



# The Flaming Chalice

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342

Valdosta, GA 31604

Minister: Rev. Fred Howard

<http://uuvaldosta.net>

229-242-3714

e-mail: [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)



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](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

### What's going on... **January 2017**

Sun	Jan. 1	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “How People Change: Things to Consider in Making Resolutions”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Jan. 8	11:00 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Joyce Rapier, "From The Least of Us!"</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	Jan. 9	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Jan. 15	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service -- Rev. Fred Howard, “Civil Disobedience: The Thread from Thoreau to King”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Jan. 22	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. George Bennett, "Called Together in Love"</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Fri	Jan. 27	6:30 PM	Games Night and Bonfire!
Sun	Jan. 29	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Dr. Bobbie Ticknor, “Community Support for Offender Reentry”</b> Meet & Greet after the service

## January 2017...

...and now the New Year is here! Welcome, 2017!

#### 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, Jan. 1 – Rev. Fred Howard, “How People Change: Things to Consider in Making Resolutions”**

In 1975 acclaimed psychotherapist and author Allen Wheelis wrote a small but highly influential book called *How People Change*. I found the book immensely helpful in better understanding myself at a critical juncture in my life. I thought it might be useful to revisit some of his ideas at a time when many of us consider making changes.

### **Sunday, Jan. 8 – Please bring your GAYT boxes to the service!**

#### **Speaker: Joyce Rapier, "From The Least of Us!"**

This is about the life and time of a famous literary artist, Alexander Pushkin, who put his country's national heritage on the map much while in exile and with disdain from almost everyone he knew.

Joyce Rapier provides the message this Sunday for the first time in our pulpit, here is her biography:

I'm most proud to be a wife and a mother, as well as a good friend to a chosen few. As far as my career goes I am an educator first and foremost, yet I have been a professional Storyteller, owned a restaurant and talent agency, I have been the vice president of the Minority Advertising Council of America (M.A.C.A.). I have also worked in other capacities such as a case worker, human resource director, youth advocate, advertising director, day care owner, and store manager. I have sat on many Boards of Directors' and faithfully involved with many professional organizations. My hobbies are decorating, cooking, writing, reading as well as traveling. I have lived in 8 states and absolutely love cultural exchange and conversation. My latest soapbox is to help the world accept people of African descent as a viable and contributing part of the human race.

### **Sunday, Jan. 15 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Civil Disobedience: The Thread from Thoreau to King”**

In retrospect, Henry Thoreau's simple refusal to pay his poll tax in 1846 as a sort of protest against slavery started one of the most profound threads in world history. Thoreau was arrested, and this experience spurred him to write an essay

that furnished the intellectual arguments launching the careers of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Though Thoreau's logic was impeccable, there are many twists to this thread that we, as Unitarian Universalists, should be more aware of. This morning I will attempt to raise our awareness of the fascinating tapestry woven by these threads.

*Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to The Haven. The Haven provides training and education, services and safe space to victims of domestic violence in the Valdosta area.*

### **Sunday, Jan. 22 – Rev. George Bennett, "Called Together in Love"**

The melody of the Universe is a song of love. We are drawn to each other with respect. Martin Buber shared that life is intimacy. We are in an "I-Thou" relationship. Scripture Matthew 4:12-23

### **Sunday, Jan. 29 – Dr. Bobbie Ticknor, “Community Support for Offender Reentry”**

Dr. Bobbie Ticknor will speak with us about why it's important to accept and provide support for ex-convicts, and the kinds of services and assistance that can provide support for offender reentry into communities. Dr. Ticknor is a faculty member in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at Valdosta State University. She received her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati.

## **Guest at Your Table (GAYT 2016)**

We will collect the Guest at your Table (GAYT) contributions at the service on January 8th. Please convert your cash contributions to a check made payable to UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). If you will not be at the service on January 8th, please make arrangements with Lars Leader to deliver your contributions.



# Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

Most of you are probably familiar with TED talks – 15-20 minute video presentations, usually by a single speaker, on a wide range of scientific, cultural, and academic topics. The talks are long enough to explore a powerful idea but short enough to watch in a single sitting. TED (an acronym for Technology, Entertainment, Design) has been around since 1984, but has exploded in popularity since 2006 when the talks became freely available on the internet. Its motto is “ideas worth spreading,” and bills itself as a global community of those who seek a deeper understanding of the world. A quote from its website says, “We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives, and, ultimately, the world.” Several of the talks have gone viral through the years. And many of them are quite inspiring.

