

**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 2023**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Atlantic Hurricane season is now underway, and the activity began earlier than normal because of record-breaking sea surface temperatures. Fortunately, upper-level shear associated with this year's El Niño event is expected to help suppress cyclone development. However, the impending competition between El Niño and storm fueling by uncommonly hot sea surfaces is causing some uncertainty in long range forecasting so it is important to be mindful of what is happening in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico by regularly looking at the website of the National Hurricane Center and other sources (see links below).

1. **National Hurricane Center:** <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>
2. **Climate Risk and Resilience Portal:** <https://www.anl.gov/ccrds/ClimRR>
3. **Climate Central:** <https://www.climatecentral.org/>

As I explained during the Kitchen Table Forum in January: **Florida's Gulf coast is widely considered to be among the world's most vulnerable coasts to hurricanes and tropical storms.** We learned some important lessons from Ian and other recent storms. First, storm intensification is becoming more rapid, and several recent storms, including Hurricane Ian, have grown from tropical storms to major hurricanes over periods of one or two days. This considerably shortens the lead times of forecasts and advance preparations. In addition, the storms are increasingly accompanied by torrential rainfall which adds to storm surges to produce compound flooding. The storms that develop today are more dangerous than in past years. **So don't assume that just because you have safely weathered past hurricanes you can do it again and survive. If you live in a low elevation zone near the coast, please do not plan to "ride out" hurricanes or even tropical storms. Instead, heed evacuation notices even if you don't really believe them. Do not wait until roads are impassable to leave. And after the storm has passed, beware of lingering storm waters. They often contain diseases, snakes, and alligators.**

If you live in a threatened location and need a place to take refuge, remember that the NCUU building, though not legally certified as a "shelter", is well above the storm surge flood zone and many members of our congregation, including Jeanne and me, live in more elevated communities like Dunnellon, Citrus Springs, or Lecanto. You would be welcome to crash at one of our homes or at NCUU until the storm passes. If you need help finding a safe place to weather a storm, or advice, please e-mail me at ldwright@bellsouth.net or phone me at 352-283-6007. I will make sure that the

Fellowship building is unlocked, and the ADT system is disarmed. Hopefully, El Niño will subdue storms and all will be well. Have a safe and pleasant Summer.

Namaste,
Don Wright

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023

Speaker – Fr Harry Coverston

Harry is a sixth generation Floridian and fourth generation educator. He is a recovering lawyer, a retired academic and currently serves as priest at an Episcopal parish in Winter Park. He earned a law degree from the University of Florida, a masters of divinity from the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, CA and a Ph.D. in Religion, Law and Society from Florida State University. He has led an unorthodox life that included a two-year chapter here in Citrus County. From that life journey, he offers some insights gained along the way today.

Topic: “Owning Our Past, Facing Our Future”

Florida has long sold itself to the world as a natural wonderland filled with tourist attractions. During the long dark era of Jim Crow following the Civil War, Florida often marketed itself as a moderate Southern state lacking the virulent racism of its neighboring Southern states. But, in fact, Florida had the highest rate of lynchings of any state in the country per capita over the 30-year period from the end of Reconstruction to post WWI. Two entire towns would be destroyed during this period in racist rampages. And our legal system enshrined racist values beginning with the end of Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow that endure to this day.

But the average Floridian knows little of this history. And the recent attempts to bring this dark history into the light have met strong resistance from power holders in our state. The ferocity of that resistance alone reveals the festering unhealed wound on the body politic that our history of racism has inflicted upon us.

Today's presentation will cover the speaker's research into the history of lynchings in Orange County where he lives. He will discuss the discoveries about his own family including his descent from slavers that arose in this long journey. And he will conclude with a brief history of the racism that has been present in Citrus County and his own encounter of that racism during his two years living here in the 1970s.

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023

Speaker – Rev Willie Wilson

Rev. Willie Wilson is a licensed, ordained minister who holds a Bachelors of Religion/Biblical Counseling and a Masters of Divinity both from Luther Rice College and Seminary in Stonecrest, Georgia. In addition, he has worked in the fields of mental health and substance abuse, all of which have prepared him for the work of being a chaplain in a corrections facility. Most of all, Rev. Willie Wilson's heart is filled with the compassion of Christ for everyone, everywhere.

