



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



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... **September 2017**

Sun	Sept. 3	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “By What Authority? Reflections on Ten Years of Ministry” Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Sept. 10	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	“Building Your Own Theology” class begins (see Rev. Fred’s column) Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Ingathering and Water Communion Service” Potluck Dinner – after the service! Please bring a dish to share!
M	Sept. 11	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sat	Sept. 16	12 – 7 PM	UU table at the South Georgia Pride Festival! Sign up to volunteer at the church or contact Carol or Kimberly
Sun	Sept. 17	10:45 AM 2:00 PM	Religious Education for children Service -- Rev. Floyd Rose, Serenity Christian Church Meet & Greet after the service Interfaith Pride Service
Fri	Sept. 22	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	Sept. 24	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Dennis Marks, “Literacy in Lowndes County” Meet & Greet after the service

September, 2017

Rev. Fred Howard returns on September 3rd and 10th this month! The annual water communion will be on Sept. 10, with a potluck dinner following the service. This month is also the Pride Festival and the Interfaith Pride Service Sept. 16 and 17! 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, September 3- Rev. Fred Howard, “By What Authority? Reflections on Ten Years of Ministry”

This will be my tenth year as your minister. It’s been an interesting and rewarding experience, with a few surprises along the way. I’ve learned a lot. Mostly I’ve learned how much I’ve yet to learn. Especially about ministerial authority in our tradition. This morning I’ll share some thoughts on the journey.

Sunday, September 10 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Ingathering and Water Communion Service”

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, September 17 – Rev. Floyd Rose, Serenity Christian Church

Rev. Floyd Rose will provide the message at today’s service. Rev. Rose is a long-time civil rights leader and recently co-organized a Love & Unity Rally, held on Aug. 19, at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in response to the events in Charlottesville. Here is a portion of his bio from Serenity Christian Church: Rev. Floyd Rose began preaching at the age of eleven years old. He attended Nashville Christian Institute and Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas. In Toledo, OH, Rev. Rose founded the Family Baptist Church. After moving to Valdosta, Rev. Rose started the Church at Pinehill with only him and his wife, Estell Rose. After several years of growth of the congregation, Rev. Rose stepped down as minister, but continued to attend the church. In 2007, Rev. Rose set out to start a new organization, Save Our Children, to provide safe haven for youth in Valdosta. That mission expanded to the founding of Serenity Church, where he served as Senior Pastor, until recently.

Share the Plate Sunday: *Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to the Valdosta Area Rotary Club Imagination Library Project. The project provides Dolly Parton’s Imagination*

Library books each month to children under the age of five in Lowndes County. Starting with “The Little Engine That Could,” an age-appropriate book is mailed directly to each registered child each month, until the child’s fifth birthday. There is no cost to the child’s family. Early reading is important to all parts of the community because it leads to a lifetime of opportunity. Children who learn to read early in life become avid learners in school, skillful workers on the job, and informed citizens in life. The program is administered in Lowndes County by the Valdosta Rotary Foundation.

Sunday, September 24 – Dr. Dennis Marks, “Literacy in Lowndes County”

September is National Literacy Month including the following designated days: Friday, September 8 is International Literacy Day; September 24-30 is Banned Books Week; September 27 is Banned Websites Awareness Day.

Dr. Dennis Marks will speak today about literacy in Lowndes County. He is 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 (see the announcement above for Share the Plate Sunday). The project provides Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library books each month to children under the age of five in Lowndes County. Dr. Marks is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, Valdosta State University.

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.

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.



Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

I look forward to being back with the congregation this month!

I'm especially excited about a new venture we'll be starting. Beginning Sunday, September 10th a new class, "Building Your Own Theology," will be offered on ten consecutive Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 am. The class will be team facilitated by Joyce Rapier, Joe Rehberg, Stephen O'Kane and me. We will use the curriculum of the same name published by the UUA.

The author of the curriculum, Richard Gilbert, has these things to say about the material. "Too often visitors enter our front doors only to move down the aisle and out the back door. It continues to be my belief that one of the reasons for this is that our churches and fellowships provide too little in the way of help for people who wish to build a new theology." "It has been said that liberal religion is a 'do it yourself' kit. But there is a danger that we would make it a kit not only without a blueprint but without tools and material." "We must do more than tell our people they have to think for themselves. We must provide some handles, a kit of tools if you will, to help them build."

This will be an open class; however, you will get the most from the experience by regular attendance. Our intention is to be more of a facilitated conversation and less of a lecture. Hearing everyone's perspective on the material is to be encouraged. Part of our theology as Unitarian Universalists is to stretch ourselves in being open and inviting to beliefs and opinions different from our own.

I hope you will consider being a part of this learning community. Please let one of the facilitators know in the next couple of weeks if you are planning to participate. You can contact me at fredhoward3622@gmail.com.

With all the new faces, new ideas, and new energy that is now coming through our doors, this should be a great year in the life of our community!

In Anticipation,

Fred

Interfaith Pride Service

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2:00 p.m.

Dr. A. J. Ramirez will be the guest speaker at this year's Interfaith Pride Service. Her topic will be "Love Across Borders," incorporating her work as a therapist at LEAF Therapy Services and the impact of love and understanding in a time of emotional uncertainty.

