



# Unitarian Universalists of Deland

## OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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### SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

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Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98531898667>  
Refreshments are served in the Social Hall after service.

Zoom ID is the same each week: 985 3189 8667

#### 10/6 New Member Recognition

This celebration invites those who have recently “signed the book” to come before the congregation to be recognized and introduced. With readings, songs, ceremony, and humor, we will honor and welcome these new members to our chosen faith. The Service Leader will be **Linda Newman**, a UU since 1989 and an active member of UU Deland since 2004. She has served as Pres. and VP and now leads the Congregational Life Committee. Linda came from Atlanta to Deland in January of 2000. She retired in 2022 after working 23 years at MBI, a local print and digital advertising company. The kitchen is her “happy place” being a passionate cook and baker. She lives with her three cats: Sugarfoot, Sissy, and Bubba. A special New Member reception will follow the service in our Social Hall.

#### 10/13 Animal Blessing

The Animal Blessing Service will include a mixture of poetry, music, and slides of our members’ furry, feathered and scaly friends. **Jade Hoke-Smith** will lead the program. She is a retired biology teacher, part-time pianist and member of the congregation. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana. Jade lives with her husband, dogs and cats. She enjoys sewing, gardening and reading.

#### 10/20 Historic Preservation: What’s Love Got to Do with It?

**Barb Button Shepherd** will talk about historic preservation. Learn the story of the redevelopment of the historic Conrad Property, on a shoestring budget, and how love — more often than money or even common sense — guided the way. Barb was one of the founders of our local newspaper 32 years ago and is still the publisher of *The West Volusia Beacon*. In 2004, Barb set off on a new adventure, at the long-neglected Conrad Property, a collection of commercial buildings on an acre of Downtown DeLand, now home to Artisan Alley and a popular weekly Farmers Market.

#### 10/27 Día de los Muertos: Mexican Celebration of Life, Death & Memory

A cherished Mexican tradition, Día de los Muertos, is a joyful, colorful, and communal expression of love and memory. Reflecting on our UU values, we will delve into the mysteries of life and death. This cultural practice offers a beautiful lens through which we can deepen our understanding of the mysteries of life, death, and remembrance. Ella Shepherd, a UU member, local children's therapist, yoga instructor, and advocate for marginalized communities will be co-leading the program with Mitzi Dykes.

## UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

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✓ **Adult Discussion Group**

In-person on the **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**

In-person on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9 AM** in the Social Hall. UU DeLand members may attend.

Contact President **Mel Browning** at [melbrowning@cfl.rr.com](mailto:melbrowning@cfl.rr.com).

✓ **Book Discussion Group**

In-person on the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 10:30 AM** in the Social Hall. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or [kwolfk99@aol.com](mailto:kwolfk99@aol.com).

✓ **Green Team—NOTE NEW DATE AND TIME!!!**

The Green Team will be reconvening on Tuesday, October 22nd, at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall to discuss activities for the coming year after their summer break. If you care about our planet and enjoy helping it, this may be the group for you.

All are welcome! If you have any questions or comments, contact Joyce Palmer, Facilitator, at

[joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.907.727.7655.

✓ **Men's Discussion Group**

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

✓ **Poetry Group**

In-person on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month 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 [kwolfk99@aol.com](mailto:kwolfk99@aol.com).

✓ **Program Committee meetings**

In-person on the **1st Thursday of the month at 1 PM** in the Social Hall. Planning of future church services. Contact **Jade Hoke-Smith** at [sewdamnhappy@gmail.com](mailto:sewdamnhappy@gmail.com).

## CONGREGATION INFORMATION

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✓ **Childcare Team Needed!**

We hired Brooklyn Kelly (they/them) to be our primary childcare provider, and *they* are doing a wonderful job. One little girl didn't want to come to our service, but had such a great time with Brooklyn, she wants to come back! Because we do not have a Religious Education Chair, and our policies require at least one other adult in the nursery, we need volunteers. Ideally, we could have a team of 6 - 8, so we can rotate. Contact one of our Officers to volunteer.

✓ **"Right to Clean and Healthy Waters" Petition Gatherers Needed on Election Day!**

An urgent message from Jim Durocher: Florida can expedite qualifying this amendment for the 2026 ballot by having volunteer petition gatherers at polling stations during Early Voting and on Election Day. This is an ambitious, proven plan. Here is a link to [RTCW's CALL-TO-ACTION letter](#), which provides directions on how to sign up.

