



The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue
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 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 2017**

Sun	June 4	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Joe Rehberg, “The Journey So Far” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	June 11	10:45 AM 12:15 PM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Tom Aiello, “Jury Verdicts and Jim Crow: Criminal Justice in the South” Meet & Greet after the service 2 nd Hour discussion: facilitated by Kimberly Tanner, “UU White Supremacy Teach-In, part 2”
M	June 12	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	June 18	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service -- Rev. Anna Hall, “Changing Directions” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	June 25	10:45 AM 12:30 PM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Diane DePuydt, “A New Perspective on Hope, for Our Lives, for Our Future” Special Workshop, after the service! Resistance, Resilience, and Reconnection: Strategies for Facing the Mess We're In without Going Crazy , facilitated by Dr. Diane DePuydt

June, 2017

Summer is here, and our schedule continues apace! We will have two special sessions after services this month, see the calendar above and descriptions inside this issue! 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 4 – Joe Rehberg, “The Journey So Far”

Most of us seriously want to live a good and meaningful life. So we think and plan and work and dream and try to discover for ourselves what life is all about and how to live the short time we are here on this earth. The search for truth can take you down some roads you never thought you would travel. It has been an interesting ride so far and I hope it is a long way to the end.

Sunday, June 11 – Dr. Tom Aiello, “Jury Verdicts and Jim Crow: Criminal Justice in the South”

Just as law enforcement officers have to continue to work in remarkably harsh and dangerous circumstances, and just as black citizens have to continue to explain to the privileged majority that black lives matter, historians, too, have to continue working to understand the context that creates the tragedies of police officers abusing and murdering black citizens. One of the most racially problematic elements of the South’s law enforcement, for example, is Louisiana’s criminal trial procedure that allows juries to decide criminal cases with nonunanimous verdicts, another system that disproportionately affects minority defendants.

Following the service and a brief meet-n-greet, we will gather for Part 2 of a “UU White Supremacy Teach-In.” The session will be facilitated by Kimberly Tanner - please plan to stay, particularly if you participated in Part 1, held during the service on May 14. But all are invited – to be prepared, please read the column by Carol Stiles in this issue of the Flaming Chalice, “UU White Supremacy Teach-In...or, How Did We Get Here?”

Sunday, June 18 – Rev. Anna Hall, “Changing Directions”

How do we navigate when the future we had planned and worked for takes a radical detour? When the road we planned to travel is not only detoured but closed to all traffic? Whether in our families, our careers, our communities, or our country, often our best laid plans or expectations do not come to fruition. Rev. Dr. Anna Mitchell Hall

will explore the insights that sacred text, scientific discoveries, and the arts can offer for the unexpected roads we face ahead.

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 25 – Dr. Diane DePuydt, “A New Perspective on Hope, for Our Lives, for Our Future”

Today we are living in a new national landscape of unparalleled divisiveness; one that breaks virtually all the rules of political order (which sometimes might be a good thing) and also contains the potential for bringing about great suffering and harm - for the planet and for people everywhere. We recognize that we need to speak out and we need to act – but over the past few years our emotions have run the gamut and often we feel confused or overwhelmed about how to focus our energies. Somehow we must learn how to tap into the wellspring of inspiration and power that makes it possible to meet change with compassion; to bring us through the coming years without burning out, without falling into apathy or despair.

We must carry on - with what is right and just - because anything less is unacceptable to our moral sensibilities but how do we find the will and motivation to do so? The answer to that is Active Hope.

Dr. Diane DePuydt, of Gainesville, FL, will also facilitate an introductory workshop after the service, following a light lunch. More information on the next page.

Special Workshop on Sunday, June 25, after the service!

Resistance, Resilience, and Reconnection: Strategies for Facing the Mess We're In without Going Crazy

Facilitated by Dr. Diane DePuydt and drawing on the work of Dr. Joanna Macy, this 2-hour workshop will introduce you to concepts and practices that help:

- Redefine the context for the conditions we face and reframe the goals for effecting change in our lives and in the world.
- Determine how to follow your own sense of rightness about where and how you feel called to act.
- Learn how to tap your innate capabilities for effective, sustained action.

