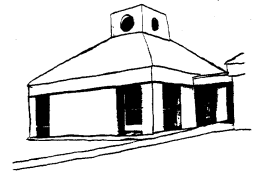


The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue
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Tom Phillips – President	Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair
Doug Tanner –Treasurer	Susan Bailey - Director of R.E.
Kimberly Tanner – Director of Membership	Jim Ingram –Director of Building & Grounds –
Joyce Rapier – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

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

What's going on... **August 2018**

Sun	Aug. 5	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “Earthly Love” – Carol Stiles, lay leader Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Aug. 12	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “Resilience” – Carol Stiles, lay leader Meet & Greet after the service
M	Aug. 13	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Aug. 19	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Gerald Williams, Senior Pastor, Serenity Christian Church Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Aug. 26	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Julie Bowland, “Painting directly from nature <i>en plein air</i>” Meet & Greet after the service

August 2018

Join us as we explore UU resources for ministry for two of our services this month! Vice-President and Program Chair Carol Stiles will present two services using materials from Faith Rocket and Soul Matters Sharing Circle – see Carol’s column for more information. We also welcome Gerald Williams and Julie Bowland to the pulpit later in the month! 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 5 – “Earthly Love” – Carol Stiles, lay leader

Today’s service will reflect upon our love for Planet Earth, with a message titled “To Love the Earth” by Rev. Meg Riley, senior minister, Church of the Larger Fellowship. We will also share a reading from Thich Nhat Hanh, “Dear Mother Earth” among others.

Sunday, August 12, “Resilience” – Carol Stiles, lay leader

We will reflect upon “resilience” with a message by Rev. Sandra Fees, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County and other related readings. Many may remember the 1970’s Hasbro children’s toys, Weebles: “Weebles wobble, but they don’t fall down.” In challenging times, how can we be more like Weebles?

Sunday, August 19 – Dr. Gerald Williams

Dr. Gerald Williams will speak about diversity and inclusion in the university setting. Gerald is Senior Pastor, Serenity Church of Valdosta, and he previously spoke in our pulpit during a Shared Service with Serenity Church. Gerald has been serving as interim director of VSU’s Department of Diversity and Inclusion, but is currently returning to the Office of Career Opportunities as director. He was recently awarded the 2018 Bobby E. Leach Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award from the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education organization.

Gerald is also bishop of Adullam Christian Fellowship of Churches and founder and CEO of Adullam Christian Fellowship, which is “an outreach ministry focused on returning citizens, their families, and victims of crime by facilitating needed healing from the destructive effects of crime and incarceration.”

Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will support the South Georgia Immigrant Support Network (SGISN). SGISN provides support for families of persons detained and for those released from an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) center (more below). SGISN is also collecting gift cards (Walmart, Visa, or

MasterCard only), travel-size toiletries (unused), and casual shoes of all sizes (men and women’s, clean and in good condition). SGISN is a grassroots network based in Tifton, Georgia, that supports the local immigrant & refugee community, especially those in or under threat of detention & deportation. SGISN has established a hospitality house, Casa Colibri (Hummingbird House) which provides support for and a place for families to stay when visiting family members at the detention center.

Sunday, Aug. 26 - Julie Bowland, “Painting directly from nature *en plein air*”

Julie Bowland is director of the Fine Arts Gallery at VSU and Professor of Art. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Florida State University and a Master of Fine Arts from Arizona State University. Julie is primarily a landscape painter, using oils and painting directly from nature - *en plein air*. She has recently returned from a 3-week trip to Hawaii, where she completed a number of pieces. Julie will bring a few of her paintings to share with us today.

Worship Team

Opportunities include organizing meet-n-greet after the service, helping with RE or the nursery, greeting visitors and other things that help us provide meaningful Sunday services. 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.

UU Church of Valdosta

Board of Directors Meeting News

July 5, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

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

- Re-organized the Share-the-Plate schedule for 2018-2019, adding the South Georgia Immigrant Network to receive the contribution in August.
- Discussed the Faith Rocket service described in Carol’s column in this issue.
- Next Meeting: August 9, 2018



A Note from...