Topic: “A Glorious Point of View”

Christ gives us a glimpse into tomorrow at Matthew 25:31. Then, Christ gives us a glimpse of today (Matthew 25:35-36) as He acknowledges those helping the least of humanity and especially those incarcerated. What does that look like to visit the incarcerated in Citrus County? How can we make meaningful, productive visits to the incarcerated in Citrus County?

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023

Speaker – Dennis E. 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, but a longtime advocate of the importance of populace involvement in protecting civil freedoms guaranteed by the US Constitution.

Topic: “My 9/11 Experience”

A detailed account of his experience at the WTC on 9/11/01 and how it has affected his world view.

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023

Speaker — Kimberly Belew

Kim Belew is an award-winning songwriter, a national speaker, and an activist. A survivor of sex trafficking as a child, Kim has made it her purpose to educate and give voice to help eradicate this industry. She gave a TEDx Talk about this issue in 2021. Kim is the part-time spiritual leader of New Thought Unity in Cincinnati and travels the country sharing messages of inspiration and authentic living.

Topic: “When the Shift Hits the Fan”

Today’s speaker will present a musical message about embracing change, both expected and unexpected. She will share tools to help when changes take us by surprise or scare us.

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, September 11th 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 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.



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



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



Social Activities Committee

The Social Activities Committee met on June 8th, and after considering the survey given to Members, they decided on the following schedule. Exact dates will be forthcoming.

Social Activities for 2023-2024

Month	Activity
September	Pool Party at the Anderson's
October	Witches Tea, Musical Entertainment night with costume, food, and dancing
November	Game Night
December	Decorating Party
	New Year's Eve Drum Circle
January	Sunset Cruise
February	Mermaid Aquarium Encounter
March	Ocala Civic Theater to see CLUE
April	Picnic at the Rainbow Springs Park

Dates will be set in the future.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Anderson, Social Activities Chair



Share the Plate – August and September

Since we will not meet in August, Share the Plate donations in both August and September will go to Citrus United Basket (CUB). CUB provides food, financial, and material assistance to Citrus County residents. They have a food pantry as well as a thrift store. They provide support to clients who have suffered abuse or in times of crisis and work with other agencies to find solutions for those in need.



Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is September 23, 2023. 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

ALL FELLOW WILDLIFE ADVOCATES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE WILDLIFE CLUB MEETING. GUEST SPEAKERS, HANDOUTS, REFRESHMENTS. COME AND JOIN US FOR FREE INFORMATION, FUN AND FRIENDS.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
7:00PM - 9:00PM
NATURE COAST U.U. CHURCH

PRESENTATION BY SHARI BLISSETT-CLARK,
FROM THE FLORIDA BAT CONSERVANCY AND
BAT BELFRYS, INC. –

“BATS IN MY FLORIDA BACKYARD” –LEARN ALL
ABOUT BATS - MEET LIVE FLORIDA BATS –



New Member



Mary Hedges and her husband, Josephier Brown, moved to Citrus County in 2008 from Minnesota. They live in Pine Ridge with two horses and a cat. While Mary spent the biggest part of her life in Minnesota, she grew up in West Virginia and has many siblings still there. Before retiring early, Mary worked for state government in Minnesota for 25 years, initially in the state's Human Rights Department, later in the Department of Health, and the last 10 years as the director of the state agency that licenses ambulance services, paramedics and EMTs. Mary continues her career in EMS with her part-time, remote work with the National Association of State EMS Officials. She also served on the Board and as its last President, of Nature Coast Emergency Medical Services, Citrus County's nonprofit ambulance service, before it was taken over by Citrus County Fire and Rescue in 2021. She has 3 children, 2 stepchildren, and a slew of grandkids between the two of them. When she is not traveling around the country to keep up with family, Mary is active in the Citrus County Democratic Party.

Mary explained her reasons for joining NCUU, albeit late in life. She was raised as a Catholic and while looking around for a church home that better fit her philosophy, she attended a local Episcopal church for 7 years—after all, it had the ritual of the Catholic Church but not the arcane rules. After becoming disillusioned with being a part of one of most conservative dioceses in the country, she started regularly attending NCUU. She reports it to be the first time she actually looks forward to attending Sunday service and looks forward to being engaged with NCUU.