



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>

March 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past few months have been sad times for our congregation. Several members and members' spouses have passed away. We will miss our late members Tom Hibberd and Scott Forbes and our heartfelt condolences go out to Lonnee Zingg, Sheila Woods and John Ivens for the passing of their beloved spouses. Thanks to the universal reality of complementarity, impermanence involves joy along with sadness and NCUU has recently been blessed by the addition of several vibrant new members who are already actively contributing in a diversity of ways. New members who joined NCUU over the past year are Bonnie and Chas Anderson, Kimberly Brost and Joy Brunswick, Stephanie and Tasana Collins, Mary Hedges, Ted Sims, and Anne and Tom Utschig. Special Friends Fred and Gin Foresman are also very actively engaged in many aspects of our spiritual and justice pursuits. Welcome and thank you all for being part of our caring and loving NCUU life.

All voting members of NCUU will soon receive a brief proposal for possibly opening a search for a quarter-time minister utilizing funds from the bequest to NCUU from Reverend Mary Louise DeWolf. The Board of Directors approved the distribution of this document at its February meeting, and it must now be either approved or rejected by the voting members of the congregation at the Annual meeting in April. We will follow the wishes of a simple majority in either going forward or standing down. Please give the document your serious consideration.

I close with the reminder that Unitarian Universalism is a creedless denomination with the mission of providing a liberal and welcoming spiritual community promoting love and social justice. The UU faith is not underpinned by dogma or scripture because we wish to encourage and enable unconstrained and continually evolving spiritual growth. *Spiritual exploration and the embrace of mystery are stimulating, loving, and life-enhancing. "Wokeness" is a virtue that we should constantly nurture.*

It is never too late to give up our prejudices. No way of thinking or doing, however ancient, can be trusted without proof. – Henry David Thoreau

*The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science—
Albert Einstein*

Love makes the world less worldly, less dense, more transparent to the divine dimension, the light of consciousness itself. – Eckhart Tolle

Namaste
Don Wright



SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Mar. 3, 2024

Speaker – Joe Jencks



Topic: TBA

Sunday, Mar. 10, 2024

Speaker – Dee Collier



Dee Collier is a former elementary school teacher from Ocala who loves drama and history. Those loves have led her to portray 26 famous (and infamous) women in history. There will be a board on a table that has pictures of her portraying some of them. You're welcome to take one of her papers or cards and invite her to other groups as well.

Dee is a 3rd generation native Floridian who married her high school sweetheart. They have 2 sons and 5 grandchildren living in the Atlanta area.

Topic: "Susan B. Anthony"

Susan B. Anthony worked tirelessly her whole life, convincing people that everyone should have the same rights of voting, abolishing slavery and equal pay for equal work. She spoke to groups, wrote letters to congress, wrote newspaper articles to advance these ideas we take for granted today.

Sixteen women voted in the 1872 election because the 14th Amendment to the Constitution stated that all citizens of the United States could vote. They all paid dearly for it. But they never gave up working to change people's ideas. Those ideas led to talk and action. It finally paid off.

Hear from Susan B. Anthony "herself" what it was like to do this work and what the results were in her lifetime and afterwards.

Sunday, Mar. 17, 2024

Speaker – Rev Bruce Seaman



Rev. Bruce Seaman is a retired Presbyterian Church, USA minister. He has been married for over 40 years to Nancy, newly retired former Benefits Coordinator for the 7000 employees of the Marion County School Board. They have two adult children. Ray (36) who is a longtime political activist now in his own business building websites and producing digital services while also doing land sales and developing his real estate interests, and Rachel (31) who is a science education designer for online programs for the University of Florida which is top-rated in the nation. Bruce published a book on local Civil War history about a daring raid by Black combatants in Marion County entitled, “To Succeed Where Others Failed: The Untold Story of the Marshall Plantation Raid.” He had made a presentation about the raid to NCUU. He is working on

edits to a screenplay based on the raid.

Topic: “Temptation for More”

The Christian season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is also Valentine’s Day - February 14. Lent gets perceived as a time to “give something up” as in those things of negative impact, shoring up our personal weaknesses.

