



Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

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CONGREGATION INFORMATION

Help Shape the Future of UU DeLand Leadership!

Our **Nominating Committee** invites you to complete their **Leadership Interest & Nomination Survey**. Whether you're interested in serving, want to nominate someone else, or simply want to share your thoughts—we want to hear from you! **Complete the survey online here:** <https://forms.gle/6XA5EamXpr8Se7wx8>. Or, use hard copies which are available in the Sanctuary Foyer and Social Hall. **Deadline is October 24th**. See the attached flyer for more information.



Pledge Team 🙌

- **Pledge Goals.** We are happy to report UUDeLand has received 36.6% of the 2025 Pledges in the first quarter of the year—more than the anticipated 25%! Thanks so much to all who continue to support our caring community and its good works.
- **Pledge Cards.** Other good news: there is still time to pledge this year if you haven't yet. Just fill out the pledge cards located in the pews or foyer of the sanctuary and place in the offering plate on Sunday. Or, go to the website, uudeland.org, click on "About Us" and then scroll down to "Support Us." Easy peasy!
- **Sunday Service Offerings/Pledges.** Do you like to drop cash or checks into the offering plate on Sundays as part of your annual pledge to support UUDeLand? While these funds are GREATLY APPRECIATED, we have no idea who you are and how to give you credit towards fulfilling your 2025 stewardship commitment. Please consider putting these monies into the white envelopes provided in the pews and marking "Pledge" and "Your Name" on the outside. We want to acknowledge your contributions! From your Pledge Team: Joyce Palmer, George Crofts, Phoebe Crofts, Linda Newman, John Cupak, Jody Williams, and Charles Bose. From your Pledge Team.

The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5th Thursday of Month. UUDeLand provides dinner for our homeless community at The Bridge, 120 S. Florida Ave. If you are interested in participating, contact **Karen Wolf** at 763/213-2403 or kwolfk99@aol.com

Food Donations for the Neighborhood Center. On the **1st Sunday of each month**, please bring non-perishable food items and place in the designated basket in the Sanctuary foyer. Contact **Mara Whitridge** at marwit@bellsouth.net

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

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.

6/1/25 Enter, Rejoice and Come In!

We will celebrate Pride Month with song, readings, and a glitter blessing. The act of radical invitation towards others is a deeply held spiritual practice that enriches the lives of givers and receivers alike. We will explore the role of world religions, including our UU faith tradition, in laying out a spiritual guidebook for faithful practices of invitation.

Les Figueroa, beloved UU member and pianist, will deliver a sermon written by Rev. Jane Bennett Smith of Channing Memorial Church, UU, Ellicott City, MD, delivered on September 15, 2024.

6/8/25 Conformity, Obedience, and Ethical Noncompliance

Kyle Dickey, PhD, is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology at Stetson University. His research focuses on counterfactual ("what if?" or "if only...") thoughts, and how individuals do (or do not) learn from their past. He teaches courses in social psychology, theories and research in personality, as well as statistics and research methods. Dr. Dickey works with undergraduate students to study counterfactual thinking, mental simulation, and cognitive biases. He earned his PhD in psychology from Texas A&M University, and BA in psychology from Miami University (OH).

6/15/25 Whatever Happened to Honesty?

One has only to listen to the news today to know that honesty is sadly lacking in our society. Notable people who have been recorded violating a law or regulation simply say, "I didn't do it!" and too many viewers seem to agree with them. A young man is caught on video gunning an executive down and enters a plea of "not guilty." How does honesty fit into our world? **Bill Payton** is a member of the Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota. Bill grew up in Akron, Ohio, served 4 years in the Marine Corps and returned home to attend the Univ. of Akron, where he graduated with a degree in Banking and Finance. He spent 25 years in the risk and insurance industry, which took him to 7 states. He then joined the Univ. of Missouri where he served 15 years as the Director of Risk & Insurance Management until his retirement in 2007.

6/22/25 Hope and Housing: Resources and Solutions for Homelessness in West Volusia

Learn about the vital resources and services provided by the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia, including homelessness prevention programs, affordable housing initiatives, and support services designed to empower individuals and families. Discover how our collaborative efforts are creating pathways to stability and how you can be part of the solution. **Savannah-Jane Griffin** is a nationally recognized leader specializing in non-profit leadership, strategic planning, and community building. As CEO of the Neighborhood Center, she leads the primary organization supporting homeless individuals and families in West Volusia.

6/29/25 Music in the Here and Now

Ella Ran will speak on the spiritual nature of musical expression in her program. A passionate and talented music teacher, she makes learning fun and helps her students tap into their own creativity, while encouraging them to surpass their expectations, including 70-year-old beginners! She will guide the congregation through an entertaining and participatory experience. "Music," says Ella "transports us to another place, speaks to us in its own special language, and is available to us all." Multi-talented, Ella has also been teaching at the Yoga Shed since 2016 and became the studio owner in 2019.

