



# Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

## MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

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Website: [www.uudeland.org](http://www.uudeland.org)

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Board Officers: Front Row: At-Large Members Paul Garfinkel, Jim Dries and Patti Rausch.

Second Row: Treas. Les Figueroa, Pres. Jade Hoke-Smith, Sec. Ella Shepherd and VP Nancy Jacobsen.



### SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

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

Zoom ID is the same each week: 985 3189 8667

Refreshments are served in the Social Hall after service.

#### **3/1/26 "iChurch" Needs to be Upgraded**

**Jade Hoke-Smith** will read a sermon **by Rev. Andrew Mason**, who critiques Emersonian individualism in Unitarian Universalism, naming it "iChurch," and calls for an upgrade toward communal, love-centered, interconnected faith grounded in justice, *ubuntu*, and emergent collective practice. **Rev. Weber** is a UU, who received a Master of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. **Jade Hoke-Smith** is UUDeLand's President, a retired biology teacher, and pianist. **Cheryl Kellog** will be our Service Leader.

#### **3/8/26 Living the Scout Oath and Law: A UU Perspective**

Are Scouts Unitarian Universalists? Many of us have been Scouts or parented children through scouting. A lifelong scouter and UU for 40 years, **John Cupak** will explore what it means to follow the Scout Oath and Law from a UU perspective. **John** is a retired computer scientist and software engineer. A lifelong Scouter—Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Explorer, and leader—he earned many training knots and Wood Badge beads. **Patti Rausch** will be our service leader.

### 3/15/26 Overlooked Female Inventors in History

In celebration of International Women's Month, the UUDeLand Book Club will introduce us to several important, often overlooked, female inventors. **Dr. Lillian Evelyn Gilbreth** is the first industrial/organizational psychologist and pioneer of ergonomics. *Cheaper by the Dozen* (1948) was written about her. Actor, **Hedy Lamar** was an Austrian/American inventor, who co-invented a radio guidance system for Allied torpedoes during WWII. **Murasaki Shikibu**, at the Japanese Imperial court wrote *The Tale of Genji*, one of the world's first novels (~1000 AD). **Deb McShane** will be the service leader.

### 3/22/26 Defying the Nazis: UU Waitstill & Martha Sharp

**Mel Browning** will tell the story of **UU Minister Waitstill Sharp** and his wife **Martha** who saved thousands of refugees during WWII in Czechoslovakia and France and started the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. **Mel** is a retired attorney who served 23 years in the 6th District Court of Appeals in Ohio. Before that, he owned and managed radio stations. With a BS in History Education from Bowling Green State Univ. and a JD from Southern Illinois Univ., he is a UUDeLand member and former President.



### 3/29/26 Grief to Gratitude

**Gaia Davis** will share how she eventually reinvented herself and found joy again after the loss of her beloved husband, Kurtland. With her friends' help, she started healing and created a new, exciting life. Her story interlaces the good, the bad, the ugly—and the beautiful—with laughter and hopefulness. For 25+ years, she studied the psychology, sociology and spirituality of death and cared for dozens of dying people. Nonetheless, she was shocked when her husband died, and she discovered that all her education and experience was of no use at all. **Linda Newman** will be our service leader.

## CONGREGATION INFORMATION

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### UUs Political Action in DeLand and in Minneapolis



Here is a link to UU protesters in Minneapolis: [UUs Demand 'ICE Out' of Minneapolis | UU World Article & Pictures](#)

**The Neighborhood Center Food Donations, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month.** Please bring nonperishable foods and place them in the basket in the vestibule of the Sanctuary. Contact **Mara Whitridge** at 386/846-9016 for more information.

**The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Month.** UUDeLand provides dinner for our homeless community at The Bridge, 421 S. Palmetto Ave., DeLand. We need more volunteers please! Contact **Karen Wolf** at 763/213-2403.

### DeLand Quakers "Care Coordination Alliance," Ongoing

Our Social Justice team is working with the DeLand Quakers to provide food and essential items to our greater DeLand community. Drop off bin in foyer. Please contact **Mary Schaperow** at 407/314-6746 or [maryschaperow@earthlink.net](mailto:maryschaperow@earthlink.net).

### **Spring Equinox Party, March 21, 2 – 4 PM, 301 College Court, DeLand**

Barb and Andy are hosting an ice cream social and seed-planting party at their home. They will provide the ice cream, coffee, soft drinks, planting soil and seeds. Bring a clay pot and a folding chair. RSVP to Andy 386/490-2111 or [ab36builder@gmail.com](mailto:ab36builder@gmail.com).



