



# Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

## JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

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

Board Officers: Pres. Jade Hoke-Smith, VP Nancy Jacobsen, Treas. Les Figueroa, Sec. Ella Shepherd

At-Large Members: Paul Garfinkel, Jim Dries and Patti Rausch.

### 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.

#### 6/7/26 Rest is Resistance

**Mitzi Dykes** will present this sermon by **UU Rev. Emilie Boggis**, who invites us to remember, “When the times are urgent, let us slow down.” Though that idea may seem counterintuitive, it offers an important truth. In periods of upheaval, many of us feel constant pressure to react. But when we stay in fight-or-flight mode, we may miss the abundant and creative resources already within and around us. Rev. Boggis calls us to slow down, reconnect with our “ground of being,” and respond in ways that reflect our UU values. **George Croft** will be our Service Leader.

#### 6/14/26

In celebration of Pride Month, we will honor notable historical figures who lived as closeted gay people. The service will be co-led by **Margueritte Jhonson**, our LGBTQ+ Team Chair, and **Ella Shepherd**, our Secretary. Additional speakers will include UUDeLand members **Les Figueroa** and **Leslie Slavin**, along with **Jose Goire**, President of PFLAG of West Volusia. Join us for this welcoming rainbow service.



#### 6/21/26 The Dalai Lama and the Nechung Oracle

**Dr. Christopher Bell** will speak about his book of the same title. In Tibetan tradition, oracles have long shaped religious belief, prophecy, and public life. Among them, the Nechung Oracle has held a central role in advising the government, offering guidance on urgent affairs of state, and helping protect the current Dalai Lama after his escape from Tibet following the Communist takeover and his resettlement in India. **Dr. Bell** is Chair of Religious Studies at Stetson University. He earned his BA and MA in Religious Studies from Florida State University and his PhD from the University of Virginia, where he focused on Tibetan and Buddhist studies. **Patti Rausch** will be our service leader.

**6/28/26 Fact vs. Fiction: Discerning Reality in the News**

**Dr. Nicki Junkins** will discuss how to tell whether news coverage is objective, biased, or false. She will describe common types of disinformation, explain why false claims are often believed, and offer practical ways to evaluate the accuracy of reporting. Born in New Hampshire, **Dr. Junkins** taught and directed K-12 curriculum for Volusia County Schools and served as a College Board consultant for schools nationwide. She holds a master's degree from Stetson and a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from UCF. After serving as president of the League of Women Voters, Nicki now works with its Voter Service and Speakers Bureau. **Deb McShane** will be our service leader.



## 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).

### 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.



### 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 🌿 On hiatus until September 8.

**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).

- Recipe of the Month: [Black Bean Burger Recipe](#)

### **LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Team**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11:45 – 12:45 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 [joricrofts@gmail.com](mailto:joricrofts@gmail.com) .

### **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**

**1st Thursday at 1:30 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).

- **Service Leader (SL) Training, Sat., June 13 – 10:30 AM, Sanctuary**  
Congregation members interested in learning to become a Service Leader are invited to attend, as well as seasoned SLs. Contact Cheryl Kellogg at [cdkellogg425@gmail.com](mailto:cdkellogg425@gmail.com) or 850/774-9862

### **Safety & Security Team**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 11:40 AM** in the **Yellow Room**.

Contact Jade Hoke-Smith at 239/233-6733 or [sewdamnhappy@gmail.com](mailto:sewdamnhappy@gmail.com).



### **Social Justice Team will be on hiatus until September 8.**

**NEW DATE AND TIME: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1 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!

- **Meet Your Candidates for District 1 county Council Seat**, Aug. 2, 2 – 4 PM, DeLand Library.
- **Braver Angels West Volusia Meetings**, 1<sup>st</sup> TH, 3 – 4:30 PM, at Marchetti's Coffee Bar, 110 N. Woodland Blvd. Help us bridge the political divide with our DeLand community neighbors. Contact Mitzi Dykes at 386/801-2615.
- **No Kings Protests Saturdays**, 10-12 at Woodland Blvd./New York Ave. (occasionally at Woodland Blvd./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](#)
- **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:

### **Song Circle will be on hiatus until September 28.**

**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. Calling all singers! 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.

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

## DENOMINATIONAL INFORMATION

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### **UUA General Assembly (GA), June 14-21**

GA is fast approaching and our congregation needs two voting representatives! You can attend in person, gather with a regional enclave or attend virtually. The board will be appointing UU DeLand representatives to add our voice in directing the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as we move forward in these challenging times. It is an experience that could widen your UU knowledge and appreciation! If you are interested or know someone who might be, please let any board member know. The board will be making their decision within the next month or two. Link for details:

<https://www.uua.org/ga>.

## CONGREGATION INFORMATION

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**Catalyst Mentoring Program.** Board games and magazines needed. Please place in the box in sanctuary vestibule. Contact Mitzi Dykes at 386/801-2615 for more information.

**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).

**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).

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