



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION

The **September, 2017**, monthly newsletter of the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists  
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# NCUU NEWS



## President's Message

On August 27, I was service leader for Bert Gagnon's sermon on how being a Humanist impacted his life. When one is service leader for a particular topic, it's interesting to delve into information associated with the subject for choosing the Opening Words, Readings, Meditations, and Closing Words.

Service leaders glean information from readings in books, items from issues of *UU World*, and the uua.org website. It's always an interesting venture to read Unitarian Universalist views on various subjects chosen by our speakers.

While researching Humanism for Bert's talk, I came across a book I bought back in 2011 when one of our guests, Jennifer Hancock spoke at our fellowship.

While reading the book, her words began to resonate. I began to understand that the philosophy of which Humanists subscribe, is exactly what I feel about life in general.

Ms. Hancock states that for her, there are three traits she considers mandatory for a person to be a good human being. She calls these traits the true holy trinity. A good person is **compassionate, ethical, and responsible**.

Hancock states that there is good reason why being ethical, compassionate, and responsible make you a good person. If a person is missing just one of these traits, "They can't be trusted".

A person who is ethical has an innate sense of justice and knows the difference between right and wrong. They do not like to see others being taken advantage of or being treated unfairly. They are honest, principled, fair, and decent.

Being compassionate acts as a moral compass. A compassionate person by nature is

kind, caring, sympathetic, empathetic, and considerate of others, and offers succor whenever they are asked or needed.

When we take responsibility, we put our ethics and compassion into actions of justice for our fellow humans, and the whole world.

As Hancock states, "The Humanist approach to happiness is simple. Be a good person. Strive to be ethical, compassionate and responsible in all you do. Take responsibility for your life and for the consequences of your actions".

In the words of Robert Ingersoll, "Happiness is the only good. The place to be happy is here. The time to be happy is now. The way to be happy is to help make others so".

I agree.

Peace,  
Pam

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## POSSIBLE SCHEDULING CHANGE OF CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Since Christmas Eve is on Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas Eve Service is a popular NCUU tradition/service, the Sunday Service committee has proposed for this one Sunday only, to possibly not to have a morning service, only the very popular Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. It is a very rare occurrence that Christmas Eve Day falls on a Sunday, and it was felt that having 2 services in one day might be somewhat detrimental to attendance at both.

The committee also discussed setting up carpooling because some of our members are uncomfortable driving after dark.

Your thoughts and comments are welcome.

Sally Smith-Adams

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**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**09/03/17** UU Minister Rev. Tracie Barrett-Weiser: "Applying Our UU Principles"

**09/10/17** NCUU members/environmental activists Connie & Gordon Hart: "Water and Its Obvious Importance; *What can UUs do to preserve our precious resource.*"

**09/17/17** Retired Catholic priest Emmett Coyne: "Slavery, American Style: *Slavery far from unique to America, took on a unique American style.*"

**09/24/17** Annie Bumgarner, a Licensed Religious Education teacher, equivalent to a Unity minister: Topic is TBA as yet.

The Sunday Service Committee would like to let the congregation know Rev. Carole Yorke will be doing our special Animal Blessings Service on **October 15th**. Plan to bring your pets, everyone! The word is that Rev. Carole is bringing 3 of her 5 yorkies with her. (She did one year and they were beyond adorable!)  
Sally Smith-Adams

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**September Birthdays**

If your birthday is in September, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor: erickson872@att.net; 847-682-7527. Birthdays are celebrated at our Potluck Dinner, so plan on attending on September 15th!

- 09/08 Roger Adams
- 09/23 Kerry Erickson
- 09/29 Sally Smith-Adams

Jean Brown's birthday was accidentally omitted from our August birthday announcements. Her birthday was August 24. Please wish her a belated birthday...and sorry, Jean! We hope you had a great day!



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**Monthly Potluck**

The September potluck will be on Friday, September 15, 2017. Bring your covered dish between 5:00-5:30 and we will sit down to eat at 6 PM.

