



Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Website: www.uudeland.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1UUCoWV/>

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

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

4/6/25 Love is Like a Box of Chocolates

Love: it can be such a confusing word. Love means a lot of different things. People experience love differently, even love that might look the same on the outside. **Linda Newman** will be our speaker. A Unitarian Universalist since 1989, Linda has been a member of our congregation since 2004. She has served as President, VP, and chaired the Social Justice and the Program Committees. Now Linda leads the Congregational Life Committee which includes membership, caring, and hospitality. Linda came from Atlanta to DeLand in 2000. She retired in 2022 after working 23 years at MBI, a local print and digital advertising company. A passionate cook and baker, the kitchen is her “happy place.” She lives with her three cats: Sugarfoot, Sissy, and Bubba.

4/13/25 Beloved Community: Seeking Refuge in Troubled Times

About 70 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned a Beloved Community and a path toward a society where poverty, war and discrimination gives way to universal goodwill. Our world is now increasingly defined by greed, oppression and misinformation. Could we turn the crisis of 2025 into a step toward that vision? **Sensei Morris Doshin Sullivan** is the spiritual head of Volusia Buddhist Fellowship in DeLand, and president of Bright Dawn, a Buddhist seminary headquartered in Coarsegold, CA. He has spoken regularly at UU congregations in FL. Morris now lives in Massachusetts, where he leads meditation and serves on the worship committee at a UU church that was founded (as Puritan) in 1630.

4/20/25 The Philosophy of Yoga

Ella Ran will speak about the philosophy of Yoga and how the practice of the eight limbs of Yoga helps us to move skillfully through life, in unity with ourselves and our souls, while dealing with the complexities of modern life. Ella is the owner of the Yoga Shed and a Level 1 Certified Iyengar Yoga Teacher (CIYT). During her time as a professional skydiver, she was injured in a skydiving accident. This led her to dive into the practice of yoga for its therapeutic aspects of pain management. Ella’s classes offer an opportunity to explore awareness of body, breath and mind. She is passionate about sharing the gifts of Yoga with others. She is also a mental health therapist, specializing in youth.

4/27/25 Earth Day: Honoring Native American Forebears

Our **Green Team** will present a service focused on the 55th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22nd). We will honor our Native American forebears and their earth-centered beliefs and actions, starting with the Mayacans—the first inhabitants of DeLand and its surrounding areas and waters. The program will feature spiritual music, readings, poetry and blessings for Mother Earth. **Joyce Palmer** is Chair of our Green Team, which is composed of members and friends who champion environmental protection, have fun in the great outdoors and educate others about caring for our most precious resource: our planet.

UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

Adult Discussion Group

In-person on the **2nd and 4th 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 lorjcrofts@gmail.com.

Board of Directors Meeting

In-person on the **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.

Book Discussion Group

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



Green Team

Join us as we **SPRING FORWARD!** All are welcome for fun in the great outdoors and to help our planet. We meet on the **2nd Tuesday** of the month at 2 PM—NEW TIME!!!—in the Social Hall. For more information contact Joyce Palmer at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/text 1.907.727.7655. Some upcoming activities:

- **MUUvie Night!** April 3, 6:30 PM sharp in the Social Hall, followed by a discussion, vegan snacks and games. Jim Durocher secured for UU DeLand a special showing of ***Kiss the Ground***. People are calling this “The Most Important Film You’ll Ever Watch”! We’re facing a lot of environmental challenges. This film is creating a movement to solve balancing the climate and securing our future. How about some good news for a change? Here it is: we can reverse global warming. The solution is called “Regenerative Agriculture,” and this film presents the research, practice, and hope we need to move forward. Together. Bring your family and friends! The film is 1 hour 24 minutes. Here is the trailer link: [Kiss the Ground Film | Official Website](#)



