

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>

July 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

Sunday, July 3, 2022

Speaker – Dennis Wooldridge



Dennis E. Wooldridge is a Navy veteran and spent his career in the broadcast industry. He is currently a member of the board of the Volusia/Flagler Chapter of the ACLU of Florida. He has been a member of the ACLU since 2016 and a longtime advocate of the importance of populace involvement in protecting civil freedoms guaranteed by the US Constitution.

Topic: “What Does Independence Really Mean?”

1. The history of Independence Day
2. What is the meaning of Independence Day?
3. Are our liberties at risk?
4. Warnings in history and literature
5. What can we do?

Sunday, July 10, 2022

Speaker – Deirdre Sweeney

Deirdre Sweeney has been a nurse practitioner for 19 years. She is from Boston, and the majority of her career has been at Massachusetts General Hospital. She and her husband moved to Citrus County in January of 2016, after a record-setting snowfall in Boston. She currently works at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa as a hospitalist. She also teaches for Simmons University in its Nurse Practitioner Program.

In September of 2021, the opportunity presented itself to become involved in the medical care of the thousands of refugees that were arriving from Afghanistan. She traveled back and forth between Citrus County and Fort Dix, N.J., for October, November, and December. She is joining us today to tell us about her experience.

Topic: “Operation Allies Welcome: Helping Afghan Refugees”

In the fall of 2021, Deirdre spent three months working for Task Force Liberty with Afghan Refugees at a military base in NJ. They provided many levels of medical care and also focused on completing the required medical immigration tasks so that the refugees could move off the base and be resettled in the USA. This presentation is about her experience with the refugees and the process.

Sunday, July 17, 2022



Speaker — Bree Hill

Topic: Report on GA

Sunday, July 24, 2022

Speaker – The Rev. Bruce Seaman



The Rev. Bruce Seaman is a retired Presbyterian Church, USA minister who has been long obsessed with today's topic. After decades of church leadership, he believes he now has some solid direction. He is writing a book on this topic. He has been married for 41 years to Nancy, benefits coordinator for the 7,000 employees of the Marion County School Board. They have two adult children: newlywed Ray, who is a political activist in his own business, building websites and producing digital services while also doing land sales; and Rachel, who is a science education designer for online programs for the University of Florida.

Topic: "Jesus Didn't Ask for the Church: Designing a Servant Community Faithful to Jesus' Teachings and Values"

Church insiders and outsiders have long remarked at how the church, in general, is disconnected from the teachings of Jesus. It's no secret. Look at writings from over a century ago and you will find the same complaints about this disconnection. With all the change that has occurred in society and in the church over all that time, it is remarkable that the complaints remain the same. Such resilience (or resistance) against modeling the teachings of Jesus indicates that the church has a flawed design. Indeed, the church is literally designed to produce outcomes disconnected from Jesus' teachings and values. If the issue is design-based, then no amount of tinkering, revision, revival, or change will alter the outcomes. There needs to be a wholly different design for a faith community that takes seriously Jesus' teachings and values. We will explore what a different design might be for a faith community in my presentation.

Sunday, July 31, 2022

Speaker – Rachel Newman

Topic: TBA

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

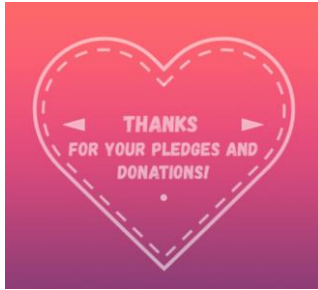
Building	Matthew Ciszewski, John Comer, and Lowell Smith
Bylaws	Open
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Jeanne Wright and Dolores Harding
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill
Facebook	Jean McCauley, John Comer, and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
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, July 11 (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), about a week in advance.

Announcements and News

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.

July 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.

Abby Madeiros
Connie Hart
Ned Davis

Cindy Paynter
Tom Hibberd

Finance Committee

The finance committee will not meet in July. Its next scheduled meeting is 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, via Zoom. It's open to all interested parishioners. For more information, contact Chairman Shirley Leonard, reportersr@hotmail.com, or at (781) 264-5098.

Announcements

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

Pride Rally

Four from NCUU endured the heat at the
Pride Day rally on June 11: John Comer, Matt
Ciszewski, Jean McCauley, and Linda Myers.
It also was a *bogo* ("Buy one, get one"), as a gun
safety rally took place adjacent to this one. In
fact, Jean made a two-sided sign, one for each
issue.