This Work that Reconnects is done in a setting that establishes a supportive and creative space that allows us to courageously look at our deepest fears and feelings about what is happening to our world, to understand those feels in the context of turning toward an emerging new culture and to find ways to touch into or renew our personal sense of power. That there is today so much denial, despair and disconnection within our country, and world, is testimony to the continued importance for doing this work

Diane DePuydt, PhD, is an educator and training consultant with extensive experience in the fields of community development and sustainability. She trained extensively with Joanna Macy from 1989-2009 and has offered talks and workshops in practices that help us reconnect throughout the US and abroad.

Joanna Macy, Ph.D is a long-time activist and scholar of Buddhism, systems thinking, and deep ecology. For over 40 years, her work has helped people transform despair and apathy into constructive, collaborative action.

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.

Meet Joe Rehberg

Joe Rehberg will be speaking at UU Valdosta for the first time on June 4! Here is his bio: Joe received his BA in English Literature from Georgia College at Milledgeville (1977) and the Master of Divinity (1981) and Doctor of Ministry (1990) from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

He served as pastor of churches in Georgia, Missouri, Nebraska and New Mexico for a total of thirty years. He also retired from the state of Georgia Child Protective Services after having worked with that agency for twenty-three years.

He and his wife Sheryl have made their home in Valdosta for the past ten years. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

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.

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.

Games Night

Games Night is back in June on the 4th Friday, June 23! 6:30 p.m. until ? Please speak with Kimberly Tanner or Dawn Renner to express your interest in Games Night! Please bring a snack to share (remember that some of our members are gluten-free and vegetarian / vegan).



UU White Supremacy Teach-In

...or, How Did We Get Here?

Unitarian Universalists have long been involved in racial justice and anti-oppression efforts - sometimes more effectively working outside our own structures than inside... That appeared to take a change for the better last year, when the UUA Board of Trustees agreed to provide \$300,000 and guaranteed another \$5 million to Black Lives of UU in long-term funding for its efforts to expand the role and visibility of black UUs within the faith.

However, on March 23, the announcement of a new hire in the Southern Region led to conversation at Finding Our Way Home, a conference of people of color who are religious professionals in UUism, about a lack of POC in leadership positions in the UUA. The new hire was a white male and an ordained minister, and the other finalist was a Latina woman who is an RE professional. Of the five regional leads, all are white. Many in the UUA had already been questioning the low number of people of color who are in paid leadership positions within the UUA. A letter drafted by a group of UU ministers around the same date provides more information:

“Of the 11 people on the President’s Leadership Council, 10 are white. ... Of the entire UUA staff, there are currently only two Latinx religious professionals... The “Ends Monitoring Report” from April 2016 reports that, of the categories of employment within the UUA, people of color were no more than 11% of any group other those considered “Service Workers.” “Service Workers” represent...the lowest paid [employees] and represent those with the least power. People of color represent 84% of that particular group. In no other category are white people fewer than 75% of the total.”

On March 27, Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President, sent a letter intended to help defuse the situation, but which effectively made it worse. Three days later, Rev. Morales resigned as President. In early April, two more senior staff resigned, and the UUA Board of Trustees named

the Rev. Sofía Betancourt, the Rev. William G. Sinkford, and Dr. Leon Spencer co-presidents until the election of a new president on June 24 at General Assembly.

In the midst of these developments, Black Lives of UU planned a UU White Supremacy Teach-In to be held during a Sunday service, in late April or early May. We responded to the call and, on May 14, joined 670 other UU congregations around the U.S. in holding the teach-in.

At the teach-in, altering our usual format for a Sunday service, we discussed the background given in this column and then we had a conversation about white supremacy and overt and covert forms of racism. We actually ran out of time, so we will hold part 2 of the teach-in in a 2nd hour discussion after the service, on June 11. Please join us.... As Black Lives of UU states “in order for us to be more effective at tackling the white supremacy beyond our walls, we must also identify ways in which systems of supremacy and inequality live within our faith and our lives.”

