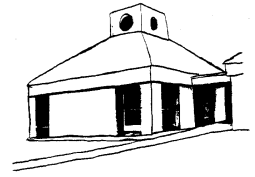




The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue
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 Valdosta, GA 31604
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Kimberly Tanner – President	Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair
Doug Tanner – Treasurer	Susan Bailey - Director of R.E.
Dawn Renner – Director of Membership	Chris Renfroe – Director of Building & Grounds
Carl Ide – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

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

What's going on... **October 2019**

Sun	Oct. 6	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “Our Living Tradition,” written by the Rev. Julie Stoneberg Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Oct. 13	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “What Does It Mean to Be a People of Belonging?” Meet & Greet after the service
M	Oct. 14	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Oct. 20	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. George Bennett, “Who is my neighbor?” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Oct. 27	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Anna Hall - "Sustaining Ourselves in the Fight for Justice" Meet & Greet after the service

October 2019

Fall is (almost) here! Rev. George Bennett returns to speak this month, Oct. 20. CUUPS Oaken Circle hosts Samhein festivities on Saturday, Nov. 2, 6:00 p.m. at UU Valdosta. Check out all the news in this issue and 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, October 6 - "Our Living Tradition,"
written by the Rev. Julie Stoneberg, Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough.

Our Living Tradition is "a tradition handed down through generations, a tradition which embraces an ongoing process of ever-evolving beliefs and practices...a process by which we accumulate, use, sort through, replace, discard and keep. This is an important and distinguishing feature of this faith; our tradition, Unitarian Universalism, evolves and changes, being modified and changed with each new generation. And yet, there is a thread, multiple threads really, that we follow...roots that we can trace back in time."

Sunday, October 13 - "What Does It Mean to Be a People of Belonging?"

A message drawn from Soul Matters...

Sunday, October 20 - Rev. George Bennett, "Who is my neighbor?"

It's a question that was asked of Jesus, which prompted him to tell perhaps his most famous parable — the story of the Good Samaritan. This may be the most important question for our nation's future.

The answer to this question refutes and undermines the fear and hate that animates so much of our current political life.

Share the Plate Sunday: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to Habitat for Humanity. The Habitat for Humanity "Building on Faith" build is usually scheduled for November. This is an annual collaboration among churches to raise funds and build a Habitat during a one-week blitz-build.

Sunday, October 27 – Rev. Anna Hall -"Sustaining Ourselves in the Fight for Justice"

Anna Hall will speak about the need for self-care practices as we work to change our world. She will share practices from many traditions that can help ground us and inspire us when we are called to be peacemakers or changemakers to build a better future.

Our Covenant:

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on April 28th, we voted to adopt the following covenant:

We covenant to:

Encourage one another to be our authentic selves on our individual journeys.

Care for one another by listening actively and supporting genuinely in a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Create safe environments by respecting one another, remembering that we each come from unique backgrounds and beliefs.

Nurture relationships, where diversity is acknowledged and celebrated, by designing inclusive and welcoming spaces and experiences.
Strive to be open and learn from each other when faced with new ideas while on our search for truth and meaning.

Share our time, talents, and resources to support the mission of our church.

Board of Directors Meeting News

September 9, 2019, 9:35 a.m.

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

- Operation of air conditioner
- Chris Renfro has list of items he is working on in the building; organized volunteers for cleanup day.
- Next Meetings: October 6, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
November 2, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

UUA Common Read

We will participate in the UUA Common Read this year! The selected book is [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015). There is also a new young people's version of the book available. More information on the common read is available here: <https://www.uua.org/books/read>

Let Dawn Renner or Carol Stiles know if you are interested in participating. Watch for further announcements – at some point, we will schedule a "book club" type gathering, probably after a Sunday service and potluck.

CUUPS Oaken Circle Samhein festivities!

