



The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue
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 Valdosta, GA 31604

Minister: Rev. Fred Howard
 Associate Minister: Rev. Bennie Calloway
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Tom Aiello - President	Carol Stiles – Vice President
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 send email to uuvaldosta@yahoo.com to contact us!

What's going on...

Sun	Oct. 4	9:45 AM 10:45 AM	“Introduction to Unitarian Universalism” class Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “I Am a Man of Unclean Lips: Political Correctness and Our First Principle” Meet-n-greet – after the service
Fri.	Oct. 9	6:30 PM	Potluck and Book Group
Sun	Oct. 11	9:45 AM 10:45 AM	“Introduction to Unitarian Universalism” class Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Bennie Calloway, “The Jewish Feast of Tabernacles” Meet-n-greet – after the service Welcoming Congregation – after the service
Fri.	Oct. 16	6:15 PM	Pizza and a Movie
Sun	Oct. 18	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Jack Ford, “I Know You Are But What Am I? Christianity” Meet-n-greet – after the service
Fri.	Oct. 23	6:30 PM	Games Night and Halloween Party!
Sun	Oct. 25	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Joshua Gómez, “Remembering the Dead: Samhain and Dia de los Muertos” Meet-n-greet – after the service

October, 2015...

This month we welcome Rev. Jack Ford, UU Buckman Bridge, back to the pulpit as part of our 50th Anniversary speaker series. We also welcome our new CUUPS group, Oaken Circle!

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, October 4 – Rev. Fred Howard, “I Am a Man of Unclean Lips: Political Correctness and Our First Principle”

I daresay that our first principle is the bedrock of Unitarian Universalism. Honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every person. This principle has propelled us in our quest to redress many of the injustices in our society. But I sometimes wonder if we've gone a bit overboard in our quest to “clean up the act” of our society. Especially when it comes to language. This zealotry from the left side of our culture is often referred to as “political correctness.” Do we sometimes go overboard? Jim Wallis, nationally recognized social justice activist and spiritual advisor to President Obama, says, “Efforts to redress injustice and rectify imbalances can often lead to excesses, sometimes even creating new injustices.” This morning I'll explore this issue further.

Sunday, October 11 – Rev. Bennie E. Calloway, III, “The Jewish Feast of Tabernacle.”

I want to examine the details of biblical narrative and its application to modern worship and progressive spirituality. I will also examine how many non-Jewish spiritual communities have embraced this ancient concept of worship and celebration and its benefits of unified community.

Sunday, October 18 – Rev. Jack Ford, Buckman Bridge UU, Orange Park, FL “I Know You Are But What Am I? Christianity”

Ministering to Unitarian Universalists is challenging, rewarding, and very interesting. So many journeys. So much love and happiness and caring. And a willingness to be mixed up. Often we seem to be unsure of what we really ‘believe’, what label we choose to wear, if any. Defining our spiritual, religious, or philosophic endeavors is not easy for thinkers who promote “the right of conscience” and “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning” and such high hopes as these. Far easier to understand them. You know: those Christians meeting on Sunday morning; those Pagans meeting in the field; those Spiritualists

‘taking over the church’; those Humanists (wherever they are).

In a sermon series on our ‘Six Sources’, Rev. Jack explored the affinity groups, philosophies, and movements which make up this great big bright umbrella called the Unitarian Universalist Association. This sermon is a look at our fourth source, “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves”.

***Share the Plate Sunday Offering:** Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to Habitat for Humanity. The Habitat for Humanity “Building on Faith” build is scheduled for November. This is an annual collaboration among churches to raise funds and build a Habitat house or two during a one-week blitz-build. More info to follow.*

Sunday, October 25 – Joshua Gómez, Oaken Circle CUUPS group, “Remembering the Dead: Samhain and Dia de los Muertos”

