

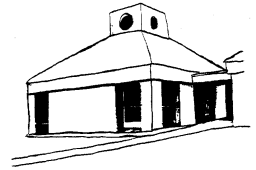


The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342
 Valdosta, GA 31604

Minister: Rev. Fred Howard
<http://uuvaldosta.net>
 229-242-3714 e-mail: uuvaldosta@yahoo.com



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| Tom Aiello - President | Carol Stiles – Vice President |
| 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 send email to uuvaldosta@yahoo.com to contact us!

What's going on... **August 2015**

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|-----|---------|---------------------|---|
| Sun | Aug. 2 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children Service - Dr. Pat Miller, "Reflections on <i>Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End</i> by Atul Gawande" Meet & Greet after the service |
| Sun | Aug. 9 | 9:30 AM 10:45 AM | UU board meeting in the RE wing Religious Education for children Service - Dr. Tom Aiello, "A Historical Perspective on Confederate Memorials" Meet & Greet after the service |
| M | Aug. 10 | 11:00AM | Break Bread delivery |
| S | Aug. 15 | | Deadline September newsletter |
| Sun | Aug. 16 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children Service - Dr. Lavonna Lovern, "Native American Spirituality" Meet & Greet after the service |
| F | Aug. 21 | 6:30 PM | Potluck and Book Discussion! |
| Sun | Aug. 23 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Dennis Marks, "Time & Space Make Everything Possible, Including Themselves" Meet & Greet after the service |
| F | Aug. 28 | 6:30 PM | Games Night! |
| Sun | Aug. 30 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children Service – Carol Stiles, "Welcoming Congregation - Year 2 Kickoff!" Meet & Greet Coffee after the service |

August 2015

...has five Sundays in it! Many activities going on, please join us when you can!

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, August 2 – Dr. Pat Miller, “Reflections on *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande”

It would seem that Atul Gawande—surgeon, professor, and medical writer—would be less surprised by death. Perhaps like Emily Dickens, he could not stop for death. So death stopped for him—at least as a topic and distant but persistent cousin. In this book, Gawande explores the options for dealing with the aged, how we deal with the dying, and what it might mean for a man whose profession says death equals failure but who must still take another step. By the end, readers (at least those of us of a certain age) are allowed to get more thoughtfully comfortable in those shoes.

Dr. Pat Miller is a professor of English and teaches in the journalism program at Valdosta State University.

Sunday, August 9 – Dr. Tom Aiello, "A Historical Perspective on Confederate Memorials."

Dr. Tom Aiello will present a historical perspective on the issues surrounding the placement and preservation of Confederate memorials, a topic which has recently taken greater prominence here in Valdosta. Nationally, the presence of the Confederate flag, particularly those displayed at some public institutions, has been brought to the forefront after the massacre of nine people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC.

Tom Aiello is president of the UU Church of Valdosta and is an Associate Professor of History at Valdosta State University.

Sunday, August 16 – Dr. Lavonna Lovern, "Native American Spirituality"

Dr. Lavonna Lovern will give a brief outline of some of the differences between Native American spiritual concepts and Western spiritual concepts. The talk will focus on the idea of energy as related to the concept of "All My Relations."

Dr. Lovern has been involved at the university level for 30 years in global Indigenous studies. She is currently in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and the Department of Native

American Studies at VSU. Her work is in Native American and global Indigenous health and disability and Native American Education. She is involved in the translation of traditional Indigenous knowledge systems into Western cultures in order to assist Western people with a more accurate understanding of Indigenous communities. She has worked with global Indigenous communities as well as Native American communities throughout the United States on issues of health and disability, education, Indian Child Welfare Act, and cultural translation.