Saturday, November 2, 2019 - 6 pm

Samhain (pronounced Sow-en), is an ancient Celtic tradition and celebration that marks the end of Summer and beginning of Autumn. Although the word technically means Summer's End (derived from Sam meaning Summer and Fuin meaning End), it is (traditionally) celebrated at sunset on the last day of Summer and follows from there to the dawn of the first day of Autumn.

This day is marked by several different traditions that have been adopted from various pagan based communities and can include old and NEW ways to celebrate. Perhaps your family does as the old Celtic families did... a good end of summer cleaning of the home to clear out the old and start the winter months with a fresh, clean household. Perhaps you do as the old ones did and extinguish all fires or electric lights on the 31st of October before sunset and wait in the darkness to ritually ignite a fresh NEW fire or light to symbolize the coming of the dark half of the year. Or maybe your family honors the ancestors on this night, capitalizing on a time when the Veil between the Afterlife and this world is thinnest by having a séance, decorating lavishly and celebrating Dia de Los Muertos, or hosting a dumb supper? Whatever you do to celebrate this turning of the Wheel, chances are very good that what you do is a very OLD tradition.

Join the Oaken Circle CUUPS group at the UU church on November 2nd, 2019 at 6 pm for their annual Samhain festivities and bring the children! Costumes and festive holiday spirit is encouraged! Bring a photo of a beloved departed family member for the Ancestors Altar and choose a flower and candle to decorate with! Come trace your hand and the hands of your family to write the names of those who have gone before us so we can add it to our "UU Family Autumn Tree" for remembrance. There will be a Samhain Ritual, a potluck feast, a recipe raffle, a craft auction, and MUCH more for young and old to enjoy as we once again celebrate the spirit of our beloved community both near and dear... and departed!!

We look forward to another fantastic Samhain celebration with you all! Our Samhain ritual leader will be Deborah Mackenzie (Marine-Hill)!

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns....

Crafts Day!

Watch for announcements of the crafts day, and contact Patti Bell for more information. If you have a craft or art that you can teach, or are interested in learning a specific craft, please contact Patti Bell!

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

Buddhist Meditation now meets two evenings per month!

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group meets for sitting meditation on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dan Gray and Anna Waddell are leaders for this group. You may contact them through Carol Stiles, uuvaldosta@yahoo.com, if you are interested in this group.

Oaken Circle CUUPS

Oaken Circle is a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). Watch for future Oaken Circle CUUPS Events! Contact CUUPS at valdostaokencircle@gmail.com and ask to join their Facebook page.

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

Thank You! Thank You!

A special thank you to Chris Renfroe and volunteers from Moody AFB for cleaning up the grounds and mowing the lawn!

For cleanup-day: all those who helped!

For organizing table for Pride: Dawn Renner

For speaking at services: Carol Stiles, Rev. Anna Hall

For lay-leading and presenting at services: Dawn Renner, Doug Tanner, Carol Stiles, Dee Tait

For providing music at services: Angela Duncan

For Meet & Greet: Dee Tait, Dawn Renner, Dorothy Ellis; also, everyone who brought food to the Pride potluck!

For helping with RE: Kimberly Tanner, Dawn Renner

For Preparing the Sanctuary!

For leading RE and nursery: Sue Bailey, Teagan Dunn

For taking out trash and recycling: Dee Tait

For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers

For leading the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

UU Valdosta at Pride 2019!

UU Valdosta was well-represented at the South Georgia Pride Festival on September 21st in John Saunders Park!

Watch for this opportunity (and the Azalea Festival) again next year!

We also enjoyed a great potluck visit after the service on Sept. 13, a kick off to Pride Week. At the Pride Service, Carol Stiles spoke of "The Power of Music" highlighting the music of the early Pride movement, as well as more recent music that has helped support the LGBTQ movement. Music was presented from Holly Near, Melissa Etheridge, and Amy Carol Webb (Rev. Amy Carol Webb, UU minister at River of Grass UU church in Davie, FL).



UU Valdosta Caring Committee

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

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of the previous month!

If you prefer receiving the newsletter by e-mail, please contact the editor.

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

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.