Carol Stiles

Vice-president / Program Chair

We are grateful to Rev. Anna Hall, who facilitated a session after her service on July 29th. About 15 people reflected together on “where we are now” as a congregation and “what we would like to see happen in the broader community.” We each identified our own skills and gifts and articulated our commitments and what we need from each other to move forward and expand UUism here in south Georgia.

This month we will introduce new ways of planning Sunday services! While at General Assembly, I learned about Faith Rocket, which is a partnership of the Church of the Larger Fellowship and Launchpad. First of all, the Church of the Larger Fellowship is the largest UU fellowship in the UUA – providing worship services and resources primarily online, especially for those who are not geographically near a congregation. Faith Rocket is an extension of this, where a complete set of materials for a service are brought together and provided for use in Sunday services or small group ministry.

I also then checked into the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, a network of UU congregations that focus on the same theme each month, allowing them to share resources. Soul Matters compiles all of the materials into a file and sends the packet to the congregations 6-8 weeks before the month begins.

All elements of a service are included in both Faith Rocket and Soul Matters – openings, readings, story for all ages, music suggestions, message, closings, etc.

Our first two Sundays in August will utilize materials from these two collectives. In September we will plan a retreat so that you can learn more and join our current lay-leaders in planning and carrying out our Sunday morning services during the upcoming year!

In community,
Carol

P.S. Note this is an abbreviated newsletter for the summer! Send me news, photos, etc.!

In Memory of Charles Judah

Former member of UU Valdosta, Charles Judah, 84, died July 28, 2018. In the early 2000’s Charles served as vice-president and program chair of the congregation. In addition to inviting and organizing guest speakers, he provided several thought-provoking messages for our services. Charles was an enthusiastic participant in discussions after services. Dee Tait described him as a “character.” He is remembered as someone who always stood up for what he believed and was not hesitant to engage with those who had more narrow-minded views about acceptance of others.

Charles owned Medicare Supplement Insurance Service, MSIS, in Valdosta since 1998. He is survived by his wife, Martha, a son, two daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Congratulations to...

- ❖ UU members who have new additions to their families!

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends who have lost loved ones in the past month.

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. 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.



UU Valdosta Caring Committee

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

More about South Georgia Immigrant Support Network

From the organization's Facebook page:

SGISN primarily works with "persons detained at the Irwin County Detention Center (ICDC) in Ocilla, Georgia. ICDC is a for-profit facility and houses the vast majority of the women detained in the state of Georgia (about 200) as well as about 500 men. Most are there because of ICE policy, not because they are dangerous, violent criminals. Many were snatched away from their children without warning and now face harsh prison conditions and the fear of being permanently deported away from their families. Many have been denied the basic due process that is the foundation of American justice, and the constitutional right of all persons in the U.S. whether documented or not. Many have not had a visitor in over a year."

Immigrants detained at ICDC include people from Romania, Uganda, Nigeria, Mexico and the United Kingdom. (Evans, S. "[South Georgia immigrant support network creates hospitality house](#)", Suwannee Democrat, 5/30/18)

For more about how you can help, follow SGISN on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sogaisnetwork/>

Casa Colibri, the hospitality house near ICDC, also has a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/casacolibrigeorgia/>

For more about the separation of children from their parents, please see this excellent digital resource: "Torn Apart"

<http://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2018/06/editors-choice-torn-apart-separados/>

A quote from this article: "The crisis for immigrants in the United States is not only happening at the Mexico-United States border or other ports of entry. Rather, the border is everywhere."

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of the previous month!

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, contact Carol

Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles

Website Manager: Carol Stiles

e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait

Thank You! Thank You!

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Dee Tait, Carol Stiles

For speaking at Sunday Services: Carol Stiles, Dr. Patricia Marks, Dr. Tom Hochschild, Richell Hart and Percy Chastang, Rev. Dr. Anna Hall

For providing music at services: Doug Tanner (via audio services).

For Meet & Greet: Dee Tait, Laura Iandoli, Dawn Renner

For leading RE: Sue Bailey

For assisting with RE and nursery: Kimberly Tanner, Dawn Renner

For taking out trash and recycling: Dee Tait, Lars Leader

For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers

For leading the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

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

Sangha Tuesdays

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group is meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, 5:30

-7:00 p.m. Beginning August 20, Tai Chi will meet 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m., 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: