



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



Kimberly Tanner – President E-mail: president@uuvaldosta.net	Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair
Doug Tanner – Treasurer	Susan Bailey - Director of R.E.
Dawn Renner – Director of Membership	Brett Bailey – Director of Building & Grounds
Carl Ide – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

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

What's going on... **July and August 2020**

Sun			Sunday morning services available virtually from UU Fellowship of Gainesville! On Sunday mornings, join Rev. Christe Lunsford and the musicians and layleaders of UUFG - go to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uugainesville/ , starting at 10:50 am Sunday, and look for the live video stream. In addition, UU Gainesville is now streaming these services through YouTube.
			For the Zoom gatherings below, please join our Yahoo group email list – details inside!). Or, please let Kimberly or Carol know how we can send you the link to join.
Sun		12:00 noon	Zoom Coffee Hour!
Wed	July 22	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Talk: Join us to hear from Kimberly Tanner and Brett Bailey about UU General Assembly 2020
Wed	July 29	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Talk: Dr. Dixie Haggard, “Seeking Recognition for the Pascagoula River Tribe”
Mon	August 10		Break Bread Delivery
Wed	August 19	7:00 p.m.	Conversation Series: “How to be an Anti-Racist” (via Zoom)

July and August 2020

As we continue to practice physical distancing, we at UU Valdosta are planning to expand our virtual interactions with additional gatherings through Zoom or online. In addition to Coffee Hour, Sundays at noon and Meditation Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., we will be holding occasional Wednesday evening gatherings. See inside for details!

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.

Share-the-Plate for the summer! South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness

During the second week of July, board members, with generous contributions from one or two members, we prepared over 90 lunch bags for South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness. SGPEH distributes these lunch bags to clients that come in to the office and they are frequently in need of replenishing the supplies.

Our thanks to board members, Kimberly Tanner, who did the shopping, and Brett Bailey and Carl Ide who packed and delivered the lunches to SGPEH.

Please consider adding a contribution, designated for "Share the Plate," when you send in your pledge to the church – details below!



Photo by Kimberly Tanner – food items that were packaged by Brett and Carl into lunch bags for SGPEH

Wednesday evenings Brought to you by Zoom!

Please contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner to receive the Zoom invitation for the following events. (More info, next page...)

Zoom Talk: General Assembly 2020

Wednesday, July 22, 7:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Association held our first every virtual General Assembly, which included nearly 5,000 participants! Many could

participate because it was virtual: more affordable, less travel, able to participate from home.

Kimberly Tanner and Brett Bailey served as our delegates to GA and will tell us about their experiences as well as some of the major decisions that were made at GA this year.

Zoom Talk: Dr. Dixie Haggard, "Seeking Recognition for the Pascagoula River Tribe"

From Valdosta State University: Dr. Dixie Haggard has been fighting for years to help a Native American tribe in Mississippi gain federal recognition and reclaim what has been lost through centuries of intense hostility and discrimination.

Dr. Haggard is a professor of history at VSU. He was selected as a 2019 Governor's Teaching Fellow program offered through the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia

Conversation Series starts

Wednesday, August 19, 7:00 p.m.

We will begin a series of discussions about "How to be an Anti-racist" beginning with a book of that title by Ibram X. Kendi. The book is available through libraries and bookstores, including electronic access. Print copies are in great demand, but we have ordered 2-3 copies that can be shared (contact Carol). If you are unable to read the book at this time, we also recommend two videos, one is an interview of Ibram X. Kendi on C-span: "Racist Ideas in American History" online at <https://www.c-span.org/video/?449559-1/racist-ideas-american-history>. The other is a podcast by Brené Brown, featuring Ibram Kendi: <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-ibram-x-kendi-on-how-to-be-an-antiracist/>

UU Valdosta Caring Committee

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

Plans for fall 2020!

UU Valdosta Upcoming Activities Survey

Although our Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta has not been able to meet in-person since March, we are continuing to connect through a weekly virtual coffee hour, a book group, meditations and continuing to support the community (e.g. South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness).

However, as the situation continues, we want to make sure there are plenty of convenient, safe, and interesting activities and opportunities to connect as a community of faith and support. In addition to some of the ongoing programs, we will be offering opportunities to engage with UU the Vote in actions to expand democracy. We also plan to offer a new semi-monthly gathering to provide fellowship through study, reflection, and connection around a monthly theme, thanks to the Soul Matters Small Groups program. By completing this brief survey, you'll help us make sure our current and future activities are accessible.

