



# THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WEST VOLUSIA

## *Monthly News and Programs*

### USEFUL LINKS:

[UUA.org](http://UUA.org)

[Our Seven Principles](#)

[Principios en Espanol](#)

[Sources of Our Tradition](#)

[Famous UUs](#)

[Welcoming Many Beliefs](#)

### HAPPY NEW YEAR:

"We will open the book.  
Its pages are blank. We  
are going to put the  
words on them  
ourselves. The book is  
called Opportunity and  
its first chapter is New  
Year's Day."

~Edith Lovejoy Pierce

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY:

"True peace is not  
merely the absence of  
tension; it is the  
presence of justice."

~Dr. Martin Luther King,  
Jr.

### SERVICES

- Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** George Crofts will educate us on doubt. He believes that doubt does not lead to cynicism. Mr. Crofts is a retired mathematics professor from Virginia Tech, where he was on the Dean's staff at 2 colleges. He also enjoys spending his time reading, gardening and whittling. He feels joy in the UU church because it "is a great place for learning and for discussions with informed, interested, and caring people."
- Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>** Michael Pleus will speak about the Neighborhood Center's new bridge project. He is a native Floridian with a BA in Political Science and an MBA, both from Stetson University. He has had a long career in public administration. He is currently the City Manager of Deland, overseeing the day to day operations of city government.
- Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>** Paul Garfinkel will be describing in words and music one couple's way of making a positive impact on Florida environmentalism. Paul is a retired clinical research Director and research ethicist who came to Florida with his wife, Kay, in 1985 from Ohio. A life-long musician and lover of the natural world, he started writing songs about natural Florida within a few years of migrating here. He performs around Florida with his wife, Kay and their band "The Ashley Gang." Paul co-founded the Florida Artists Water Alliance. He is also a Florida Master Naturalist and a wildlife and nature photographer.
- Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>** Dr. Tucker will return to speak about responsibility. He taught college-level religion and philosophy, while also serving congregations across the United States. For over 10 years, Dr. Tucker served as the Minister of the U.U. Congregation of Lakeland, and is now the *Minister Emeritus* of that Congregation. Dr. Tucker has been a member of both the Florida District UUA Board of Directors and the Board of the UU in the Pines.

### Church Happenings

#### Earth Day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Although it's still a few months away, the Earth Day team is already planning the big birthday bash! As we enter the new year, there will be more activities, events, and hands on opportunities to be involved in this important milestone. In the meantime, stay "green" by making sustainable lifestyle changes – and of course review our monthly Green Living Tips in this newsletter!

#### The Open Covenant Group

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after coffee.

ALL ARE WELCOME to join the group. It will continue as long as individuals attend.

#### Adult Discussion Group

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 9:15 am before church.

Contact George Crofts at: [jorjcrofts@gmail.com](mailto:jorjcrofts@gmail.com)



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### More Church Happenings

#### Poetry Potluck Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month, 1:00 pm

Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share and a few poems to read. Newcomers are welcome.  
This month's location TBD. For additional information, contact Karen Wolf at: [kwolfk99@aol.com](mailto:kwolfk99@aol.com).

#### Book Discussion Group

4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month, 10:30 am

First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia, Social Hall

For more information contact Karen Wolf at: [kwolfk99@aol.com](mailto:kwolfk99@aol.com).

#### Men's Group

Every Thursday, 7:00 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia

For more information, contact Joe Knott at: [joeknottjr@hotmail.com](mailto:joeknottjr@hotmail.com).

### Outside Group Meetings at Our Church

#### Meditation Support Group:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the Month

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia, Fellowship Room

#### The Volusia Buddhist Fellowship:

Every Wednesday, 7:00PM

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia

### Green Living Tip of the Month

#### Let there be (eco-friendly) light!

Now that it's darker longer, we're using artificial lights more often. Save energy by changing to lower wattage light bulbs. Also, consider altering your sleep schedule so that you're awake during the sunniest times of day.

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>