



First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia Monthly Bulletin – March 2024

The Table of Other Contents & Zoom information is after the Sunday Services information.

Sunday Services (in person and via Zoom, see Zoom link below)

Refreshments will be served in the Social Hall after each service. After the service, please quickly leave the sanctuary and go to the Social Hall.

March 3rd 2024: My Muzungu Eyes are Improving

Liz James, with humility and humor, recounts her experience as part of a well-building project to benefit a Maasai village, and how her “Muzungu” (white people) eyes were opened. This story has it all: humor, over analysis, and confrontations with lions.

Liz is the founder of a 200,000-person online UU community called the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society; half of the Cracked Cup podcast; and working on a book with Skinner House Press. Based out of Saskatchewan, she is building a tiny house with her own two hands.

March 10th 2024: Women Rise to the Occasion

Deborah McShane, a congregation member, will share a brief overview of the role women played in the early days of the DeLand vicinity. She will be joined by Elizabeth Stetson (played by Sally Daykin), and Frances Dickinson (played by Caryn Long). Both ladies will share their struggles and achievements in the early days of building our community.

Deborah received her BA in English and literature from the Univ. of Hawaii, and her MA in Educational Leadership from the College of New Jersey’s overseas campus in Mallorca. She is a retired English and theater teacher who taught in the Panhandle of Idaho, Guatemala, Turkey, and Syria.

March 17th 2024: Rules to Live By

Bill Payton, Pres. of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, offers “Rules to Live By.” As our world grows smaller, it also grows more complex, more conflicted, and more in need. Navigating one’s way through this maze requires guidance—perhaps an internal GPS that we can follow automatically. A belief system that, like a GPS, recalculates and keeps us on the right path. As Unitarian Universalists, we are provided a guide for living, but wrong turns seem inevitable . . .

Bill Payton is Pres. of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota. He grew up in Akron, Ohio, served 4 years in the Marines, graduated from the University of Akron with a degree in Banking and Finance. He spent forty years in the insurance industry in a career that took him to seven different cities and states. In 2007, Bill retired as Director of Risk & Insurance Mgt. from the Univ. of Missouri.

March 24th 2024: How to Think Like a Philosopher

Dr. Josh Rust, a Stetson University professor, will discuss how to think like a philosopher. Dictionary definitions are useful if you want to get a sense of what a word means. For example, Merriam-Webster defines “sandwich” as follows: “two or more slices of bread or a split roll having a filling in between.” However, philosophers (and lawyers) are interested in more rigorous and tightly defined definitions. How might a philosopher critique M-W’s definition? Come and find out!

Joshua Rust is a professor of philosophy at Stetson University and the author of two books, *John Searle and the Construction of Social Reality* and *John Searle*. He is also a co-author of several articles in empirical philosophy concerning the behavior of ethicists as compared to other academic professionals (*Mind*, *Review of Philosophy and Psychology*). His areas of interest include social ontology, John Searle, experimental philosophy, meta philosophy, and social construction.

March 31st 2024: Loving Others

Rev. Tracie Barrett, a UU Evangelist, will discuss loving others. . It's said that the only commandment Jesus gave was to love our neighbor. Even the ones we may not like so much. Learn this Easter morning what it means to live our Unitarian Universalist faith and love them anyway.

Rev. Dr. Tracie Barrett lives in Orlando, Florida with her husband and three cats and considers herself to be a UU Evangelist, sharing the good news about our liberal and liberating faith. She currently serves as the half-time consulting minister at University Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Orlando, FL.

Zoom Information

Services begins at 10:30, but if you can, please log in a few minutes earlier.

Zoom Meeting Invite: <https://zoom.us/j/98531898667>

The Zoom ID for Sunday Service is the same each week: **985 3189 8667**

Also see the Zoom link on the home page at uudeland.org.

Table of Other Contents (**Look for the Green Text for new events or changes**)

- Regular Church Group Meetings Information
 - See notice in the Green Team section below about upcoming work sessions.
 - Times that Other Groups meet at the Church (see details below our church group meetings)
 - Other Information (see details below other groups at our Church)
 - Donations for Neighborhood Center – **1st Sunday at the Church**
 - **UUA Final Proposed Revision to Article II**
 - General Assembly 2024 Registration **rates go up March 1**
 - Florida UU Women's Retreat in April 5-7
 - Unitarian Universalist Womenspirit Event registration opens in March for May 15-17
 - Access to our By-Laws and Procedures
 - Church Mailing address: P.O. Box 592 DeLand, FL 32721
 - Deadline for submissions to this bulletin
 - Unsubscribe information.
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Regular Group Meetings Information

Men's Discussion Group

In Person & via Zoom - **every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.**

For information, contact **George** at jorjcrofts@gmail.com .