October is a special time of year. Leaves are changing, it gets cooler, kids get excited over fast approaching holidays, and for some of us, the veil between worlds will thin. This is a time of year where it is believed by multiple traditions that the boundary between the living world and the after-life thins to the point where the dead could cross over or communicate with loved ones. This time of year, known to some as Samhain (pronounces Sow-ann), has long been identified as the “pre-cursor” to Halloween, and is believed to be where the tradition of ghosts, black cats, candlelight at night, and treats, comes from. Samhain practices are shared by many Pagans of assorted paths, the common “thread” being that it is a time to visit with those who have passed before us. To our brothers and sisters in a few Latin countries, though none more prominent than Mexico, it is time for Dia de los Muertos! One of the oldest traditions, rich in history and culture, Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the dead is practiced annually in Mexico, where they celebrate for a day, and sometimes even a week! During this time, among those who celebrate, the dead are remembered and included in festivities as if they are still with us, as in fact, they almost are due to the thinness of

that veil previously mentioned. There are celebrations, decorations, food, and family, and don't forget, the Dead! Among these groups, from various Pagan paths to our Latin family, the dead are not meant to be forgotten, they are meant to be remembered and even celebrated. The main concept of each holiday will be explained along with a compare and contrast between the more "mainstream" Pagan practices and Dia de los Muertos itself. Whichever path you follow, join us for a celebration of those who have passed but are not forgotten, and who MAY be trying to spend a little more time at the table with us all.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends who are dealing with health issues of their own or of family members.

Congratulations to ...

- ❖ Ed. Note: Please send news – this is your newsletter!

Welcoming Congregation

We will begin meeting again on the 2nd Sunday in October in the "2nd hour," after the service and a brief meet-n-greet. We will expand into one or two other curricula from the UUA, focusing on multiculturalism.

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. Get in touch too if you or someone you know needs the services of this 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.

New Benches for the Firepit!

Check out the new benches around the fire pit! These are the product of the Eagle Scout project of Patrick Richardson. We thank him, his family, and members of the CUUPS chapter who helped obtain donations and helped with the installation during a work day on Sept. 5. The group also cleared the trail out past the firepit – the original establishment of the trail was also an Eagle Scout project, completed by Jason Halter.

Interfaith Pride Service

The Interfaith Pride Service was held on Sunday, September 20 - 2:00 PM at the UU Church, with approximately 30 people in attendance. Guest speakers were representatives of the new Gay-Straight Alliances recently organized, one at Berrien High School and another at Cook High School. The collection of \$185 was designated to these two groups to help support their activities for the school year.

The establishment of the Berrien County GSA was opposed by a group of ministers who went to the school board meeting with a petition over the summer.

Here is an article from the *Georgia Voice*: "Bullying, faith and freedom in South Georgia" by Patrick Saunders, July 10, 2015

<http://thegavoice.com/bullying-faith-and-freedom-in-south-georgia/>

Both GSAs have held their first meetings, and all went well, with 89 students attending at Cook High School, and 25 students present (with no advertising) at Berrien High School. We wish them all the best and offer our full support!

Welcome New Members!



Joshua Gomez



Phillip Williams

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News September 13, 2015

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Voted to approve the contracts for Rev. Fred Howard and Rev. Bennie Calloway.
- Voted to support "Causes" Film Festival in Spring of 2016 (\$150 from Accepting Difference Project Funds).
- Voted to support National Council of Negro Women Communitywide Family Reunion (\$150 from ADP Funds).
- Kimberly Tanner will attend facilitator training in "Our Whole Lives" Program on 25-27 SEP at Emerson UU in Marietta, GA. Board voted to approve covering costs for the training. (Organizers of the workshop later covered the \$265 registration fee with scholarship money.)
- Next Meeting: October 4, 8:45 a.m.?

News from CUUPS

Note: Our new CUUPS chapter will generally be meeting on Wednesday evenings at the UU Church, 7:00 p.m. You can contact the group by e-mail at: valdostaokencircle@gmail.com or check out the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

News from Oaken Circle:

As we leave August behind for the cooler (somewhat) days of September, our thoughts turn to the warm and wonderful holidays coming up. Many of us will spend more time with family for various holidays, and enjoy the fellowship that comes from being with a group that shares our most comforting and familiar of traditions. We will sit around tables and talk, noticing who is new and who is not with us anymore, and in the same way, we will be doing this at the UU church this September as we welcome new members, and yes, a new group as well. This September will see the official start date for our new CUUPS Chapter; Oaken Circle, hosted by our very own congregation, in support of the Pagan members of our church family. CUUPS; the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies, and supporting Pagan-identified UU religious professionals. With our membership of Pagan identifying UUs expanding, interest in Hosting such a Chapter was brought to light and then to fruition by some of our members. Since then, it has been warmly nurtured by a quickly growing group of members who got on board and worked with incredible energy to make it happen. We can look forward to many events, interactions, and service topics which our new Chapter will be sharing with us as we mingle and our flame burns brighter for the knowledge and caring we share. Welcome to the Circle!