### **Protect UUDeLand Trees in Overflow Parking Area**

To ensure the long-term health of our trees in the overflow parking area of the church, the Grounds Committee asks that you avoid parking vehicles directly near tree trunks or within the drip line of the trees. Parking in these areas causes soil compaction, which severely damages root systems and can threaten their survival. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to preserving the beauty of our church grounds.



**UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures:** [UU DeLand Member Resources](#)

**Newsletter Submissions Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.** Please email submissions to [mdykes@stetson.edu](mailto:mdykes@stetson.edu).

**Unsubscribe.** To be removed from this email list, reply to this email with "Remove from newsletter mailing list."

## **UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS**

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### **Adult Discussion Group**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9:15 AM** in the Social Hall or out on the deck – weather permitting. There is a different pre-determined topic for each meeting. Contact **George Crofts** at [jorjcrofts@gmail.com](mailto:jorjcrofts@gmail.com).

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 9 AM** in the Social Hall. UU DeLand members may attend.

Contact Pres. Jade Hoke-Smith at [sewdamnhappy@gmail.com](mailto:sewdamnhappy@gmail.com).

### **Book Discussion Group**

**4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10:30 AM** in the Social Hall. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or [karenwolf64@gmail.com](mailto:karenwolf64@gmail.com).

### **Connecting Women**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 10:00 AM** and **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 2:00 PM** in the Social Hall. Enjoy an informal gathering of female members and friends. Contact Linda Newman at 386/734-1117 or [newmanlinda247@gmail.com](mailto:newmanlinda247@gmail.com).

### **Green Team**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2 PM** in the Social Hall. Our mission is environmental stewardship through education, outreach and engaging activities. All are welcome. Contact **Mary Schaperow** at 407/314-6746, [schaperow@gmail.com](mailto:schaperow@gmail.com).

- **Thinking about composting?** It's easy! [How to Compost Yard Waste: A Step-by-Step Guide - Biology Insights](#)

- **Movie Night**, Monday, March 9th at 6:00 PM, Social Hall. We will show the documentary *Fighting for Florida*. Popcorn, herbal tea and soda will be provided. [Fighting for Florida – Official Trailer](#)



- **Meatless Mondays!** Consider going meatless *at least* once a week. Link: [Meatless Monday - Meatless Monday](#)  
Benefits: Lowers greenhouse gases/decreasing your carbon footprint, saves water--some estimates around 133 gal per meal, combats deforestation, lowers pollution, and eating more plants lowers the risk of heart disease, stroke, obesity and certain cancers.
- **Recipe of the Month:** [Easy Vegan Meatloaf Recipe - Wow, It's Veggie?!](#)

### LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Team

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 12 – 1 PM, Yellow Room.** UUDeLand is a certified Welcoming Congregation, which actively promotes LGBTQ+ inclusivity. Contact **Margaritte Johnson** at 516/547-5231 (text).

### Men’s Discussion Group

**Every Tuesday at 7 PM** in the Social Hall. Contact **George Crofts** at [jorjcrofts@gmail.com](mailto:jorjcrofts@gmail.com) .

### Collective Play-Reading Group

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 4 PM** in the Social Hall. For people who want to be involved in dramatic experiences, but don’t have the time to memorize or rehearse. The format and selections will be decided by the group. Sometimes you will read, other times you may be the audience, depending on the play. Contact **Jim Dries** at 818/522-5468.

### Poetry Group

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 12:30 PM** at a member’s home. Share a potluck lunch followed by poems read by each participant. Any poem. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or [karenwolf64@gmail.com](mailto:karenwolf64@gmail.com).

### Programming Team

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 2 PM** in the Social Hall. Planning of future church services. Contact **Mitzi Dykes** at 386/801-2615 or [mdykes@stetson.edu](mailto:mdykes@stetson.edu).

### Religious Education Committee


**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 12 Noon**, Yellow Room. Contact **Judith Hemphill** at [judithwhemphill.com](http://judithwhemphill.com). We are exploring the possibility of launching **Community Conversations** after Memorial Day—welcoming gatherings designed to attract younger families and our wider community. Possible topics include happiness, raising kind children, digital life, music and the brain, AI, climate hope, and other real-world themes. We are in the early planning stages and would love your input. Contact Judith Hemphill at [judithwhemphill@gmail.com](mailto:judithwhemphill@gmail.com).

### Social Justice Team

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 3 PM** in the Social Hall. Join us to get updates on local, state, and federal bills and proposals and find out how your voice can be heard!

