



# 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 Phillips – 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 Aiello – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

Please contact us by e-mail at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

### What's going on... **February 2018**

Sun	Feb. 4	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Why I’m a Unitarian Universalist”</b> Meet-n-Greet after the service
Sat	Feb. 10	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Meet-n-Greet with Christopher D. Sims, at UU!
Sun	Feb. 11	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Christopher D. Sims, “What Dr. King's Work has for the Black Lives Matter Movement and Charlottesville”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Feb. 11	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Coffeehouse at Jessie’s! 205 N Ashley Street, across from the courthouse Featuring Christopher D. Sims and other spoken-word artists!
M	Feb. 12	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Feb. 18	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “What Should We Do with Family Drama?”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Feb. 25	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – TBD – watch for announcements!</b> Meet & Greet after the service

## February, 2018

Join us to Side with Love! On February 10-11, we will have a special guest, UU speaker Christopher D. Sims – with two special events, in addition to our regular Sunday service! Details inside!

#### 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, February 4 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Why I’m a Unitarian Universalist”**

Why am I a Unitarian Universalist? If you google that question, quite a few interesting, amusing, and provocative answers pop up. Though I’ve hinted at my answer many times to the congregation through the years, I’ve never answered the question directly. After nearly eleven years as your minister it seemed about time I did. This morning I’ll take courage in hand and attempt to do so. As part of the presentation, I hope to include answers from a few other brave souls.

### **Sunday, February 11 – Christopher D. Sims, “What Dr. King’s Work has for the Black Lives Matter Movement and Charlottesville”**

Christopher D. Sims has been a Unitarian Universalist for fifteen years. As a lay minister and a spoken word poet, he’s taking his race relations experiences and expertise to Unitarian Universalist places of worship to speak for the black experience, and to educate and inform our congregations about what is taking place in our communities across the country. He’s a published poet who is a member of the Green Sanctuary Advisory Board and a former committee member of the UUA people of color affiliate organization DRUUMM, which stands for Diverse, Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries. Christopher lived in Fairhope, AL, but has recently returned to his previous home of Rockford, IL.

### **Sunday, February 18 – Rev. Fred Howard, “What Should We Do with Family Drama?”**

Whose family isn’t filled with drama? How do we even begin to extricate ourselves from it? Is it even possible without cutting ourselves off entirely? Tough questions I’ve been exploring the past eleven years doing family systems work as part of the Leadership in Ministry program at Columbia Seminary. I’m also introducing this theory to our congregation through our study of the book *Extraordinary Relationships*. I wanted those who couldn’t attend the class to get a glimpse of what the “systems” approach is about. This morning I’ll attempt to do so.

**Share the Plate Sunday:** *Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness. SGPEH partners “with federal, state, local, and private organizations...to provide services and support to poverty-stricken and other disadvantaged individuals.” More info: <http://www.sgpeh.com/>*

**Sunday, Sunday – TBD! Watch your email and Facebook for announcements.**

## **Side with Love! February 10-11, 2018**

February is the time for “Share the Love” and “30 Days of Love” brought to you by the Side With Love campaign. Formerly known as Standing on the Side of Love, this social justice campaign of the UUA has undergone a name change to “Side With Love” - please see below for an announcement regarding this name change.

Our Side With Love event will be on the weekend of February 10-11, when we will host special guest, Christopher D. Sims, Rockford, IL, Christopher’s visit is sponsored by the Betty Derrick Accepting Difference Project Fund.

On Saturday afternoon, we will host a meet-n-greet at the church, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer to share with our guests. Christopher will share briefly about his experience in Charlottesville during the white nationalist rally last August.

On Sunday morning, Christopher will provide the message at our Sunday service at 10:45 a.m., “What Dr. King’s Work has for the Black Lives Matter Movement and Charlottesville.”

Sunday evening, we will have a coffee house at Jessie’s Restaurant and Catering, 205 N Ashley Street, across from the courthouse. The coffee house will run from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Admission is free. Jessie’s Restaurant will have beverages available to purchase. If you have poetry or other spoken-word pieces you would like to share during the open-mic portion, please see Joyce Rapier.

# Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

January 2018 Ministerial Musings



For all my fellow movie buffs out there, I highly recommend you create an opportunity to see *The Post* starring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks. Not only is it a first-rate historical drama, winner of the American Film Institute's Movie of the Year but, minus a few slights to *The New York Times*'s role in one of the most famous whistleblower cases of all times, also a pretty accurate history lesson.

The movie tells the story of the journalistic courage it took to publish the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret study of the Vietnam War authorized by Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. The Papers exposed the many lies told to the American public about the War over several years. The movie somehow seems as fresh as today's headlines given the current obsession of some of our public officials over "fake news."

While another part of the story might never make exciting fodder for a Stephen Spielberg historical thriller, I wanted to make sure everyone was aware that the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) also played a crucial role in the publication of the Pentagon Papers. At the end of the story told in *The Post*, Daniel Ellsberg was still looking for a way to make the full 7,000 page text of the Papers public. Ellsberg turned to a UU in the US Senate, Mike Gravel, for help. After dozens of publishers refused to touch the project for fear of legal or financial repercussions, Gravel gave the Papers to Beacon Press, the publishing arm of the UUA. In spite of tremendous financial and legal risk, as well as government intimidation, Beacon Press agreed to publish them. "There is no question in my mind that our denomination performed a truly significant service," then UU president Rev. Robert West later remarked about the momentous decision. You can read the full story at <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-supported-publication-pentagon-papers>

So, while taking in *The Post*, keep in mind that it wasn't just Kay Graham and the *Washington Post*

that took great risk to insure and protect our right to a free press. The UUA certainly did as well.

