



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 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

What's going on... **October 2016**

Sun	Oct. 2	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Forgiveness from the Inside Out” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Oct. 9	11:00 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Anna Hall, “Changed for Good” Meet & Greet after the service
M	Oct. 10	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Oct. 16	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service -- Rev. Fred Howard, “Ghoulies and Ghosties: Wonder, Mystery, and the Theology of Halloween” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Oct. 23	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Deborah Marine, “Samhain: Celebrating the Harvest and Remembering the Dearly Departed” Meet & Greet after the service
Fri	Oct. 28	6:30 PM	Halloween Games Night!!
Sun	Oct. 30		Religious Education for children Service – Rev. George Bennett, “People of the Land” Meet & Greet after the service

October, 2016...

Five Sundays in October! We welcome to the pulpit Rev. Anna Hall, Deb Marine, and Rev. George Bennett and of course, Rev. Fred, speaks on the first and third Sundays!

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, Oct. 2 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Forgiveness from the Inside Out”

Tomorrow, October 3, is Rosh Hashannah, the Jewish New Year. Rosh Hashannah begins a ten day period known as the High Holy Days, or Days of Repentance, which culminate on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the year for our Jewish friends. Repentance and atonement are parts of the larger spiritual process required of all people, regardless of their faith tradition - the process of forgiveness. This morning I'll reflect on this process, using some insights I gained from watching the Pixar movie “Inside Out” with my grandchildren.

Sunday, Oct. 9 – Rev. Anna Hall, “Changed for Good”

The world is always changing. Change and transition are constant in our lives, our organizations and our communities. In my research on congregations experiencing transitions, I learned that there is great potential for individual and collective transformation during times of change. I will discuss my research and ideas in this area, including practical advice for how we might harness the changes in our own lives for personal transformation.

Sunday, Oct. 16 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Ghoulies and Ghosties: Wonder, Mystery, and the Theology of Halloween”

Certain sects of the church discourage participation in the rites of Halloween. Recently I've been doing some research on the horror genre in art and entertainment, and discovered there's a complex psychological and spiritual rationale for this wholesale rejection of a celebration that, to a certain way of understanding, is actually profoundly Christian. This morning I'll share some thoughts on this fascinating subject.

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 usually 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, Oct. 23 – Deborah Marine, “Samhain: Celebrating the Harvest and Remembering the Dearly Departed”

Deb Marine will reflect upon the changing of the seasons and lead us in remembering and honoring our ancestors at this time of Samhain. Samhain, celebrated by pagans at the end of October, is a celebration of the end of the harvest and a time to honor the dead, those who have passed in the last year as well as all of our ancestors who came before us.

Deb Marine is a founding member of the Oaken Circle CUUPS chapter, which meets on Wednesday evenings at the UU church.

Sunday, Oct. 30 – Rev. George Bennett, “People of the Land”

Jesus and the Bible clearly and consistently have a bias toward the poor, the foreigner, and the marginalized. Most Churches have ignored this truth by diverting attention from what Jesus taught. As Jesus himself put it, "You strain out gnats and you swallow camels!" (Matthew 23:24)

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.



Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

Several of you commented on my sermon last month on prejudice. I could tell there would be pushback from the minute I began speaking. I could see it in your eyes. That's good. The energy in the room went up. Those of you who made comments, I commend you. It always takes courage to speak your mind. And when I hear honest commentary from those of you who disagree, it lets me know that I'm doing my job.

The role of the minister, in my understanding, is three pronged. First, to bring out the spiritual aspects of a topic or issue. Second, to affirm. Third, to challenge. The first two are relatively easy. A minister gets a lot of pats on the back for these, especially if she or he does them well. It's that third one that presents the most difficulty.

No matter how well I prepare, how secure I am in what I'm saying, it's still difficult when someone disagrees with me or tells me they don't like what I said. But that's not the greatest difficulty. The hardest part is the self-examination that must be done. I know this is hard to believe, but sometimes I'm wrong. That may be hard for some of you to swallow I know, but it's true. And part of every minister's job, actually a part of everyone's job, if they strive to function in a healthy way, is to be willing to admit that. Once I admit that, it means I must be vigilant, I must always be ready to do the proper self-examination that this admission requires. That's the really hard part of being a good human being and especially being a good minister.

