



# 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 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... **November 2016**

Sun	Nov. 6	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Nerdle the Turtle”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Nov. 13	11:00 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Pamela Johnson, “Running Deeper Than Water: The Cultural Injustices and Human Rights Threats and Violations Surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	Nov. 14	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Fri.	Nov. 18	7:00 PM	Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture and Discussion!
Sun	Nov. 20	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service -- Rev. Fred Howard, “The Work Before the Work”</b> RE meeting and potluck dinner! After the service!
Sun	Nov. 27	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Lars Leader, “Guest at Your Table Kick-off Service”</b> Meet & Greet after the service

### November, 2016...

This month, we will host the first Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture and Discussion, on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., with Dr. Leslie Jones as our guest speaker!

#### 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, Nov. 6 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Nerdle the Turtle”**

This morning I'll be sharing a story during the sermon for all ages called Nerdle the Turtle. It's about a curious turtle and what happens to his family and friends because of his curiosity. After the children depart, I'll share some thoughts on curiosity with the adults.

### **Sunday, Nov. 13 – Pamela Johnson, “Running Deeper Than Water: The Cultural Injustices and Human Rights Threats and Violations Surrounding the Dakota Access Pipeline”**

The Dakota Access Pipeline is a \$3.7 billion project in progress stretching from North Dakota to Illinois projected to carry over half a million barrels of crude oil a day. A section of the pipeline is being constructed just north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota, threatening the Nation's and surrounding communities' only water supply. Thousands of protesters, or Water Protectors as they are called, have gathered in support for Standing Rock and continue to oppose the pipeline project through peaceful direct action while the Standing Rock Sioux legal team seeks an injunction to halt the project until a full environmental and cultural impact study can be performed. The Dakota Access pipeline has to date violated tenets of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Freedom of Religion Act, and several other Federal laws. We will be discussing how the actions of Dakota Access LLC are violating human rights and continuing to oppress the cultural and religious rights of a peoples.

Pamela Johnson has a Bachelors in Philosophy and Religious Studies and Native American Studies from Valdosta State University. She is currently attending the University Of Tulsa College Of Law and will graduate in December with a Masters of Jurisprudence in Indian Law having specialized in Indigenous Rights. Ms. Johnson is a co-advisor for Four Directions: The Native American Studies Student Association that was created to work in conjunction with the Native American Studies Minor program at VSU.

### **Sunday, Nov. 20 – Rev. Fred Howard, “The Work Before the Work”**

In this morning's service, I'll invite you into a meditation on the Taoist story of “The Woodcarver.” It will not be necessary to read the story beforehand, but please feel free to do so. Just google it. This story can be powerfully evocative of both individual thought and reflection as well as communal dialogue. We'll be having our Thanksgiving potluck after the service today, a perfect opportunity for some of that communal dialogue.

### **Sunday, Nov. 27 – Lars Leader, “Guest at Your Table Kick-off Service”**

The theme for this year's Guest at Your Table program is *Defying Hate*, which is “based on the recent release of the Ken Burns documentary about UUSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*” (UUSC, see link below). This documentary debuted on PBS this fall. Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is an annual program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to raise awareness as well as funds for UUSC's many outreach programs around the world. UUSC focuses efforts on the following: economic justice, rights at risk, and environmental justice. More information available at: <http://www.uusc.org/welcome-to-guest-at-your-table/>

***Share the Plate Sunday:*** Contributions to the plate, not otherwise designated as pledge, will go to UUSC's Guest at Your Table program, as part of our annual congregational contribution. In addition, each family will receive a GAYT donations box and information on joining and supporting UUSC.

## 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.



# Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

I want everyone to trust me on this one. Go to this link and watch the video “Celebrating What’s Right with the World” if you’ve never seen it. You’ll have to give them your email and do the little verification that you’re human, but don’t worry. No one will solicit you or bombard you with advertisements. At least I don’t think so since that hasn’t happened to me.

<http://celebratewhatsright.com/film>

The photographer Dewitt Jones takes us behind his lens and into the process he uses to make those terrific pictures we see in National Geographic Magazine.

Some memorable takeaways from the video: “I started out in life, as most of us do, holding the maxim—I won’t believe it, till I see it. Yet the more I worked for the Geographic the more I realized I had it backwards. That the way it really works is I won’t see it till I believe it. That’s really the way life works.”

“We live in that paradigm all the time—a world based on fear and scarcity and competition. If you choose to believe it, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. But, it wasn’t what nature was showing me. Nature was showing me incredible beauty... nature set before me a banquet of incredible proportions.”

“By celebrating what’s right, we find the energy to fix what’s wrong.”

“It’s that subtle shift between pushing ourselves to be the best in the world, and allowing ourselves to be the best for the world.”

I found the process he uses in approaching a subject for a photographic composition to also be a wonderful way to approach life.

Please let me know if you agree.

In Faith and Community,  
Fred  
[fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto:fredhoward3622@gmail.com)

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.

## Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture - and Discussion!

The first Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture and Discussion will be held on Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m. at the UU Church! Dr. Leslie Sandra Jones, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Valdosta State University, will be the first guest lecturer and facilitator. Her topic will be “Untangling Biological Diversity from the Social Construction of Race.” This event is free and open to all and child care will be available.

Betty Derrick, who passed away in March, was the coordinator of our book group, among other activities here at the church. In honor of her life devoted to science, learning, and social justice, we plan to start this lecture series at the church. These evenings will be patterned after the book group discussions, but rather than reading a book ahead of time, we will have a guest speaker briefly present a topic and then facilitate a discussion in an informal setting.

The photo below taken in June 2008, includes Betty Derrick (middle), Carol Stiles and Dee Tait in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, attending UUA General Assembly.