Grace and Peace,  
Fred

Rev. Fred Howard is our part-time minister. He can be contacted by email (preferable) at [fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto:fredhoward3622@gmail.com). He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

## Thank You, Thank You!

We are grateful to Rosie Asbury for her many years of service on the UU board and for her friendship! Rosie and Frank are moving to Warner-Robbins to be near André and his family.

Rosie first was elected as secretary of the UU board in fall 2005. After two years she was elected treasurer and has served in that capacity for over 10 years!! We will miss you Rosie!

Another huge thank you to Doug Tanner, who accepted and was appointed by the UU board to the position of treasurer. Doug has previously served in this position and has been acting as assistant treasurer for the last couple of years, helping Rosie with the collection, when she was travelling back and forth to Warner-Robbins.

## Thank you! Thank you!

Some of you have noticed the new (to us) piano in the sanctuary! We are grateful to Julie for making arrangements with us to replace our piano with hers, upon her move to Oregon. Many have noted the improved quality of the piano music during services!

## 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.

### 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.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Best wishes to....*

- ❖ Rosie and Frank in their new home in Warner Robbins.

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

## 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.

### Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles  
Newsletter deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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

## Sangha Tuesdays

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group is meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

January 3, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

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

- Approved sponsorship of South Georgia Pride this year at \$250 level, which includes listing of the church as a sponsor on various SGP materials.
- By email, approved the appointment of Doug Tanner, as treasurer.
- Next Meeting: TBA.

### Thank You! Thank You!

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

**For speaking at Sunday Services:** Rev. George Bennett, Rev. Dr. Anna Mitchell Hall

**For providing music at services:** Stephen O’Kane, Daniel Peveto, Tamara Hardesty, and Doug Tanner, via audio services.

**For Meet & Greet:** Dee Tait, Dawn Renner, the Rapier family, Cliff and Mary Ellen Adams

**For leading RE:** Sue Bailey

**For assisting with RE and nursery:** Teagan Dunn, Kimberly Tanner, Dawn Renner

**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:** Kimberly Tanner

**For leading the Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

# Announcing “Side with Love”

January 10, 2018

Since its inception, Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) received feedback from disability rights activists within Unitarian Universalism about the exclusionary and ableist language of “standing”.

Over the last nine years, the vision of our work has shifted and transformed from working on issues of dismantling white supremacy, LGBTQ equity, addressing anti-Muslim bigotry, immigration justice and more. We find ourselves now meeting the shifting political moment, providing behind the scenes support in moments of uprising, leveraging resources and offering spiritual sustenance. During this time, some UUs have already adapted our name to remove the word “standing.” We have seen people change t-shirts, banners, and the song that inspired the campaign’s name. Pushed forward by a [Responsive Resolution at GA 2017](#), we committed to changing the name because of its history of injury and exclusion and to honor and respond to feedback by making the shift. Staff from the UUA, in collaboration with the authors of the Responsive Resolution, [EqUUal Access](#) and other stakeholders, worked on the name change proposal.

We are so excited to share with you that our new name, our new imagining, as the Responsive Resolution so beautifully called for, is Side with Love! You can also watch a video about our announcement [here](#). Check out EqUUal Access’ take on the shift [here](#).

Side with Love is an invitation and a challenge. It is an opportunity to firmly name what we are for and against. To recognize that as we seek to embody universalism we commit to resisting oppression. A recognition that in many moments there are two sides: one of love and one of oppression and violence. We are always bound up in messy webs alongside even those who perpetrate hate. And daily, we choose whether we

are siding with love, freedom, liberation, reparations, and integrity or whether we are siding with the violence of white supremacy, patriarchy, ableism and heterosexism.

Side with Love raises provocative spiritual questions including “When have I sided with love? When have I shirked siding with love? When have I chosen the side of comfort, apathy, despair, and acquiescence instead of the side of faith, risk, sacrifice, and resistance?”

Side with Love is an opportunity to expand and deepen our understandings of the ways [ableism](#) shows up within the justice and spiritual communities we participate in, create and cultivate. Over the last year, we supported organizing to stop the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, working with members from disability rights and housing justice organizations like ADAPT and Housing Works. We hope to continue to build with organizations within our faith working on these issues. We also invite you to engage the [Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Program](#), [EqUUal Access](#), and [Worship Web](#), and the many leaders within our faith doing this work and offering powerful resources for this journey.



Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, Strategic Advisor, right  
Nora Rasman, Campaign Manager, left  
Side with Love

*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.*

# Welcome New Members!



New members signed the membership book in January:  
Brit Yancey, Devin Durham, Jenaé Durham, with Rev. Fred Howard.  
(photo by Kimberly Tanner)



## My Unitarian Universalist faith calls me to:



### believe women

*Also, elect, hire, promote, and empower women.*



### trust facts, reject lies, & seek to know the difference

*Gaslighting, denial, & manipulation cannot alter provable facts.*



### do my work if I have privilege

*Educate myself. Establish accountability. Take faithful risks. Consider the impact of my actions. Be an accomplice in dismantling systems which oppress some and favor others. Follow the leadership of people of color.*



### resist attacks on democracy & free speech

*Vote, demonstrate, network, contact legislators, and do all I can to oppose voter suppression, legislators who serve corporate sponsors, & the end of net neutrality.*



### love my neighbors

*Yes, this includes my immigrant, Jewish, black, disabled, brown, queer, Muslim, indigenous, poor, sick, old, addicted, incarcerated, & trans neighbors.*



Learn about the free faith for the resistance at [uua.org](http://uua.org)