- **Interfaith Candlelight Vigil for Peace and Justice! April 12, 7:20**, meet at DeLand City Hall for a one-hour peaceful stroll through downtown DeLand, where we will have 6 – 8 music stations along the route.



- **5 Calls: Contact Your Congress Mobile App** is an easy way to notify your senator or congressperson of your concerns. Download the app today and start making your voice heard! The 5 Calls apps icon: 
- **No Kings Protests** usually occur on Saturday from 10-12 at Woodland Blvd./New York Ave. (occasionally at Woodland Ave./International Speedway Blvd.) Protest signs are provided. Bring your voice, water, hat, and chair (if needed). See you there! Join us in saving democracy! **50501 (50 protests in all 50 states in 1 day)** is a national grassroots movement supporting democracy and opposing executive overreach. Link: [50501 Protests](#)

### Song Circle

**4th Thursday** from **7-9 PM** in the Social Hall. Members and friends are welcome to bring their voices and instruments or just come and listen. Contact **Paul Garfinkel** at 904/323-5655 or [paulgarf53@gmail.com](mailto:paulgarf53@gmail.com).

## OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

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### PFLAG DeLand/Volusia

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6 – 7:30 PM, Social Hall.** PFLAG’s mission is to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. The meetings are confidential and largely for support purposes. Contact **Carol Dries** at 818/522-5469.

- **BIG ENTERTAINMENT! BIG LOVE! On Sunday, April 19, 2 - 5:30, UUDeLand Sanctuary**  
JJ Speights and Friends will entertain us for this fundraiser for our own PFLAG chapter. Put this on your social media sites, invite your friends and family, and join us for FUN, MUSIC and LOVE. Tickets are \$20 each. Limited seating so get your tickets early. See Jim or Carol Dries, Marguerite, or Nancy Jacobsen.

**Volusia Buddhist Fellowship, Wednesdays, 7 PM, Social Hall**

## DENOMINATIONAL INFORMATION

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### UU Ministry for Earth . . . Full Moon Gatherings, Monthly, Next one is March 1st!

Join other UUs for reflection and contemplation to sustain our work in climate justice each Sunday closest to the full moon at 8 PM. Link for 2026 gathering dates: [Full Moon Gathering Info](#)



## UUA General Assembly, June 14-21

Mark your calendar if you are interested in attending the next UUA General Assembly: "Meet the Moment: Together Everywhere." **Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde** will be this year's Ware Lecturer. She is the first spiritual leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. You may have seen her speak truth to power on national media in past months. There is a possibility we might be able to get a video of this event at a later date—stay tuned. Attend from home or gather up the congregation. Learn more about our larger UU community and its outreach. Check with our board members if you are interested in possibly being a UUDeLand voting delegate. Link for details:

<https://www.uua.org/ga>. From your Denominational Affairs Team, Joyce Palmer & Dawn Taggbloom



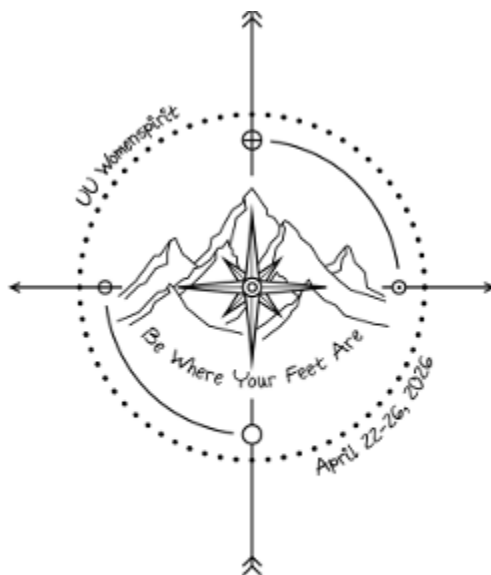
## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

## UU Womenspirit Gathering, April 22-26, The Mountain Learning & Retreat Center, Highlands, NC

Adult women are invited to discover and explore their feminine divine. You do NOT need to be a UU to attend. The theme this spring is "Be Where Your Feet Are." The mountains are such a magical place to connect with the ground under foot, the expansive skies, forests, wildlife and . . . other divine spirits! You will find detailed information about the tracks, workshops, and special activities in this link: [brochure](#). Please visit our website [UU Womenspirit Website](#) to register using the new system, She Meets. If you haven't already created a profile, do that first. Here are instructions to walk you through the registration process: [U UWomenspirit Registration Instructions](#). We would love to see you there! Contact Event Coordinator Nancy S. Hagman for questions: [nancyshagman@gmail.com](mailto:nancyshagman@gmail.com)



The Mountain is such a magical place!