



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
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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

What's going on... **November 2017**

Sun	Nov. 5	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. A.J. Ramirez, “Love Across Borders” Soup Potluck! After the service
Sun	Nov. 12	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “If You See Him in Heaven” Meet & Greet after the service
M	Nov. 13	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sat	Nov. 18	9:00 -12:00	Fall clean-up day!
Sun	Nov. 19	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Taking Back Thanksgiving” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Nov. 26	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Lars Leader, “Guest at Your Table Kick-off Service” Meet & Greet after the service

November, 2017

This issue is running a little bit late this month! Are you on our email list or Facebook page? Those venues are the two main ways we can communicate with you on a more frequent basis. The Yahoo group list is a low volume (few messages per month), moderated e-mail list for announcements, reminders, etc. – contact Carol to be added to the list. If you're on Facebook, join our Facebook page, available at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UUValdosta/>
 Questions? Ask Carol or Kimberly!

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, November 5 - Dr. A.J. Ramirez, "Love Across Borders"

A.J. Ramirez will reprise her message from the Interfaith Pride Service in September. A.J. Ramirez is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor in the state of Georgia. Dr. Ramirez graduated from Valdosta State University with a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy and a Doctor of Education. She is the founder of L.E.A.F. Therapy Services in Valdosta, Georgia which was created to foster diversity both through encouraging meaningful conversations, and accommodation in therapeutic environments. As an advocate of civil rights, Dr. Ramirez has created her practice to support understanding of larger social justice issues which affect all human relationships and interaction.

Sunday, November 12, Rev. Fred Howard, "If You See Him in Heaven"

In honor of All Souls Day this past week, I'd like to share some personal thoughts and reflections on the recent death of my best friend (best friend that is, besides Kathy) and how his death has affected my other relationships, my faith, my ministry, and my life.

Sunday, November 19 – Rev. Fred Howard, "Taking Back Thanksgiving"

As Unitarian Universalists, Thanksgiving should be our holiday. After all, what does Thanksgiving bring to mind if not an open, welcoming table, laden with food from a bountiful harvest? A table where friends and relatives, brothers and sisters have gone to great lengths and travel great distances to sit together and break bread? No particular ancient religion can lay claim to Thanksgiving, yet no religion that I'm aware of can find it problematic. There is such ecumenical appeal and interfaith possibility in the idea of simply coming together in gratitude. Gratitude is, or should be, the core theology of our movement. This morning I'll elaborate.

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, next week, each family will receive a GAYT donations box and information on joining and supporting UUSC.

Sunday, November 26, Lars Leader, "Guest at Your Table Kick-off Service"

The theme for this year's Guest at Your Table program is *Small Change is Big Change*. This year's "guests at your table" include a leader of local efforts to respond to climate change in the South Pacific and a Burmese human rights activist. 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/>

Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith

Nov. 11-12, afternoons. Volunteers must be 16 years old or older. This year's blitz build is located at 1804 Charlton Street and work will be ongoing Nov. 14 – 18. Volunteers must be 16 years old or older.

Our Share-the-Plate Collection in October was designated in support of the 2017 Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith blitz build.

Fall Cleanup Day!

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017

9:00 a.m. to noon

Please join us, Saturday morning, Nov. 18, to help spruce up our sanctuary, RE building and grounds for the fall! Bring cleaning and work items of your choice. Watch for announcements the week before to see what our priorities will be for this clean-up date.

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

Adult Religious Education

The "Building Your Own Theology" series continues at 9:30 a.m., prior to the Sunday services. The class is team-facilitated by Joyce Rapier, Joe Rehberg, Stephen O'Kane and Fred Howard.



Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

This year, in conjunction with the beginning of the Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith Blitz Build, there will be an interfaith event called "Muslims and Christians Together" to be held Friday, Nov. 10 – Sunday, Nov. 12 [please see Editor's note below]. This event is being coordinated by Rev. Richard Hart from Trinity Presbyterian Church, working in conjunction with Dr. Babacar Mboup and Dr. Elvan Aktas of the Valdosta Islamic Community.

The events of the weekend will be held at several locations, including the Valdosta Islamic Center, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and the Habitat for Humanity building sites. On Friday afternoon there will be the Friday Prayers at the Islamic Center, and then in the evening a fellowship dinner and introductory presentations on Muslims and Christians in Valdosta/Lowndes County. On Saturday morning we will gather for a more in-depth study. A selection of workshops will be offered from which participants can choose, all on topics selected to promote better mutual understanding of our respective faith traditions. During lunch there will be a panel discussion on "The Future of Muslim Christian Relations in Valdosta/Lowndes County." Then on Saturday or Sunday afternoons all participants may take part (if desired and if physically able) in the Habitat workday sessions, "Building on Faith."

I have assured Rev. Hart, Dr. Aktas, and Dr. Babacar that there will be good interest from our

congregation for this endeavor. We will need volunteers to help with meal preparation, set up and clean up. Our intent is to have food available to meet all dietary restrictions, cultural and otherwise. Preparing food together is a good way to learn more about our respective cultures and is intended to be an integral part of the learning process.

I am excited about this interfaith endeavor! I hope you will make plans to be a part of it. Please let me or Rev. Hart know of your interest.

