

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>

January 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcomes 2023, New Members, and New Opportunities

The past three years, since the advent of COVID, have been disruptive for our NCUU congregation as they have for the world at large. And we continue to mourn the passing of several beloved members. Thankfully, we are now meeting once again in person as well as virtually and we also have some vibrant new members and friends. Our loving fellowship welcomes the New Year with optimism and reduced apprehension and with renewed gratitude for the existence of the NCUU enlightened and collegial community. Thanks to very generous recent bequests from Joan Burnett and Mary Louise DeWolf, our small, lay-led congregation now has relative financial health, and we may soon be able to embark on innovative new ministerial initiatives.

We should be especially thankful for each other and for the many voluntary gifts of service that our members willingly bring and that enable us to function as a completely lay-led fellowship without any salaried minister or support staff. We heard of many of these numerous and varied services during the Sunday Service on December 18, 2022. Without such fellowship-wide altruism, NCUU would not exist. But what NCUU is all about, as summarized in the attached reminder of our goals and values, provides motivation and inspires us to do what we do, and an overarching spirit of collegiality provides the “glue” that enables us to work together toward common goals. Fortunately, we are blessed with an uncommon diversity of talents.

As we progress and address new challenges, we must also remain mindful of the fact that we are a fragile community. Age and health are undoubtedly significant contributors to our fragility. But emotional fragility and sensitivity also arise from the fact that we are loving and caring. Collegiality is a precious and delicate virtue in a community like ours, and it must be carefully nurtured. We must always take care to treat each other with the respect that the first and third UU principles demand. The NCUU Board of Directors Covenant includes the clause: “*We will stay in community with each other...*” Let’s endeavor to apply this directive throughout our congregation.

Happy New Year!

Don Wright

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2022

Speaker – Dane Myers



Dane's work has spanned the degradation of the Rainbow River, environmental racism in Florida's sugarcane harvesting practices, the year he spent living in his Tesla Model 3, and recording an album out of his solar tiny house entitled 'The New American Dreamers'.

<https://danemyers.com/home/>

<https://www.facebook.com/danemyersmusic/>

<https://twitter.com/danemyersmusic?lang=en>

<https://www.youtube.com/@danemyersmusic>

Topic: “Creativity and Climate”

Ring in the New Year with a musical presentation on creativity and environmentalism from award-winning videographer, musician, and climate activist Dane Myers.

His presentation at 10:30 on January 1st, 2023 at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists church will explore art and creativity's role in attracting action for the planet.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023

Speaker – UU Rev Brock Leach



Rev. Brock Leach lives in Sarasota and works for the Unitarian Universalist Association as executive consultant for emerging ministries, helping develop and lead denominational efforts to support religious innovators.

In Sarasota, Brock volunteers on the boards of Children First, Sarasota County's Head Start agency, the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition, and chairs the Professional Advisory Group for Pastoral Care at Tampa General Hospital. He also serves on the board of Protect Our Defenders, a national organization that supports victims of sexual assault in the military and spearheaded the successful effort to reform the military justice system recently passed by Congress.

Brock is currently a Doctor of Ministry student at Boston University's School of Theology.

Topic: "What About Wellbeing?"

Much of our public discourse presumes that economic indicators like employment and income overwhelmingly determine our happiness. But while there's good evidence about what actually contributes to human flourishing, not much of it is reflected in our public policy or our reality. What it would mean to build a society that nourishes wellbeing?

Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023

Speaker – UU Rev Cynthia Snavely



Rev. Cynthia Snavely currently serves Tri-County Unitarian Universalists in Summerfield, FL as their interim minister. Rev. Snavely began her ministry as a United Methodist and moved into Unitarian Universalist ministry in the early 90s. She has served congregations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. She currently lives in Lady Lake, FL with her daughter and three of her four grandsons.

Topic: “Changing the Way We Think About Race”

The Rapper Shad has put out a song extolling black averageness. He does not long to be part of W.E.B. DuBois’ “Talented Tenth” who will lift the race. He wants the right to be “average.”

