**NCUU****NATURE COAST****UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

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Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

Website: <https://www.ncuu.org>**May 2023**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcoming a New Fiscal Year, New Board Members and New Spiritual Pursuits

The first of May is the beginning of the NCUU Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and we welcome some new members to our Board of Directors and extend our gratitude to outgoing members. As I write this message, all of the mail-in ballots have not come in so I will hold off on listing the names of new BoD members. However, I want to extend our special thanks to Connie Hart for her years of tireless service as Vice President of the NCUU Board of Directors and Margo Wilson for her dedicated and multi-talented service as our clerk and editor. I also thank Margo for her efforts on implementing and ordering our new banner which clearly defines our emphases on *Reason, Diversity, Compassion*.

In this coming year, the UUA will be implementing a significantly revised Article II that continues to articulate our UU values and guiding principles. A draft of that document has been distributed to all members of the NCUU congregation and I encourage everyone to offer their assessments, or simple approval, to share with the UUA leadership. Consistent with our existing Seven Principles, the draft document emphasizes that our UU faith is underpinned by the concepts of *Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice*. These concepts have long been embodied in our Seven Principles. However, I would like to rekindle your awareness of the inclusion of *Transformation* which the UUA document describes as follows: “*We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect*”. Fortunately, NCUU is blessed with a diversity of talent, experience and perspectives. Since we are not constrained by any dogma, prescribed doctrine, or scriptures, we should endeavor to share ideas and enrichment with each other openly and without judgement.

Namaste

Don Wright

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Speaker — The Reverend Dr. Steve J. Crump



The Reverend Dr. Steve J. Crump is Minister Emeritus of the congregation of the Unitarian Church, having completed forty 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 the original founders of The Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge.

Topic: “The "L" in our Religion”

According to frequent polling, many Americans when asked about religion tell us that they don't think of themselves as "religious," and that "spiritual" more accurately describes their philosophy of life and practice. Still, others say "no religion" or "none" best expresses their life perspective. For Unitarian Universalists, the challenge is ever upon us to express the best of what religion can be. Thus, for us, we ought to be an alternative among the religions rather than an alternative to religion. Let's figure out how to do that and why.

Sunday, May 14, 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: "Mother's Day, The Hour Is Come"

Rev. McCartney will focus on the Divine Feminine's influence on our faith traditions. Bringing the balance of the Divine Feminine and Divine Masculine into Divine Balance is the way to peace and compassionate action.

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Speaker – Joe Jencks



Joe Jencks is a 25-year veteran of the international Folk circuit, an award-winning songwriter and a celebrated vocalist based in the Chicago area. He is known for his performances of musical beauty, social consciousness and spiritual exploration. Joe delivers engaged musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove and grit. Blending well-crafted instrumentals and vivid songwriting, Jencks serves it all up with a lyric baritone voice that has the edgy richness of a good sea-salt caramel. Co-founder of the harmony trio Brother Sun, Jencks has penned several #1 Folk-songs including the ever-relevant *Lady of The Harbor*. He has become a fan favorite throughout North America and beyond. Joe has performed and preached in over 200 Unitarian Universalist congregations in the US, Canada, and Ireland, and is also a dual US-Irish citizen. Jencks was also been

a Cultural Ambassador with the US State Department.

For more info, please visit: www.joejencks.com.

Topic: “The Interconnectedness of Creativity”

Maya Angelou said once, “You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” Delightfully, this is the way with love as well. The more we love, the more we are able to love. And just as creativity begets creativity, goodwill begets goodwill. Kindness, begets kindness. Joy begets joy, and hope begets hope. On Sunday May 21st, international touring UU Troubadour – Joe Jencks – will lead NCUU in a service exploring the creative process from ancient Talmudic wisdom to modern forms of play. Join us for an exploration of why writing, cooking, visual art, music, nature, hobbies and the art of “play” can all be components of a healthy and happier life.

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Speaker – Dr. Jeffrey Nall



Dr. Jeffrey Nall teaches philosophy and humanities courses at Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Dr. 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 in everyday life. For more information, go to JeffreyNall.substack.com.

