



Unitarian Universalists of Deland

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As most of you will know, we recently experienced a reshuffling of congregational leadership. I am humbled and flattered by the Board's, and by extension the Congregation's, confidence in me. My commitment to each of you is to work to achieve stability, facilitate calm and intelligent deliberations, and maintain an environment that enables us to pursue UU values and principles together. With the Board's and the Congregation's help and input, we have the strength and talent to achieve much. We need to learn from the past while preparing for the future. For now, I ask for your patience as we learn to proceed as a team. I look forward to working with our talented Board: Vice-President Jim Dries, Treasurer Lester Figueroa, Secretary Ella Shepard, and At-Large Members Patti Rausch, Cheryl Kellogg, and Allen Arnold. I also encourage you to feel free to contact me directly with any concerns or suggestions (please be kind). The best way to do that is by email: paulgarf53@gmail.com. In peace and solidarity, Paul Garfinkel, President

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Website: www.uudeland.org

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

Board Officers: Pres. Paul Garfinkel, VP Jim Dries, Treas. Les Figueroa and Sec. Ella Shepherd

At-Large Members: Allen Arnold, Cheryl Kellogg and Patti Rausch

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



8/2/26 Lessons from Youth Camp

Rev. Dr. Tracie Barrett has served as a chaplain at UU Youth Camp for the past few years and brings lessons learned from young people. For the future of our faith, these lessons should be heeded. **Tracie** is the Sen. Assoc. Minister of All Souls Miami, an online UU congregation. She also serves as a commissioner on the UUA Commission on Appraisal. **She** lives in Orlando with her husband and three cats and considers herself a UU Evangelist, sharing the good news about our liberal and liberating faith. **Deborah McShane** will be our Service Leader.

8/9/26 Connection: The Ultimate Game Changer

With the intention of sharing her newfound discovery of the restorative potential of connection, **Ms. Rowena Waters, M. Ed.**, has a mission to illustrate the vital need for it, to welcome stories, and to share ideas for how to use it to grow healthy connections. Of Palestinian and American heritage, **Rowena** is a local education specialist and private tutor with 20+ years tutoring and over 35 years teaching. **Patti Rausch** will be our service leader.

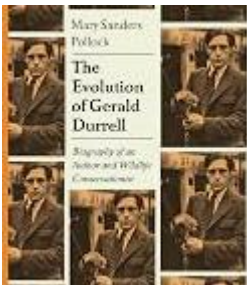


8/16/26 Iowa UU Sisterhood

At the end of the 19th century, a group of Unitarian women claimed their roles as ordained ministers. Following the Women's Ministerial Conference organized by Julia Ward Howe in 1875, 21 Unitarian women founded the Iowa Sisterhood to serve churches in the Great Plains. Discover how their service proved dynamic and successful . . . until the political tides changed. **Deborah McShane** received her BA in English from UH, and her MA in Educational Leadership from the College of New Jersey. She is a retired English and theater teacher. **George Crofts** will be our service leader.

8/23/26 Episcopal Priest's Reflections on UU Practices & Why he Attends

Retired Episcopal priest, **Rev. Don Heacox**, reflects on how our UU faith, and his experience of UU DeLand's congregation, measure up to some Biblical Christian teachings. **Don** has participated in, explored, and/or read about multiple faiths. His conclusion: Be Kind! An Air Force Officer, he retired to NM, where he led St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Deming as vicar—an ordained priest. After losing his wife to cancer, Don remarried, got COVID and moved to FL. He has written about his spiritual journey and is happy to share his stories. **Cheryl Kellogg** will be our service leader.



8/30/26 The Web of Life: Commensalism, Mutualism, and Communion

Web of Life—the patterns, systems, and processes connecting all life—is a metaphor often encountered in literature and science. Our speaker, **Mary Sander Pollock**, is interested in 3 kinds of connections: commensalism, mutualism, and communion. Prof. of English Emerita at Stetson University, Mary taught English, Gender Studies, and Environmental Studies, with concentrations in Victorian literature and nature writing. She has published five books, including *The Evolution of Gerald Durrell: Biography of an Author and Wildlife Conservationist*. **Mitzi Dykes** will be our service leader.

