



The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue
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 Valdosta, GA 31604
 Minister: Rev. Fred Howard
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Tom Aiello – President	Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair
Rosie Asbury –Treasurer	Susan Bailey - Director of R.E.
Kimberly Tanner – Director of Membership	Jim Ingram –Director of Building & Grounds –
Tom Phillips – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

Please contact us by e-mail at uuvaldosta@yahoo.com

What's going on... **April 2016**

Sun	Apr. 3	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - Rev. Fred Howard, "Finding Your Inner Energizer Bunny" Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Apr. 10	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Bennie Calloway, "How To Live Balanced In A World of Extremes" Meet & Greet after the service
M	Apr. 11	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
F	Apr. 15		Deadline – May newsletter
F	Apr. 15	6:30 PM	Pizza and a Movie
Sun	Apr. 17	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Carol Stiles, "Flower Communion" Meet & Greet after the service <i>Annual Congregational Meeting!</i>
Fri	Apr. 22	6:30 PM	Games Night and Fire Pit!
Sun	Apr. 24	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - Dr. Cristobal Serran-Pagan, "Building Bridges not Walls: His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and Thomas Merton on Interfaith Dialogue." Meet & Greet after the service

April, 2016

Annual Congregational Meeting! All members should plan to stay after the service on Sunday, April 17th, for the annual congregational meeting! Put it on your calendar!

Mission Statement

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta is committed to building a community of acceptance and love, where all people may strive for intellectual, moral, and spiritual enlightenment. We offer a place to celebrate life's passages and to join in social action on behalf of local and global communities.

Sunday Services

Sunday, April 3 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Finding Your Inner Energizer Bunny”

It’s been nearly one hundred years since Carl Jung published his highly influential book, *Psychological Types*. Jung put us in touch with some basic differences of human functioning and the hidden source of our energy. Jung’s insights have proved enormously useful in helping people to fulfill the maxim “know thyself.” The Myers Briggs Type Indicator, widely used in business, human resource, and personal development seminars, is largely based this seminal work of Jung. However, many educational and societal trends in the past century not only ignore Jung’s insights, but seem deliberately designed to extinguish our inner sources of energy and creativity. This morning I’ll elaborate on this most fascinating topic.

Sunday, April 10 – Rev. Bennie Calloway, “How To Live Balanced In A World of Extremes”

In this message we draw from wisdom of the proverbs and other sages of how extremes are destructive to one's spiritual life. Balance is the ability to draw healthy perspectives from various schools of thought contributing to personal spiritual evolution. With the upheaval of our presidential election cycle that is producing hatred, violence, and cultural separatism, balance is a much needed remedy for the malady of extremism.

Sunday, April 17 - Carol Stiles, “Flower Communion.”

We will celebrate the Flower Communion this year in conjunction with Earth Day. The Flower Communion is an annual ritual observed in many UU churches that “celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community.” You are invited to bring a flower that will be added to a communal bouquet and then will take another flower home with you after service (don’t worry, we will have additional flowers available, if you cannot bring one). The Flower Communion was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia.

After the service we will hold our annual congregational meeting – members should plan to attend!

Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will be donated to Break Bread. The Break Bread program has been in existence since 1973 and is organized by the First Presbyterian Church. Our participation in delivering the meals once (or twice) a month to low-income, home-bound seniors is coordinated by David Rodgers, and the program is supported through donations.

Sunday, April 24 – Dr. Cristobal Serran-Pagan, "Building Bridges not Walls: His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and Thomas Merton on Interfaith Dialogue."

Dr. Serran-Pagan will address the importance of interfaith dialogue using as an example the three meetings that took place in 1968 between His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and Thomas Merton.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the membership of UU Valdosta will be held on Sunday, April 17, after the service for the purpose of election of the Board of Trustees and approval of the proposed budget, for 2016-2017. **All voting members should plan to attend.** From the bylaws: “Any member, who is at least seventeen years old, who has been a member for a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the vote and has made an annual monetary contribution of record to the congregation, is eligible to vote.”

