



The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

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Kimberly Tanner – President E-mail: president@uuvaldosta.net	Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair
Doug Tanner – Treasurer	Susan Bailey - Director of R.E.
Dawn Renner – Director of Membership	Chris Renfroe – Director of Building & Grounds
Carl Ide – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

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

What's going on... **April 2020**

Sun	April 26	1:30 PM	Annual Congregational Meeting! Zoom Conference Call – see inside for details!
			Sunday morning services available virtually from other UU churches! See below!

April 2020

Greetings, members and friends in the community during these challenging times.... As with most community gatherings, we will not be meeting in person for at least the next few Sunday mornings in keeping with *physical distancing* guidelines to prevent the rapid spread of coronavirus / COVID-19. But we want to continue our *social connections* with all and we encourage you to connect with us through our FaceBook page or by email uuvaldosta@yahoo.com or president@uuvaldosta.net.

In the meantime, several of us have joined the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville in their their online service on Sunday mornings, beginning at 10:50 a.m. One does not need a FaceBook account to participate. Simply visit UU Fellowship of Gainesville's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uugainesville/, starting at 10:50 am Sunday, and look for the live video stream. As the service is streamed, you are encouraged to engage through the comments to let UU Fellowship of Gainesville and Rev. Lunsford know we are with them. Rev. Christe Lunsford (they, them) and UUFG have graciously included us in their services, mentioning UU Valdosta by name in welcoming messages and in joys and concerns. Join us!

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.

Share-the-Plate for March and April! South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness

See below for how you can help!

Working in shifts and following physical distancing guidelines, of course, members of the UU Valdosta board responded to a request for help providing non-perishable lunch bags for the homeless through the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness. Carol Stiles purchased enough non-perishable items to prepare 24 lunch bags and delivered to the church. Kimberly Tanner prepared several bags of previously donated hygiene items and dropped those off at the church, too. Carl Ide and Brett Bailey obtained some donated (pre-packaged) utensils and packaged the lunch items and then they delivered all of the bags to Rev. Dr. Ronnie Mathis, director of the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness.

We would like to do this again in late April or early May. You can help in one of two ways: 1) please consider adding a contribution, designated for "Share the Plate," when you send in your pledge to the church (mailing address to the right in this issue!) 2) if you are going to a store for your own supplies and would like to purchase some of the recommended items, we can make arrangements for you to drop those off at the church. Here are examples of recommended non-perishable items: ex. bottled water, crackers, can of vienna sausage, chips, napkin w/plastic fork, fruit cups, snack bar.



Photo of the packed lunches and a scene from the sanctuary! (photo provided by Brett Bailey)

UU Valdosta appreciates your continued financial support... thank you!



Greetings, UU members and friends:

Although we are grateful for at least our electronic interactions with you through FaceBook, participation in UUFG's virtual services and by email and phone, we are also very cognizant of the need to continue to pay our bills – utilities, insurance, etc. – for our beautiful sanctuary and grounds, known as the "church-in-the-woods." We also hope you will join with us to continue our outreach to the community such as our monthly Share-the-Plate (see article to the left). We are grateful to those who have set up regular monthly payments for their pledges. Since we cannot be together on Sunday morning and for those who are able to contribute now, **here is our U.S. mail address:**

**UU Church of Valdosta
P.O. Box 2342
Valdosta, GA 31604**

Again, if you would like to designate part of your contribution to Share-the-Plate for South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness this month, please make a specific note of that in the check memo or include a note with instructions – our treasurer, Doug Tanner, would love to hear from you!

UUA Common Read

We have, of course, postponed our second discussion for the UUA Common Read. But we still recommend that you read the book, and we will plan future discussions when we are together again! Or maybe we will try a virtual book discussion through Zoom!

The selected book is [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015). There is also a new young people's version of the book available, which is actually the book recommended by UUA. More information on the common read is available here: <https://www.uua.org/books/read>

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, April 26, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom!