In Faith and Community,
Fred

Editor's note: Space is limited for the interfaith events Friday evening and Saturday morning - please contact Rev. Fred Howard, fredhoward3622@gmail.com. All are welcome to join the Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith blitz build, Nov. 11-12, afternoons. The blitz build is located at 1804 Charlton Street and work will be ongoing Nov. 14 – 18.

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

Welcome back to members of the military who have been deployed...

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

Congrats to...

- ❖ Let us hear your news!

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

Games Night is on hiatus for November and December due to all the special events during the holiday season. Please check with Kimberly Tanner for more information.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

September 7, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed various items that need minor repair or replacement in the church, and set date for fall cleanup of Nov. 18.
- Discussed potential speaker scheduled for weekend of Jan. 27-28, Christopher D. Sims, social justice activist and UU speaker from Fairhope, AL.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.

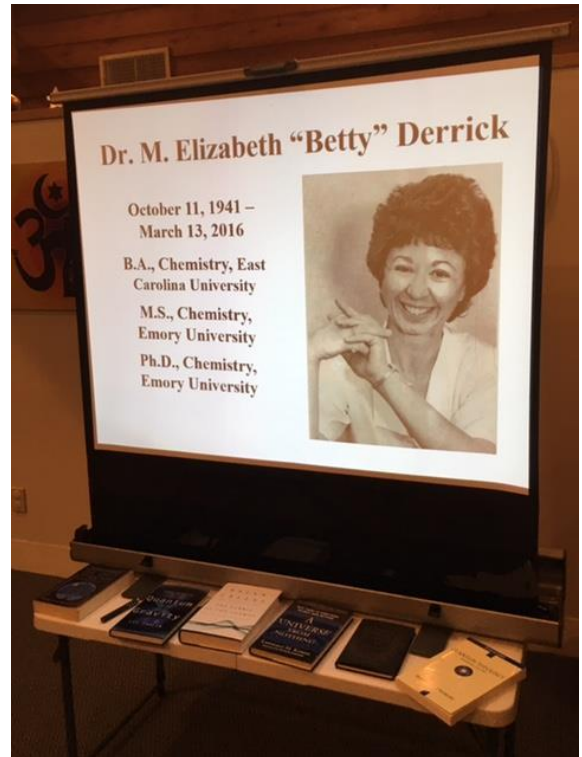
Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles
Newsletter deadline is the 15th of the previous month!

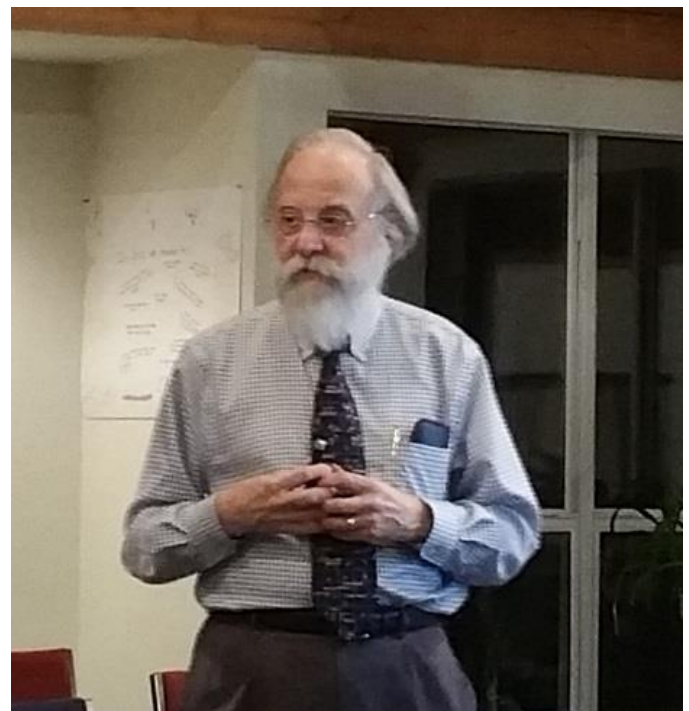
If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.

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

Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture



Slide from the presentation of Dr. Dennis Marks



Dennis Marks speaking at Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture, Oct. 6, 2017, on "The Unity of the Universe"

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.

Thank You! Thank You!

For lay-leading services: Lawrence Rapier, Carol Stiles, Doug Tanner, Stephen O'Kane

For speaking at Sunday Services: Rev. George Bennett, Kimberly Tanner

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson, Daniel Peveto, Stephen O'Kane, and Nephtali Santiago

For Meet & Greet: for everyone who organized snacks in October.

For leading RE: Sue Bailey

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

For further cleaning up the smaller branches of the tree: Weston Stiles

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: Carol Stiles

For leading the Caring Committee: Dee Tait



Rev. Fred Howard and children pouring water from the Water Communion at each corner of the building, Oct. 8, 2017

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

Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter

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 or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

Sangha Tuesdays

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

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.

Below, Sean Richardson shows his Eagle Scout award to Kimberly, Sue, Melanie, Lars, and Carol (photographer). Sean's mother, Kimberly, is at right.



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.



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.