Our community is strong and healthy. I know this, because people call me on things. And, in turn, I trust that you as individuals are whole and healthy and that I need not fear challenging you as well. May we continue to live in the healthy give and take that healthy communities always have so that we, in turn, can be a vital part of creating a better world.

In Faith and Community,
Fred

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends who are experiencing health concerns.

Games Night – Halloween Edition!

Friday, October 28, 6:30 p.m. – until ?

All are welcome! Costumes are welcome, 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.

“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, Oct. 2 - Session 2: “Misconceptions about Islam: In Which We Help You Adjust Your Malarky Filter.”

Sunday, Oct. 16 - Session 3: “Islam in America: In Which We Introduce You to People Who Love America and Pray Towards Mecca.”

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

Sunday, Nov. 20 - Session 5: “Making Connections, Part 2: In Which Muslims Have Their Say.”

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.

Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture - and Discussion!

Save the date! The first Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture and Discussion will be held on Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m. at the UU Church! 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.

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."

Put it on your calendar now!

A special thank you this month...

...goes to Amy Jackson, with some help from her husband Doug. Amy has taken over the care of our plants at the church. She repotted some of them in to larger pots, cleaned up others, added potting soil. She will be watering the plants on an as-needed basis (and asks that others not water them, as it is possible to overwater them....)

Prior to Amy volunteering for this endeavor, the plants were cared for by Eva Rucker for many years. Eva is a participant in the Tai Chi classes held at the church, but she has been having some health concerns recently. Our thoughts are with her.

Amy also has planted some hosta plants outside the windows. She provided fall decorations and two beautiful arrangements of flowers for Sunday services in September!

Thank you, Amy!

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.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

September 11, 2016

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Agreed to submit application for Azalea Festival booth in the spring
- Discussed Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture
- Generated several ideas for speakers for the upcoming months
- Next Meeting: Sunday, October 2, 9:30 a.m.

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.

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

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

Thank You! Thank You!

For setting up at Pride: Kimberly Tanner, Amy and Doug Jackson, and to the several people who came by and sat at the UU table, including several members of Oaken Circle CUUPS chapter, throughout the very hot day!

For coordinating and lay leading the Interfaith Pride Service: Carol Stiles

For organizing the reception after the Interfaith Pride Service: Dee Tait and Amy Jackson, and to all those who brought desserts and snacks and helped clean up the sanctuary afterwards!

For cleaning up the grounds at the church after the storm: Lars Leader, Stirling Hill, Deb Marine-Hill and Ian Marine, Kimberly and Patrick Richardson.

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

For taking care of our plants: Eva Rucker (for many years), Amy Jackson (beginning now).

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Carol Stiles, Tom Aiello

For speaking at Sunday Services: Tom Aiello, Don Thieme

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson, Edward Neeman

For Meet & Greet: Dawn Renner, Rosie Asbury, Mary Ellen Adams

For assisting with RE and nursery: Teagan Dunn, Mary Ellen Adams, Dawn Renner, Sean Richardson

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: Amy Jackson

For coordinating the Caring Committee: Dee Tait

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

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



UU's at the South Georgia Pride Festival September 17, 2016, John Saunders Park
(Photos by Amy Jackson)



Visiting after the Interfaith Pride Service, L-R: Carol Stiles, Amy Jackson, Dee Tait, guest speakers, Gabrielle Claiborne and Rev. Linda Herzer, Joshua Hancock (in back).

Interfaith Pride Service

The 2016 Interfaith Pride Service was held on Sunday Sept 18th at the church. Our guest speakers, Rev. Linda Herzer and Gabrielle Claiborne addressed *The Genesis Gender Dilemma*. Gabrielle shared with us her life story, especially about coming out as a transgender woman. Rev. Linda pointed out that verses in Genesis can be interpreted to include people of all genders, rather than using the Bible to exclude people from the faith tradition and alienate them from their religious community.

The collection from the Interfaith Pride Service will be divided between the two Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) that were started in Berrien and Cook County High Schools last year to support them in their activities.

A reception and time to visit followed – thanks to all who brought dessert and snacks. The service was supported by funds from our Accepting Difference Project.

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.

