please dress nicely.

We will visit our neighbor in the Villages: Tri County UU. Unlike the "Republican Villages," this is the Marion County UU. This congregation may be our competitor. But we cooperate, borrowing this congregation's leaders, members, and pastors. Let's see what else we can learn, and maybe go for a pastrami sandwich after services.



Newsletter Deadline

WE'RE NO. 1

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **Aug. 23, 2022**. 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. That will make it easier to keep all requests organized in one place. Please send the proofread text and photo attachments. In addition, please keep your text to a maximum of three short paragraphs. If it is longer, we will edit to shorten the announcement.

Amy



Share the Plate News

So far, this fiscal year NCUU has been generous in our monthly Share the Plate donations. In May we raised \$125 for the Florida Springs Institute and received a nice thank you note (see below). Our collection in June was for Equality Florida and we raised \$285. In July, we collected for the Ukrainian students at USF and as of the newsletter publication deadline we received \$345. Thank you all for supporting those in need! In August we will be collecting for [Athenas Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Brooksville. One of their wildlife rescuers, Sue Silber, spoke to us on July 31.

We wanted to thank you for your recent donation to The Florida Springs Institute. We appreciate it so much! We cannot serve our mission without donors, members, and community partners just like you!

Thank you for joining us on our mission to protect Florida's Springs.

All the very best,

— Staff of The Florida Springs Institute

NCUU is the first Florida UU congregation to join the Florida Interfaith Coalition for Reproductive Health and Justice. NCUU Board President Don Wright signed the coalition after the July 11 board meeting. Until now, only ministers and lay individuals of faith had signed. Although the signers are many, we are the first Congregation to join. (Google entire name for list of members)

The Florida [Interfaith Coalition](#) is “a grassroots group of clergy, faith leaders, and lay people committed to supporting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice for all Florida residents. Together, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all persons and the constitutional guarantee of religious liberty. We believe that each person deserves the freedom to make reproductive health-care decisions in accordance with their own conscience and faith beliefs, without shame or stigma.” The Coalition testifies and presents its positions to the Florida legislature, annually. Its board includes U.S. Rep. Anna Eskamani.

Last month, the General Assembly passed an updated Statement Of Conscience: “Rejecting Legal Challenges to Abortion.” One recommendation is to build relationships between our congregations and other faith organizations on this issue.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Deidre Sweeney, a nurse who spoke to us on July 6th, described some of the times she has volunteered as a medical professional, especially in efforts to help Afghan women. There are a variety of organizations that provide opportunities for volunteers to serve in a variety of venues. Here are several she mentioned:

International Medical Relief
(internationalmedicalrelief.org)

IMF was founded in 2002 to coordinate medical mission trips that provide services to underserved and vulnerable populations across the globe. Medical and nonmedical volunteers donate a set amount to cover transportation, lodging, and food at a site that could be anywhere in the world. Currently, the group needs volunteers for weeklong disaster relief missions to serve displaced Ukrainians in Warsaw, Poland. It also needs medical supplies.

Lutheran Services Florida (lsfnet.org)

Since 1982, LSF has been providing and sharing solutions to protect Florida's most vulnerable. It began as a means to sustain the work of Lutheran churches that came together in the 70s and 80s to address the Vietnamese and Cuban refugee crises. It is now one of the largest nonprofits in Florida, touching one in 50 Floridians, with a wide range of services.

World Central Kitchen (wck.org)

WCK began in 2010 after the earthquake in Haiti. Food relief is not just a plate of food that keeps hunger away. The real meaning of comfort food is a plate of hope. After a disaster, feeding people is the fastest way to rebuild a sense of community. Most volunteers are local, but there is a need for others who are able to make their own travel arrangements to help.