

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 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- 1. Interfaith collaboration* -- We intend to continue our pursuits with Unity Citrus County, the Baha'i congregation, and hopefully other nearby UUs in the month of November.
- 2. Bequests from the Robert L. Campbell and Mary Louise DeWolf Revocable Living Trust* -- A working group has been assembled to consider how best to proceed and the Rev. Brock Leach has offered to assist us.
- 3. Social Justice* -- Linda Myers, former chair of the Social Justice Committee, is leading multi-pronged UUA-sponsored "UU the Vote" campaigns aimed at getting out the vote in November.
- 4. Eighth UU Principle* -- John Ivens led a very substantive and well-orchestrated discussion on Oct. 22. The principle is worded 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.*"
- 5. Growing the NCUU Congregation* -- Connie Hart has been hard at work trying to find new ways of attracting attendance by potential new members. Natalie Briscoe, from UUA, is advising the membership committee on this, and we expect to have a Zoom meeting with Brock and Natalie before the end of the year. Regrettably, we have recently lost some existing and potential members. Some have tragically passed. But others have become disillusioned for various reasons that we are firmly committed to addressing.

Please remember that NCUU is a unique and loving community above all. Stay engaged and do not hesitate to share your joys and concerns. We grow and evolve continually and together; we are not static.

Namaste,

Don

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022

Speaker — Barbara Wheeler



Barbara Wheeler started her career in Banking in St. Petersburg, FL. She moved with her husband to Ft. Lauderdale, where she was introduced to The Salvation Army, where she got her start in the social service world. She's operated the Social Service Department for The Salvation Army in Gainesville, which included a men's shelter. She worked at the United Way of Citrus County, and has been the director for Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc. for 16 years.

Topic: "Causes and Faces of Homelessness"

Today's speaker will be discussing a little bit about who Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc. is, and then presenting the Causes and Faces of Homelessness in Citrus County. This includes sharing statistics and talking about the need for housing that is affordable for those in our community.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022

Speaker – UU Rev. Dr. Steve Crump



The Rev. Dr. Steve J. Crump is Minister Emeritus of the congregation of the Unitarian Church, having recently completed 40 years in the ministry, 36 of those years in Baton Rouge. He holds religion and ministry degrees from the University of Chicago Divinity School and Meadville-Lombard Theological School, Chicago. In Baton Rouge, he is known for leadership and activism around interfaith, anti-racism, and community organization and empowerment issues. He was one of several leaders locally who helped found what the Interfaith Federation

of Greater Baton Rouge is today.

Topic: “Which Way Is East?”

East is a familiar direction in religious literature and is especially popular in the Christmas season. According to the stories told and carols sung at this time of the year, a "Star in the East" guided the main characters of the story. What would a nativity be without a role for the star and a corresponding direction for seeking it? Strangely, the Gospel writers are not consistent in their use of directions. But what's important for us is to see a direction for ourselves, our loved ones, the institutions we love, our society, and a way that is caring for all those who come after us.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022

Speaker — UU 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, Calif. He has served as a 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., and serves on a part-time basis as minister of the UU Fellowship of the North Fork, in Jamesport, 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: “The Spiritual Gifts of Hanukkah and Christmas”

Hanukkah and Christmas are infused with mystery and wonder. Both are beacons of hope and joy. Both celebrate light amid the increasing darkness experienced by the Northern hemisphere of the Earth. Each endearingly invites delight on the part of children, and the child within each of us. And both religious events offer messages of universal importance to humanity.

What are these inspired messages? They differ from one another; but each possesses an ideal to which we are wise to aspire.

Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

The Sunday Service Committee announces a Candlelight service on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The service will not be on ZOOM.

Please join us at our fellowship for our Christmas Eve celebration at 7 p.m.

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

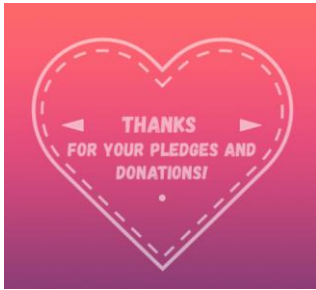
NCUU Committees

Building	Matthew Ciszewski, John Comer, and Lowell Smith
Bylaws	Open
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Jeanne Wright
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 and Amy Haiken
Membership	Holly Alexander
Music	Sally Smith-Adams
Newsletter	Amy Haiken
Nominating Committee	Abby Madeiros, Jeanne Wright
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart and Sally Smith-Adams
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, Dec. 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

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

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
Don Wright

Mike Taylor

December – Share the Plate

The Board has selected The Path of Citrus County to receive our December Share the Plate donation. Their mission is to provide a Christian living environment that provides rehabilitation and encourages a work ethic for those without a home. The Path has a number of programs, including a farm project that consists of growing seasonal vegetables and a co-op that is a supervised work program for the homeless.