The topic of ‘temptation’ is much more dynamic and consequential than our poor personal foibles. The Garden of Eden has a lot to say about the human condition. It is in my opinion brilliant! It maintains its currency today. Indeed, the story’s understanding of how we negotiate our reality is universal and timeless. Of course, the temptation of Jesus poses wonderful propositions from Satan and effective, pithy responses from Jesus that both deserve a closer look.

Will we find the temptations that confront us mirrored in these passages? Don’t be surprised!

Sunday, Mar. 24, 2024

Speaker – Vanessa Fuller-Brown



Sunday, Mar. 31, 2024

Speaker – UU Rev Carole Yorke



Rev. Carole has been visiting us at NCUU since about 2000, and is delighted that we continue to invite her to guest preach. Now retired in Port St. Lucie with her three Pomeranians, she has served three churches in Florida. She was ordained in Plainfield NJ 25 years ago, and continues to preach occasionally, do Memorial Services and lead Bereavement Groups at the UU Fellowship of Vero Beach.

Topic: “A Theological Problem with Easter”

I invite you to consider with me ESCHATOLOGY – the study of “LAST” or ‘FINAL’ or “END” things. In other words, it is simply about the timeless human question: What happens to us when we die? For more than 2000 years Christianity has had two central messages to the individual and we will look at them.

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, March 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.



NCUU Hikes

The March hike is fairly short, but very sweet! Thursday, 15 March we will hike about 2 miles at the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve in Yankeetown. Be prepared for a variety of surfaces: gravel road, boardwalk, sandy path with roots and rocks. We can climb the observation tower for a birdseye view of the tidal marsh and hike around the salt pond on the boardwalk. Total distance is about 2 miles, and there is a lot to see. Meet at 10 am at the Education Center at the end of the road. (Thursday is good because if we go to lunch afterwards, the Blackwater Restaurant in Yankeetown offers appetizers at half-price on Thursdays!) From Inglis, drive west on Hwy 40 (Follow that Dream Pkwy) to the stop sign at Hwy 40A. Continue for 0.1 mile to the entrance to the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve on your right. Follow the gravel road until it ends at the Education Center. Well-behaved dogs are welcome.



March 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.

Monique Sondheim



Membership Committee

Membership has a new program called "I Can Help" to offer rides too 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



Beginners QiGong

Beginners QiGong (easy movement and energy), continues for the month of March on Fridays at 2PM in the NCUU sanctuary. Members and friends are welcome. There is no fee to attend.



Share the Plate – March

Our March donations will go to the Citrus County Foundation for Animal Protection. They focus on animal welfare and protection of animals in a shelter environment and partner with the county animal shelter to help meet their needs. They support compassionate care, provide enrichment programs, and work to increase adoptions to reduce unwanted euthanasia of homeless animals.



Grounds Committee

Spring is here! Chas invites you to come rake, weed, mulch, prune, plant and help beautiful the church grounds. First Fridays of the month, starting March 1st, 10 AM - 12 noon.



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



Social Activities Committee



Members of NCUU enjoyed a show at Mertailor's Mermaid Aquarium Encounter on February 21st.

Social Activities for 2023-2024

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

Sunday, March 17, 2024 to celebrate St. Patrick's Day we will have a Corn Beef and Cabbage meal. The Social Committee will prove the main meal. Sign up will be in the lobby starting in March.

The Ocala Civic Theatre had to change the show from CLUE to BASKERVILLE which is a Sherlock Holmes play. The show we have chosen is for Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending please buy your own tickets. They went on sale Feb. 19th. After the show we can go out to dinner. Also, I will have a signup sheet in the lobby so we know who is coming and we can arrange to carpool.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Anderson, Social Activities Chair



Wildlife Club

The Wildlife Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) Fellowship Hall, 7633 N. Florida Ave., Citrus Springs.

The guest speaker will be Maxine Hunter, MS, from the UF/IFAS Extension of Marion County, doing a presentation on Florida Snakes and their role in the environment.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and free wildlife handouts. There will be a door prize, raffle and 50/50 drawing to benefit the NCUU.

For more information contact: Brenda L. Roberts at 352-746-2384 or blr768@tampabay.rr.com

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is March 23, 2024. 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.