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023

Speaker – Rev Marcia McCartney



Rev. Marcia McCartney's passion is supporting humanity in rediscovering the part each of us plays in our Divine Oneness. For over 30 years, she has been a spiritual midwife for people who desire to deepen and expand their experience of life with the Infinite Creative Spirit within. As a Unity Minister, she has encouraged the practice of Spiritual Truth taught by the great mystical traditions. She has served as senior minister of three Unity ministries in Chicago, Gainesville and Citrus County, Florida. As a recovering addict of 45 years, she has walked the path of surrender, acceptance and recovery. She became a Licensed Unity Teacher in 1992 and an Ordained Unity Minister in 1999. As an Agent of

Conscious Evolution, Attitudinal Healing and Sage-ing International facilitator she created an alternative ministry based on healing play, laughter and creativity: The Planetary Play Project (www.planetaryplayproject.org). Rev McCartney currently lives in Crystal River with fur babies Joey and Sophie.

Topic: "Empty Cup"

As we enter the New Year, let's take a look at those things in consciousness we no longer want to hold onto – those unexpressed fears, unexplained beliefs, judgements, resentments that hold us back from living the fullness of what we come here to be.

Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023

Speaker – Don Wright



Don Wright and his wife Jeanne live in Dunnellon, FL and have been members of NCUU since 2010. Don retired in 2007 from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, where he was a professor specializing in physical and geological oceanography. Prior to moving to Virginia in 1982, Don was on the faculty of the University of Sydney, Australia. Don received his PhD from LSU in 1970. From the time of his retirement until September 2021, he continued to work part time as Director of Coastal and Environmental Research

for the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA), a non-profit consortium of 60 universities. Most of this work focused on promoting collaborative programs to predict and communicate understandings of climate change and its impacts on coastal communities. Don currently serves as the president of the NCUU Board of Directors and is a member of the NCUU Mindful Meditation Group.

Topic: “Spiritual Ecology”

Indigenous people understand natural interconnectivity in a spiritual context. According to David Tacey, a humanities scholar at Latrobe University in Melbourne Australia: “Spirituality is the art of making compassionate connections and refers to the bonds we make with each other, the indwelling soul, nature and the cosmos... deep ecological awareness is a spiritual state of consciousness, and without the activation of spirit it is difficult to achieve this awareness”. An emerging field of study, called *Spiritual Ecology*, integrates science and academia, religion and spirituality, and ecological sustainability. In a recent communication, the Nature Conservancy reminds us that:

“Indigenous Peoples are the original stewards of nature. Their relationship with the land dates back millennia.” The “oneness” of nature and people was taken for granted by our distant ancestors and still are today by many indigenous people. Several examples will be offered in this illustrated presentation.

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 |

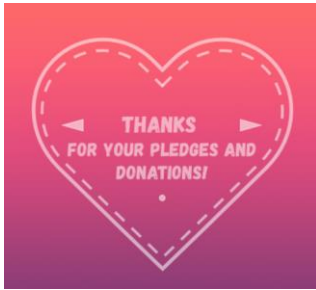
NCUU Committees

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 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 | Mike Taylor and Linda Myers |
| 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 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, Jan. 9 (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

January 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.

Lonnee Zingg
Jeanne Wright
Bob Madeiros

Sheila Woods
Gordon Hart
Amy Haiken

January – Share the Plate

Money collected to Share the Plate in January will go to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund. This Fund is part of a covenant between the UUA and congregations, between congregations who give generously and those in need. Disasters impact UU congregations and their communities with increasing rapidity. Contributions from UU congregations are the single largest source of funds to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund.

- 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.

Two Thank-yous From the Sunday Service Committee

The SSC would like to thank all those who contributed to the content of our Sunday services free of charge during 2022. The SSC works diligently to try to schedule varied and interesting speakers. But it is the Service Leaders who provide the "icing on the cake". Their efforts help to relate the speaker's topic to our UU principles. NCUU is truly blessed to have such a dedicated cadre of service leaders and we thank you: Carole Goodwin, Connie Hart, Don Wright, Holly Alexander, Jean Benner, Jean McCauley, John Comer, John Ivens, Linda Myers, Lowell Smith, Margo Wilson, Mike Taylor, Pam Ricker, Rob DeRemer, Shirley Leonard, and Wanda Brown. The committee would also like to thank those members of NCUU who provided a Sunday service in 2022: Art Jones, Bree Hill, Jean McCauley, Pam Ricker, and Sally Smith-Adams. We appreciate everyone's hard work. If YOU are interested in being a Service Leader or providing a Sunday service, please contact Pam Ricker, SSC chair.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Request for Two 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.

