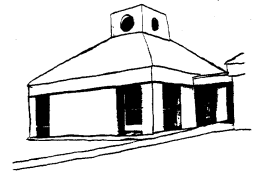


# The Flaming Chalice

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue  
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 Valdosta, GA 31604  
<http://uuvaldosta.net>  
 229-242-3714 e-mail: [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)



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](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

### What's going on... **December 2018**

Sun	Dec. 2	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – “The Moravian Lovefeast”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Dec. 9	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – “The Absolutely No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	Dec. 10	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Dec. 16	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. George Bennett, “Evolution is Love”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Dec. 23	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Anna Hall, “Great and Small”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Dec. 30	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – “Ring in the New Year”</b>

## December 2018

December traditions such as the Moravian Lovefeast and The Absolutely No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant return!

### 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, December 2 - "The Moravian Lovefeast"

This will be our ninth annual Moravian Lovefeast. It is a simple service consisting of the singing of Christmas carols and holiday songs, a brief homily, and the serving of a homemade sweet roll and hot drink. Come and be a part of this tradition – sure to delight your taste buds and kindle a warm holiday spirit.

### Sunday, December 9: "The Absolutely No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant"

Back by popular demand, this Sunday we will have our third annual Christmas Pageant. The presentation will be multigenerational, with the children reenacting the Christmas story as narrated by our youth and adults. All the traditional story and trappings will be there, but with a distinct Unitarian spin as well as an invitation to a fresh interpretation. The spontaneity of children holds before us delight, entertainment, and insight into the better part of our nature.

### Sunday, December 16 – Rev. George Bennett, "Evolution is Love"

Love is the most tremendous and the most mysterious of the cosmic forces. Divine love is the energy that brought the universe into being and binds us together. God implanted a divine spark in each of us. That spark longs to be cultivated and developed. Scripture: Revelations 21:1-5

*Share the Plate Sunday: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to Guest at Your Table program, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Please also plan to return, in early January, your GAYT box or envelope with funds converted to a check.*

### Sunday, December 23 – Rev. Anna Hall, "Great and Small"

Anna Hall will explore secular and sacred winter stories, including the story of Mary the mother of Jesus, to highlight how great things can come from the smallest and humblest of beginnings. What lessons can we find in these stories for life in a small congregation in a not-so-big town?

### Sunday, December 30 – "Ringing in the New Year"

Join us for a conversation about bringing in the New Year!

## Buddhist Meditation meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month!

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group will begin meeting monthly for sitting meditation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dan Gray and Anna Waddell are leaders for this group. You may contact them through Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com), if you are interested in this group.

## Annual Yule Celebration

December 22, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

The annual Yule celebration is hosted by The Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta. Ritual will commence at 6 pm to offer thanks for the health, warmth, and well being of our beloved community as well as the land upon which it sits. The ritual will be followed by a buffet style potluck, a raffle of recipes, a grand prize for all those who participate in the potluck by bringing a dish, offering the recipe at the raffle, and/or put that dollar in to bid on a recipe, a cookie decoration station, story time for the children (and adults), passing out of presents to the children, and our traditional cap of the evening; a candlelight procession to the Yule Log bonfire.

Please contact Deb Marine and Oaken Circle for more information, particularly if you have children who will be attending. Email: [valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com)

## UU Valdosta Caring Committee

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



## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Our members and friends who have recently lost loved ones and those who are experiencing health concerns.

### **Worship Team**

Opportunities include organizing meet-n-greet after the service, helping with RE or the nursery, greeting visitors and preparing the sanctuary and RE building. 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.

### **Ways to Connect... with UU Community!**

In addition to all the other activities in the monthly newsletter, providing ways to connect with our community, we will highlight one of our volunteer tasks each month to help prepare for Sunday services. This month, the highlighted task is "Religious Education Assistant."

Please see Sue to discuss volunteering as the second adult to help with RE classes! Sue plans the lesson and gets materials together, you simply help out in the classroom. You may need to prepare last minute items and assist the kids with the various projects. If we all take turns doing this, then only occasionally will we miss out on the service going on in the sanctuary. Many hands make light work! Please see Sue, then consider signing up to help!

## **UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News**

**November 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**

- Among other items reported elsewhere in this newsletter, highlights of the UU Board meeting:
- Discussed plans for early December Sunday programs, the Moravian Lovefeast and the No Rehearsal Christmas pageant.
  - Discussed holding visitor / new-to-UU gathering on Sunday after service.
  - Next Meeting: Dec. 9, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

### **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.

### **At the Church-in-the-Woods...**

#### **Sangha Tuesdays**

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evenings, 6:30 -7:30 p.m. Contact the leaders through Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com), if you are interested in this group.

**Taoist Tai Chi** – Monday and Thursday, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at [georgia@taoist.org](mailto:georgia@taoist.org)

#### **Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter**

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans - you can contact the group by e-mail at: [valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

## Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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:** Carol Stiles, Doug Tanner, Dee Tait

**For speaking at Sunday Services:** Mary Thieme, Kimberly Tanner, Doug Tanner, Rev. Anna Hall

**For providing music at services:** Doug Tanner

**For Meet & Greet:** the Rapier family, Sharil Frederick

**For Preparing the Sanctuary!** ...those who helped

**For leading RE and nursery:** Sue Bailey, Dawn Renner, and Teagan Dunn

**For assisting with RE and nursery:** Kimberly Tanner

**For taking out trash and recycling:** Kimberly Tanner and Dee Tait

**For delivering Break Bread meals:** David Rodgers

**For leading the Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

## A UU Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance, Nov. 20, 2018

We observed TDoR during the service on Nov. 25, in which we read the names of some 20 people - a small portion of those who were killed in the last year for being who they are.... After reading the names, we offered this prayer:

Spirit of Life, In these difficult times, we ask for connection, to You, to ourselves, to one another, and to our greater purpose. We turn toward you, like a swift breeze, able to bring refreshment and life to our hearts that are burdened. We know that you know that transness is life and that You accept us and all the ways that we are, not as part of being human but as a multiplicity of expressions of love.

We call on you for strength, as the way before is long, and we have so far to travel. We travel toward Justice. Keep us focused on that. And to make that journey, we need safety and courage in equal measure. Give us both.

Soften the hearts of those who are causing their own suffering by clutching their transphobia so tightly. Show them the way back to their own humanity.

But above all, we ask for more love, around us, among us, between us. We give thanks and say amen.

*Offered by Rev. Theresa I. Soto, non-binary queer Latinx,  
Interim Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, MI*

*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.*