In January, I plan to begin showing some of the more interesting and influential TED talks during the second hour on the Sundays I’m in the pulpit. I’ll be carefully culling the talks to find a sort of top ten list of those that I think address ideas of interest to our congregation and are likely to spark conversation. If any of you have one to suggest, please feel free to mention it to me and I’ll see if we can fit it in. Many UU congregations are using these freely available videos to launch dialogue in their communities. “Ideas are the children of community,” as Rachel Naomi Remen says. Please plan to join us for one or more of these presentations. We’ll show the video immediately after meet and greet, and have a 20-30 minute conversation afterwards. I’ll pre-announce the topic for each Sunday on the listserv and Facebook.

I’m looking forward to being a part of sharing “ideas worth spreading.”

Grace and Peace,  
Fred

Rev. Fred Howard is our part-time minister. He may 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.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Our condolences to...*

- ❖ UU members and friends who have recently lost family members.

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Several UU members and friends who are experiencing serious 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.

## 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 & Bonfire

Games Night and Bonfire (weather permitting!) returns on Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m. Please bring a snack to share (remember that some of our members are gluten-free and vegetarian / vegan).

## Movie Night

Rev. Fred Howard is seeking input about continuing Pizza and a Movie Night in the future, please send him an e-mail message ([fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto:fredhoward3622@gmail.com)) or contact him at a service.

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

December 4, 2016

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

Discussed chairs to be replaced – Tom Phillips and Carol Stiles are looking into possibilities.

- Discussed general clean up needed and moving the nursery to other back room. Need to plan another work day with a focus on this after the holidays.
- Discussed calendar events – speakers for services, Rainbow Mixer in February, etc.
- Next Meeting: TBA

### 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.

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For lay-leading services:** Doug Tanner, Carol Stiles  
**For speaking at Sunday Services:** Rev. Dr. Anna Hall, Carol Stiles, and those who shared about holiday traditions on Dec. 25 – Tammy McDowell, Lars Leader and Joyce Rapier.  
**For assisting with the Love-feast:** Doug Tanner  
**For providing music at services:** Rhett Watson and Daniel Peveto  
**For Meet & Greet:** Crystal Rapier, Joyce Rapier, Dawn Renner, and those who brought treats on Dec. 25.  
**For leading RE and nursery care:** Sue Bailey and Teagan Dunn  
**For assisting with RE and nursery:** Teagan Dunn  
**For volunteering as visitor greeter:** Joyce Rapier  
**For sweeping sidewalks:** Tanya McDowell and Richard Watson.  
**For taking out trash and recycling:** Dee Tait, Lars Leader, and others.  
**For delivering Break Bread meals:** Lars Leader, who delivered meals in December.  
**For photos for the newsletter:** Kimberly Tanner, Fred Howard, Carol Stiles  
**For coordinating the Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

## 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

## 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.

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

**Taoist Tai Chi** – Monday and Thursday, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. **New Beginner Class Starting Tuesday September 6, 2016, Tuesday and Friday mornings 10:30 - 11:30 at the UU church.** The continuing Tai Chi class will continue to meet in the evenings, Monday and Thursday. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at [georgia@taoist.org](mailto: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](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

## Happy holidays from your UUA Southern Region staff!

This holiday season, may we find the light when we need it, and be the light when we can. May we have peace, rest, good food, laughter, and deep, sustaining connection with our loved ones.

The world needs Unitarian Universalists, and we need each other. In 2017, let's dream, build, fortify, and reach out together. Your UUA Southern Region staff team will be with you in bringing hope, love, justice, courage, and joy into the world in the year to come.

Keeping you in our hearts this season and always,

Your UUA Southern Region staff team



## “The Absolutely No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant”



Some adults enjoying the  
“Absolutely No Rehearsal  
Christmas Pageant,”  
Dec. 4, 2016



## News from UUA Southern Region (letter excerpted)

Dear Friends,

I write to share that the Reverend Kenneth Gordon Hurto, our Regional lead of the Southern field staff team, has announced his retirement as of June 30, 2017.

Kenn has served our Unitarian Universalist faith for over 45 years, in congregations small and large, these last ten as a member of our Southern Region Congregational Life field staff.

We all owe Kenn our thanks. So many of you have shared stories with me about his wise counsel, big vision and joyful leadership. Personally, I will miss his pastor's heart. Simply put, he cares. As he led his team, he has always been focused on the quality of relationship between them, knowing that efficiency comes not from oversight and accountability as much as from creativity born from trusting and supportive relationships. And he cared about all of us and this faith. Kenn will tell you that this faith saved him. Out of gratitude for that gift, he has dedicated his life to making sure the same gift is available to others. We are lucky to have been in the path of his generous spirit.

I will work with the Southern Region field staff to begin searching for Kenn's successor. The plan is to hire a new team Lead late this winter who will begin work in July.

At the same time, we also search for a successor to Maggie Lovins, who recently left the Southern team due to health concerns. This new generalist field staff member will join the team this spring or summer.

The Reverend Scott Tayler  
Director of Congregational Life of our UUA

*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.*