CONGREGATION INFORMATION



UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet Your Candidates for County Council Seat, Aug. 2, 2 – 4 PM, DeLand Regional Library, 130 E. Howry Ave. UUDeLand's Social Justice team is hosting this panel Q & A. Paul Garfinkel will be the moderator. Bring friends and family!



LGBTQ+ Safe Zone 101 Workshop, Saturday, August 29, 2:00-4:00 PM, Sanctuary or Social Hall TBD

Ella Shepherd will lead this workshop with a vision to empower individuals, businesses, churches, and employers/es to perpetuate welcoming, affirming, and supportive spaces where people of all sexual, affectional and gender identities can safely and comfortably thrive. RSVPs through this link (please, for my sanity!!) <https://forms.gle/4VhJhBX2PaeTdYs77>
You can expect to gain a greater understanding of LGBTQ+ culture, feel more comfortable talking about LGBTQ+ issues and addressing injustice when you see it, interact with the LGBTQ+ community with more awareness, and create a safer environment for our LGBTQ+ community.



Fall equinox party Saturday, September 19, 4 PM, Barb and Andy's. They will provide hot dogs and fixings. Attendees are invited to bring a picnic dish or drink. More details next month.

Painted Raven Concert, Native American Flute and World Music Sunday, October 4, 2 – 4 PM, Sanctuary

This is a fundraiser for the Native Rhythms Festival. The Native Heritage Gathering, Inc., has presented this festival for 17 years as a family-friendly (admission free) event during November in celebration of Native American Heritage Month.

Community Outreach

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

The Neighborhood Center Food Donations, 1st Sunday of Month. Please bring nonperishable foods and place them in the labeled basket in the vestibule of the Sanctuary. Contact **Mara Whitridge** at 386/846-9016 for more information.

The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5th 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 large bin in foyer. Contact **Mary Schaperow** at 407/314-6746 or maryschaperow@earthlink.net.

UU DELAND SISTER CONGREGATIONS

UU Congregation of Ormond Beach (UUCOB) will be showing the PBS documentary *Si Pudiera Quedarme--If I Could Stay* on August 16th at noon. Highlighted by UUA about two undocumented Latinx mothers, as they take refuge in CO churches to avoid deportation and separation from their children. All are welcome. <https://www.uuormond.info/>

Community UU Church (CUUC), New Smyrna Beach. <https://www.dbcuuc.org/>

UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

Adult Discussion Group

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 jorjcrofts@gmail.com.

Board of Directors Meeting

3rd Sunday at 9 AM in the Social Hall. UU DeLand members may attend.

Contact Pres. Jade Hoke-Smith at sewdamnhappy@gmail.com.

Book Discussion Group

4th Friday at 10:30 AM in the Social Hall. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or karenwolf64@gmail.com.

Collective Play-Reading Group

1st & 3rd 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. Contact **Jim Dries** at 818/522-5468.



Connecting Women

1st Saturday 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 On hiatus until September 8.

2nd 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. Recipe of the Month: [Gluten-Free Vegan Dark Chocolate Brownies](#)

LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Team

4th 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.

Poetry Group

2nd 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.

Programming Team

1st Thursday at 1:30 PM in the Social Hall. Plans Sunday services. Contact **Mitzi Dykes** at 386/801-2615 or mdykes@stetson.edu.

Social Justice Team – On hiatus until September 8.

2nd Tuesdays at 1 PM (before Green Team meeting), Social Hall. Join us for updates on local, state, and federal bills and proposals and find out how your voice can be heard! Leadership TBD.

Song Circle IS STILL MEETING THIS SUMMER! NOTE CHANGE IN DATE to 2nd Tuesdays!

2nd Tuesday, 7-9 PM in the Social Hall. Members and friends are welcome to bring their voices and instruments or just come and listen. Contact **Paul Garfinkel** at paulgarf53@gmail.com or Mitzi Dykes at 386/801-2615 (during summer).

OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

PFLAG DeLand/Volusia, 3rd Thursday, 6 – 7:30 PM, Social Hall. PFLAG's mission is to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people. Meetings are for confidential support. Contact **Carol Dries** at 818/522-5469.

Volusia Buddhist Fellowship, Wednesdays, 7 PM, Social Hall

UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures: [UU DeLand Member Resources](#)

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