Share the Plate Sunday: *Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Our contributions this month will go to Hopes and Dreams Riding Facility, Inc., near Quitman, GA, which offers therapeutic services for veterans and their families, through horseback riding, camping, fishing, and other activities. The mission statement includes “to restore peace to their lives and heal the battle wounds that can't be seen.” Hopes and Dreams has recently begun a building fund to increase capacity to serve veterans.* <http://www.hopesanddreamsridingfacility.com>

Sunday, August 23 – Dr. Dennis Marks, “Time & Space Make Everything Possible, Including Themselves”

The Periodic Table of the chemical elements is a consequence of there being atoms of matter. Different elements arise because the electrons around the nucleus must have different quantum numbers (whole numbers that describe the size, shape, orientation, and spin of an electron orbit). Four different quantum numbers are needed because of the four dimensions of space-time. But what if we had a different number of space dimensions and/or time dimensions? It turns out that there is a periodic table of the algebras describing the geometries with any number of spatial and temporal dimensions, which implies the existence of atoms of time and space. These atoms grow and grow spontaneously, making the universe expand faster and faster. As it expands, it opens up more and more possibilities of increasing complexity. Atoms of time and space make everything possible, spontaneously.

Dr. Dennis Marks is Professor and Department Head, Emeritus, of the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, Valdosta State

University. He has shared his knowledge and love of the universe with the congregation of the UU Church of Valdosta on numerous occasions.

Sunday, August 30 – Carol Stiles, Welcoming Congregation - Year 2 Kickoff!

As we also begin the celebration of our 50th Anniversary, we will begin the second year of our series in the Welcoming Congregation curriculum. We will draw from the UUA's "Building the World We Dream About, which is a program designed to "interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another." More information:

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwwda>

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.

Welcome New Members!



After signing the membership book – welcome to UU Valdosta membership!

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends who are dealing with health issues of their own or of family members.

Congratulations to ...

- ❖ Ed. Note: Please send news – this is your newsletter!

General Assembly!

Kimberly Tanner participated in UUA General Assembly in June, electronically! She served as our credentialed delegate, and among other sessions, she helped to craft the final version of the Statement of Conscience: Reproductive Rights. We look forward to hearing more about her experience "attending" General Assembly!

A Celebration of our 50th!!

This year we will have a series of guest speakers to celebrate our 50th anniversary, leading up to a celebration in March 2016. We are inviting past ministers and regular speakers to join us for Sunday services throughout the year. Rev. Anna Mitchell-Hall was our first returning guest, on Sunday, July 19th. She reflected upon her time here at UU Valdosta from 2002 – 2005, when she served as a lay-leader and social justice leader, and how this influenced her decision to go on to seminary. She was later ordained in the Baptist tradition at Virginia Highlands Church, a United Church of Christ (UCC) church and served on the staff there until recently. She is working on various projects for the Center for Progressive Renewal and also completing her doctorate degree.

Carol Stiles, as program chair for the year, has begun contacting our past ministers, such as Rev. Angie Thiesen, Rev. Jack Ford, Rev. Barbara Child, Rev. Jane Page. Fortuitously, Molly Scholz and Doug Fraser are planning a return visit in February! Molly and Doug were our musicians in the late 1990's, and we will plan a music service with our current musicians when they are here (Sunday, February 14th).

We are having a party, too! If you would like to be involved in planning a celebration for our 50th anniversary next year, let Carol know! The UU board has planned to choose a date in March 2016 for the community gathering. We will need to invite friends and former members of the church, members of the community, and plan the celebration!

Potluck and Book Discussion

Friday, August 21th, 6:30 p.m.

The book group will discuss *House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus on the third Friday, August 21. The *Seattle Weekly* says: "This is the achingly real tale of what happens when the American Dream goes awry.... A poignant drama that is engrossing....A book full of longing, a vivid and exquisitely realized snapshot of America's underside." -- and *The San Diego Union-Tribune* calls it "A smart, raw study in the clash of cultures..."

It is not necessary that you have read the book, although it is helpful. We gather for potluck dinner at 6:30, and then begin the discussion. Contact Tom Aiello.

Games Night

Friday, August 28th, 6:30 p.m. – until ?

All are welcome! Bring a snack to share and your choice of beverages. If you have a game suitable for several to many players and people of all ages, bring it along. Contact: Susan Bailey.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News July 5, 2015

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Chose the month of March, 2016 for the 50th celebration, specific date TBD.
- PRIDE table: September 19th, 2015 12pm to 7pm at John W. Saunders Park
- Next Meeting: September 6, 9:30 a.m.

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

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, Beginners Class, 5:30-6:30 PM; Continuing Class, 6:30-8 PM).
Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

Sangha Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 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, 5:30-6: Buddhist shamata meditation, 6-6:30; Discussion of reading, 6:30-7.

