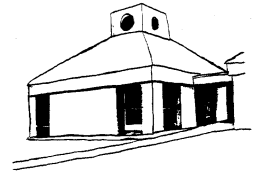




The Flaming Chalice

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 –
Joyce Rapier – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

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

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

Sun	Sept. 2	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “A People of Sanctuary,” Carol Stiles, lay leader Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Sept. 9	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Pat Miller, “Enlightenment Now” or Why We Might Just Be Headed to Paradise in a Late Model Cadillac Light potluck lunch, followed by workshop on program planning and facilitating Sunday morning services
M	Sept. 10	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Sept. 16	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Pride Service! Meet & Greet after the service
Sat	Sept. 22	9:00 AM ...	Sparkle Saturday! Join us for the fall cleanup, indoors and outdoors! Bring tools, gloves, cleaning supplies, etc.
Sun	Sept. 23	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Ingathering and Water Communion Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Sept. 30	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Leeann Culbreath, “Hospitality, Human Rights, and Hope: Responding to Immigrant Detention in Georgia” Meet & Greet after the service

September 2018

Another busy month, we invite you to 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, September 2 – “A People of Sanctuary,” Carol Stiles, lay leader

Jesus encouraged his followers to provide hospitality to the “least of these” by saying, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matt. 25:35-40). In today’s challenging times, people are divided about how (if?) we welcome the stranger. In UU and other churches, the issues before us have led to a revitalization of the sanctuary movement (where churches provide sanctuary for individuals who are undocumented). While this requires a considerable commitment on the part of the congregation, there are many other things we can do to “welcome the stranger.” The Soul Matters Team helps us answer the question: what does it mean to be a people of sanctuary?

Sunday, September 9 - Dr. Pat Miller, “Enlightenment Now” or Why We Might Just Be Headed to Paradise in a Late Model Cadillac

Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker makes a simple argument in “Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress”: Human beings are better off today than at any other time in history. That human progress directly results from gifts from the Enlightenment—primarily science and reason, a position, which pushed to its logical conclusion, posits humanism as the Enlightenment’s final social boon. And he has data to bolster this position. Lots and lots and lots of data (mostly from ourworldindata.org) to support what objective observation tells us: Humans on this planet live longer, healthier, more engaging lives than they ever have before. Not perfect, mind you. But better. Otherwise, the Cadillac would be brand new.

Sunday, September 16 – Pride Service

The day after the South Georgia Pride Festival in John Saunders Park, we will gather for our regular Sunday morning service to continue the celebration! Through a UU perspective, we will reflect upon SGP’s theme for this year, “Love Still Wins!”

Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to the Valdosta Area Rotary Club

Imagination Library Project. The project provides Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library books each month to children under the age of five in Lowndes County. Starting with “The Little Engine That Could,” an age-appropriate book is mailed directly to each registered child each month, until the child’s fifth birthday. There is no cost to the child’s family. Early reading is important to all parts of the community because it leads to a lifetime of opportunity. Children who learn to read early in life become avid learners in school, skillful workers on the job, and informed citizens in life. The program is administered in Lowndes County by the Valdosta Rotary Foundation.

Sunday, September 23 – Ingathering and Water Communion

The Water Communion is used by many UU churches in September as an ingathering service after the summer. But today’s water communion services are very different from the original water ritual, which was held in November, 1980, at the Women and Religion Continental Convocation of Unitarian Universalists. Two Unitarian Universalist women—Carolyn McDade and Lucile Schuck Longview—were asked to create a worship service for the Convocation. As described on the Harvard Square Library website by UU historian, Dr. Susan Ritchie: “The first Unitarian Universalist water ritual was an important part of the feminist movement inside of Unitarian Universalism, and it is closely related to the development of the current Unitarian Universalist Association’s ‘Principles and Purposes.’”

<http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/featured-new/water-rituals-and-ingatherings-revitalized/>

Today, we will re-visit the original water ritual. Each person in attendance will have an opportunity to add water to the communal bowl and share a brief message about the personal significance of the water shared.



Image by Cathleen Young, commissioned by Harvard Square Library to commemorate the original water ritual.

**Sunday, September 30 – Leeann Culbreath,
“Hospitality, Human Rights, and Hope:
Responding to Immigrant Detention in Georgia”**

Georgia is home to four for-profit immigrant detention centers, three of them in south Georgia. Rife with human rights abuses, these centers operate as prisons, indefinitely incarcerating immigrants as they await court hearings or deportation. Rev. Deacon Leeann Culbreath will share what’s happening inside Georgia’s immigrant detention centers and how individuals and groups can respond in love.

Deacon Leeann Culbreath is a vocational deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and the founding Co-Chair of the South Georgia Immigrant Support Network (SGISN), based in Tifton. For over two years, she has visited friends in detention and organized efforts to advocate for and support detained persons and their loved ones. SGISN recently opened Casa Colibrí, a hospitality house in Ocilla near Irwin County Detention Center. SGISN also coordinates visitation, pen pal, and educational programs. Deacon Leeann lives in Tifton with her husband and two sons, and together they enjoy outdoor adventures and the Andy Griffith Show.

UU Valdosta Caring Committee

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

Worship Team

Opportunities include organizing meet-n-greet after the service, helping with RE or the nursery, greeting visitors and preparing the sanctuary and RE building. 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.

Program planning workshop Sunday, Sept. 9, after the service

After a light potluck lunch, we will gather for a workshop on program planning and facilitating Sunday morning services. We will talk about the various aspects of preparing for the Sunday services, and will discuss how to use the UU worship resources from Faith Rocket and Soul Matters.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

July 5, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

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

- Scheduled a workshop for program planning and facilitating of Sunday Services, Sunday, Sept. 9 after the service.
- Discussed with Dee Tait, Chair of the Caring Committee, and Kimberly Tanner, Membership Chair, plans moving forward for the Caring Committee.
- Next Meeting: September 6, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Sparkle Saturday!

Fall clean-up day scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 22, 9:00 a.m. until.... Bring your favorite tools, cleaning supplies, etc.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Send us your news!

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

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.

South Georgia Immigrant Support Network

See the August newsletter for more information about SGISN, which we supported in August with our Share-the-Plate donation. Leeann Culbreath, co-founder, will be providing more information about SGISN at the service on Sunday, September 30.

For more about how you can help, follow SGISN on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sogaisnetwork/>

Casa Colibri, the hospitality house near Irwin County Detention Center, is also on Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/casacolibrigeorgia/>

Thank You! Thank You!

For lay-leading services: Carol Stiles, Crystal Rapier
For speaking at Sunday Services: Carol Stiles, Dr. Gerald Williams, and Julie Bowland.
For providing music at services: Doug Tanner, Carol Stiles
For Meet & Greet: Dee Tait, the Rapier family
For leading RE and nursery: Sue Bailey and Teagan Dunn
For assisting with RE and nursery: Kimberly Tanner, Dawn Renner, Leilani Mills
For taking out trash from RE building and cleaning restrooms: Lars Leader
For taking out trash and recycling: Dee Tait
For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers
For leading the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles
Newsletter deadline is the 20th of the previous month!
If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, contact Carol
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



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. Please contact Carol Stiles, if you are interested in this group.

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

Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, 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/>

Tweet from a Poor Peoples Campaign event in June:



Auburn @ AuburnSeminary – Jun 23.
Why is it that so often where two or three gather together for justice they're wearing yellow shirts? Hats off to the @UUA for walking the walk @sfrederickgray @UniteThePoor #PoorPeoplesCampaign
[Image of a crowd of people, many wearing yellow Side With Love shirts]