

The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue

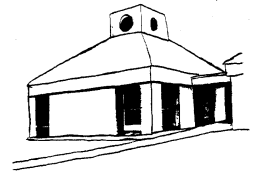
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342

Valdosta, GA 31604

<http://uuvaldosta.net>

229-242-3714

e-mail: 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

What's going on... **February 2019**

Sun	Feb. 3	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Pat Miller, “Has Michael Pollan Lost His Mind? Or “How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Drug Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence.” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Feb. 10	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Tom Aiello, "Jim Crow's Last Stand: The Movement to End Nonunanimous Criminal Juries in Louisiana" Meet & Greet after the service
M	Feb. 11	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Feb. 17	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Anna Hall, “The Power of Love” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Feb. 24	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Pastor Dr. Gerald Williams Meet & Greet after the service

February 2019

Now that February is nearing, it is actually colder and this image is more appropriate! Join us this month whenever 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, February 3 – Dr. Pat Miller, “Has Michael Pollan Lost His Mind? Or “How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Drug Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence.”

To be blunt, the well-known writer Michael Pollan has lost his mind—about four times by the end of his new book that explores the history of psychedelics and argues for the adoption of psychedelic-assisted therapy to help us discover meaning and perhaps better mental health. There is, to be sure, a method to his “madness” via routes as varied as mushrooms and toad venom that he argues allows the brain to escape the “default mode network” that a cadre of scientists theorize gives rise to the ego. The resulting connection to a larger whole made neurologically possible by that escape is the ticket to better mental health and possibly a better self.

Sunday, February 10 - Dr. Tom Aiello, "Jim Crow's Last Stand: The Movement to End Nonunanimous Criminal Juries in Louisiana"

In 2015, my book, *Jim Crow's Last Stand: Nonunanimous Criminal Jury Verdicts in Louisiana*, appeared from LSU Press. It argued that Louisiana's nonunanimous jury system, which convicted defendants in noncapital cases with majority jury decisions of 10-2, was borne in post-Reconstruction Redeemer politics, an effort to bolster the state's convict lease system. Among the readers of the book was former Grant Parish district attorney Ed Tarpley. Though he had been both a prosecutor and defense attorney in Louisiana, and had been on both sides of nonunanimous verdicts, he was shocked to learn from whence they came. He then began a tireless effort to raise awareness about nonunanimous criminal jury verdicts. Even the New York Times editorial board condemned the practice. In March 2018, in response to the new momentum, state senator and New Orleans Democrat Jean-Paul Morrell introduced a constitutional amendment to require unanimous juries for felonies. Though it seemed a longshot, the amendment passed. In November, it was ratified by the people of

Louisiana. It was a move for equity in the state's criminal justice system and a demonstration that legal history can have a decided impact on present-day policy. This presentation will describe the movement in Louisiana, predict the outcome of a similar movement in Oregon, and argue that the effort is one that can be replicated by historians for other troubling legal anachronisms

Tom Aiello is Associate Professor of History at Valdosta State University and a past president of UU Valdosta.

Sunday, February 17 – Rev. Dr. Anna Hall “The Power of Love”

Anna Hall will explore how love can go beyond Hallmark cards and movies and become a radical resistance to individualism and division in our society. She will draw on the teachings and experiences of Howard Thurman, the story of his interfaith and inter-racial Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples, and the transformative work of some churches and organizations today, all illustrating some practical ways that Thurman's "love ethic" can actually change our world.

Share the Plate Sunday: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to Lowndes Associated Ministries to the People (LAMP). LAMP has received a homelessness prevention grant. LAMP uses these grant funds and matching funds to help provide short-term financial help to those in need, for example, to pay a utility bill or help with rental assistance. The UU board is also supporting this effort with a quarterly donation.

Individuals in need can contact the Prevention Case Manager: Kendall Yearby at 229-245-7157 ext. 344 or kendallyearby@lampinc.org.

Sunday, February 24 – Pastor Dr. Gerald Williams

Dr. Gerald Williams is Senior Pastor of Serenity Christian Church and Director of Career Opportunities at Valdosta State University. In 2018, Dr. Gerald Williams earned the 2018 Bobby E. Leach Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award from Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, formerly known as the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, or NASPA.

UU Valdosta Caring Committee

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

Thank you, Dee, for your many efforts to provide support to our members and friends!

Imbolc Celebration

February 2, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Imbolc has long been a celebration of the end of winter, and the impending light half of the year. The hardest part of the year is over; adverse weather, cold temperatures, dreary days, and of course, longer nights and shorter days will soon be a thing of the past. Farmers will get ready to go back to work, preparing animals for breeding, gardeners will be picking up their tools again, and outdoor activities that have been put on hold will soon begin again. For some this is a Sabbat in honor of Bhrgid, the daughter of Dagda (the chief Celtic deity) and one of the Tuatha De Dannan, the first inhabitants of Ireland. She is associated with many things, most significantly poetry and fertility, but such activities as healing, smithing, arts and crafts, tending to livestock and serpents also make the cut. She is credited with creating a whistle for people to call to one another through the night. Some legends claim that while one half of her face was beautiful, the other was horribly ugly. She is thought by many to be the Celtic equivalent of the Roman goddess Minerva and the Greek goddess Athena. This is a ritual that brings with it the promise of many wonderful things. The Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter of our Unitarian Universalist Church invites you to join us for a little celebration of the end of the slumbering times and welcoming of the spring to come. There will be tasty treats and beverages, and a little bit of spring to share on February 2, 2019 at 6 pm. Our Priest and Priestess for the evening will be Gwydion MacNeth and Amy Jackson with the rest of the chapter participating as required. Join us and let a little of your nature loving side out for some fun. Please contact Deb Marine and Oaken Circle for more information
Email: valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com

Buddhist Meditation meets 2nd Tuesday of each month!

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group meets monthly for sitting meditation on the 2nd 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, if you are interested in this group.

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.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

Ways to Connect... with UU Community!

Meet-n-greet is the theme this month! 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 Meet-n-Greet!

After each service we gather for coffee, juice, light snacks and fellowship. The Meet-n-Greet coordinator puts out the snacks and beverages and ensures that the table and kitchen are clean afterwards. We usually have a supply of cookies and crackers, so it is not necessary to bring additional food, but appreciated.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News January 6, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

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

- Doug is preparing statements for contributions and pledge letters
- Discussed grading driveway to fill in holes
- Next Meeting: Feb. 4, 2019, 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 2nd Tuesday evenings, 6:30 -7:30 p.m. Contact the leaders through Carol Stiles, 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



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 or on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the previous month!

If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.

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: Rev. George Bennett, Rev. Anna Hall, Carol Stiles

For providing music at services: Doug Tanner

For photos: Kimberly Tanner

For Meet & Greet: Dee Tait, Dawn Renner, Joyce Rapier, Mary Thieme

For Preparing the Sanctuary! Melissa Porterfield

For leading RE and nursery: Sue Bailey, Teagan Dunn

For taking out trash and recycling: Dee Tait

For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers

For leading the Caring Committee: 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.