

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>

September 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



During our August “break,” several initiatives continued to advance NCUU’s goals:

- 1. Forging alliances with other congregations.** As explained in Connie Hart’s e-blast posted on Aug. 6, members were encouraged to visit neighboring churches during the month of August in hopes of engaging partners for our social justice pursuits and possibly attracting new members or friends. Several members engaged in this outreach initiative. Thank you.
- 2. Social justice.** Linda Myers, as chair of the Social Justice Committee, is energetically leading multi-pronged UUA-sponsored “UU the Vote” campaigns, aimed at getting out the vote in November. Included among these are the “Vote Forward” letter writing project and the “Environmental Voter Project” that involve orchestrated and prescheduled phone bank events. A third project, complementary to Vote Forward, is the liberal “Swing Left” letter-writing campaign. All interested members and friends are welcome to join these important efforts by e-mailing Linda Myers (rubitime@gmail.com).
- 3. Eighth UU Principle.** The UUA has proposed adding an 8th Principle to the existing 7. The wording proposed by the UUA reads as follows: *“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.” John Ivens is leading the NCUU debate on this initiative prior to voting as a congregation on its acceptance. A kitchen table forum is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22 to facilitate an open discussion. Ballots will be distributed to NCUU members by mail a week or so after the Kitchen Table Forum. These ballots should be returned by Nov. 12.

4. New Safety Initiatives. In accordance with guidance from recent UUA documents, an *ad hoc* NCUU Safety Team was assembled in June and charged with doing whatever is reasonable to minimize risks to congregants from COVID, active shooters, unexpected illnesses or accidents, and fires. Members of this team are Rob Deremer, Lowell Smith, Bree Hill, Mike Taylor, Jeanne Wright, and Don Wright. The Board of Directors considers this team to be a subcommittee of the Building Committee, which is chaired by Matthew Ciszewski, John Comer, and Lowell Smith. The initial recommendations of the team include the following, but are subject to evolve as situations change:

- Given the continued high rates of infection of COVID-19 in Citrus and Marion counties, masking should continue to be mandatory indoors but optional outdoors.
- Plans for protecting congregants from potential active shooters are being devised, following recommendations of UUA and FEMA. Even though the probability of such events is low, it is not zero and emergency actions should be understood, prepared for, and communicated to the congregation. UUA has published clear guidelines for actions.
- The front door should be locked from the inside once the service begins but should be easily re-opened for late attendees. The new back door in the sanctuary should be used for any emergency evacuation.
- Three video monitors with clear views of the foyer, the immediate vicinity of the front door, and outdoors, facing the parking area, have been installed by ADT. These will be monitored throughout services from within the office by Bree or other team members. Monitors are also motion-activated and can be accessed remotely at all times. The security system can be activated or deactivated remotely from cell phones or computers by team members and other volunteers.
- A highly audible and readily activated alarm system that can be activated from within the church is a component of the ADT security system.
- A K-series fire extinguisher should be placed near the stove in the kitchen in the event of a grease fire.
- First responders who will call 911 and possibly activate the alarm in the event of an accident or emergency should be assigned soon.
- Members with CPR and AED training should also be identified and asked to respond if needed.
- The congregation should be briefed on emergency procedures at least twice a year, at which time members should also practice evacuation drills.

Please stay safe, vibrant, reasoning, compassionate, and, above all, loving.

Don

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022

Speaker — Dr. Jeff Nall



Dr. Jeffrey Nall teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Nall also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. He recently began a Substack newsletter and Podcast devoted to exploring the insights of the humanities for everyday life. For more information, go to JeffreyNall.substack.com.

Topic: "Bell Hooks' Labors of Love: Critical Thinking and Courageous Conversation"

On Dec. 15, 2021, the world lost one of the great public intellectual voices of our day: pioneering black feminist bell hooks. In this talk, Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., shares insights from hooks' feminist and anti-racist writing. He also highlights hooks' timely advocacy of critical thinking, freedom of speech, and courageous dialogue. Against growing trends to ban books and "cancel" opposing views, hooks insisted that democracy required the maturity and courage to respectfully engage with precisely those views we find most mistaken. These commitments were bolstered by hooks' uncommon humility and awareness of her own political and ethical inconsistencies. Above all, hooks joined the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in grounding her intellectual and political projects in an explicit ethic of love.

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022

Speaker – Amira Sims



Amira Sims is a mother of four, college professor, spoken word artist, and lifelong learner. Starting at the ripe age of 8, she began keeping a journal. Ever since, she can remember she always wanted to be a teacher. Her childhood nickname was “school.” Even before graduating with her master’s degree in psychology, she guest-lectured at Valdosta State University. In 2003, she began teaching an array of psychology courses at the collegiate level. Many years later, in her 2019 TEDx Ocala talk, she shared that one of the reasons she consistently began to speak her poetry was thanks to one of her undergraduate college professors, who encouraged her to “keep writing, start sharing.”

Topic: “Power, People, and Prose”

Amira Sims will briefly discuss the power of words to shape minds, hearts, and behaviors. Amira will share a poem titled, “*Transfer of Power Gone Wrong*.” She will dissect the poem by highlighting the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. She will be sure to highlight her thoughts on getting correct history into curricula.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022

Speaker – Art Jones



Art Jones has been working as a volunteer for the last 15 years on cleaning up and restoring springs in Crystal River, Homosassa, Weeki Wachee, and now, the Rainbow River. He is the founder and president of One Rake at a Time, Inc., a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has set its sights on restoring the Rainbow River to its original beauty. Through the One Rake at a Time initiative, started in 2009 and becoming a nonprofit in 2015, Art and his group have spent thousands of hours removing thousands of pounds of muck, algae, and invasive plants from our local waterways. For more information, visit <https://onerakeatime.org>

Topic: “Save Our Waters”

The natural springs of Florida are some of the most beautiful in the country. They are being invaded by hydrilla, lyngbya algae and other exotic weeds. How do we save them?

Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022

Speaker – Dee Collier



Dee Collier is a former elementary school teacher from Ocala, who loves drama and history. Those loves have led her to portray 25 famous women in history. There's a board on a table that has pictures of her portraying some of them. You're welcome to take one of her papers or cards and invite her to other groups as well.

Topic: "Corrie ten Boom"

Corrie ten Boom was the first female watchmaker in Europe, but that's not what she was known for. She and her family were Christians who hid over 700 Jews and Jewish sympathizers in their home during WWII and helped them escape the horrors planned by the Nazis. Corrie, her sister Betsy, and their father were eventually caught and sent to prison, where her father died. The sisters were sent to a concentration camp, and Betsy died there. Corrie was released. She went on to tell her story of intrigue, pain and suffering, and then, forgiveness!

After the presentation, "Corrie" (Dee) will answer questions, remaining in character as Corrie ten Boom as if it were still 1979. Let's listen in on this fascinating story as Dee Collier portrays Corrie ten Boom.

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

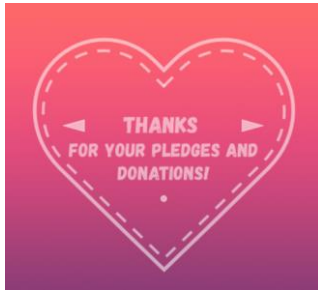
NCUU Committees

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) 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.

September 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.

John Ivens

Woody Harding

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.

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **Sept. 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 two short paragraphs. If it is longer, we will edit to shorten the announcement.

Amy



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

Social Justice Committee

Reaching Toward NCUU Goals

The Sunday Service Committee has renewed efforts to reach out to nonwhites, and to the young, with the following NCUU goals and the President's letter.

During the fall we will have:

- Had two services by African Americans, a service about a Black and LGBTQ+ woman, two Hispanic heritage services, and two services about younger generations.
- Visited two Black churches

But we need your help. To see and take part in these Sunday services by us does nothing to inform or engage the larger community nor advance our NCUU goals.

To bring in new viewers and attendees, we need the help of all of you to **Reach Out**.

Here's how:

Share the announcements with friends, neighbors, and relatives. Invite them in person or on ZOOM.

If you use any social media, this is a successful way of passing along announcements.

Individual Efforts Are Progress Toward Our Larger Mission.

- Linda Myers
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Wildhart Photography

The photographs on the walls of the sanctuary

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.

Kitchen Table Forum

The NCUU Social Justice Committee will sponsor a Kitchen Table forum on Saturday, September 24th, at 4:00 P.M. with guest speaker, Vicki Ionia. She will inform and answer questions about changes in voting procedures and redistricting. All are welcomed.