✓ **UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures:** <https://www.uudelaland.org/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) and include in the Subject line, "UU Newsletter" and the topic. Thank you!

✓ **Unsubscribe.** To be removed from this email list, please reply to this email and include in the Subject Line, "Remove from newsletter mailing list."

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM: LET'S GROW DEMOCRACY!

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- ✓ **Poll Watchers Needed!!!** Contact the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections at 386-736-5930 or [elections@volusia.org](mailto:elections@volusia.org)
- ✓ **Vote!** Check out candidates and other info on the League of Women Voter's site: [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). Posted in the Social Hall, you will find candidates and amendment recommendations from both political parties.
- ✓ **Make sure you are registered correctly.** Contact Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections at 386-736-5930 or [elections@volusia.org](mailto:elections@volusia.org) to confirm that your registration has not been purged.



- ✓ **9/29** **Signs/Slogans/Social Media Party, 12:30 – 2, UU Social Hall, Open to Public**  
Let's make our voices heard where most people are getting their news: social media (Facebook, Instagram). Join your Social Justice team who will help you create your own signs and slogans to post online or email. Bring your laptops, smart phones, family and friends! We will provide writing implements.
- ✓ **10/6** **LGBTQ+ Safe Zone 101 Workshop, 12:30 – 2:30, UU Social Hall**  
During this workshop, you will learn tools to best help the LGBTQ+ folks in your life and have a chance to practice them with your peers. This is a joint effort of UUDeLand and Volusia Pride. Facilitators will be Ella Shepherd, Elliana Dix and Brooklyn Kelly.
- ✓ **10/16** **Project 2025 Film Clips Viewing and Discussion, 4:30 – 6 PM, DeLand Library**  
Learn about Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's plan for the future of America. We will view film clips followed by a panel discussion facilitated by Patti Rauch and led by Stetson Prof. Paul Croce. This is open to the public and will be held at the DeLand Public Library. Bring your family and friends!
- ✓ **11/5** **VOTE!!!**
- ✓ **11/6** **After-Election Centering with Volusia Buddhists, 7 PM, UU Social Hall**  
Our own Jennifer Morris invites us to wind down, regroup and center after election night—many of us will need it! Sensei Morris Sullivan will be giving a Dharma talk. You do not need to be a Buddhist to attend.
- ✓ **Letters to the Editor**  
It's not too late to write yours. Here are the contacts for local news outlets:  
**Daytona News Journal.** [letters@news-jrnl.com](mailto:letters@news-jrnl.com); [mark.harper@news-jrnl.com](mailto:mark.harper@news-jrnl.com)  
**West Volusia Beacon.** [info@beacononlinenews.com](mailto:info@beacononlinenews.com)
- ✓ **Food Donations for the Neighborhood Center**  
On the **1st Sunday of each month**, please bring non-perishable food items (including for dogs and cats) and place in the designated basket in the Sanctuary foyer. Contact Mara Whitridge at [marwit@bellsouth.net](mailto:marwit@bellsouth.net).

## OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

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✓ **PFLAG DeLand/Volusia, LAST Thursday of the month, 5:30 – 7 PM**

PFLAG's mission is to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Its vision is to create an equitable, inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person is safe, celebrated, empowered and loved. The meetings are confidential and largely for support purposes. Contact **Jim Dries at 818/522-5468**.

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

## UUDeLand PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2025

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Love: The final frontier . . . How do we go boldly forth where we have never gone before? WITH YOU!

To make our "mission possible," we call on love and generosity in this time of pledging your financial gift for the coming year to UUDeLand, our spiritual home. Pledges make up over 77% of our total income and are instrumental in helping us develop a reasonable budget for 2025. We're reaching for a "possible" \$50,000! Can we count on you to pledge in October? You can pledge one of three ways:

1. Online at [www.uudeland.org](http://www.uudeland.org)
2. Fill out a pledge card and envelope available in the sanctuary foyer, then drop it into the Sunday offering plate.
3. Or, simply print the pledge card below, cut it out, put it in an envelope and drop it into the Sunday offering plate.

If you have any questions or comments, contact our Pledge Coordinator, Joyce Palmer at [joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.907.727.7655.

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**First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia**

Operating Budget Annual Pledge Drive

For Fiscal Year 2025

*Welcome to our congregation!*

I (We) pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ for 2025

Name (please print)\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Have you considered including UUDeLand in your will/estate plan? Yes