This is our annual opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to our 5th Principle: “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”

We’re trying something new this year! We will hold our previously scheduled annual congregational meeting via Zoom! We need as many UU Valdosta members as possible to participate in this meeting – **please RSVP to Kimberly Tanner, president@uuvaldosta.net, if you will be able to do so.** Kimberly will send out the invitation to join the Zoom meeting to your email address. Note that we are aware of concerns about disruptions to Zoom meetings and are taking appropriate steps to minimize the chance of disruption, **including sending out the invitation to join to specific email addresses of our active members.** The invite will not be posted on FaceBook, so please let Kimberly know if you plan to participate! We can also make arrangements for you to participate by phone, but let us know! Please note that in order to vote during the annual meeting, one must be a member for at least 30 days prior to the meeting and one must have made a contribution of record to UU Valdosta during the current fiscal year (since July 1, 2019).

The agenda will include election of officers and approval of the budget for 2020-2021. Information for these two agenda items are provided in this newsletter.

Board of Directors Meeting News

March 8, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Among other items reported elsewhere in this newsletter, highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed and voted to approve proposed 2021 budget for annual meeting on April 26th
- Plans for Azalea Festival [cancelled]
- Next Meeting: TBA [April 13, 2020]

Report of the Nominating Committee

Dee Tait and Mary Thieme

Present board member, Chris Renfroe, will be stepping down due to increased military travel responsibilities. Members who have agreed to stand for election for the next year and who are nominated by the Nominating Committee are as follows:

President	Kimberly Tanner
Vice President	Carol Stiles
Secretary	Carl Ide
Religious Education	Susan Bailey
Treasurer	Doug Tanner
Membership	Dawn Renner
Building & Grounds	Brett Bailey

From Dee Tait, Chair: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I want to express appreciation for the time each member of the Board of Directors has already served and the dedicated work you have done to keep UUValdosta going and for being willing to continue. And to you, Brett for your willingness to join the group. I hope we, the congregation, can give you all, the Board of Directors, the support you deserve for what you do.

Our thanks to Chris Renfroe for serving as Chair of Building & Grounds this year!

Proposed budget for 2020 – 2021

See next page!



UU Valdosta Caring Committee

Members of this committee include Dee Tait, Kimberly Tanner, David Rodgers, Carol Stiles, Patti Bell. If you are able to help when assistance is needed please see a member of the committee

Proposed 2020-2021 Budget

Plate	\$4,000.00
Pledge	\$14,000.00
Rent	\$1,300.00
Donations (printing/website)	\$1,100.00
Share the Plate	\$1,200.00
Total Receipts	<u>\$21,600.00</u>

Expenses

Pianist	\$4,500.00
Building Insurance	\$790.00
Speakers' Fees & Resources	\$3,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Newsletter	\$500.00
Donations	\$1,200.00
Pest Control & Termite	\$1,737.00
Postage	\$250.00
Supplies	\$150.00
RE Program	\$1,050.00
Membership Program	\$50.00
UUA Dues	\$1,554.00
UU Conference	
Attendance	\$1,000.00
Utilities	\$3,600.00
Advertising	\$1,000.00
Others	\$250.00
	<u>\$21,631.00</u>

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles
Newsletter deadline is the 20th of the previous month!
If you prefer receiving the newsletter by e-mail, please contact the editor.

Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles,
uuvaldosta@yahoo.com
Website Manager: Carol Stiles
e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner
Facebook: Kimberly Tanner, president@uuvaldosta.net
Local Publicity: Dee Tait

Break Bread Together

Break Bread, which is a community program of First Presbyterian Church in Valdosta that delivers meals to low-income, homebound individuals, continues to operate during the pandemic (with new guidelines for safely delivering the meals). This is one of our Share-the-Plate organizations. Our thanks to David Rodgers who has been delivering meals on the 2nd Monday of each month (and 5th Monday, when there is one).

Thank You! Thank You!

For speaking at services: Rev. George Bennett
For organizing lunch preparation for SGPEH:
Carol, Kimberly, Carl and Brett
For checking in with our various members:
Kimberly Tanner and Dee Tait

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members, friends, and family members experiencing health concerns.
- ❖ ...and those who may be experiencing increased stress due to loss of jobs or the need to physically distance or concern about family members who may be ill... or all of the above.

At the Church-in-the-Woods... (spiritually, for now....)

Buddhist meditation

Please check with Carol, uuvaldosta@yahoo.com, if you are interested in meeting for meditation in the future!

Oaken Circle CUUPS

Oaken Circle is a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). Watch for future Oaken Circle CUUPS Events! Contact CUUPS at valdostaokencircle@gmail.com and ask to join their Facebook page.

Taoist Tai Chi

Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org.