- **St. Johns River Cleanup**, April 5, 8-11 AM, Ed Stone Park. Pick up on land or bring your flotation device to clean the shoreline. Trash bags are provided, and they will be giving away a stuffed otter, hat and/or a potted native tree of your choice.
- **Long Leaf Pine Preserve trail maintenance**, April 12, 2 PM at 3736 East New York, DeLand, 32724.
- **Earth Day Bonfire**, April 27, 6 PM, UU DeLand parking lot. Bring a chair, beverage, snack and musical instrument (if desired).
- **City of DeLand FREE TREES**, April 12. DeLand *residents* who love trees, consider planting more! The City will be giving away trees in 3 gallon buckets with a bag of oak mulch at the Wiley Nash Reclamation Center on Amelia Avenue until all are gone. Come early! Varieties include River Birch, Persimmon, Live Oak, Southern Magnolia and Redbud.
- **Right to Clean Water Amendment**, ongoing. None of us are superheroes, but together we can be! Let’s help improve our drinking water, rivers, lakes and oceans by signing the petition for the 2026 primary election now by clicking on the following link: <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>. If you have already signed it, please encourage your family and friends to do so.
- **Monthly Green Team Tip—Egg Substitutes for baking**. Here are equivalents for 1 egg: ½ med. Banana, 4 tbsp applesauce, 4 tbsp silken tofu, 4 tbsp buttermilk, 4 tbsp yogurt, or 4 tbsp sweetened condensed milk.

Men's Discussion Group

In-person every Tuesday at 7 PM in the Social Hall. Contact **George Crofts** at jorjcrofts@gmail.com.

Poetry Group

In-person on the 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

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.

Social Justice Team

In-person meetings on the 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!

- **Arts and Crafts for Protesters Event!** April 12, 12 – 2 PM, Social Hall. Bring your lunch, your voice and your hopefulness. We will provide *surprise* arts and crafts supplies. Create your own protest signs. THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN! Bring your family and friends!



Song Circle

In-person on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7-9 PM. Members and friends are welcome to bring their voices and instruments or just come and listen to our own 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. 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 **Carol Dries** at 818/522-5469.

- **1st Anniversary Celebration**, April 6, 5 – 7 PM, performances, food, auctions, raffles, family-friendly! For location, contact Carol Dries.

Volusia Buddhist Fellowship, Wednesdays, 7 PM, Social Hall

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI), July 20 – 26, Radford, VA

See attached flyer for more information.

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.

CONGREGATION INFORMATION

Pledge Team Announcement: Thinking about ORGANIZING YOUR AFFAIRS?

You might call it "Estate Planning," "Life Planning," "Do I Want to Leave a Legacy?" or "Yikes! I hate to think about this end-of-life stuff, but kinda know I should . . ." Jody Williams and Joyce Palmer are collecting ideas and input for ways to help us all. Ideas so far: (a) Survey to get us thinking about the basics; (b) Informal group discussion on what we've done or had to deal with; (c) Speakers on topics like: who needs a will or trust, how to decide whom to pick for health care and financial management, how to find legal & financial planning resources, comparing notes and experiences, thinking about leaving money or property to the church or other beloved causes. We'd like to hear from you. Talk to us in person or email us: Jody at jdgwms@att.net or Joyce at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com



The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5th Thursday of Month. UUDeLand provides dinner for our homeless community at The Bridge. **Karen Wolfe** plans the meals and coordinates with several members to divide up the preparation. We drop the food off by 4:30. If you are interested in participating, contact **Karen** 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 (including for dogs and cats) and place in the designated basket in the Sanctuary foyer. Contact **Mara Whitridge** at marwit@bellsouth.net

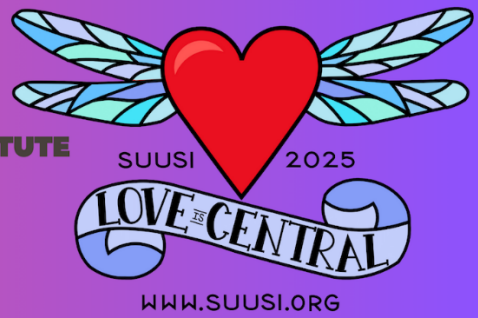
UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures: <https://www.uudelaland.org/member-resources>

Newsletter Submissions Deadline is the 15th of the month. Please email submissions to mdykes@stetson.edu and include in the Subject line, "UU Newsletter" and the topic.

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

SUUSI 2025

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week of
the
summer

July 20-26
Radford, VA

at a joyful all-ages
summer camp

with the best people you'll ever meet

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