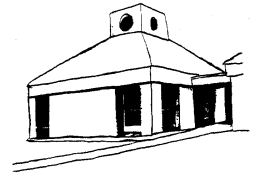


The Flaming Chalice

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... 2021! May, June....

Sun	10:50 a.m.	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/ or YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/user/UUGainesville , starting at 10:50 am Sunday, and look for the live video stream.
		Join our new email group list to receive the Zoom links, reminders, details, and other announcements and updates! See inside!
Sun	12:00 noon	Weekly - Zoom Coffee Hour!
Tues	8:00 p.m.	Weekly - Meditation Tuesdays! By Zoom (Note time change to 8:00 p.m.!)
	7:00 p.m., 3 rd Wednesday	Soul Matters Sharing Circle by Zoom: Next meeting – May 19, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.
Sunday	May 23, 9:30 a.m.	Adult RE class - Next meeting, May 23, 9:30 a.m., by Zoom - Rev. George Bennett presents messages on the themes that come out of a book by Richard Rohr, What Do We Do with Evil?
	8:00 p.m., 4 th Wednesday	Wednesday Evening Conversations: Next meeting – May 26, 8:00 p.m. by Zoom

2021 - “New” UU Board!

Congratulations and thank you to all who agreed to serve and were elected as board members for the 2021-22 year! We continue our virtual gatherings for now, while the UU Valdosta board reviews suggestions for multi-platform services from the Unitarian Universalist Association. General Assembly will be virtual again this year, June 23 – 27. Let Kimberly know if you are interested!

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 Migrant Farm Workers Clinic

Our Share-the-Plate organization for May is the Migrant Farmworkers' Clinic in Lake Park and Statenville. The clinic offers medical services year round and holds pop-up clinics in conjunction with the Emory Physician's Assistant program in June. Contributions may be made by check or through PayPal (see information for pledges and donations later in this issue).

Other recent efforts: UU Valdosta will again support the VSU Camp Discovery program for children this summer with a Share-the-Plate donation made for April 2021. Also, in early April, UU Valdosta prepared another 60-some lunch bags for delivery to South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness:



Our thanks to Kimberly Tanner for doing the shopping and to Brett Bailey and Carl Ide for packaging and delivering the lunches!

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, April 18,

Members of UU Valdosta met by Zoom on Sunday, April 18, to approve the proposed budget for next year and to elect the slate of officers.

Congratulations and thank you to the following officers for 2021-2022:

President	Kimberly Tanner
Vice President	Carol Stiles
Secretary	Carl Ide
Religious Education	Susan Bailey
Treasurer	Doug Tanner
Membership	Dawn Renner
Building & Grounds	Brett Bailey

Soul Matters Sharing Circle

Meets monthly by Zoom!

Next meeting: May 19. 7:00 p.m.

May theme: Story

Each month we send out The Soul Matters Packet that includes a diverse collection of spiritual exercises, questions, and a variety of other resources. Building on the packet, our monthly Sharing Circle provides an opportunity for us to connect as a community as we explore life's gifts and various callings from our UU faith. Over 145 UU congregations are exploring this unique spiritual practice centering deep listening, reflection, and introspection. Those interested in joining the Sharing Circle are asked to complete one activity and to explore one question that interests you. If you are interested in attending (via Zoom) please contact Brett Bailey at valdostasharingcircle@gmail.com for more details.

UUA General Assembly

General Assembly will be completely virtual again this year – and thus, a great opportunity for us to have at least two delegates participating in our annual national meeting. Scheduled for June 23 – 27, General Assembly (GA) is “the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.”

Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade will lead the annual Ware Lecture at General Assembly on June 26, 2021!

If you are interested, contact Kimberly Tanner! If you have questions, contact Kimberly Tanner or Brett Bailey, who participated in last year's virtual GA.

Join our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UUValdosta>

Wednesday evening Conversation Series

May 26, 8:00 p.m..

Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, May 26, 8:00 p.m., by Zoom. The group has watched individually the documentary film **13th** by Ava Duvernay and will continue discussing it on May 26. The full-length film is available for free from Netflix on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

Here is a link to a discussion guide:

<https://vandam.netflix.com/shares/9cd5013921f64002947ceb53840701d6?assets=22734809>

In addition, we recommend the book, *How to be Less Stupid About Race* by Crystal Fleming, associate professor of sociology and Africana studies at Stony Brook University. Here's part of the blurb from the back cover: "Combining social critique, humorous personal anecdotes, and the latest scholarship on system racism.... Fleming provides a fresh and irreverent take on everything that's wrong with our 'national conversation about race.'"

