

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

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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... **June 2016**

Sun	June 5	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Cristobal Serran-Pagan, "Panentheism in Teilhard de Chardin: A Holistic Approach to Science, Religion and Spirituality." Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	June 12	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Bennie Calloway, "Divine Direction For Human Living" Meet & Greet after the service
M	June 13	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	June 19	10:45	Religious Education for children Service – Stephanie Taylor, "Litha: Midsummer's Expansion of Light." Meet & Greet after the service
Fri	June 24	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	June 26	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Tom Aiello, "The Battle for the Souls of Black Folk: What the Debate Between Booker Washington and WEB DuBois Means for UUs" Meet & Greet after the service

June, 2016

Diving right in to the summer schedule! Cristobal Serran-Pagan will speak again this month and Stephanie Taylor gives her first message at UU. Join us when 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, June 5 – Dr. Cristobal Serran-Pagan "Panentheism in Teilhard de Chardin: A Holistic Approach to Science, Religion and Spirituality."

Dr. Serran-Pagan will address the importance of pan-en-theism in the Jesuit mystic and paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin in contradistinction to pantheism and classical theism (or deism). He will also talk about the need to bring together in a creative dialogue the fields of religion, science and spirituality.

Sunday, June 12 – Rev. Bennie Calloway, "Divine Direction For Human Living"

We are often face many crossroads in life, more often than we may want to admit and we are often "certainly uncertain" when it comes to decision making or our life choices. I do believe in the old adage that says "follow your heart." It can be referred to as a gut feeling or what I like to call a "divine indicator" that enables you to move in the direction of your passion that will cause you to have a greater impact on global humanity. I want to discuss how to get in touch with our divine side to help us make quality decisions for our human living. (Note that this message is rescheduled from May.)

Sunday, June 19 – Stephanie Taylor, "Litha: Midsummer's Expansion of Light."

Litha (or Lithia) is the Midsummer sabbat that is a celebration of life and light. This Sabbat is celebrated on the summer solstice; the longest day in the year. The Solstice is the celebration of light's triumph over darkness and that of the bountiful beauty that light brings into life. The God is at full power symbolizing the time of year where nature has fully matured. Understanding Litha can help us bring more light into the world. We can expand our light to triumph over the darkness in the world.

Stephanie Taylor is the Co-Liaison to the Oaken Circle, the Valdosta chapter of CUUPS. She has been on a nature-based spiritual path for four years. She is pursuing a career in Computer Science. She is married to her childhood friend, Darryl Taylor and they have one dog named Atlas. Welcome Stephanie to the pulpit!

Share the Plate Sunday: *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 26 – Dr. Tom Aiello, "The Battle for the Souls of Black Folk: What the Debate Between Booker Washington and WEB DuBois Means for UUs"

The argument between Booker T. Washington and WEB DuBois lasted for twenty years between 1895 and 1915, and it fundamentally shaped the bipolar debate about civil rights in the United States for the rest of the twentieth century. It was a debate that was less about ends and more about means. Unitarian Universalists often find themselves in similar dilemmas. While we tend to agree generally about the direction that social progress should take, our differences often become more prominent than our agreements. That being the case, we would do well to learn lessons from early twentieth century rights fights. This message will attempt to find some of those lessons.

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.

Congratulations to our graduates!

Rachel Gardiner completed Fire 1 and Hazmat Operations Certification and was sworn in as a firefighter with Lowndes County Fire Rescue!

Teagan Dunn, Patrick Richardson, Emmilee Bailey all graduated from high school in May!

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

Congratulations to:

Our recent graduates, listed above!

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.

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.

Betty Derrick Accepting Difference Project Report

At our annual meeting in May 2016, the UU congregation voted unanimously to rename the ADP to the "Betty Derrick Accepting Difference Project Fund" in Betty's memory. Donations received in her memory will go into the ADP fund.

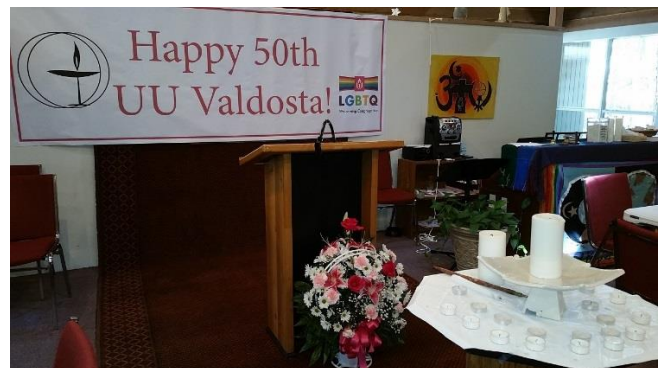
Our thanks to the following who made contributions in Betty's memory:

Patricia and Dennis Marks
Jim and Marie Hill
Charlotte Jones (Tai Chi)
Anne Pierce
Carol Stiles
Wine & Whine group

If you wish to make a contribution in Betty's memory, please designate this fund on your check or contribution envelop and give it to Rosie or put it in the collection plate.