Rev. Fred Howard is our part time minister. He can be reached at fredhoward3622@gmail.com. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

Potluck and Book Group

The book group has selected *Reading Lolita In Tehran*, by Azar Nafisi, for the next potluck and discussion, which will be held Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m. We gather for potluck dinner and then begin the discussion about the book. It is not necessary to have read the book, although it helps!

Pizza and a Movie is Back!

We'll be resuming movie night on Friday, Oct. 16. Our feature will be "Awakenings" starring Robin Williams and Robert DeNiro. Nominated for 3 academy awards, it's based on a true story from the life of Oliver Sacks. Sacks, a neurologist who wrote poignant meditations on consciousness and the human condition for many years, died last month from cancer. The world also mourns our recent loss of Robin Williams to suicide. Besides being a powerful and touching story, I thought showing this movie would be a fitting tribute to these two giant personalities of our era.

The story: A new physician finds himself on a ward full of catatonic patients, many of whom led normal lives until an epidemic of encephalitis many years ago left them no longer able to interact with the world around them. He finds a possible treatment for them and obtains permission to try it out. The results are dramatic.

Our showing will begin promptly at 6:15 pm. Since attendance has been so varied and makes it difficult to plan food, I'm requesting that those who plan to attend RSVP to fredhoward3622@gmail.com so that I can get a rough idea of the numbers. If you can't definitely RSVP, come anyway as we always provide extra.

Thanks and see you there!

Fred

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 / Halloween Party!

Friday, October 23, 6:30 p.m. – until ?

All are welcome! Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Bring a snack to share and your choice of beverages. (Please keep in mind that several of our members are gluten-free.)

If you have a game suitable for several to many players and people of all ages, bring it along.

Contact: Susan Bailey.

50th Anniversary Series - Rev. Jack Ford visits, Oct. 18:

The Rev. Jack Ford is an ordained and fellowshiped minister in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, he is a graduate of Stetson University and an alumnus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Jack also studied graduate social work at Florida State University.

After being introduced to our faith in 1987 and entering the ministerial program, the Rev. Ford served seven years as part-time minister in Valdosta, Georgia. For the past 15 years he has been a 'circuit-riding' minister in northeast Florida, serving congregations in Jacksonville, Palatka, St. Augustine and DeLand. He has also operated his own custom woodworking business for 28 years. On March 1, Jack was hired ½-time as the consulting minister for the Buckman Bridge UU Church in Jacksonville.

Rev. Ford has been a regular volunteer for more than three years at the St. Augustine Wild Reserve, helping to care for endangered exotic animals. He also remains passionate about environmental and social justice, enjoys reading and camping, and loves sailing and other water-related sports.

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, with the task and date(s) and she will put you on the list for that task.

Pride Festival!



Fred and Sue at the UU Table at South Georgia Pride! Sep. 19th, 2015 (photo by David Rodgers)

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

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, Next Beginners Class starts Thursday, September 10, 7 – 8 p.m. Continuing class 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

Sangha Tuesdays

5:30-7:00 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, 5:30-6: Buddhist shamata meditation, 6-6:30; Discussion of reading, 6:30-7.

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.

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles,

Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles

December 15: Deadline for the November newsletter.

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

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 speaking at services in September: Glenn Ritchie

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Tom Aiello, Diane Holliman

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson

For Meet & Greet: Mary Ellen Adams, Dawn Renner, and all who brought food for the potluck!

For assisting with RE: Kimberly Richardson, Teagan Dunn, Dawn Renner

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

For taking out trash and recycling: Richard Schofill and Rhett Watson, Sue Bailey, Dee Tait and others.

For delivering Break Bread meals: David Rodgers

For photos for the newsletter: Kimberly Tanner, David Rodgers

For coordinating the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

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.