



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



Tom Aiello – President	Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair
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 contact us by e-mail at uuvaldosta@yahoo.com

What's going on... **July 2016**

Sun	July 3	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Carol Stiles, "Some Reflections on Safety and Freedom." Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	July 10	11:00 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Floyd Rose, "You Have to Be There" Meet & Greet after the service
M	July 11	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	July 17	10:45	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Tom Aiello, "The Redemption of Muhammad Ali" Meet & Greet after the service
Fri	July 22	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	July 24	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Anna Hall, "Earthquakes" Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	July 31	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - Dr. Dennis Marks, "Emmy Noether overturned "Laws of Nature" Meet & Greet after the service

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.

Sunday Services

Sunday, July 3 – Dr. Carol Stiles, “Some Reflections on Safety and Freedom.”

As this newsletter goes to press, UUs are gathering in Columbus, OH, for General Assembly, an annual gathering where we practice democratic principles of governance, engage in many spiritual gatherings, and expand our social justice outreach to the world around us. UUs are gathering this year in the shadow of the one-year anniversary of the shooting in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston and on the heels of a horrific hate crime in a gay club in Orlando. The Westboro Baptist Church from Topeka, KS, has promised to protest at General Assembly – after leaving funerals for the Orlando victims, where angels (people dressed in white, with large wings made of white cloth) shielded family and friends attending the funerals.

On this 4th of July weekend, UU Valdosta Vice-President Carol Stiles will offer some gathered reflections of what it means to seek safety and solace these days – in a time when celebrations of marriage equality for all can so quickly turn to sadness, fear, and despair.

Sunday, July 10 – Rev. Floyd Rose, “You Have to Be There”

Rev. Floyd Rose is Senior Servant for Serenity Christian Church. Although we held our Shared Service in May with Serenity Christian, Rev. Rose was unable to join us then, so he will be in the pulpit on July 10th. Rev. Rose is also president of the Valdosta Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC). **Note** that we will begin today’s service **at 11:00 a.m.** in order to allow Rev. Rose to get to UU after the service at Serenity Church.

Sunday, July 17 – Dr. Tom Aiello, “The Redemption of Muhammad Ali”

Muhammad Ali’s recent passing has rightly led to celebrations of his life as a boxer, ambassador, and civil rights icon. But Ali was not always celebrated. He was a black radical in the post-Civil Rights Act era who renounced his Christian heritage for the Nation of Islam and was banned

from boxing for three years for his opposition to the Vietnam War. Though little discussed in the outpouring of grief and memory following his death, it was precisely his most controversial stands, those things that made him a pariah in his era, that are the most important reasons to celebrate his life.

Share the Plate Sunday: *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 August 1, families will have an opportunity at this event, to obtain school supplies and get information on other services, in preparation for the beginning of the school year.*

Note: we are collecting new packs of 24-count crayons to be distributed at the fair. If you wish to purchase these, please bring them to the church by this date. Donations to the plate, not otherwise designated as pledges, will be used to purchase crayons or other needed supplies for the Back to School Fair.

Sunday, July 24 – Rev. Anna Hall, "Earthquakes"

Anna will bring to us an exploration of how we go on after tragedies that rock our world. She will touch on Orlando but her message will not be exclusively about it, as she will also share a personal story of loss and some stories from history and Christian texts.

An ordained minister in the Baptist tradition and former member of UU Valdosta, Rev. Anna Hall is a researcher and consultant specializing in congregational transitions. She currently manages several projects for the Center for Progressive Renewal, an organization dedicated to the vitality and renewal of congregations. In recent years, she has also coordinated outreach, justice, and spiritual formation at Virginia-Highland Church. She holds a M.Div. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, a Master of Public Administration from Valdosta State University, and has just completed a Ph.D. at the University of Georgia.

Sunday, July 31 – Dr. Dennis Marks, “Emmy Noether overturned “Laws of Nature”

Emmy Noether (1882-1935), described by Albert Einstein as “the most significant creative mathematical genius thus far produced since the higher education of women began” faced many

obstacles as a woman, a Jew, and a Marxist. In 1915, the same year Einstein presented General Relativity, she proved Noether's Theorem, which has been called "one of the most important mathematical theorems ever proved in guiding the development of modern physics, possibly on a par with the Pythagorean Theorem." Noether's Theorem showed that the "Laws of Nature" are consequences of the symmetry of space-time. Nature does not obey "Laws of Nature"; rather "Laws of Nature" describe what Nature does. What Nature does is grow: linearly in time, exponentially in space, and hyper-exponentially in possibilities.

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.

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.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Rev. Anna Hall, who completed her Ph.D. at the University of Georgia this spring! A former member of UU Valdosta, Anna will be our guest speaker on July 24.

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, Kimberly Tanner, and Carol Stiles.

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.

UU Church of Valdosta

Board of Directors Meeting News

June 6, 2016

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed summer programming.
- Narrowed selections for new carpet in the sanctuary; Jim will prepare a display for feedback from the congregation.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, July 3, 9:30 a.m.

Games Night

Friday, July 22, 6:30 p.m. – until ?

All are welcome! Bring a snack to share and your choice of beverages. (Please keep in mind that several of our members are gluten-free.)

If you have a game suitable for several to many players and people of all ages, bring it along.

Contact: Susan Bailey.

Thank You! Thank You!

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Tom Aiello, Deb Marine, Lars Leader

For speaking at Sunday Services: Cristobal Serran-Pagan, Doug Tanner, Stephanie Taylor, Tom Aiello

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson

For Meet & Greet: Doug Tanner, Stephanie Taylor, Mike and Tiffany Butler, Joyce and Lawrence Rapier

For assisting with RE and nursery: Teagan Dunn, Diane Holliman, Dawn Renner, Lars Leader

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

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

For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers

For photos for the newsletter: Kimberly Tanner

For coordinating the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

From Rev. Fred Howard:

Members and Friends,

Like you, I'm having trouble getting a hold on what happened in Orlando yesterday. Such a senseless loss of life. Such unspeakable hate. Sandy Hook. Charleston. San Bernardino. Now Orlando. Such is the geography of our national insanity. Our national disgrace that our leaders take no constructive steps to stop gun violence.

At times like these we need each other more than ever. We need community. We need to be there for one another. Some of you may be fearful at times like these. That is understandable. We stand firm with our LGBT friends and family. Let us do our utmost to show the world that, despite all this, love triumphs over hate.

Please take a few moments to remember the victims in Orlando. And those who witnessed this heinous act. May they somehow find the courage and some peace of mind so that they can go on.

In Faith and Community,
Fred

(From an e-mail sent to our UU Valdosta Yahoo list, on June 12, 2016)

Rev. Fred Howard is our part-time minister. He is on sabbatical this summer, 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.



(Photo by Kimberly Tanner)

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

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. The next beginner class is scheduled to start **September 8**. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

Sangha Tuesdays

6:00-7:30 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, 6:00 – 6:30; Buddhist shamata meditation, 6:30 – 7:00; Discussion of reading, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter

Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m.

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, meets each Wednesday evening, 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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

In memory of the 49 people who were killed in Pulse in Orlando, June 12, 2106. As UUs, we stand in solidarity with the families of those killed, those who were injured and those who survived this horrific act of hate, and with all who live in fear of similar acts elsewhere. As a Welcoming Congregation, we recommit to “building a community of acceptance and love” where people are free to be themselves in a place of peace.



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation