



Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

Address: 116 S. Clara Ave., DeLand, FL 32720
Phone: 386/232-8433
Email: firstuuofwestvolusiadeland@gmail.com

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

Board Officers: Pres. Mel Browning, VP Jade Hoke-Smith, Sec. Cheryl Kellogg, Tres. Charles Bose
At-Large Board Members: Colleen Cunningham, Martha Jess, Donna Pepin

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

8/3/25 The 8th Principle: Building a Beloved Community by Accountably Dismantling Racism

UU congregations independently decide whether to adopt the 8th Principle. With an intention of creating transformative spaces for anti-racist work, **Rowena Waters, M.Ed.** will share her understanding of the 8th Principle, illustrate the vital need for its adoption and welcome-in ideas for its implementation. **Rowena** is a UU DeLand member and local education specialist/private tutor with 35+ years of teaching experience, who brings a unique voice to the challenging, yet vital, work of dismantling systemic racism. She taught children's classes on Black History at UU DeLand.

8/10/25 Women's Roles in Islam: Correcting Misunderstandings

Nuran Sykes will speak on a topic that is widely misunderstood by non-Muslim and Muslim communities around the globe: Women in Islam. Discover the powerful positions Muslim women held in all spheres of life and the respect that is due to them through the Islamic paradigm in history and in the present. One of nine Catholic children, **Nuran** was born in Cape Town, South Africa. After marrying a Muslim man, she embraced Islam and is committed to this beautiful faith of peace, love and inclusivity.



8/17/25 Show Me What Democracy Looks Like

Led by our Nominating Committee and Growing Democracy team, we explore the democratic process within our own congregation. We'll share our vision for more accessible, transparent, and inclusive elections—and invite past leaders to reflect on their experiences in shaping UU DeLand's path forward. The program facilitator, **Ella Shepherd**, is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and founder of Endeavors Counseling in DeLand, where she has provided compassionate care since 2020. She is also the owner of Community Yoga and Dance.

8/24/25 German Nature and Evolution Philosophy

The German *Naturphilosophen*, such as Friedrich Schelling (1775–1854), envisioned the universe as evolving from a highly indefinite state toward ever-increasing differentiation and complexity. This open-ended evolutionary view stands in sharp contrast to the Platonic conception of the universe as striving to return to a predetermined, prefigured state of perfection. Our speaker, Dr. Josh Rust, is a Professor of Philosophy at Stetson Univ. He received his PhD in philosophy from the Univ. of CA - Riverside. Author of two books, *John Searle and the Construction of Social Reality* and *John Searle*, he coauthored several articles in empirical philosophy concerning the behavior of ethicists as compared to other academics. Joshua is secretary/treasurer for the FL Philosophical Association.

8/31/25 Community Climate Resilience: Pipes or People?

Scientists say we have [blown past several signposts](#) to slow down or reverse climate change. Changing weather patterns are exacerbating flooding, sea level rise/coastal erosion, wildfires, heat advisories—and insurance rates! Can we engineer our way out of these problems with bigger pipes or better sea walls? Or should communities respond and become truly resilient by rethinking where and how we live in our spaces and with each other? **Dr. Wendy Anderson** is a Professor of Environmental Science and Studies at Stetson Univ. As a scientist, she has published widely on regional processes involving the flow of energy, nutrients, and water from one ecosystem to another. She is on the Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, Volusia County's Environmental and Natural Resources Advisory Committee ("ENRAC"), proposing revisions to the Volusia County Zoning Ordinances and Land Development Codes.

UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

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 jorjcrofts@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 karenwolf64@gmail.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

Our mission is environmental stewardship through education, outreach and fun. Presently we are on our annual summer break. The next meetup is **October 14th, 9:30 a.m.**, in our Social Hall. For further information, contact Joyce Palmer, Facilitator, at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/text 907/727-7655.

- **Tip of the Month:** Consider purchasing and keeping recyclable to-go containers in your car for restaurant leftovers.
- **Recipe of the Month:** Stir fry tofu that tastes good recipe: [Veggie Tofu Stir-Fry | Minimalist Baker Recipes](#).
- **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/>.

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 karenwolf64@gmail.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!

- **Regular Saturday Protests** occur at Woodland Blvd./New York Ave. every Saturday from 10-12. 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. We're not watching history happen—***We're making it!*** Check out their link for future events: <https://www.fiftyfifty.one/>



Song Circle on SUMMER BREAK until September!

3rd Thursday from **7-9 PM**. 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.

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.

Volusia Buddhist Fellowship, Wednesdays, 7 PM, Social Hall

Universalist Convocation Vespers on Zoom, 1st Wednesday of the month, 8 – 9 PM

Their mission is to provide people with an opportunity to learn, explore, and celebrate their Universalist heritage and have instituted **Monthly Vespers Zoom** to further build community. You are invited to join. Here is a link:

<https://universalistconvocation.org/monthly-vesper-schedule/>

CONGREGATION INFORMATION

Help Shape the Future of UU DeLand Leadership!

The Nominating Committee invites you to complete our **Leadership Interest & Nomination Survey**. Whether you're interested in serving, want to nominate someone, or simply want to share your thoughts—we want to hear from you!

Deadline is October 24. 📦 **Complete the survey online here:** <https://forms.gle/6XA5EamXpr8Se7wx8>. **Prefer paper?** Printed copies will be available in the sanctuary and social hall. Let's work together to build a more transparent, inclusive, and collaborative leadership process at UU DeLand!

Get Out the Vote by Becoming a UU DeLand Member!

Our 2026 Pledge Campaign and Congregational Life Teams remind us that if you become a member of our congregation by **August 17**, you can vote in the upcoming November 16 Annual Meeting. If you are new and thinking about this or have been coming for years and not made the leap, consider doing so. Contact Linda Newman, Congregational Life Team Leader at newmanlinda247@gmail.com, call/text at 386/734-1117, or see her in person to sign the membership book and make a monetary donation of note at least 90 days before the Annual Meeting.



Sunday Service Offerings/Pledges. Members and Friends, please help us identify your **cash** offerings by placing them in the white envelopes found in the pews and writing "Pledge" and your name on the outside, so we can count them toward your pledges.

The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5th Thursday of Month. UUDeLand provides dinner for our homeless community at The Bridge, 421 S. Palmetto Ave., DeLand. If you are interested in participating, contact **Karen Wolf** at 763/213-2403 or karenwolf64@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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