Proposed Budget for 2016-2017: A proposed budget prepared by Treasurer Rosie Asbury, revised, and approved by the UU Board will be placed on the agenda for the annual meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee – Dee Tait (chair), Dawn Renner, and Rhett Watson. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers to stand for election at the annual congregational meeting to be held April 17th:

President	Tom Aiello
Vice-President/Program Chair	Carol Stiles
Secretary	Tom Phillips
Religious Education Director	Sue Bailey
Treasurer	Rosie Asbury
Membership	Kimberly Tanner
Bldg & Grounds	Jim Ingram

In memory of Dr. Betty Derrick

October 11, 1941 - March 13, 2016

Betty Derrick passed away on Sunday, March 13 at South Georgia Hospice. Betty was a long-time member, who served on our board as president and vice-president, edited our newsletter for nearly 15 years, served as lay leader, and chaired many other activities, including the book group, and served as our UUSC liaison. She proposed and led our Accepting Difference Project, representative of her passion for equity and justice for all. She was a respected leader in several other organizations at the local, state and national level. Betty's obituary is available online:

<http://www.mclanefuneralservices.com/obituary/Dr.-M.-Elizabeth-Betty-Derrick/Valdosta-GA/1598539>

A memorial service was held at the UU Church on Wednesday, March 16, followed by a "celebratory party" (at Betty's request!) at her house.

As Betty wrote in this newsletter about Virginia Branan, who passed away nearly 10 years ago, so, too, we can say about Betty Derrick:

"She truly lived our UU Principles."

We miss you, Betty.

Religious Education

For Children: The RE program for children under 15 years of age meets at 10:45 AM concurrent with the Sunday morning service. Older young people will remain with the adult service. Two adults are needed each Sunday to help with RE. Sign up on the volunteer list at the church or through Carol Stiles and the Worship Team.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Congratulations and Welcome Home!

❖ ... to the Tanner Family!

Our condolences to:

❖ Family and friends of Dr. Betty Derrick

Keep in your thoughts...

❖ Other members and friends experiencing health concerns.



Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

In these acrimonious times Unitarian Universalists need to contribute as much as is humanly possible to the efforts of progressives from all the world's great religions to foster better understanding between faiths. Beginning in September on the Sundays I'm in the pulpit, I'll be facilitating a five week video series called *The Jesus Fatwah*. Here is the promotional material on the course:

"The Jesus Fatwah: Loving Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself"

Much of what passes as information about Islam is weed-like disinformation rooted in stereotype and watered by fear. In *The Jesus Fatwah*, Islamic and Christian scholars offer reliable information about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we all can be about building relationships across the lines of faith. Featuring seventeen Islamic and Christian scholars, including:

- Hans Küng (*Islam: Past, Present and Future*)
- Brian McLaren (*Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?*)
- Eboo Patel (*Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim*)
- Stephen Prothero (*God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World--and Why Their Differences Matter*)
- Feisal Abdul Rauf (*What's Right with Islam Is What's Right with America*)

I learned of this program on a recent visit to our sister congregation at Buckman Bridge and sat in on a session there. I was so impressed with the material that I immediately ordered it for us. It's my hope to involve others beyond our church. In the next few months I'll be inviting participation from the larger community. I could use your help as well in promoting this program. I look forward to being a part of this video series with you!

-- Fred

(Ed. Note: the full program listing will be included in a future issue of the newsletter.)

Social Action Activities

Break Bread Together

We deliver meals with the Break Bread Together program on the 2nd Monday (and 5th when there is one) of each month. Let David Rodgers know if you are interested in helping with this service. Several volunteers make it possible to adjust to changing personal schedules. Please let David know if you are available to deliver meals. It is helpful to have two people on the route.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

March 6, 2016

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed final plans for the 50th Anniversary celebration on March 20.
- Made plans for an All About UU class and a new member ceremony.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, Mar. 6, 9:30 a.m.

Pizza and a Movie

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

Our feature for April 15 is "Paper Clips."

Students at a small rural Southern town begin collecting paper clips as a way to grasp the immensity of six million – the number of Holocaust victims. The project takes on a life of its own as it gains national press attention, and visitors begin to arrive from all parts of the globe. People are transformed in and through this project, and learning is not at all confined to the students. Especially significant are the reflections of participants who held racially insensitive views at the onset of the project and how their view changed. The movie is straightforward and honest, and for a low budget documentary conveys its heartfelt poignant message quite well.

We'll begin the movie promptly at 6:30 pm . \$5 is suggested as a contribution toward pizza and drinks.

See you there!

Fred

UU Valdosta Caring Committee

Dee Tait chairs this committee. If you would be able to help, when requests for help are received, please let her know. Other members include David Rodgers, Kimberly Tanner, and Carol Stiles.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Tom Aiello

A day doesn't go by when we, as Unitarian Universalists, find ourselves with no opportunity to express our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Or justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Or acceptance of one another. Or a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Or world community. Or respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

But it is less often when we are able to enact that woe begotten of our principles, the belief in the use of the democratic process within our congregations. Sure, we all agree on things when necessary, and we use the republican method of government outlined by Madison in the American colonial era, Locke before him in England, and Plato even farther back than that, somewhere near the Mediterranean coast. But it is rarer when we toss away republican representation in favor of direct democracy.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the month when we officially live out this principle! On April 17, we will have our annual congregational meeting, wherein the membership makes decisions about its budget and leadership for the next fiscal year. If you are a member who has signed the book and made a pledge of record this year, we encourage you to attend and exercise the one UU principle that sometimes seems elusive and out of place among the others. The meeting will be after the service, so come for worship and stay for democracy! Doesn't that sound fun?