In community,
Carol

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

May 7, 2017

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed plans for meeting with Dawn Cooley of UU Southern Region staff, who met with the board on May 20
- Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church will be May 21.
- Next Meeting: June 4, 9:30 a.m.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Members and friends with health concerns. *Congratulations to ...*
- ❖ Congratulations to US Air Force Technical Sergeant Daniel Peveto in his promotion to Master Sergeant!
- ❖ Deb Marine, who was named Distinguished Graduating Student of the Year for GMC Valdosta campus. She received the award during GMC’s graduation ceremony on May 26.

Thank You! Thank You!

For coordinating potluck for Shared Service with Serenity: Dee Tait and Bessie Manning, Serenity Christian Church

For watering plants during May: Dee Tait

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Dee Tait, Stephen O'Kane, Carol Stiles

For speaking at Sunday Services: Kimberly Tanner, Carol Stiles, Rev. George Bennett, Dr. Gerald Williams, who spoke at UU during the Shared Service with Serenity Christian

For providing music at services: Daniel Peveto, Rhett Watson

For Meet & Greet: The Rapier family and others

For leading RE and nursery care: Sue Bailey

For assisting with RE and nursery: Dawn Renner, Doug Tanner, Kimberly Tanner

For taking out trash and recycling: Dee Tait, Lawrence Rapier, Lars Leader, and others.

For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers

For photos for newsletter: Doug Tanner, Kimberly Tanner

Rev. Fred Howard, our part-time minister, is on sabbatical in the summer months. He can be contacted by email (preferable) at fredhoward3622@gmail.com. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

Below, Sue Bailey discusses artwork by Alma Woolsey Thomas during RE of the Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church.



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

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

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/>

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.

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.



Below, one of the two art projects prepared by RE students during the Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church:



Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 15th 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

“Taking the Longer View”

Another response to upheavals in UUA leadership happening since March, excerpted from a blog post, May 16, 2017, by Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith, UUA Southern Region, Congregational Life Staff:

The recent leadership transitions in our UUA have sent shock waves through our system. They point to the need for adaptation and transformation. In some cases, they indicate the need to correct an imbalance of power and access. Some ways-of-being are becoming undone and will never be the same again. Others are being reconsidered and re-imagined, while some others remain constant in the midst of change.

As we approach our General Assembly in New Orleans in a few more weeks, we have no way of knowing what will happen between now and then. This is true every year, but I know I have a heightened awareness of the unpredictability and fragility of life now. Just yesterday we received word of UUA Moderator Jim Key's resignation due to health concerns -- We extend love and caring toward him and his family. I affirm our support of Denise Rimes, another of our Region's own, as she steps into the role of Acting Moderator. I pray that in the midst of all the expectations, disappointments, fears, doubts and outrage that we might bring to our time together, we will also bring compassion, generosity of heart, hope, courage, faith and humility.

I think often these days about the beginning of Unitarianism around the turn of the 19th century, with congregations in the Northeast in conflict with one another over the prospect of God being one or three-in-one. I'm sure for many parishioners in those times, the fear was palpable. Friendships, careers, endowments and church buildings were all hanging in the balance. Out of that, the American Unitarian Association eventually emerged, which along with the Universalist Church in America, would form our UUA in 1961. Since our split with Trinitarian Congregationalists, some things haven't been the same -- In many towns in what we call New England, there are now Trinitarian Congregationalist/UCC churches around the corner from our UU congregations. And yet two hundred years later, we have regular partnership and camaraderie among UUs and UCCs, even with that history in our midst.

I am confident that for whatever lies ahead, we will continue to learn and continue to grow. And that the Spirit of Life that holds us all will continue to be gracious to us.

From the UUA Southern Region website: <http://www.uua.org/southern/blog/taking-longer-view>