**October's Potluck** will have a special theme - so mark your calendar.

Barbara DeRemer turns 80 and wants to dance away the event. Our potluck will include a DJ with music and maybe, bad jokes

Please try to come. Oct 20 for the birthday party and NCUU potluck;, 6-8; set up at 5:30. Please try to bring food that is easy to serve and eat, and less likely to stain your party clothes. (eg. room temperature finger food)

We could use volunteer room decorating and help moving chairs, before the party. (Let Joan Burnett know)

Also, help jiggle our memories so we invite Barbara's friends!

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**Caring Committee**

Please inform the Caring Committee if an NCUU member is ill or in need of some cheer. Carol will keep in touch with ailing congregants, as well as our snowbirds.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this very fulfilling job, please contact Carol Dinmore at 352-419-5515. We especially need help during the summer months!

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**Ladies' Luncheon**

The NCUU September Ladies Luncheon will be Tuesday, September 26, (last Tuesday of the month) at Sweeties Cafe and Bakery at Grumbles House in Dunnellon. Come enjoy lunch at 12 noon (note time change), then tour this historic old house and its "for sale" contents. Sign-up sheet, directions, and menu sheet are in the foyer.

If you have any questions, contact Peg Gotz (527-4113) or Julie Macdonald (465-5646)

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**Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is looking for more people to assist with the newly revised website. Gordon Hart, who is working on the development of the site, is estimating that it will be ready to test in mid-September. He will train you, and you won't have to work with the entire website. For instance, one person

will be responsible for updating the calendar, one for updating speakers each month, etc. Also, if you have requests regarding information that the website should provide, please let Gordon know.



Also, new name tags will be coming soon. Members will have a red chalice on it and Friends will have a black chalice. More on that when the website is up and running.

Please see Connie Hart or a person on the Membership Committee if you are interested in joining our Congregation. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 27th, at 10:00.

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### Earth Center Small Group Ministry

We are a focused, lay-led small group that deepens and expands the ministry of our NCUU Congregation. We focus to build and deepen community relationships.

The members of our group have made a commitment to one another and to the spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of our group's participants.

Please join us on Wednesday, September 20, at 3 PM (Third Wednesday of the month).

Joan Burnett

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### West Central Cluster News

The next meeting of the Board of the West Central Cluster will be held at the UU Church in Clearwater on September 16, at 10:30 AM. Plans will be made for the upcoming church year. I am not able to go and would love to have somebody take on the task of being our delegate to the cluster. We are invited to send two delegates.

Joan Burnett

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### Where There's a Will, There's a Way

We hope to create a durable presence for Unitarian Universalism, in Citrus, Marion, and other nearby counties, that will extend over decades, beyond our lifetimes. Accordingly, please consider including the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists in your will. This will help to ensure a lasting legacy, for future generations as well as for ours.

The Finance Committee

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### Social Justice Committee

NCUU and other Florida UU's are helping to obtain petitions supporting an amendment to restore voting rights to non-violent felons, who have paid their debt to society. Petitions are on the Social Justice table.

The Social Justice Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2:30-3:30 at the church. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings.

Linda Myers

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### Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, Sept. 11, at 2 PM. If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please send it to the clerk, Holly Alexander about a week in advance. (Second Monday of the month)

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### Zen Sitting Group

We meet on Fridays at 3:45 PM at the church (except for the 3rd Friday when potluck is on). For subsequent sitting locations please confirm with: Barbara Ewing DeRemer at: 352-795-5736.

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**Wireless amplifying headphones are now available at the rear of the sanctuary. See Gordon Hart or Gordie Dinmore for assistance on Sundays.**

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**Send Sunday Morning Announcements to:**

**[ncuuannouncements@gmail.com](mailto:ncuuannouncements@gmail.com)**

Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

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### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please remember that the deadline for October's Newsletter is **September 25**.

Send to: [erickson872@att.net](mailto:erickson872@att.net)

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### Sunday Service Committee

Next meeting is Monday, Sept. 25, at 10 AM. (Last Monday of the month)

