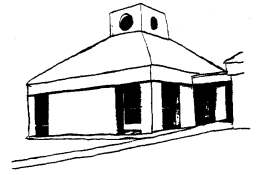


The Flaming Chalice

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 –
Tom Aiello – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

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

What's going on... **June 2018**

Sun	June 3	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Luana Goodwin and Dennis Bogyo, “Tai Chi” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	June 10	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Dennis Marks, “Reflections on Carlo Rovelli’s <i>Seven Brief Lessons on Physics.</i>” Meet & Greet after the service
M	June 11	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	June 17	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Doug Tanner, “Dr. Bart Ehrman’s ‘How Jesus Became God’, a history of the transformation of an obscure Jewish prophet to divinity” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	June 24	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Dr. Anna Hall, “Transitions into Transformation” Meet & Greet after the service

June, 2018

Summer is here! And with it a return to stormy days, lots of rain, and the start of a new hurricane season. Be careful out there!

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, June 3 – Luana Goodwin and Dennis Bogyo, “Tai Chi”

Dennis and Luana, certified volunteer instructors, will tell us about the Taoist Tai Chi Society, which meets at the UU Church of Valdosta. The society was “founded to preserve and promote the Taoist tradition of the dual cultivation of body and mind.” More info: <http://www.taoist.org/> Dr. Dennis Bogyo is Professor Emeritus, VSU Department of Biology. Luana Goodwin is an artist and sculptor, who created the piece that now serves as our chalice. Welcome Dennis and Luana back to visit with us!

Sunday, June 10 – Dr. Dennis Marks, “Reflections on Carlo Rovelli’s *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*.”

Although the book’s title sounds pedantic the book is anything but. Each of the seven chapters is indeed brief – the length of a newspaper article, so it’s a fast read. Here, for flavor, is the closing summative paragraph:

“There are frontiers where we are learning, and our desire for knowledge burns. They are in the most minute reaches of the fabric of space, at the origins of the cosmos, in the nature of time, in the phenomenon of black holes, and in the workings of our own thought processes. Here, on the edge of what we know, in contact with the ocean of the unknown, shines the mystery and beauty of the world. And it’s breathtaking.”

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.

Sunday, June 17 – Doug Tanner, “Dr. Bart Ehrman’s ‘How Jesus Became God’, a history of the transformation of an obscure Jewish prophet to divinity”

Join me as I share Dr. Ehrman’s insights into the early history of the Christian Church and how Jesus was transformed from human to one third of the Trinity. Dr. Ehrman, a secular religious scholar, traces “the developing understanding of Jesus from

a fully human apocalyptic preacher to a fully divine being”. His insights make this subject interesting and his analysis is controversial to say the least.

Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will be donated to the South Georgia Migrant Farmworkers’ Clinic. The clinic provides health care to the farmworkers in the area who are harvesting crops and working the fields. We will also collect food and clothing to be distributed at the clinic. These items may be brought to the church any time (please let Kimberly or Carol know....). Some suggestions include food staples such as rice, black beans and Maseca corn flour, household items, even small appliances (coffeemakers, etc.). Clothing items include men’s and women’s work pants, shirts, and small to medium size gloves, hats and sunglasses.

Sunday, June 24 – Rev. Dr. Anna Hall, “Transitions into Transformation”

Hear from Anna Hall stories of congregations that have used unexpected changes to grow in congregational health and build skills for change, and how these lessons can help each of us deal with transitions in our own lives.

See Carol’s Note below for more information and a bio for Rev. Dr. Anna Hall.

CUUPS events!

Wednesday, June 13th at 7:00 PM - CUUPS will be hosting a meet and greet game night at the church. Bring a snack and come enjoy a night of fun with us!

Saturday, June 23rd at 6:00 PM, CUUPS will be holding its sabbat for Litha at the church. The ritual will begin at 7:00, followed by dinner. Come join us as we celebrate the summer solstice!

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS), 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 or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>



A Note from...

Carol Stiles

Vice-president / Program Chair

Many of you have heard that Rev. Fred Howard has submitted his resignation as minister.

Where do we, UU Valdosta, go from here? As the program chair, I have made arrangements for Rev. Dr. Anna Hall to speak during services on two different dates this summer, June 24 and July 29. Anna is a former member of this congregation, active as the chair of our Social Justice Committee. She is now an ordained minister and 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.

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.

On Sunday, July 29, after the service, Anna will lead a session with us on pastoral and congregational transitions. Mark your calendars now!

The following is an excerpt from my message for the Flower Communion service, May 27:

A church goes through cycles, and is essentially, an ecosystem, too. I know that many or most of you (all of you here today) have heard the news that Rev. Fred Howard has resigned as our minister, due to a family medical issue. He was in this part-time position for 11 years, and we are grateful for the leadership and service that Fred has brought to the congregation – the many messages he shared here with us, but perhaps more importantly to us as a congregation, his visibility in the community, through his work with the Valdosta Area Ministerial Association, his recent outreach to the Muslim community, his inclusion of the LGBT community throughout his time with us, and his outreach to people who were struggling financially, through his work in collaboration with Rev. Richard Hart and Lowndes Area Crisis Care, to name just a few of his efforts.

