



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>

February 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I pointed out in my last message, February is Black History Month and I hope that we can find new ways to engage and contribute to the needs of our diverse community that transcend and extend traditional approaches via demonstrations and charities. Of course, we should contribute financially as we are able. But we know that messages and caring communications are also important. We had a good turnout of NCUU members at the MLK celebration in Crystal River on January 15 and, I believe, made a few new friends. Some of the discussions and talks at that gathering reminded me of the urgency of maintaining an active social justice presence in our community. The year ahead promises to be filled with many challenges to the well-being of underprivileged and minority people, to the environment and climate, to objective education, and to Democracy at large.

I realize that we are a small congregation, and our collective voice may not be loud. But, as Unitarian Universalists, silence is unacceptable; we must engage. We should sustain our commitment to all aspects of social justice through renewed energization of our social justice committee. Please consider joining that committee if you are not already a member. Beginning in March, we intend to revive our Saturday afternoon *Social and Environmental Justice Forums* (formerly called "Kitchen Table Forums") and we welcome suggestions for topics and speakers. We already have one strong candidate identified and will extend an invitation soon. As always, "*Side with Love*". Remember: to side with love for today's children and future generations, we should support climate justice now with our words, letters to representatives and newspapers, donations, and -of course- votes.

As I mentioned in my January message, the Board of Directors is considering engaging a quarter-time minister utilizing funds from the bequest to NCUU from Reverend Mary Louise DeWolf. If the Board approves advancing this initiative at its February meeting, all members of NCUU will receive details of the proposed search prior to voting for or against the proposal at the NCUU annual meeting in April.

Namaste
Don Wright



SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024

Speaker – Bob Benner



Bob has had a varied life filled with an endless need to learn about and try new things: He's mostly known as an educator, farmer and entrepreneur. He and Jean live on a farm on Long Island where they wrestle with retirement. Recently after a long list of life interests, Bob has come to invest time working on one 1922 Model T Touring and a 1924 Model TT truck.

Bob and Jean have been attending this fellowship since they bought a home in Hernando in 2008. In other talks to the congregation Bob has tried to elicit conversations with attendees that gave us more insight into each of us. This talk, hopefully, will give the participants some tools to enhance their lives.

Topic: "Breaking the Ice and Getting to Know You"

Bob will pass along a couple of tools he's used for years to initiate conversations and opening dialogues.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024

Speaker – UU Rev Janet Onnie



The Reverend Janet Onnie has supplied pulpits, trained congregations in Lay Pastoral Care, and facilitated workshops on organizational and leadership development and conflict management. As an outspoken supporter of professional clergy Rev. Onnie has served as a mentor and intern supervisor to ministers in formation and a good officer to troubled ministries. She was named Minister Emerita of the Tri-County Unitarian Universalists (FL) and served first, as treasurer, then as President of the Florida Chapter of the UU Ministers Association. As a founder of and contributor to interfaith organizations she is a passionate advocate for social justice issues in cooperation with interfaith partners and allies and is a frequent contributor

to newspapers and public forums. Rev. Onnie retired to Staunton, Virginia in January 2021, where she continues to supply local pulpits and, via Zoom, completed service as sabbatical minister for congregations in Canada and California. She also revived her pre-ministerial career as a professional musician, serving as Board member and volunteer coordinator for the Staunton Music Festival, playing with the Charlottesville Band and the Rockbridge Symphony Orchestra.

Topic: “What’s Love Got to do With It?”

The meta-narrative of the postmodern era is evolution: Evolution in the sense of understanding that everything is constantly changing. Love, according to mystics Matthew Fox and Ilia Delio, is the fundamental energy propelling evolution. We will unpack this thinking and relate it to the current conversation regarding the revision of Article II in the Unitarian Universalist bylaws that centers love in a restatement of our principles.

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024

Speaker – UU Rev Cynthia Snavelly



Rev. Cynthia Snavelly currently serves Tri-County Unitarian Universalists in Summerfield, FL and the UU Congregation of Lake County in Eustis, FL as their interim minister. Rev. Snavelly 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 as well as Florida. She currently lives in Lady Lake, FL with her daughter and four grandsons.

Topic: “A Calling: The Role of the Minister”

Today’s speaker will share with us what she has learned over the course of forty years in ministry beginning with serving two small congregations in Pennsylvania in the eighties through currently serving two congregations again here in Florida. Serving two congregations is not so different than having two children. You love them both, but they need different things from you. Knowing what those different needs are can only be learned in the process of parenting or ministering.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024

Speaker – Commissioned Lay Minister Alberita (Albie) Johnson



Min. Alberita Johnson, Albie, is a minister and poet. She considers life a series of journeys and looks forward to them all. She was ordained in the Baptist Faith and served as Religious Educator. She received her commissioning in ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Association in September 2023 and began a second career.