Connecting through Conversation

Via Zoom - the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 1:00 p.m.**

Informal conversation to share ideas, joys and concerns.

Zoom link at uudeland.org/, "Small Group Gatherings – Connect With Us"

For information, contact **Sherry** at cupaks@icloud.com

Poetry Group

In Person - the **2nd Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m.**, at a member's home.

Share a potluck lunch followed by poems read by each participant. Any poem.

For information, contact Karen at 763..213.2403 or kwolfk99@aol.com.

Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

In Person - the **2nd and 4th Sunday at 9:15AM** sharp, prior to the church service.

Currently meeting in the Social/Fellowship Hall, or out on the deck – weather permitting. There is a different pre-determined topic each meeting.

For information, contact **George** at jorjcrofts@gmail.com .

The Green Team

The Green team meetings will precede one of their activities, unless otherwise posted.

A March MUU-vie Night TBD.

For information, contact **Joyce** at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/

text 907..727.7655

Book Discussion Group

In Person - the **4th Friday of each month at 10:30 AM.**

This group meets in the Social/Fellowship Hall.

For information, contact **Karen** at 763..213.2403 or kwolfk99@aol.com .

UU Board of Directors Meeting

In Person – the Board will meet on **the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:00 am**

The Church Board of Directors meets in the Social/Fellowship Hall. Church members may attend.

For information contact our **acting** Prez, **Mel Browning** at melbrowning@cfl.rr.com

Program Committee meetings

In Person - the **2nd Friday of the month at 3:00 p.m.**, in the Fellowship Hall.

Planning of future church services.

For information, contact **Jade Hoke-Smith** at sewdamnhappy@gmail.com

Times that Other Groups Meet at the Church

Volusia Buddhist Fellowship: **Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** in the Social Hall.

Other Information

Donations for the Neighborhood Center

On the **First Sunday of each month** bring donations to the church. The donations are to be deposited in a designated area inside the entry

area of the Sanctuary. The following donations are accepted: non-perishable food items, including for dogs and cats.

For information, contact **Mara**

UUA Final Proposed Revision to Article II

View the final Proposed Revision to Article II at:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>

This will be voted on at the upcoming all virtual General Assembly June 20-23, 2024. You may want to familiarize yourself with the extensive changes as our two representatives will be casting a vote for our church yea or nay. If you have any questions or comments, **contact Joyce Palmer** at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/text 1.907.727.7655.

General Assembly 2024 Registration is now open

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024. . Adult registration is \$280, and includes access to General Assembly 2024 in the Whova event app, as well as on-demand programming, featured speakers, and major worships.

Register through February 29th with a down payment of \$50 by selecting the Early Bird Payment Plan at checkout. Voting delegates who wish to participate only in General Sessions may also register with the business-only option. This option is no-cost, but a donation is suggested.

Registration rates increase March 1st. Click on this link for more information including prices:

[General Assembly Registration | General Assembly | UUA.org](#)

Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat

April 5 – April 7 at Daysprings Conference Center, Parish, FL

Join other UU women for a relaxing, spiritual weekend. A semi-private room is \$238 and a private room is \$315 – fee includes 6 meals.

For more information, https://riverofgrassuu.org/uploads/3/5/1/8/35180936/fl_uu_womans_retreat.pdf

Or contact **Dayna Foster** at Retreat@fluuwm.org.

[UWomenspirit.org](https://www.uuwomenspirit.org) Spring Event Registration opens in March

“Gather at the Crossroads” May 15-19, 2024 in North Carolina

For information about the organization: <https://www.uuwomenspirit.org/eventinfo>

For information about the Spring Event: <https://www.uuwomenspirit.org/spring> or contact **Victoria Fredrick** at Marketing@UWomenspirit.org

Access to our By-Laws and Policies and Procedures

The By-Laws and Policies and Procedures of our church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia, can be viewed on our website at the following link:

<https://www.uudeland.org/member-resources>

Church Mailing Address

PO BOX 592, DeLand, FL 32721

Deadline for submissions to this Bulletin:

Please submit information to be included in this bulletin by the **20th of the month** to karel.edith@gmail.com

If you wish to be removed from this email list, please reply to this email with the instruction “remove from bulletin mailing list.”

Thank you.