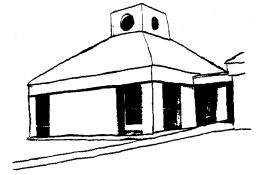


# The Flaming Chalice

## 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](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... **July 2018**

|     |         |          |   |
|-----|---------|----------|---|
| Sun | July 1  | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service – Carol Stiles, “All Are Called” – General Assembly 2018</b><br>Meet & Greet after the service   |
| Sun | July 8  | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service – Richell Hart and Percy Chastang, “Poetic Magic”</b><br>Meet & Greet after the service  |
| M   | July 9  | 11:00AM  | Break Bread delivery  |
| Sun | July 15 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service – Dr. Tom Hochschild, "Creating Criminals: How Biased Laws, the Criminal Justice System, and the News Media Target the Poor and Racial/Ethnic Minorities"</b><br>Meet & Greet after the service  |
| Sun | July 22 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service – Dr. Patricia Marks, “A Communion of Sunshine: Visual Images and the Transformation of Time”</b><br>Meet & Greet after the service  |
| Sun | July 29 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service – Rev. Dr. Anna Hall, “Living Our Values: how congregational transitions can clarify our callings and engage us in the work of faith.”</b><br>Bring food for a shared light lunch, followed by a session on congregational transitions with Anna Hall! |

#### 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, July 1 – Carol Stiles, “All Are Called” – General Assembly 2018**

Carol Stiles will provide some reflections on General Assembly 2018, held in Kansas City, June 20-24.

### **Sunday, July 8 – Richell Hart and Percy Chastang, “Poetic Magic”**

Poetic Magic is a Spoken Word Poetry collective here in Valdosta, which hosts occasional open mic nights. Richell Hart and Percy Chastang will share some of their poetry as well as their efforts to bring poetry to the community and to youth in local schools. From Facebook: “The mission of Poetic Magic is to reveal poetry as a living art; ultimately contributing to cultural exchange and social tolerance through the power of the voice.”

### **Sunday, July 15 – Dr. Tom Hochschild, "Creating Criminals: How Biased Laws, the Criminal Justice System, and the News Media Target the Poor and Racial/Ethnic Minorities"**

We've all seen the statue of "Lady Justice" with the blindfold over her eyes, and scales held evenly in her hand. Although this statue is meant to symbolize fairness in the criminal justice system, the system is far from fair. VSU Sociology Professor Tom Hochschild will explore biases in how laws are written, discriminatory police practices, unjust court systems, ineffectual corrections systems, and the prejudicial production of crime news stories. All attendees will receive a copy Tom's latest research about biased media coverage of crime in the South.

Tom Hochschild is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Valdosta State University, where he teaches classes on a variety of contemporary social issues the biases in the criminal justice system, such as poverty, racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, ageism, corporate deviance, political corruption, media influence, health disparities, and environmental degradation. Tom was the recipient of VSU's 2016 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

*Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will support the Kids are People, Too, Back*

*to School Fair, coordinated by the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness. To be held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, in Lanier County, families will have an opportunity to obtain school supplies and get information on other services, in preparation for the beginning of the school year.*

### **Sunday, July 22 – Dr. Patricia Marks, “A Communion of Sunshine: Visual Images and the Transformation of Time”**

Visual images, such as photographs, are both immanent and transcendent, as Rachel Lindsey points out in her book *A Communion of Shadows*, a study of the way the 19th-century photographic revolution not only made images easily available but transformed them into icons of religious practice. Works of art are similarly transformative; the chalice hanging on the UU Church wall for instance, both reminds us of the past and opens hope for the future. In so doing, it becomes a “communion of sunshine.”

The chalice currently hanging on the wall behind the speaker was created by Karen Silinsky, and was a gift from the UU Church of Jacksonville, after much of our art was destroyed in an act of vandalism in 2003. On the reverse, is this description: “the symbol of the chalice signifies the enduring flame of our faith.”

### **Sunday, July 29 – Rev. Dr. Anna Hall, “Living our Values: how congregational transitions can clarify our callings and engage us in the work of faith.”**

Following the service and a light lunch, Rev. Anna Hall will lead us in a workshop that will help us focus our efforts “on the work we are called to do as individuals and as a community together.” Although we are always a lay-led congregation in the summer time, this session will help us move through the transition from having a part-time minister to being a lay-led congregation during the full year.

