

# The Flaming Chalice

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342

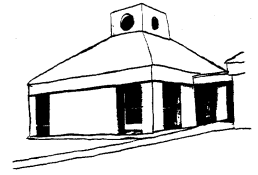
Valdosta, GA 31604

Minister: Rev. Fred Howard

<http://uuvaldosta.net>

229-242-3714

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



Tom 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](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

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

Sun	Oct. 1	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “To Aid and Abet Creation: It’s Why We’re Here”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Oct. 8	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Ingathering and Water Communion Service”</b> Potluck Dinner – after the service! Please bring a dish to share!
M	Oct. 9	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Oct. 15	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service -- Rev. Fred Howard, “Unitarian Gothic”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Oct. 22	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. George Bennett, "Braving the Wilderness"</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Fri	Oct. 27	6:30 PM	Halloween Party and Games Night!
Sun	Oct. 29	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – “UU White Supremacy Teach-In”</b> Meet & Greet after the service

## October, 2017

Postponed due to Hurricane Irma, the annual water communion has been re-scheduled to Oct. 8, with a potluck dinner following the service. Join us when you can!

#### 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 1 - Rev. Fred Howard, "To Aid and Abet Creation: It's Why We're Here"**

What does it take to be creative? What part does the spiritual life play in our creativity? This morning I'll offer some thoughts and share some personal experience about this fascinating subject.

### **Sunday, October 8 – Rev. Fred Howard, "Ingathering and Water Communion Service" (re-scheduled from Sept. 10 - potluck to follow!)**

Today we will celebrate our annual ritual of water communion. Bring a small jar or vial of water from some significant place on your summer journey, and a brief story to share. I will also share a brief homily based on Rachel Carson's short story, "A Fable for Tomorrow."

### **Sunday, October 15 – Rev. Fred Howard, "Unitarian Gothic"**

Gothic horror stories played a large part in shaping our modern festival of Halloween. The Unitarian branch of our faith has distinct connections to the most famous of these macabre tales. Exploring these connections will also give us a chance to explore some of the rich history of our tradition.

**Share the Plate Sunday:** *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.*

### **Sunday, October 22 – Rev. George Bennett, "Braving the Wilderness"**

This sermon is inspired by Brene Brown's book, *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone*. The inspirational passage for the sermon is based on Dr. Maya Angelou's comment with Bill Moyers on a PBS show in 1973: "You are only free when you realize you belong no place---you belong every place---no place at all. The price is high. The reward is great."

### **Sunday, October 29 – Kimberly Tanner and Carol Stiles, "UU White Supremacy Teach-In"**

Today's service will have a different format as we join other UU congregations for another Teach-In about white supremacy. Come prepared to *participate* in this teach-in during the service.

Black Lives of UU states "in order for us to be more effective at tackling the white supremacy beyond our walls, we must also identify ways in which systems of supremacy and inequality live within our faith and our lives."

Although these teach-ins began last spring as a response to hiring practices within the UUA, our raised awareness is now even more timely and important after the events of Charlottesville (see the excerpted statement from UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray about Charlottesville elsewhere in this newsletter). In addition, a debate is raging nationally about professional athletes who are protesting racism in law enforcement by kneeling for the national anthem before sporting events.

## Betty Derrick Memorial Lecture and Discussion Friday October 6, 7:00 p.m.

The speaker is Dr. Dennis Marks and his title is "The **U**nity of the **U**niverse." Dr. Marks is a long-time friend of Betty Derrick and is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, Valdosta State University. Dr. Marks is also chair of the Literacy program for the Rotary Club of Valdosta and chair of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library project, which is sponsored locally by the Valdosta Rotary Clubs.

## 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

This month we'll resume our second hour program of viewing selected TED Talks. One that I'm particularly interested in showing is "The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives," by Jonathan Haidt.

In the talk, Haidt takes a humorous look at a basic human personality trait called "openness to experience" and shows pretty convincingly that understanding this trait can not only help us understand human behavior, but also help us understand people's political affinities. The audience Haidt is addressing considers itself overwhelmingly liberal on social issues (not unlike virtually all UU congregations) and Haidt says that this is a problem. "If the goal is to better understand the world," Haidt says, "the general lack of moral diversity is going to make it harder when all people share the same values. They become a team, and once you engage the psychology of teams, it shuts down open minded thinking."

With this teaser, I invite you to join us after meet and greet on Sunday, October 1 to view this interesting, informative, and provocative TED Talk. Feel free to view it beforehand as this will give you a chance to think more deeply about the point Haidt is making before our conversation. Though the political backdrop is a bit dated (the talk was done in 2008), in some ways I think the topic is now more relevant than ever given the widening political divide facing our country in light of more recent elections and recent events. Come and join the conversation.

In Faith and Community,  
Fred

Rev. Fred Howard, our part-time minister, is on sabbatical in the summer months. He can 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.

## 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.

### 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

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Our members and friends having surgery or dealing with health concerns.

*Congrats to...*

- ❖ From August: Michael and Jackson completed several foot races including the Break Bread Bun Run 5k with a time of 29:54. Samuel was cast in the Gingerbread Players upcoming show, *Alice @ Wonderland: The Musical*. Congrats to the Butler Family!