Survey link: <https://cutt.ly/UUvaldosta>

Break Bread Together

Break Bread, which is a community program of First Presbyterian Church in Valdosta that delivers meals to low-income, homebound individuals, continues to operate during the pandemic (with new guidelines for safely delivering the meals). This is one of our Share-the-Plate organizations. Our thanks to David Rodgers who has been delivering meals on the 2nd Monday of each month (and 5th Monday, when there is one).

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members, friends, and family members experiencing health concerns.
- ❖ ...and those who may be experiencing increased stress due to loss of jobs or the need to physically distance or concern about family members who may be ill... or all of the above.

Connecting with UU Valdosta!

We send out our Zoom invitations and announcements through our Yahoo email list! If you are not on that list, please consider joining it, by contacting Carol Stiles at uuvaldosta@yahoo.com. This list is a moderated and low-volume (few messages per month) group email list.

You can join Zoom for free via PC, laptop, tablet, or cell phone. You can join with video or just with audio if you prefer. Please contact Carol or Kimberly or any board member for help with accessing these events.

Meditation Tuesdays!

We gather for silent meditation on Zoom, Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. Here's the schedule: Silent meditation – gather at 7:00 p.m., meditation will begin about 7:10, led by Matthew Mixon.

Afterwards, some participants may stay in the Zoom room for Buddhist book study – gather about 7:55 p.m.

You may join for one or both of these activities. For more information, please contact Carol Stiles (meditation) or Carl Ide (Buddhist book study).

Special thank you to Rev. Christe Lunsford and the UUFG congregation

Our thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Rev. Christe Lunsford, musician Dr. Thomas Royal, and a whole team of lay leaders who make their services beautiful! The worship team of UUFG is phenomenal in making the services run as smoothly as they do, while incorporating music and readings from many different sources. Rev. Christe and others have made us all welcome, mentioning our community by name in opening messages and in joys and concerns, and we are grateful for their welcome.

UU Valdosta appreciates your continued financial support... thank you!



Greetings, UU members and friends:

We have a new way for you to support UU Valdosta! We now have a PayPal account! Click on the PayPal icon:



On the contribution page, there is a check box for designating the contribution.

We also are grateful to those who have set up regular monthly payments for their pledges. You are also welcome to contribute by mail, here is our **U.S. mail address:**

**UU Church of Valdosta
P.O. Box 2342
Valdosta, GA 31604**

Even though we may not meet in large numbers at the church for some time, we are very cognizant of the need to continue to pay our bills – utilities, insurance, etc. – for our beautiful sanctuary and grounds, known as the “church-in-the-woods.” We are grateful for your continuing financial support of Unitarian Universalism here in South Georgia!

Again, if you would like to designate part of your contribution to Share-the-Plate for South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness this month, please make a specific note of that in the check memo or include a note with instructions – our treasurer, Doug Tanner, would love to hear from you!



Board of Directors Meeting News

July 5, 2020, 9:30 a.m. by Zoom

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

- Decided to switch from Sunday Worship materials to the Small Group materials from Soul Matters (see survey above)
- Discussed Share the Plate for July
- Discussed plans for Meditation Tuesdays.
- Discussed having Wednesday evening gatherings one or two times a month.
- Next Meeting: June 7, 2020

From: “UU the Vote 2020”

See Brett Bailey for more information!

UU the Vote is a non-partisan faith initiative to engage our neighbors, educate our communities, mobilize voters, and rally around key ballot initiatives. All through 2020 the UUA is supporting congregations and UU organizations in activating thousands of Unitarian Universalists to mobilize for electoral justice at the local, state and national levels. Directly or indirectly, the issues so many of us care most deeply about—climate change, LGBTQ rights, immigration, racial justice and more—will be on the ballot in 2020.

As progressive people of faith we can seize the opportunity that the current electoral cycle offers us to fight for our values, counter voter suppression, expand democracy, and engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with other voters in our own communities.

More information:

<https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020>

Thank You! Thank You!

For organizing lunch preparation for SGPEH in July:

Kimberly Tanner, Carl Ide and Brett Bailey

To those who contributed financial support for SGPEH lunch!

For representing UU Valdosta at General Assembly:

Kimberly Tanner and Brett Bailey

For checking in with our various members:

Kimberly Tanner and Dee Tait