Rev. Dr. Anna Hall is a researcher and consultant specializing in congregational transitions. She holds a M.Div. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, a Master of Public Administration from Valdosta State University, and has completed a Ph.D. at the University of Georgia.



## A Note from...

**Carol Stiles**

Vice-president / Program Chair

On Sunday, July 29, after the service, Rev. Dr. Anna Hall will lead a session with us on pastoral and congregational transitions. Mark your calendars now! Anna's academic bio is above, but I also want to note that she is a former member of our congregation and was active with our Social Justice Committee. She now holds a staff position with the Center for Progressive Renewal. Her family lives in Moultrie and she has been an occasional guest minister in our pulpit.

In June, I was honored to attend General Assembly 2018 in Kansas City. General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists coming together to carry out the democratic governance of the association, along with gathering for worship and music and participating in workshops ranging from social justice to expanding UUism in our communities.

The service project at this year's GA was to put together kits of hygiene and other supplies for a local organization, the Reale Justice Network in Kansas City, to give to unsheltered families and those fleeing domestic violence and abuse. Over 1,200 of these kits were prepared, enough to supply the Reale Justice Network through the fall and winter! This project was organized by Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, Love Resists and Side with Love.

The tone at General Assembly this year was warm and inviting, after a difficult time last year, as UUs struggled while learning more about discriminatory hiring practices at the national level. This continues, of course, to be a concern that we will struggle with – and delegates overwhelmingly chose “Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy” as the next multiyear Congregational Study/Action Issue.

I came away from General Assembly with many ideas for our congregation, which you will be hearing more about in August and September. For now, plan to join us on July 29 for a conversation on transitions with Anna Hall!

-- Carol

## Join us to watch the Ware Lecture!

Bring some food to share for a light lunch after the service on Sunday, July 8, then we will watch the Ware Lecture, with Brittany Packnett! The Ware Lecture is the annual key-note lecture held each year at General Assembly. The invited speaker this year was Brittany Packnett, Teach For America's Vice President of National Community Alliances. Ms. Packnett was “an appointed member of the Ferguson Commission and President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Today, she continues to advocate for urgent systemic change at critical decision making tables and through national and international media.”

## Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church

May 20, 2018, Photos by Carol Stiles



RE - shared service art project



Rev. Floyd Rose and others share a meal after the service.

### 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. You can also send an e-mail to Carol Stiles and she will put you on the list for that task.

## Board of Directors Meeting News

June 6, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

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

- Discussed kitchen clean-up issues and reviewed new signs to be posted.
- Discussed ministerial transition, invitation to Rev. Anna Hall for transitional workshop, and plans for fall – Carol will look for resources on sermon-writing and lay-led ministry while at General Assembly.
- Next Meeting: July 5, 2018

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Daniyel, Leilani, Tristan, and D.J. Mills
- ❖ Kathy and Fred Howard



## 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.

## Other news from General Assembly

The Congregational Study / Action Issue chosen for 2018-2022 is "Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy," and the study materials will be available here:

<https://www.uua.org/action/process/csais>

There were three Action of Immediate Witness Statements affirmed by GA. These were "End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and abolish ICE"; "Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons and End Prisons for Profit"; and "We are all Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors." The full statements are available here:

<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/years>

Delegates did not adopt the other proposed AIWs, but affirmed that the issues had value and should be considered. The other proposed AIWs were "A Moral Response to the March for Our Lives", "End Israeli Detention of Palestinian Children", and "Join the Poor People's Campaign."

### Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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:** Cliff Adams, Doug Tanner, Dee Tait  
**For speaking at Sunday Services:** Carol Stiles, Rev. Dr. Anna Hall, Dr. Dennis Marks  
**For providing music at services:** Stephen O’Kane, Doug Tanner (via audio services).  
**For delivering donated items to South Georgia Farmworker’s Clinic:** Kimberly Tanner  
**For Meet & Greet:** Dee Tait, Laura Landoli, Mary Ellen Adams  
**For greeting visitors:** Carl Ide  
**For leading RE:** Sue Bailey  
**For assisting with RE and nursery:** Amy Jackson, Rachel Gardner, Kimberly Tanner  
**For taking out trash and recycling:** Dee Tait, Lawrence Rapiere, Lars Leader, Sue Bailey, Lloyd Crawford  
**For delivering Break Bread meals:** David Rodgers  
**For photos for newsletter:** Carol Stiles  
**For leading the Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