-- Holly

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.



DECK THE HALLS AND MAKE THE
SEASON BRIGHTER

**There's nothing better than community
when it comes to the Holidays.
You are invited to join us in merriment as
we collect unwrapped
Toys for Tots, decorate the foyer and
sanctuary and enjoy snacks and conversation.
Contact Connie "Claus" for more info.**

Where? NCUU

When? Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022

Time? 3:00 – 5:00

**Bring yourself, a friend, an unwrapped toy,
a snack and joy!
See you there!**

Request for Two Additional Members

The Finance Committee is looking to fill two vacancies. 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.

A Great Hike Enjoyed by All

On Nov. 9, 11 folks joined Wanda and Holly for a walk/hike at Blue Run Park. Wanda and Holly plan to host a hike each month, so stay tuned to your e-blasts and announcements. Contact Wanda for more information.

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

<http://www.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

Blessings and Barks



Nov. 20 was quite an occasion to smile, as yips and arfs filled the sanctuary with joy. Along with the animals pictured, and some who weren't, several members and friends showed us their feline and canine companions on camera, and some were blessed via ZOOM. Thank you to UU Rev. Carole Yorke for leading this annual tradition.

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is Dec. 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

NO VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS

In fact, no sugar plums at all for the homeless as we enter the season of feasting and gift giving.

The Mid Florida Homeless Coalition addresses the needs of this group, which includes not just elderly men, but entire families. The complexities of the homeless problem will be outlined at our Sunday service on Dec 4. The speaker is Barbara Wheeler, the executive director of the Coalition. As *Share the Plate* has been allocated elsewhere, there is a donation box in our lobby for needed household cleaning supplies for the homeless.

-- Linda Myers

Dear NCUU fellowship,

I want to thank you, NCUU, for the invitation to speak to your warm and welcoming congregation. I loved the service and the acceptance of the Dia de Muertos celebration by your congregation. It's refreshing to see and experience the unbiased perspective that the NCUU community holds of different faiths, cultures and peoples.

Now I know why my best friend is a Unitarian! I admire the core beliefs and principles and hope to attend one of your services in person in the future. The area surrounding Ocala impressed me with its natural beauty and untouched forests, so I'd love to visit again.

Warmest regards,
Rebecca

NCUU Hikes

The weather is cooler; snowbirds are coming back, so let's start hiking again and enjoy this beautiful weather. Hiking will be a monthly NCUU event. Let's start with the second Wednesday of the month and see how that works out. Our first hike will be **Wednesday, Nov. 9**, on the **Blue Run Trail**. We will meet at the parking area on County Road 39, just east of US 41, about a mile south of Dunnellon, at **10:30 a.m.** We will walk to the bridge over the Withlacoochee River, which will give us 2 miles if we turn around there, or we could go further into the Cypress swamp. The trail is paved, so this will be an easy hike to get us going. If anyone is interested, we can go to lunch in Dunnellon, where there are several restaurants to choose from. If you have questions, contact Holly (316) 734-0023 or Wanda (651) 260-5890.

Mindfulness Meditation at Nature Coast Universalist Fellowship (NCUU.ORG)

Fridays from 4-5 p.m.

Mindfulness meditation has been practiced by Eastern religions for several millennia. It is not underpinned by any dogma or particular religion, although it is most widely practiced by Buddhists today. It mainly involves clearing one's mind of clutter and allowing peace and intuitive, or spiritual, awareness to emerge. It does not require difficult or uncomfortable postures; simply reverence and calm. The NCUU Mindfulness Meditation group meets at the fellowship every Friday afternoon for one hour, during which two 20-minute sitting meditation sessions are interspersed by a brief session of walking meditation and readings of Buddhist and Taoist teachings from different traditions, including Zen. Participants from all faiths, age groups, and persuasions are invited to attend. All sessions are free of charge. For more information, contact Don Wright (ldwright@bellsouth.net) or Rob Deremer (arderemer@tampabay.rr.com).