John Comer



Linda Myers



Jean McCauley and Buddy

Word of Gratitude

Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists:

Thank you for your recent monetary donation in
support of the Friends of the Citrus County
Library System. Many in the community have
been very supportive of our wonderful library
system and the work it does for all of us. I'm
glad your membership sees the importance as
well.

Please pass along our thanks and let the
members of your fellowship know that they can
also support us through donations of their
gently used books, and through shopping at our
upcoming Fall Mega Book Sale on Friday, Sept.
30 – Monday, Oct. 3.

Karen Slaska
Secretary, FOCCLS
<http://foccls.org>

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



Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That The Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **July 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

Sunday Service Committee

NCUU will not have services in the month of August in order to give our committees some respite.

The Sunday Service committee will be using this time to visit other UU churches, temples, synagogues, and other denominations. We encourage our members and especially our committee chairs to do the same. We will share our experiences.

Here are the scheduled visits:

- Aug. 7, 11 a.m., Brooksville UU (Pine), 314 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 the Medical Center)
- Aug. 21, 10:30 a.m., Tri County UU (Villages) 7280 SE 135 St., Summerville 34491
- Aug. 28, 10:30 a.m. Nondenominational Christian, the Rev. Al Hopkins, Redemption Center, 6616 W Gulf to Lake, Crystal River

Thanks,
Pam



UU Gainesville

UU Gainesville wants you to know that you can listen to their past services on YouTube.....and on a Sunday at 11 am, you can listen to the current one, in real time, again, on YouTube: UUGainesville.

Linda Myers

Social Justice Committee

The July meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be Sat. July 30, at 4 p.m. on ZOOM.

Juneteenth is now a federal holiday — placing June 19 at the same level of other important milestones of American history

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/juneteenth-were-still-on-a-march-forward-for-absolute-equality>

Save July 10, 10:30 a.m. Local nurse practitioner Deirdre Sweeney will tell the Nature Coast UUs about her volunteer work with Afghan refugees; first at an Air Force base and preparing them to (hopefully) move to more homelike situations. As if that wasn't enough, she lugged donated winter clothing each trip. Then Deirdre went to Poland to repeat her volunteer nursing for Ukrainian refugees. This is a woman who *WALKS THE TALK*.

On Sept. 4, NCUU will honor the renowned black feminist writer, Bell Hooks, at the Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. She recently died, leaving a trove of important works about the Black experience and female experience. Hooks also was an outspoken lesbian and her work is fascinating for us to get to know; Invite your book club.

You have time to read one of her books before the talk by professor Jeff Nall.



Racial Unity Day

Members of NCUU and of the Citrus County Bahá'í's gathered at the gazebo in Inverness at dawn on June 12 to celebrate Racial Unity Day with a prayer service.

The Bahá'í's have celebrated Racial Unity Day on the second Sunday of June since 1957.

This year, the Citrus County Bahá'í's invited NCUU to co-sponsor the event with them.

Pam Ricker told the group about UU and Jean McCauley read the Seven Principles.

Margo Wilson read excerpts from Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter From Birmingham Jail."
Pam said a prayer.

The Bahá'í's told about their group and Racial Unity Day and offered prayers, as well.

They invited us to continue to participate with them in joint programs and services.



Pam Ricker discussed UU and also said a prayer.



Photo is of the group



Board member Carole Goodwin, at left, prayed with Bahá'í members Don Jones and Josie Ramos.



Jean McCauley discussed the Seven Principles.

Hurricane Protection Storms are expected to be stronger and more frequent

Supplies suggested:

Batteries, Flashlight, Water

Dog supplies: Crate & food

Weather radio

Have a home family plan in case of separation or evacuation, including pets; and have your cell phone charged;

Have three days' worth of nonperishable food: 1 gallon of water per person per day.

Local shelter for special needs persons: register with Health Department now by calling 352-527-0068.

Regular shelter locations in Citrus County have not yet been announced.

We might have a signup sheet for homes available for shelter.

NCUU does not need to develop a disaster emergency team, as the county is quite prepared. After a serious hurricane, there may be calls for manpower for cleanup, but especially for donations.

Linda Myers