Adult Discussion Group

2nd and 4th Sundays of the month 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 joricrofts@gmail.com.



Board of Directors Meeting

3rd 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 or Jade Hoke-Smith at sewdamnhappy@gmail.com.

Book Discussion Group

4th Friday of the month at **10:30 AM** in the Social Hall. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or kwolfk99@aol.com.

Connecting Women (Note: different days and times!)

1st Saturday of the month at **10:00 AM** and **3rd 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.

Green Team

Earth centered education, fun and stewardship! We are beginning our annual summer break and will reconvene on **Tuesday, October 14th, at 2 p.m.** in the Social Hall. Enjoy the great outdoors, stay cool and return refreshed come fall! For more information, contact Joyce Palmer at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/text 1.907.727.7655.

- **Right to Clean Water Amendment**, ongoing. Let's help improve our drinking water and waterways by signing the 2026 primary election petition at this link: <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>. If you have already signed it, please encourage your family and friends to do so as well.
- **Monthly Green Team Tip**. See attached quick and tasty vegan lentil tofu recipe, courtesy of Marianne Bosch.

Men's Discussion Group

Every Tuesday at 7 PM in the Social Hall. Contact **George Crofts** at joricrofts@gmail.com.

Poetry Group

2nd 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.

Program Committee

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.

Social Justice Team

2nd Thursday of the month 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!

- **June 14, NO KINGS! Flag Day Protest, 10 AM – 12, Woodland Blvd./New York Ave., DeLand.** **50501 (50 protests in all 50 states in 1 day)** is a national grassroots movement supporting democracy and opposing executive overreach. "No Kings" is a day of defiance, where we show the world what democracy really

looks like. The flag doesn't belong to some of us; it belongs to ALL of us. We're not watching history happen— ***We're making it.*** There are 4 protests in Volusia County: DeLand, Orange City, New Smyrna Beach and Daytona Beach. Details of the times and locations: https://www.nokings.org/?SQF_SOURCE=50501. Info about 50501: <https://www.fiftyfifty.one/>. Signs are provided. Join us in saving democracy!

- **Regular Saturday Protests** occur at Woodland Blvd./New York Ave. every Saturday from 10-12. See you there!
- **Juneteenth Books Needed.** The DeLand Quakers will give out books at the Juneteenth Celebration on **Sat., June 14th from 9 AM – 3 PM** at the Sanborn Center (815 S. Alabama Ave. DeLand). Please give any Black-related books you want to donate to Mitzi Dykes by Fri., June 13th, or bring them to the Quakers' Booth on June 14th.
- **Interfaith Grass Roots Efforts.** Kate Weingart, PhD, is researching historical movements in the world that were successful in curbing authoritarianism. More on this later. Kate's research is available upon request.

Song Circle ON SUMMER BREAK!

We are taking a **summer break and will resume in September** on the **3rd Thursday** from **7-9 PM**. Members and friends are welcome to bring their voices and instruments or just come and listen to our group's talent. Contact Paul Garfinkel at 904/323-5655 or paulgarf53@gmail.com.

OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

PFLAG DeLand/Volusia, 4th Thursday of the month, 6 – 7:30 PM (location undisclosed)

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.

Local Lavender Celebration for LGBTQ+ Graduates. On Sunday, **June 15, 2025**, local LGBTQ+ students will be honored at a ceremony recognizing their resilience, achievements, and contributions to the community. Lavender Graduation is a national tradition founded in 1995 by Dr. Ronni Sanlo, who will deliver this year's keynote address in a special appearance arranged by PFLAG DeLand. The event will include individual recognitions, group acknowledgements, and a tribute to father figures in honor of Father's Day. The location will only be shared with registered attendees. Graduates interested can sign up at forms.gle/sCWLHQAifWgimD2c9.

Volusia Buddhist Fellowship, Wednesdays, 7 PM, Social Hall

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI), July 20 – 26, Radford, VA. <https://www.suusi.org/index>

2025 General Assembly Registration, June 18 – 22, Baltimore

Register early for UUA's General Assembly in Baltimore, save money and have a choice of hotels. Our congregation will be sending two delegates, so if you are a member and interested in attending in person or on ZOOM, make your wishes known to our Board of Directors. For more information, click on this link: [General Assembly Registration | General Assembly | UUA.org](#). Please contact Joyce Palmer, Team Leader, Denominational Affairs, at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/text 1.907./727.-7655 or Dawn Taggbloom at UUdawnmail@gmail.com.

UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures: <https://www.uudelaland.org/member-resources>

Newsletter Submissions Deadline is the 15th of the month. Please email submissions to mdykes@stetson.edu.

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