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

NCUU January Hike

Our next hiking event will be **Thursday, 12 January** at Whispering Pines Park in Inverness starting at 10 am. When you enter the park from Forest Drive, as you start down the hill, park in the small parking area on the right. This time we will hike a trail since there are no paved paths. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Lunch afterwards in downtown Inverness for those who are interested.

The previous hikes have been on Wednesdays, but we've received several requests to vary the day since some of you have other activities that conflict. We thought we would try going back and forth between Wednesdays and Thursdays and hope that will allow more of you to participate. We also want to do hikes in different parts of Citrus County, and eventually southern Marion and Levy counties. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.


Wanda and Holly



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

Fridays from 4:00- 5:00 PM

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 twenty-minute sitting meditation sessions are interspersed by a brief session of walking, mediation 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).



Martin Luther King Jr Celebration

This year there are 3 events in Inverness planned to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr Day.

Saturday, 14 January, 4-6 pm at the Valerie Theater
Pulitzer prize winner Gilbert King will give a talk entitled "Unity Starts in the Heart"
Cost: \$10

Sunday, 15 January
Gospel Festival
6-8 pm at the Solid Rock Church of God, 972 Christy Way.
We can arrange to car pool.

Monday, 16 January
Annual Freedom Unity Walk.
Meet at the Valerie Theater at 9 am.
We will have the NCUU banner; bring any other signs you have.
Walk to Liberty Park. There will be speeches, entertainment, and a vendor fair.

Be sure to wear your UU shirts! The more the merrier!!

Call Wanda with questions or for more information 651-260-5890

Unfortunately nothing is planned for Crystal River.

January 2023 NCUU Kitchen Table Forum

Climate Change and the Nature Coast:
Anticipating and Adapting to the Future

Forum Leader: Don Wright
(ldwright@bellsouth.net)

Venue: NCUU

Saturday, January 28, 2023, 3:00-5:00 PM

Because of climate change, sea level rise, altered river discharge, changes in the intensity and size of storms and changing demographics, coastal systems and communities of the future are seriously imperiled. Florida's Gulf coast is among the world's most vulnerable coasts and the Nature Coast and Tampa Bay are especially at risk. Understandings of climate change and its increasingly deleterious impacts are based on a huge and highly credible body of scientific evidence. This informal forum will focus on the causes and impacts of climate change with emphasis on the Nature Coast and Florida's Gulf Coast and outline adaptive actions that should be taken in the future. Lessons learned from Hurricane Ian will be highlighted. Following an illustrated presentation, we will have an open discussion and address questions from attendees.



New Members

Bonnie Ignico



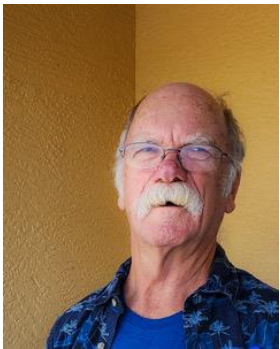
I was born in New York and my family moved to Pompano Beach Florida in 1964. I'm one of five children and a third generation Unitarian. My Husband passed away after health issues and 42 years of marriage. We did not have children but always had two dogs. My two dogs now are Charlie and Katie. I'm a retired teacher after 38 years. Three years in Broward County as a substitute teacher and 35 in Citrus as an Art teacher, Drama teacher, Gifted teacher, and a State Daycare Training Course instructor. I came to Citrus County in 1977.

I'm an Artist and my mediums are drawing, watercolors, and acrylic painting. I illustrated a children's book name CARLA MANATEE, Sea Cow to the Rescue. It is selling at the Anderson Gallery in a Crystal River, the Mermaid Aquarium Encounter in Lecanto, and The Sonshine Boutique in Inverness.

I'm a person who lives by the golden rule, do unto others as you would have done unto you. And my saying since High School has always been Live Life with Love.

Thank you,
Bonnie

Chas Anderson



I'm retired; at least I'd like to think so.

That includes black diamond skiing. But, I still love, cycling, kayaking, camping, travelling and attending Bluegrass festivals.

I'm a former food service manager, science teacher, neuromuscular massage therapist and hospital charity fundraiser.

I count five children and at least five grandkids, all up in New England where I lived and grew up.

I'm an optimist, a seeker of spiritual awakening and answers.

Life's a mental and physical journey. It may be full of ups and downs, but it's also full of joyous serendipity, discovery and adventure. I'm enjoying this beautiful ride!