Min. Albie is currently serving All Faiths Unitarian Congregation as interim Minister and is also serving Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism as part time CL Minister. Prior to that, she served as Child and Youth Program Director. She brings over 20 years of ministry experience, is a lover of poetry and circle leadership of inclusiveness, weaving poems and storytelling with humor while preaching. She embraces diversity, equity and inclusion as love is centered in her ministry.

Topic: “The Magic of Music”

There is a magical element found in music. It speaks to the masses in sound and rhythm. Its power soothes the savage beast and calms a restless baby. Here in the US, we have a rich history that our varied people created. And there is one people of this nation whose sounds and rhythms are unique and popular and has influenced and instituted not just one genre but many. Those genres rest on a foundation of the African American populace. We will explore the magical influences of the history and contribution to the industry called music through the lens of music and sounds of blackness in America.

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 Anderson
Social Justice	Art Jones
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker

Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Tuesday, February 13th 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.



NCUU Hikes

Let's hike the Johnson Pond trail on Thursday, 15 February. Meet at 10 am in the parking lot on SR 39 south of E. Citrus Springs Blvd. The trail is a 2.7 mile loop in the Withlacoochee State Forest. If there is interest, we can go to lunch after the hike at Red's Restaurant on SR 200.



Share the Plate – February

We will continue to send our February donation to UNICEF. They are one of the charities working to provide life-saving support for children in Palestine and Israel. They are calling for an immediate ceasefire, safe access to Gaza, safe movement for humanitarian workers and supplies, and immediate and unconditional release of all abducted children.



February 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.

Holly Alexander
Ted Sems
Lowell Smith
Susan Smith

Jean McCauley
A. Rob Deremer
Peg Gotz



Social Activities Committee

Social Activities for 2023-2024

Month	Activity
February	Mermaid Aquarium Encounter
March	Ocala Civic Theater to see CLUE
April	Picnic at the Rainbow Springs Park

Social Committee will be offering a group activity at the Mermaid Aquarium Encounter on Wednesday, February 21st. We will need to show up at 11:00 am to go through the exhibit. The mermaid show will begin at 11:30 am. The tickets are \$17.50 for adults but if we have a group of ten or more adults will pay \$14.00. There will be a sign up list in the lobby so that we know who will attend. The Encounter is located at 4100 West Gulf to Lake Hwy in Lecanto.

Dates will be set in the future.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Anderson, Social Activities Chair



Membership Committee

Martin Luther King Celebrations



Inverness - Max Schulman, Lonnie Zingg, Hart McQueen, Wanda Brown, Howard McQueen.



Crystal River

Membership is initiating a new program called "I Can Help" to offer rides to those congregants in need of transportation to doctor's appointments, etc. Volunteers can sign up for various Citrus or Marion County neighborhoods.

Jeanne Wright and Connie Hart, Co-chairs, Membership

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is February 21, 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.

Wildhart Photography

The photographs on the walls of the sanctuary can be purchased with 50% of 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



Wildlife Club

Learn all about the Black Bears in Florida at the Wildlife Club meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists (NCUU) fellowship hall at 7633 N. Florida Ave. (RT-41), Citrus Springs, FL 34434

Our guest speaker will be Maxine Hunter, Ag/Natural Resources Agent from UF/IFAS Extension, Marion County.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for many free wildlife handouts and information and light refreshments. There will be a door prize, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing held to benefit the NCUU. Wildlife Club meetings are always free and all are welcome. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

For more information contact: Brenda L. Roberts - President and Founder of the Wildlife Club at 352-746-2384 or blr768@tampabay.rr.com



New Members



Kimberly Brost

I'm from Mishawaka, In. Moved with my family to Countryside, FL, (Clearwater) in 1984. I graduated from Countryside High in 1986. I retired from Bellsouth as a floor manager, also from Omni Financial as a Senior Associate. Throughout the years I've owned and operated a successful lawn and landscaping business. I've lived in the Tampa Bay Area, Fort Lauderdale Area, Vero Beach, Zephyrhills and now in Citrus County, (Hernando). I have an adult daughter that came home the last 3 years of my mom's life to help me care for her. My daughter is my WORLD! I am currently in a healthy life long partnership with Joy Brunswick. I have felt longevity with her from the beginning! I am currently working as an Uber/Lyft Driver. I enjoy painting, crafts, playing cards and board games. If I could roast hotdogs and marshmallows over my fire pit every night, I would! I'm a diehard Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan and very loving Fur Mom. I enjoy pretty much anything to do with water or nature. With that being said, I'm excited to be part of the Grounds Crew with Chas and others, to bring my experience and beautify our NCUU which I'm so happy to be part of!!

Joy Brunswick

First let me say Thank You all for welcoming me into the congregation.

I am a Florida native, mostly Citrus County. I am also an adult daughter/caregiver. I'm a proud life partner with Kimberly Brost, and a mom to my 17 year old son. My loves are nature, wildlife and being active. I am also a champion for all equal rights! I bring with me experience in financial banking and government, and hope to enrich our congregation by joining the Financial Committee.