## Treasurer's Report for April 2018

### Fund Balances at April 30

UU General Fund \$9,762.62

### Outstanding Debt

Mortgage \$0.00

### Operating Receipts and Disbursements

|                                   | <u>May</u>         | <u>YTD (July-pres)</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Receipts</u>                   |                    |                        |
| Plate                             | \$143.00           | \$1,871.75             |
| Pledge                            | \$503.00           | \$18,223.00            |
| Rent                              | \$100.00           | \$1100.00              |
| Donations (Printing, etc)         | \$0.00             | \$299.00               |
| Share the Plate                   | \$130.00           | \$882.50               |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>             | <b>\$876.00</b>    | <b>\$22,376.75</b>     |
| <u>Disbursements</u>              |                    |                        |
| Minister Expense                  | \$700.00           | \$8604.65              |
| Pest Control/Termite Bond         | \$45.00            | \$495.00               |
| Speakers' Fees & Expenses         | \$0.00             | \$2,707.00             |
| Repairs & Maintenance             | \$646.44           | \$1,622.48             |
| Newsletter                        | \$0.00             | \$160.00               |
| Donations/Share the Plate         | \$130.00           | \$1087.00              |
| Bldg Insurance                    | \$1,641.00         | \$1,641.00             |
| Postage                           | \$0.00             | \$147.00               |
| Supplies                          |                    | \$166.05               |
| RE Program                        | \$100.00           | \$900.00               |
| Membership Program                | \$0.00             | \$0.00                 |
| UUA Dues /FL District             |                    | \$1,671.00             |
| UU Conference Attendance          | \$0.00             | \$0.00                 |
| Utilities                         | \$250.96           | \$3,046.38             |
| Advertising                       | \$0.00             | \$600.00               |
| Others                            | \$0.00             | \$338.05               |
| <b>Total disbursements</b>        | <b>\$3,549.79</b>  | <b>\$23,185.61</b>     |
| <b>Net Receipt (Disbursement)</b> | <b>-\$2,673.79</b> | <b>-\$808.86</b>       |

## 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. 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, 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](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

## 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.

## UU Valdosta email list!

If you are not on the UU Valdosta e-mail list, please contact Carol Stiles. She will send you an invitation to join the list, which is a moderated Yahoo group list, low volume (few messages per month). Although we try to send reminders for events through both the Yahoo list and Facebook, please note that for some items, we may contact active members and volunteers through this Yahoo list only. It is best to be in both venues, if you really want to be up on UU happenings!

The newsletter e-mail list, which Kimberly Tanner moderates, is used almost exclusively for delivering the newsletter. The Yahoo group list is used for reminders and announcements, but also other messages that should go primarily to our active members and friends. If you have any questions, please see Carol Stiles.

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote*

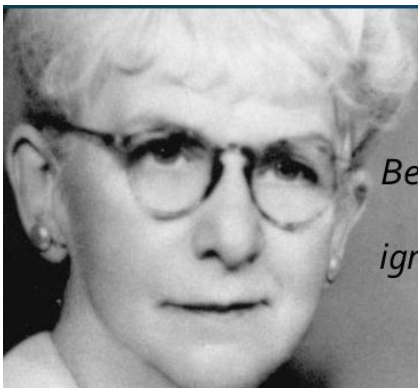
- The inherent dignity and worth of every person,
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations,
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning,
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic 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.*

## News from UUSC – Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):

Rev. Mary Katherine Morn is the new president (and first female president) of UUSC. And, Mary Katherine Morn, has a connection to our congregation! While serving early on in her ministry in Macon, she was a regular speaker at UU Valdosta!

UUSC is a co-sponsor of the nationwide protests held on June 30, which sent “a loud and clear message: Protesters are demanding an immediate end to Trump’s “zero tolerance” policy and the return of more than 2,500 children separated from their families at the border. #FamiliesBelongTogether” (From FaceBook).



*Be a nuisance where it counts;  
Do your part to inform and stimulate  
the public to join your action.  
Be depressed, discouraged, and disappointed  
at failure and the disheartening effects of  
ignorance, greed, corruption and bad politics,  
but never give up.*

**– Marjory Stoneman Douglas**