Tom's Time

Tom Aiello

President, UU Valdosta

I've never been a president before. Of anything. And I'm not particularly presidential in carriage or demeanor. Luckily for you and for me, however, our congregation rests on the democratic process embedded in our fifth principle, making me a simple placeholder for all of the choices we make together, each of them, with any fortune, serving to enhance justice, equity, and compassion, the inherent worth and dignity of everyone, and all of the other principles that serve as the ties that bind us in our varying states of belief and unbelief.

August is the month when school begins, when students and teachers and parents all return to some measure of normalcy. That being the case, it is also a time that people resolve to make changes, to better themselves, to, in one way or another, get better. Would that we as a congregation manage a similar set of resolutions, focused less on aiding ourselves and more on aiding those around us. It's in those moments when we are at our best, when we find our commonalities within the various beliefs of our membership and harness them to help others.

The knowledge that you all do that so well already gives me confidence that it is going to be a great year, even with the most un-presidential among us sitting at the proverbial helm.

-- Tom

Eds. Note: The column title above is mine - feedback? Other ideas? We do operate democratically! I'll take nominations and we'll hold a vote....
Carol

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| Rev. Fred Howard is our part time minister. He is on leave during the summer months but 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. |
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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, Betty Derrick, Kimberly Tanner, and Carol Stiles. Get in touch too if you or someone you know needs the services of this committee.

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.

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. If you have questions about any of the areas, please see the person listed below.

You can also send an e-mail to Carol Stiles, with the task and date(s) and she will put you on the list for that task.

Carol Stiles - chair
Doug Tanner - lay leaders
Kimberly Tanner – visitor greeter
Cliff Adams
Rhett Watson - music
Dawn Renner – meet-n-greet

CUUPS Interest Meeting

Lammas/Lughnasadh Celebration

August 1, 6:00 p.m.

A meeting of people interested in forming a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will be held Saturday, August 1, 6:00 p.m. Afterward there will be a Lammas/Lughnasadh Celebration. The evening will include a potluck, bring a dish to share. The ritual portion will be a bread sacrifice - bring bread for the ritual or an ear of corn. This is a family friendly event – children are welcome!

More information about CUUPS is available here:
<http://www.cuups.org/>

Some information from beliefnet.com: Lammas, also known as Lughnasadh, is a celebration of the fruits of the first harvest of all grains, fruits, and vegetables. It is one of the cross-quarter sabbats and is the first of the three harvest celebrations of the Pagan calendar year.

Thank You! Thank You!

For speaking at services in July: Rev. Bennie Calloway, Dr. Diane Holliman, Rev. Anna Mitchell-Hall, Dr. Kimberly Tanner

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Dee Tait

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson, Nephtali Santiago

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

For assisting with RE: Mary Ellen Adams, Kimberly Richardson, Teagan Dunn, Kimberly Tanner

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

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

For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers

For photos for the newsletter: Kimberly Tanner, John Rogers

For coordinating the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

Treasurer's Report for May 2015

UU Treasurer's Report June 2015

Outstanding Debt

\$ 0.00

Receipts

Plate \$ 141.00
Pledge 2705.00
Rent 100.00
Share the Plate(Farmworkers) 10.00

Total Receipts \$ 2956.00

Disbursements

Minister Expense \$ 319.38
Pest Control/Termite 285.00
Speakers' Fees/Interpreter 305.00
Repairs/Maintenance 0.00
Newsletter
Donations (LACC/Farmwork..) 210.00
UUA Dues
Insurance 0.00
Utilities 257.31
Advertising 0.00
Others 0.00

Total disbursements \$ 1758.62

Net receipt \$ 1197.38

And it's now a reality - same-sex marriage is now the law of the land!

On June 26, the Supreme Court decision legalizing marriage between same-sex couples was announced. South Georgia Pride had planned a rally at the old courthouse downtown at 5:00 p.m. the day of the announcement. Many Unitarian Universalists turned out to celebrate the milestone with the community and some were front and center at the rally. Here are some photos, courtesy of John Rogers:



Above: Fred, Ray and Chris on the steps of the courthouse during the marriage ceremony.



Right: Raynae Jones, Executive Director of South Georgia Pride, and a member of the UU church, speaks at the rally.

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.

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles

December 15: Deadline for the November 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

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.