



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>

May 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New beginnings! Every change beckons more new changes.

A gracious Thank You All for putting your faith in me as your president. I'm looking forward to seeing our congregation continue to grow and thrive over the next couple years.

I may be sitting in with some committees, as an observer and a listener, mainly to see how things work. I'll still be relying on all our committees and people to keep things running smoothly, but you will see me involved. I want to be involved, with you, working for Nature Coast U.U.

The BoD may be the administrative leader, but everyone's input is needed and important. I'll always be open to ideas and creative suggestions for improvements.

I will be directly involved with our Search Committee working on finding the perfect part-time minister for NCUU.

I believe that growth means change, and there are some changes you'll see, others you may not. Having a minister may change our service patterns even more than just having a different chairman of the BoD.

We all have a personal connection, a reason to be here at NCUU. Let's strengthen our ownership to our church. For many of us, NCUU is more than a spiritual family, it's our physical family, it may be the only family we have. Let's honor that reality and each other.

Let's work to continue this fantastic journey, together!

Nameste,
Chas



SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, May 5, 2024

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. www.kimbelew.com

Topic: “The four agreements as a way of life”

In this talk Kim will share about the book “The Four Agreements” by Don Miguel Ruiz and how it creates a world where we can live in more harmony and peace with each other.

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Speaker – Pam Ricker



Pam Ricker has been a NCUU member since 2008. She is very active in volunteer and committee work in our fellowship. She was also very active in her former Unitarian Universalist church in Grafton, MA for 35 years. NCUU and UUism is her home.

Topic: Remembering Mom

Today we will honor our Mothers and their influence on our lives. As elders, we now see the big picture. Several members of NCUU will share their remembrances.

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Speaker – UU Rev Ben Bortin



Rev. Ben Bortin graduated from the University of California with a major in history, specializing in Asian history. He is also a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. He has served as minister for UU congregations in Duluth, Minnesota, and Staten Island, New York, and as Membership Coordinator for the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York. Currently, he is a chaplain at Queens Medical Center in Queens, New York, and serves on a part time basis as minister of the UU Fellowship of the North Fork, in Jamesport, NY. His denominational and community involvements have included serving as President of the UU United Nations Office and on the board of Project Hospitality, an organization serving homeless and other limited people in Staten Island, New York. He is also part of a Social Action Committee with the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, which has worked recently on an affordable housing project. He also serves on the “Caring Circle” of his 40 apartment UU Complex, Hadley House.

Topic: *“Truth, Half-Truth, and Something but the Truth”*

We live in an era and a country flooded with “disinformation.” So claims lawyer, news commentator, and author Barbara McQuade, in her recent book, *Attack from Within*. It’s sobering and unnerving to realize how many can be convinced of that which is patently false. And tragically, we have witnessed at times in history what Voltaire said two and a half centuries ago --- when people believe absurdities, they can commit atrocities. Ours is a truth-seeking religious movement. How do we determine if a statement is true, and what are the moral imperatives in pursuing truth?

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Speaker – Nancy Kennedy



Nancy Kennedy is a Christian who seeks to share stories of faith, hope and grace through her writing. She has been writing for the Citrus County Chronicle since 1992 as a feature writer and columnist. Her column, Grace Notes, also appears in about a dozen newspapers throughout the Southeast. She likes cats, cute and comfortable shoes, coconut cake and reading psychological thrillers. She's also a member of Seven Rivers Church in Lecanto.

Topic: “Mercy Changes Everything”

Mercy is powerful and life changing. The most merciful people, the ones who show the most compassion and kindness to others, are often the ones who were broken and who were shown mercy. Mercy begets mercy, and the world needs more of it. Nancy Kennedy's perspective on mercy is through the lens of Christianity. Jesus told his followers, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.” Christianity also teaches that mercy comes from God.

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Chas Anderson
Vice-President	Holly Alexander
Secretary	Kimberly Brost
Directors	Ned Davis, Carole Goodwin, John Ivens, Art Jones, Lowell Smith
Treasurer	Jean McCauley

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, May 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.



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.



Membership Committee

Membership has a 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



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



Celebration of Life Service for Monique Sondheim

Monique Sondheim, wife of Sandy, one of the early members of NCUU (number 100), passed away recently. There will be a Celebration of Life at the sanctuary on Saturday May 4th at 2 PM.

Please join us at this time to be with Sandy and honor Monique's life and contributions to NCUU.



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



Newsletter Deadline

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



May Share the Plate

Share the Plate donations will be sent to Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast. This non-profit organization provides community grief support workshops and programs for anyone who has experienced loss and loneliness. There are Thrift and Gift shops in Homosassa and Lecanto where volunteers are able to socialize and feel a sense of purpose. They provide a Social Grief Support Group as well as a Grief Study Group and a Grief Toolbox. They also provide Camp Good Hope for teens and other activities such as chair yoga.



Social Activities Committee

So wonderful to see 17 of us at the NCUU "thank you" picnic / pool party! A beautiful day, a wonderful gathering to thank those who've worked so hard thru the year to keep NCUU "lively and alive"! You all are truly appreciated!

But wait, there's more ahead! Even as we head into the heat of summer there's more planning and work ahead. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors that we're alive, kicking and a welcoming congregation.

I'm happy to be here, how about you?

Chas



New Members

Sheila McGuire



Sheila McGuire has been a UU for 35 years. I now spend 3-4 months in Floral city, Jan to April or May. I have been coming to Floral city since I was 5 to visit grandparents then parents, so this is coming back to roots for me.

I retired as a reading and science teacher in 2021. I can't wait to see you in Jan, 2025!



Fred Carkin



Roland Fortin and Henry Roy



Roland Fortin (left), Henry Roy (right)

Roland Fortin

I was born on a cold February morning in Laconic, New Hampshire in 1945. I attended Dominican College in New York. In 1965 I entered the Augustinian Religious Order, where I spent 8 years as a religious brother teaching K through 12 students. I left the religious Order in 1973 and worked in child care and in retail men's clothing.

I then moved from New York to New Hampshire for a time to be near my sickly parents.

1988 is when I moved to Florida. In 1990 I opened H&R Dental Lab where I made dentures, and I retired in 2017.

As an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church since 1995, I am able to witness weddings in all 50 states.