Topic: "Giving Veterans More than Thanks: Why Honoring Veterans Requires Understanding their Service and Taking Responsibility for Sending them to War"

Representations of Hollywood movies, professional sports leagues, and the wider popular culture distort the public's understanding of veterans' experiences. Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., contends that flippant and perfunctory affirmation of and "thanks" for military service takes too much for granted and is no substitute for genuine consideration of the harms of war. To honor veterans, particularly combat veterans, we need to take time to understand the moral complexities of their service and take responsibility for electing the leaders who sent them to war in the first place.

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Don Wright
Vice-President	Holly Alexander
Clerk	Open
Directors	Ned Davis, Rob Deremer, Carole Goodwin, Art Jones, Lowell Smith, Mike Taylor

NCUU Committees

Building	Lowell Smith
Bylaws	Open
Caring Committee	Jeanne Wright
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Chas Anderson
Long-Range Planning	Art Jones
Media and Technology	Gordon Hart
Membership	Jeanne Wright, Connie Hart
Religious Education	Open
Social Activities	Bonnie Ignico
Social Justice	Art Jones
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker

Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Monday, May 8th at 4:00 p.m. If you want to place an item on the board agenda, please send it to the clerk, (clerkatncuu@gmail.com), about a week in advance.

NCUU Pledges

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.

Announcements

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

May 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.

Carole Goodwin

Julie MacDonald

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is May 23, 2022. Late items will be included in the next newsletter.

All request entries should be sent to the email address: ncuu.news@gmail.com to keep all requests organized in one place. Please send the proofread text and photo attachments. Please keep your text to a maximum of two short paragraphs. If it is longer, we will edit to shorten the announcement.

Wildlife Club

The Wildlife Club is having their monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday at 7pm with an exciting and interesting wildlife topic. Our next few meetings would be May23 and possibly June 27. We will definitely not have meetings in July and August but resuming in September.

Wildhart Photography

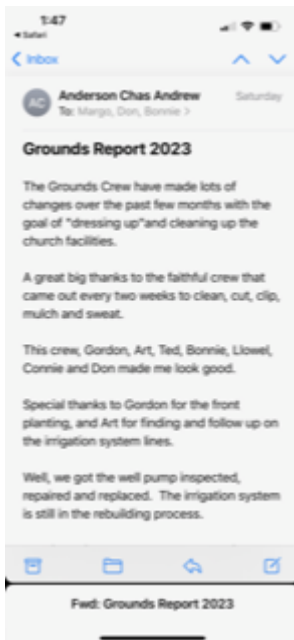
The photographs on the walls of the sanctuary can be purchased with 50% off the purchase price going to NCUU.

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



Social Committee

Spring 2023 N.U.C.C. Social Committee Survey

Results:

Twenty-five members of our fellowship answered the survey. This is the result:

1. On your birthday what would you appreciate?

3 for Balloon

10 for Card - *****

5 for Cookies

1 for cupcakes

4 for Cake

Other – Vegan cookies, Celebration Luncheon, Applause

2. What Holidays should the fellowship provide a meal?

5 for Halloween

17 for Thanksgiving - *****

10 for Christmas

6 for New Years Eve

5 for Valentine Day

10 for St. Patrick's Day

7 for Easter

5 for Fourth of July

1 for Veteran's Day

1 for Solstice and Equinox

1 for MLK

3. Check ALL the activities that you would enjoy attending:

10 for trip to the Mermaid Aquarium Encounter

13 for Game Night

6 for Pool Party

20 for Sunset Cruise from the Plantation - *****

5 for Dance Night

9 for Favorite Book Night

11 for the boat ride with the singing

Guitar Man

12 for the Picnic at Rainbow Springs Park

13 for the Musical Entertainment Night

15 for the trip to Ocala Civic Theatre -

3 for the Horseshoe Tournament

15 for the Campfire Night in the

Memorial Garden - *****

12 for the Open Mike Coffeehouse

6 for the Come as a Famous Unitarian
Party

Others: 1 for walking program to
continue

2 for Trivia Night

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Ignico

Social Committee Chair

-Bonnie