Over the past year, we have made contributions from the ADP to the following local or UU organizations:

AAUW Sister-to-Sister Summit
VSU "Causes" Mini-Film Festival
National Council of Negro Women Community-wide Family Reunion
Kids Are People Too Fair (school supply drive)
South Georgia Pride sponsorship
Unitarian Fellowship of Huntington, West Virginia, for repairs to church damaged by fire



50th Anniversary Sunday, March 20th with the flowers and new chalice in memory of Betty Derrick. (Photo by Carol Stiles)

Welcoming Congregation Recognition Letter

February 18, 2015

Dear Carol and members of the Unitarian Fellowship of Valdosta,
Congratulations!

I'm delighted to inform you that the Unitarian Fellowship of Valdosta's application to become recognized as a Welcoming Congregation has been approved! Sincere congratulations on taking this powerful step, doing collective work to educate yourselves on LGBTQ issues, and committing yourselves to vital ongoing ministry in this area.

It was a pleasure to read about what you have accomplished and the powerful work you have done. I'm always struck when a small congregation such as yours takes on this important mission. UFV has done the work of becoming a Welcoming Congregation with dedication and purpose. You can be quite proud of your efforts.

I'm pleased to see how visible you've made your support of LGBTQ people. I often say that a congregation needs to breathe welcome from the inside out and from the outside in. LGBTQ people need to know, long before they ever cross your threshold, that your congregation will welcome them. You demonstrate that through your congregation's visibility. Great work!

For a small congregation, it sounds like you've done an excellent job of broadening your understanding of welcome and inclusion to include the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, and ability. This is so critical, especially in today's world when people long to bring their whole selves to their faith experience. I'm impressed with the depth of training you have done including Living the Welcoming Congregation. Examining Whiteness, Building the World We Dream About, in addition to less formal educational experiences. This is quite impressive.

It's important that the congregation understands that becoming recognized as a Welcoming Congregation is a commitment rather than an end point. It is not merely a checklist of things to accomplish. Congregations can lose energy after they see the posters on the wall. It's clear to me from your future plans that you already know this. You have a vital voice in your community and I trust you will find ways to make sure it stays alive and vibrant. Thank you for that.

I hope you'll see the UUA as a resource for you—please be in touch any time if you have any questions or we can be of service or support. I encourage you to visit our website often; we are always adding new resources that will help you on your continuing journey.

You can expect to receive two Welcoming Congregation posters in the mail. In the meantime, you are free to use the new Welcoming Congregation logo on your website and other materials [see below!]. Also, if you don't have them already, I encourage you to order the new pamphlets: A Spiritual Home for LGBTQ People, available from the UUA Bookstore.

Your congregation will be recognized on the UUA's website soon also. If you have members attending General Assembly in the future, please remind them to pick up Welcoming Congregation ribbons for their badges.

Thanks again for your congregation's life-giving, essential work!

With appreciation,



Annette Marquis

LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director



Free Webinar Series

from the Center for Progressive Renewal
and the United Church of Christ (UCC)

“White Privilege: Let's Talk”

June 20th-24th, 1pm-2pm ET

Available live or as recordings

Join Rev. John Dorhauer, Rev. Traci Blackmon and other national cross-denominational leaders in this FREE webinar series on white privilege. They will lead us through four areas of focus: telling the story of your spiritual journey through the lens of race; looking at the dynamic of a culture in which whiteness is the established norm; learning how America attaches a cash value to whiteness; and inviting the participants to commit to becoming an ally in the pursuit of racial equity. For more information and to register:

<http://progressiverenewal.org/shop/webinars/white-privilege-lets-talk/>

**UU Church of Valdosta
Board of Directors Meeting News**

May 1, 2016

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed Shared Service on May 15 and summer programming.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, June 5, 9:30 a.m.

Games Night

Friday, June 24, 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.

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/>

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.

Thank You! Thank You!

For the new coffee pot! Cliff and Mary Ellen Adams

For copying our music CDs to mp3 and new CDs: Tom Phillips

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Carol Stiles, Dee Tait, Lars Leader

For organizing the potluck after the Shared Service: Dee Tait (UU) and Bess Shear (Serenity Church). Thanks to all those who brought food!

For speaking at Sunday Services: Rev. Jane Page

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson and Nephthali Santiago

For Meet & Greet: Tammy and Tanya McDowell, Diane Holliman, Mary Ellen Adams, Carol Stiles, Deb Marine, Dawn Renner

For assisting with RE and nursery: Teagan Dunn, Diane Holliman, Dawn Renner, Kimberly Tanner, 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 and Carol Stiles

For coordinating the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

For organizing movie night: David Rodgers and Fred Howard

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles

May 15: Deadline for the June newsletter.

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

Website Manager: Carol Stiles

e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity:



New member ceremony, May 1, 2016 – Rev. Fred Howard, Deb Marine, Tonya McDowell, Rachel Gardiner, Rob Kester; in back, Pres. Tom Aiello and V.P. Carol Stiles. (Photo by Kimberly Tanner)



Story for All Ages, during the Shared Service with Serenity Christian, May 15, 2016. (Photo by Carol Stiles)



Sue Bailey, left, and Fred Howard, as Sue describes the prayer flags prepared by the RE class during the Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church, May 15, 2016. (Photo by Carol Stiles)

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.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of our fellowship, we encourage you to talk with our minister, Rev. Fred Howard or Membership Director, Kimberly Tanner. We welcome your questions, and we extend an open invitation to all who want to join our liberal community of faith.

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.