A.J. Ramirez is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor in the state of Georgia. She is a dynamic and inspirational professional speaker who helps motivate people and organizations to determine their goals and helps facilitate how to succeed to those goals. She embodies her own belief in learning as a lifelong process and is known for her collaborative respectful approach, humor, storytelling, clear presentation style and enthusiasm for whatever she is doing. She teaches seminars, leads trainings, is the founder of L.E.A.F. Therapy Services, and teaches sociology at Valdosta State University.

Dr. Ramirez graduated from Valdosta State University with a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy and a Doctor of Education and from the University of North Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. She is a National Certified Counselor and has been practicing therapy since 2007. 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.

Rev. Fred Howard is our part-time minister. He usually speaks on 1st and 3rd Sundays (please check monthly calendar). He can be contacted by email (preferable) at fredhoward3622@gmail.com. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Congratulations to...

- ❖ Seanese Richardson who has earned the rank of Eagle Scout! He will officially receive his Eagle Scout award during an honor court ceremony scheduled for Sept. 11 at Park Avenue United Methodist Church (Valdosta *Daily Times*, Aug. 22, 2017, carried an excellent news story about Sean's accomplishment!).

Our condolences to ...

- ❖ Members and friends who have recently lost loved ones.

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Members and friends with health concerns.

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 scheduled for Friday, September 22, 6:30 p.m. until ? Please speak with Kimberly Tanner or Dawn Renner to express your interest in Games Night! Please bring a snack to share (remember that some of our members are gluten-free and vegetarian / vegan).

A Special Thank You!

...for the care and trimming of our green space which this summer was completed by Chris, Deb, and Stirling while Jim Ingram was busy with travels. Thank you, all!

Love & Unity Rally Aug. 19, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument



A few UUs (in yellow shirts) were at the Love & Unity Rally, organized by Rev. Floyd Rose, Serenity Christian Church, and Rev. Billy McFadden, St. Paul AME Church, in response to events in Charlottesville.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News August 3, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed speakers and program for September and for the next Betty Derrick lecture later in October or November.
- Tom Phillips trimmed some of trees which are blocking our sign along the road. Discussed plans to re-establish the soil along the entrance way and install catch basins.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 7, 6:00 p.m.



Thank You! Thank You!

For watering plants at UU: Amy Jackson
For mowing and trimming: Jim Ingram, Chris Renfro, Deb Marine and Stirling Hill.
For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Carol Stiles, Dee Tait
For speaking at Sunday Services: Kalina Winska, Bernie Tamas, Rev. Dr. Anna Mitchell Hall
For providing music at services: Rhett Watson
For Meet & Greet: Dawn Renner, Kimberly and Doug Tanner, Carol Stiles
For leading RE and nursery care: Sue Bailey
For assisting with RE and nursery: Dawn Renner, Kimberly Tanner, and welcome back to Teagan Dunn!
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

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.

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

Sangha Tuesdays

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group is on hiatus for the summer. Please watch for announcements in the fall.

For those with children in our lives who may need some strategies for coping during these tumultuous times and the times to follow:

Hateful and violent rallies of white supremacists are news we cannot ignore. While action is a valid response, as parents and caregivers we must also find ways to help our children process what is happening emotionally and spiritually. These resources may help you, your family, and others in your faith community. Learn more on the UUA website:

<https://www.uua.org/families/disaster/responding-to-trauma>

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/>

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

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.

From the Unitarian Universalist Association and President Susan Frederick-Gray:

Our hearts are with those in southeast Texas as they continue to cope with rain and flooding after the initial impact of Hurricane Harvey on Friday. In this difficult time, we share this pastoral message from UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray: Source of all, we hold all of those in harms way in our care today. May the people of greater Houston, those along the Gulf Coast who were in the path of the hurricane, and those who are safe but still watching the waters rise, find their way to safety.

We pray for the strength and courage of the first responders, we pray for neighbors who are reaching out a helping hand, for the steadiness of medical personnel in the face of challenging circumstances, and for the wisdom of local officials. We pray for all those around the world facing the effects of weather disasters, and for those suffering because of violence and human injustice. May we all join our hearts and hands in the service of the healing of our world. Amen

The UUA and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) are collaborating on a recovery and relief fund: Please give as generously as you are able. Half of all funds raised will go to at-risk populations served by UUSC partners and the other half of the funds will support Unitarian Universalist congregations and members of those congregations most affected by the storm. Those funds will be administered by a group of leaders in the UUA's Southern Region, which includes the states across the southeast from Texas to South Carolina, and from most of Virginia to Florida.

Online contributions may be made here: <https://giving.uua.org/harvey-floods>

Contributions may be mailed **to:**
(please include a "Hurricane Harvey" memo on your check)
Unitarian Universalist Association
Attn: Gift Processing
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210-1409

President Frederick-Gray issued a statement condemning President Donald Trump's directive banning transgender people from entering the military:

"I condemn in the strongest terms President Trump's immoral directive banning transgender people from entering the military and revoking health care support for those currently serving. Unitarian Universalists unequivocally support the full humanity of people across the spectrum of gender and sexuality, including the right of transgender people to serve in the military. This is yet another attack from this administration on the humanity, dignity, and fundamental rights of people in this country."

Read the full statement on UUA.org .

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.