They were participating in the Interfaith Community Witness Event in downtown Ft. Lauderdale – during each General Assembly, there is a community witness event involving other faith groups and community groups. This event at GA 2008 was described by Dee and Betty in the August 2008 UU Valdosta newsletter as an event “valuing all families and supporting those facing

discrimination and legal barriers to keeping their families together [e.g., immigrant families and LGBT families]. Wearing our “Standing on the Side of Love” T-shirts, we heard comments from UUA President Rev. William Sinkford and testimonials and information on what we can do, from UUs and members of the Florida Immigrant Coalition, Equality Florida, Fairness for All Families, and Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT & Friends Interfaith Clergy – and the River of Grass Band.”

Editor’s note from Carol: It was an honor to attend General Assembly in 2008 with Betty and Dee, an experience I will never forget. The event described above was particularly memorable and emblematic of the commitment to social justice by Unitarian Universalists in general and of the Accepting Difference Project here at UU Valdosta, which Betty Derrick was instrumental in establishing. Betty wrote the proposal for and coordinated, for several years, the ADP which has now been re-named the Betty Derrick Accepting Difference Project, in her memory.

## **Potluck Dinner!**

**Sunday, Nov. 20, after the service!**

Immediately after the service we will hold a brief meeting for planning for the Religious Education program - parents of children and volunteers who participate in RE should plan to attend, and all others are welcome, as well. After this brief meeting, we will gather for a potluck dinner – please bring a dish to share, including some extra for visitors who may be at the service! Sue Bailey will be coordinating the potluck dinner, please contact her with the dish you are planning to bring.

## **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.

## **ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

*Keep in your thoughts...*

❖ Our members and friends who are experiencing health concerns.

*Congratulations to...*

❖ Our own Dr. Kimberly Tanner who received the Outstanding Service Award at the Mayor’s Council for Persons with Disabilities 21st Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet! Thank you, Kimberly, for all you do for our community!

## **A special thank you this month.....**

goes to Dee Tait, who single-handedly tackled the job of cleaning out our UU refrigerator! On the Friday morning before the clean-up day, Dee removed and discarded food items from our refrigerator, some of which dated to 2014! **Thank you, Dee!**

Based on this experience, which repeats every few months, we are announcing suggestions for preventing this situation – please do not leave any perishable items that must be consumed within a few days. For items that might last a week or so - do not leave those in the refrigerator either, unless you can ensure that they will be utilized at the next service or closely timed event. Otherwise, please take perishable items home with you, offer them to others who are present at the event, or discard them as appropriate.

If you must leave items at the church temporarily, label them with your name and the date and plan to pick them up or give them away at the next service or gathering.

## **Games Night**

Due to the holidays, the regularly scheduled Games Nights will not be held in November and December – watch for other activities, such as the Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 20 after the service and the Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture and Discussion on Nov. 18.

### 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.

## 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 Valdosta Caring Committee

Dee Tait chairs this committee. If you would be able to help, when requests for help are received, please let her know. Other members include David Rodgers, Kimberly Tanner, and Carol Stiles.

## “The Jesus Fatwah” series

Rev. Fred Howard will continue facilitating discussions of the video series: “The Jesus Fatwah: Loving Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself.” During the “second hour” after the service on the dates below, a video is viewed, followed by discussion:

Here’s the rest of the schedule:

Sunday, Nov. 6 - Session 4: “Making Connections, Part 1: In Which Non-Muslims Make A Case.”

To be announced - Session 5: “Making Connections, Part 2: In Which Muslims Have Their Say.”

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News October 2, 2016

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed accessibility issues for the Facebook page as well as our facility.
- Scheduled various events including a clean-up day for October 22.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, November 6, 9:30 a.m.

## 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

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For participating in the church cleanup day on Oct. 22:** Jim Ingram, Fred Howard, Teagan Dunn, Kimberly, Doug and Ryan Tanner, and Dee Tait! Please thank these individuals for helping our facility sparkle again, and watch for additional cleanup efforts.

**For folding and mailing the newsletter for the past couple of months:** Dee Tait

**For providing beautiful plants and flower arrangements for the services:** Amy Jackson and Kelley Clark

**For lay-leading services:** Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Dee Tait, Stephanie Taylor,

**For speaking at Sunday Services:** Rev. Anna Hall, Rev. George Bennett, Deb Marine

**For providing music at services:** Rhett Watson

**For Meet & Greet:** Diane Holliman, Dawn and Teagan, Joyce Rapier, Crystal Rapier

**For assisting with RE and nursery:** Crystal Rapier, Teagan Dunn, Diane Holliman, Dawn Renner, Sean Richardson

**For volunteering as visitor greeter:** Joyce Rapier, Melanie Hubbard

**For sweeping sidewalks:** Richard Watson, who often makes a trip early Sunday a.m. to finish this task!

**For taking out trash and recycling:** Dee Tait, Lars Leader, and others.

**For delivering Break Bread meals:** David Rodgers

**For photos for the newsletter:** Kimberly Tanner

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



**LGBTQ**

Welcoming Congregation



Rev. Anna Hall speaks at the service on October 9, with our chalice and the beautiful fall flowers and decorations provided by Amy Jackson, in view.

### 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/>

### UU Treasurer's Report Sep., 2016

**Outstanding Debt** \$ 0.00

#### Receipts

Plate	\$ 242.85
Pledge	676.00
Rent	0.00
Share the Plate	58.85
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$ 977.70</b>

#### Disbursements

Minister Expense	\$ 700.00
Pest Control/Termite	45.00
Speakers' Fees & Expenses	200.00
Donations (Imagination Library)	58.85
RE / nursery	80.00
UUA dues	440.25
Utilities	272.09
Advertising	0.00
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 1796.19</b>
<b>Net receipt</b>	<b>\$ - 818.49</b>

*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.*