The book was published by Beacon Press, the publishing arm of the UUA. Carol has two copies that can be shared and it is available through bookstores and PINES Library system.

Board of Directors Meeting News April and May, 2021

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

- Approved donation of \$250.00 from the Accepting Difference Project for Southside Recreation Center swimming pool renovation project.
- Kimberly is interested in attending General Assembly; Carol sent an email to the UU Valdosta list asking for other interested people. UU Valdosta is eligible for two delegates to represent the congregation.
- Next Meeting: June 13, 2021, by Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

New UU Valdosta email list!

If you are interested in hearing about our weekly events, receiving the Zoom links, and other timely news for active members and friends, this list is your best option! This group email list is administered through our website, which is hosted by DreamHost. The group email list is again low volume and moderated. The newsletter will probably be sent out every couple of months or so, but with this list, we can send more frequent and timely updates. (Note that the old Yahoo group list is no longer functional...).

You can request subscription at this link: by contacting Carol Stiles (uuvaldosta@yahoo.com) or Kimberly Tanner (president@uuvaldosta.net) to be added to the list or with any questions! If you do not have an email address, please contact Kimberly or Carol for other options (FB messenger, text, etc.).

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

The UU Valdosta Board voted to make a contribution to the UU Fellowship of Gainesville, since many of us join them for Sunday services. 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! UUFG uses the themes from TouchStones, another UU collaborative similar to Soul Matters. UUFG incorporates many UU speakers from across the country during this time of pandemic, to make the services welcoming, inclusive, and relevant. 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.

Meditation Tuesdays!

Note change in time to 8:00 p.m.!

We will meet a little later through the summer months to allow people to complete outside activities, have dinner, etc. We gather for silent meditation on Zoom, Tuesday evenings, 8:00 p.m. Here's the schedule:

Silent meditation – gather at 8:00 p.m., meditation will begin about 8:10, led by Matthew Mixon, for 30 minutes of silent meditation. Join us for 30-40 minutes of centering and gathering in community!

Work Day on the church grounds, Saturday, June 12!

This will be an outdoor activity with social distancing, i.e., limited numbers of people working in an area. Tasks will include picking up limbs in the parking areas, trimming of vines and shrubs around the entrance, clearing the pavers in the labyrinth, etc. If you're interested, please contact Brett Bailey or Carol Stiles.

Members of the UU board will be working on indoor spaces throughout the summer. Our thanks to Brett Bailey for his continued efforts as Building and Grounds chair and to Carol Stiles and Doug and Kimberly Tanner for checking on the church facilities during the pandemic.

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...

- ❖ Members and friends who have lost loved ones.
- ❖ ...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.

From Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President:

I write today with guidance from the UUA about planning for safe operations in alignment with our UU values. The significant disruptions to life in our congregations and communities over the past year has been traumatic. There is, understandably, a deep yearning to gather again in person. Unfortunately, we are in an “in-between” transition time that continues to be risky. Our first concern continues to be safeguarding the well-being of our people and the public.

Key Principles:

- As a faith community, we root our decisions in the values of inclusion and consent.
- Follow the science.
- Go slow and be flexible.
- Be humane and realistic with expectations of ourselves and others.

These key principles are discussed in more detail in the full message available at:

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/planning-multiplatform>

Note that the UU Valdosta board is reviewing and discussing the many resources provided by the UUA at the link above as we contemplate a possible return to in-person services in the fall. Note that board has in mind the safety of all who want to attend and participate in UU-centered activities. This will necessitate taking into account our resources, as well as the risks in the community, which we all know, are subject to change.

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



Greetings, UU members and friends:

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!

To make your donations to Share-the-Plate or to send your pledge, you may do so via check or through PayPal, by clicking 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**

Again, if you would like to designate part of your contribution to **Share-the-Plate for the 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!

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 contact Kimberly Tanner.

**From The UUA
“Loved into Being”**

UUA leadership prepared a special service for Spring Stewardship 2021 which is available in its entirety on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/519686297>

Some of us watched this service, titled with UUFG on Sunday, March 21 and it is well worth it – beautiful music, readings, messages from UU leaders.

Here’s a description: Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't just an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. This full-length worship experience features a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and other worship elements that will help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity.



Thank You! Thank You!

For welcoming us to UUFG Virtual Services: Rev. Christe Lunsford and Worship Team

For organizing Soul Matters Sharing Circle: Brett Bailey

For facilitating Meditation Tuesdays: Matthew Mixon, Carol Stiles, Dawn Renner

For facilitating Sunday Coffee Hours: Kimberly Tanner and Carol Stiles

For checking in with our various members: Kimberly Tanner and Dee Tait

For attention to details as chair of Buildings and Grounds: Brett Bailey