Fred served as our minister for 11 years, which, in the life cycle of a congregation, is a relatively long time. It is, as they say, an “end of an era!” He served longer than our previous ministers - but it’s important to note that there *were* previous ministers - and always ongoing ministry in some way, sometimes completely lay-led - in the 52+ years the congregation has been here. That ministry will go on. It is the beginning of a new era. Ministry is the action of the whole congregation. And each of you has a role.... you may not be the person standing up here in the pulpit giving the message, or even lay-leading, or providing the music. You may be doing other things – like setting up for meet-n-greet. Or helping with the children in RE or the nursery. Or cleaning the kitchen! (as Dee can attest....)

Or you may just greet a newcomer with a smile and offer them your hymnal or your order of service. Or you may be out in the community and hear someone struggling with something in their life.... And you turn and invite them to join us here next Sunday. Or just offer them a friendly face. Or you may be taking a bold stand on behalf of the diverse communities which make up our little part of the world-wide ecosystem.

So many different roles in our ecosystem, and there is something for everyone! We each have a role to play... in that ministry, of bringing Unitarian Universalism to our community, the south Georgia region, and to a world that is hurting and struggling.

May it be so....

-- Carol

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.

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles
Newsletter deadline is the 20th 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

New Member Ceremony

May 6, 2018, Photos by Kimberly Tanner



**Members who have recently joined
UU Valdosta, with Rev. Fred Howard:
Jenaé and Devin Durham, Joyce
Rapier, and Randy Collins, right**

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

May 2, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

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

- Discussed hiring a student pianist for next year.
- Discussed coffee house to be held May 19
- Next Meeting: TBA.

Welcome New Members! Daniyel and Ashley Mills



Flowers for the New Member Ceremony

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.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

❖ Kathy and Fred Howard



Thank You! Thank You!

For providing music for the coffee house: Daniel Peveto, Stephen O’Kane and others
For organizing the coffee house: Carol Stiles
For lay-leading services: Cliff Adams, Doug Tanner, Crystal Rapier, Carol Stiles
For speaking at Sunday Services: Rev. George Bennett, Carol Stiles
For providing music at services: Daniel Peveto, Stephen O’Kane, Nephtali Santiago
For Meet & Greet: Mary Ellen Adams, Rapier family
For leading RE: Sue Bailey and Dawn Renner
For assisting with RE and nursery: Teagan Dunn, Kimberly Tanner, Doug Tanner, Crystal Rapier
For taking out trash and recycling: Dee Tait, Lawrence Rapier, Lars Leader, Sue Bailey, and others.
For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers
For photos for newsletter: Kimberly Tanner
For leading the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

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

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.

Treasurer's Report for April 2018

Fund Balances at April 30

UU General Fund \$12,336.41

Outstanding Debt

Mortgage \$0.00

Operating Receipts and Disbursements

	April	YTD (July-pres)
<u>Receipts</u>		
Plate	\$150.00	\$1,728.75
Pledge	\$1,797.00	\$17,720.00
Rent	\$100.00	\$900.00
Donations (Printing, etc)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Share the Plate	\$49.00	\$752.50
Total Receipts	\$2,096.00	\$21,101.25
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Minister Expense	\$960.80	\$7,904.65
Pest Control/Ternite Bond	\$45.00	\$450.00
Speakers' Fees & Expenses	\$200.00	\$2,707.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$141.00	\$976.04
Newsletter	\$0.00	\$160.00
Donations/Share the Plate	\$100.00	\$957.00
Bldg Insurance		\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00	\$147.00
Supplies		\$166.05
RE Program	\$100.00	\$800.00
Membership Program	\$0.00	\$0.00
UUA Dues /FL District		\$1,671.00
UU Conference Attendance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities	\$250.96	\$2,759.03
Advertising	\$0.00	\$600.00
Others	\$0.00	\$338.05
Total disbursements	\$1,797.76	\$19,635.82
Net Receipt (Disbursement)	\$298.24	\$1,465.43

Best wishes to Kandyce and Daniel and family! We will miss you! Thank you for the music!

Thank you, Fred, for all you've done on behalf of Unitarian Universalism in Valdosta!

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

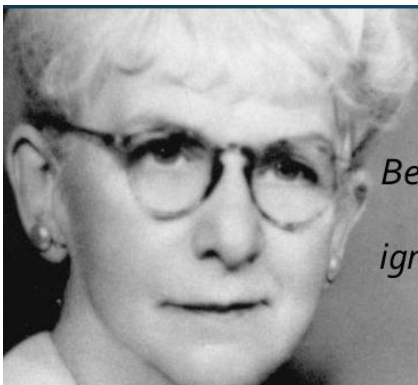
- The inherent dignity and worth of every person,
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations,
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning,
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic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

Defend Immigrant Rights in the US – Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):

As of October 2017, 437,000 people from 10 countries had Temporary Protected Status in the United States. These programs allow people who are unable to safely return home due to violence, war, and natural disasters to live and work in the United States. Eliminating their protections has left hundreds of thousands of individuals, many of whom have lived in the United States for decades, vulnerable to losing their livelihoods, being separated from their families, and being deported to countries that are unsafe.

Take action today: www.uusc.org/protect-tps



*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