I know that many of you are new members, or relatively new in the sense that you have become part of the church since last April. We are so glad that you come to the services and other congregational events, and we very much hope that you'll come to the congregational meeting. If our goal is to live by the seven principles, we have little choice but to take the opportunity! See you then.



Games Night / Fire Pit

Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m. – until ?

All are welcome! Bring a snack to share and your choice of beverages. (Please keep in mind that several of our members are gluten-free.)

If you have a game suitable for several to many players and people of all ages, bring it along.

Contact: Susan Bailey.

All About Unitarian Universalism Small Group, Sat. Apr. 30, 9 a.m. to 12

Dee Tait and Fred Howard will be facilitating an All About UU small group at the church on Saturday, April 30 from 9 am to 12 pm with lunch provided. This is a wonderful opportunity for newcomers to learn more about us and what our faith tradition is all about. It's also a great opportunity to meet others who are new to our congregation and for all of us to get to know one another better. There will be a chance to dialogue on liberal faith and values, ask questions, and share stories about what brought us through the doors of our church and where we are individually on our faith journeys.

There will be both an informational as well as a personal sharing component to this time together and our time will be centered around three general themes:

- 1) What brought you to Unitarian Universalism?
- 2) What is Unitarian Universalism?
- 3) Where do I want to go on my faith journey, and how might this church be a part of that journey?

If you are interested in being a part of this experience, please contact Dee or Fred after a service or via email or phone. Group size will be limited, so commit as soon as you can. Come and be a part of the fun as we learn together and build community!

Rev. Fred Howard is our part time minister. You may contact him by email (preferable) at fredhoward3622@gmail.com should you need to reach him. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

At the Church-in-the-Woods...

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, Beginners Class, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Continuing class, 7 – 8 p.m., Contact Dennis Bogoyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

Sangha Tuesdays

6:00-7:30 PM at the church

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group meets on Tuesday evenings at the church. Everyone interested in Buddhist practice and meditation is welcome. Tea, 6:00 – 6:30; Buddhist shamata meditation, 6:30 – 7:00; Discussion of reading, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter

Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m.

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, meets each Wednesday evening, with an officers meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.

You can contact the group by e-mail at: valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

Thank You! Thank You!

For organizing the dinner for the 50th Anniversary: Dee Tait and all who helped set up, serve, and clean-up!

For helping with the Azalea Festival: All those who helped set up and sat at the table, including several members of CUUPS Oaken Circle, and particularly Deb Marine and her son, who were soaked by the rainfall on Sunday morning!

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Carol Stiles, Dee Tait, Cliff Adams, Tom Aiello

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson

For Meet & Greet: Mary Ellen Adams, Tammy and Tanya McDowell, Dawn Renner

For assisting with RE: Teagan Dunn, Diane Holliman, Dawn Renner, Kimberly Tanner, Doug Tanner

For sweeping sidewalks: Richard Watson, who often makes a trip early Sunday a.m. to finish this task!

For taking out trash and recycling: Richard and Rhett Watson, Sue Bailey, Dee Tait, Lars Leader, and others.

For delivering Break Bread meals: Rev. Fred Howard

For photos for the newsletter: Dennis Godden

For coordinating the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

At right, is our new chalice,
donated by Luana Goodwin,
in memory of Dr. Betty Derrick
(Photo by Dennis Godden)



Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles
Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles
April 15: Deadline for the May newsletter.
If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.
Website Manager: Carol Stiles
e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner
Facebook: Kimberly Tanner
Local Publicity: Dee Tait



Jim Ingram and Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf speak about the early history of the UU Church of Valdosta at our 50th Anniversary celebration, March 20th, 2016. (Photo by Dennis Godden)

Worship Team

Each Sunday, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary for sign up for the upcoming services. You can also send an e-mail to Carol Stiles and she will put you on the list for that task.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of our fellowship, we encourage you to talk with our minister, Rev. Fred Howard or Membership Director, Kimberly Tanner. We welcome your questions, and we extend an open invitation to all who want to join our liberal community of faith.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent dignity and worth of every person,
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations,
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning,
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large,
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all,
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Grateful for the religious pluralism, which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant promising to one another our mutual trust and support.