## 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.

### 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.

# Halloween Party and Games Night!

Friday, October 27, 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.

## A Special Thank You!

...to members and friends of UU and of the CUUPS group who helped remove the large pine tree that fell on the fire pit during Hurricane Irma! They also cleared the parking spaces of small limbs. This includes Erik Marine, Chris Renfro, Doug Jackson, Rachel Gardiner and family, and Devin and Jenae Durham, among others!



Chris and the upper part of the tree



Rachel and family clearing the parking area!

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

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

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed plans for Interfaith Pride Service on September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed functioning of the AC in the sanctuary. Jim is working on catch basins along the entrance way to funnel water away.
- Discussed and approved participation in two toy drives: Coretta's Christmas (HIV advocacy group, for children of patients) and Angel Tree (prison advocacy group, for children of prisoners re-entering the community). Carol will obtain more information.
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 6:00 p.m.

### Thank You! Thank You!

- For organizing the Interfaith Pride Service:** Kimberly Tanner, Carol Stiles
- For organizing the kitchen and serving the reception at the Interfaith Pride Service:** Dee Tait and others
- For lay-leading services:** Doug Tanner, Lars Leader, Cliff Adams
- For cleaning the chairs in the sanctuary:** Tom Phillips
- For speaking at Sunday Services:** Rev. Floyd Rose, Dr. Dennis Marks
- For providing music at services:** Rhett Watson, Daniel Peveto, and Nephtali Santiago
- For Meet & Greet:** Carol Stiles, Joyce Rapier, Kimberly Tanner, Mary Ellen Adams
- For leading RE:** Sue Bailey
- For assisting with RE and nursery:** Dawn Renner, Teagan Dunn, Stephen O'Kane
- 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, Kimberly Tanner, Joshua Hancock
- For leading the Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

### 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.

## Photos from Pride Weekend!

Thanks to all who helped at the UU table at the South Georgia Pride Festival, September 16!

Thanks to Dr. AJ Ramirez for bringing the message and all who attended the Interfaith Pride Service at UU Valdosta on Sunday, September 17!



Dawn Renner at the UU Valdosta table



Dr. AJ Ramirez speaks at the Interfaith Pride Service, Sunday, September 17

## 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](mailto:georgia@taoist.org)

## Sangha Tuesdays

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

## 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](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

## 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

Publicity: Dee Tait



# Love Showed Up Today in Charlottesville

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President

August 12, 2017, excerpted from post on FB

Today was a tragic day. We came to Charlottesville to bear peaceful witness but were met with hate and racist violence. My heart has been broken and I am deeply troubled by what is happening in this community and across this country. ...

This morning, the faith leaders that were called here by [Congregate C'ville](#) went to Emancipation Park to block the entrance and prevent the Unite the Right rally from taking place. The message was clear – to stand with the community to say that hate has no place here. The white nationalist protesters we faced chanted Nazi slogans like “you will not replace us” and “blood and soil” in between anti-Semitic, sexist, and homophobic slurs. They wore Nazi emblems and carried pictures of Hitler. They wore Make America Great Again hats and held pictures of the President of the United States. And they had automatic weapons, paramilitary uniforms, shields, and clubs. ....

Today was a tragic day, a day that ended in the loss of life and in a city left reeling. We lift in our prayers the family of the person who lost their life, their community, all the people injured and traumatized by the events - especially my siblings of color, people of Jewish faith and ancestry, and those who identify as transgender, queer, lesbian, gay and bisexual - and the city and community of Charlottesville. And too – we lift in our hearts a prayer that for all those whose spirits have been distorted by fear and violence – that they may come to know the capacity for love in their own hearts and spirits. As a people of faith, it is this overflowing, deep abiding love that must guide us to show up again and again for justice, for inclusion, for dignity and humanity.

To read the full post: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/rev-susan-frederick-gray/love-showed-up-today-in-charlottesville/1513594372033234/>

## Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund:

Our UUA has created a Hurricane Irma Recovery Fund to assist Unitarian Universalists, congregations, and their communities with recovery. Our Southern Region staff is reaching out to congregations in affected areas to help identify the greatest needs. Hurricane Irma Recovery fund is now being expanded to include Hurricane Maria. UU congregations in the affected areas, including UU Puerto Rico in San Juan, will be able to receive block grants to help rebuild or repair buildings, and help their members and their communities in recovery. To donate online: <https://giving.uua.org/irma-aid>

(please include a "Hurricane Irma" memo on your check)

Unitarian Universalist Association

Attn: Gift Processing

24 Farnsworth Street

Boston, MA 02210-1409

A message from Unitarian Universalist Puerto Rico

Posted on Facebook, 9/26/2017 at 1:54am, almost a week after Hurricane Maria devastated the island.

Thank all of you for your messages of support! Internet is very limited so it may not be possible to answer everyone so may post answers to queries here when internet is available. We still have yet to hear from a couple of members but communications are still very poor at the moment. Please keep sending your thoughts and light candles of concern for us. The UUA Southern Region is coordinating relief from the UUA side of things and here is the coordinator's details:

Rev. Dawn Skjei Cooley | Congregational Life Staff | UUA Southern Region, E-mail: [dcooley@uua.org](mailto:dcooley@uua.org)

Thank you all so much for the love from our UUA family.