



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, *where diversity is treasured.*
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Inside

Board Notes.....	2
From McGregor Boulevard.....	2
<i>by Rev. CJ McGregor</i>	
January Sermons.....	3
Ongoing Events.....	4
MLK March Info.....	4
January Calendar.....	5
Treasurer's Report.....	6
Climate Action Team Update.....	6
January Odyssey: Ed Elrod.....	6
2018/19 Stewardship Drive.....	7
Together on the Journey.....	8
<i>featuring Ellen Pendleton</i>	
Colleen North in Naples Art Show.....	8
Joys & Sorrows.....	9
New January Adult Ed. Forums.....	9
Social Action & Outreach Survey.....	9
Visuality Panel Discussion.....	10
Congregational Retreat Planned.....	10
Teaching Tuesdays (New Time).....	10
Animal Ministry.....	10
Shell Point Radio.....	10
Childrens R.E. Notes for January.....	11
ACMA January Concert Lineup.....	11
Green Sanctuary Update.....	12

Happy New Year!



Two Services Begin Sunday, January 7
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Adult Ed. Forum at 10:10 a.m.
Children's R.E. during 11 a.m. Service

Annual Stewardship Drive
Kick-Off on January 21, 2018
"Championing an Attitude of Gratitude"
(see page 7)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March
Monday, January 15 (see page 4)

BOARD NOTES *by Diane Cartwright, President*

The Board Meeting was held on December 20, 2017.

The board warmly welcomed Ed Elrod to his first meeting as board secretary. We are very grateful that he is willing to serve in this leadership role. Unfortunately, Ed's first meeting was abnormally long, and challenged him to make his music rehearsal later that evening. We regret the first impression.

Two important discussions consumed our time: the revisions to our bylaws and the 2018 - 2019 budget proposal. Both items will be voted upon at the annual meeting on March 25. Congregants will have an opportunity to review both the budget and the bylaws at least two weeks before the meeting. One week before the meeting, on March 18, an

open question and answer session will be held to discuss the bylaws and the budget.

The Board expressed gratitude for the efforts of Sharon Gray, Bill Snider, Marsha Bates, and Joyce Ramay who worked many long hours reviewing and revising the bylaws. The bylaws committee and the Executive Committee will next review the suggestions made at the board meeting and finalize the bylaws. After board approval the bylaws will be published for the congregation.

After input from various All Faiths' leaders, the Finance Committee presented a proposal for next year's budget, which the board discussed and offered suggestions. Finally, the Executive Committee will prepare a version for final re-

view and approval before it is presented to the congregation in March

Other business included voting approval for Climate Action Team leaders and Rev. CJ to apply for an Environmental Protection Agency grant that will be used to create change in the Dunbar community. The Board fully supports initiatives where All Faiths will be making a difference in the local community.

The board appreciated the efforts of Judy Alberda, Jane Broadstone, Jeannine Martin, and Michael Pierre for the creation and maintenance of our beautiful butterfly garden.

We were glad to report that our generous congregation donated \$2,835 for our employee bonuses. Bonuses were distributed according to a formula agreed upon by the board. Thank you.

The next board meeting will be January 17 at 3:45 p.m. Members are welcome to attend.

Thank You from the Staff

We are all so grateful to be part of an organization that changes people's lives, that gives hope to those who have given up, that is a family to those who are alone. It is because of you, the members and friends of All Faiths, that we can do what we do.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous and thoughtful bonus donations. There is no place we'd rather serve.

Rev. CJ, Regina, Joseph Brauer, Joe Gayton, Robert Bennett

FROM MCGREGOR BOULEVARD *by Rev. CJ McGregor*

Mission Statement

"All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community, seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth..."

"We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world...."



I recall a time one January when I spent a week in New York at my home near Canada. Some advice: There is no reason to visit this place in winter that is literally over 100 degrees colder than our beautiful home here in Florida. I spent nearly 26 hours trying to get home. I started my journey at 7:30am on Friday morning and touched

down on Florida soil late Saturday afternoon. I wasn't bothered because the delays gave me time to reflect on the year that just passed.

One of my colleagues made a post on his Facebook page in early December that I've been sitting with since. He writes, "In our culture there is a buildup to the holiday season. Once we reach the holidays it seems we have peaked and choose not to gradually let ourselves down on the other side -- a task I believe that is worthy of our time and attention. You see after the lights are taken down, literally or figuratively, the work that this past sea-

son inspires continues."

This brings me to a poem which may help us consider our course of direction for our new year. I am sure you have heard this poem written by educator, theologian, civil rights activist, and minister Howard Thurman.

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

(continued on page 3)

*to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among
brothers,
and to make music in the
heart.*

The Rev. Jackie Potter helps us understand our work this time of year by breaking down Thurman's poem and making it relevant to our lives today. She writes, "But Thurman's poem suggests some work for us to do, a calling which seems to happen naturally when our hearts have been refreshed and reborn in beginning a new year together."

Regardless of our theology the season that has just passed asked us to consider the paradox of the birth of Jesus, but also that Christians await his return. Gandhi tells

us, "we are the one that we are waiting for. I am the one and you." We are the ones who must open our hearts, reach down and call on that still small voice within each of us which is waiting there. We are the light which can shine in the darkness. Thurman's poem tells us that the angel's song is over, the shepherds are back on the hills, and the kings are home. He tells us of the work which we are called to do, and I wonder if any of this work has meaning or significance to you.

We are to find the lost. Where do we look for the lost? You needn't go far. They are living under bridges, sleeping on benches and are being turned away from shelters right here in our own community. They are lost, have no home, no security. I am grateful for the organizations that serve them, which we need to support.

What about us? Are we lost? Many of us live with a sense of loneliness, separation and despair brought about, in part, by our highly mobile society. Most of us don't live in one community long enough to develop histories with nearby families, and don't have lots of family around to function as a support and guide. Author Ann Simpkinson reminds us that in days gone by, when we were rooted in a community which told us who we are, we were not lost. She writes "But times have changed; now we are forced to carve out our own roles as well as develop a set of values, a life purpose, construct an independent personality and a sense of personal worth." We can lose our way in the busy world and at times feel fraught and lost. "This is a calling for each of us," says Potter. "We need to slow down and take the time to find ourselves, know who we are, connect with our deepest authentic self, ask for guidance and then listen intently. The heart speaks softly."

We are to heal the broken. We all know people suffering from broken lives, someone who has been torn open by anxieties brought on by a crisis, loss of a loved one, loss of a job, substance abuse, divorce or depression, loss of health and independence.

The listening presence of a friend can be healing. We can all be healers.

We must feed the hungry. Food is necessary for survival. There are people in our own country, in our own community, that are hungry or starving. Most of us have enough to eat and enough to share, which we do. There is another kind of sustenance which we need as well as food. We may have enough to eat, but we may not have enough loving emotional sustenance. It's important to attend to these needs and practice self-care and nourish ourselves. Pay attention and make time for these things.

We are to release the prisoner. We know there are many people incarcerated whom we cannot release. We ourselves are not in institutions of confinement, but again we need to check in with our inner selves. We may be living in prisons of our own making, identifying with roles to which we have adapted, which define us and perhaps confine us. We are much more than our roles and than how we describe ourselves. The truth is that at any moment these identities can be threatened or taken away and we're left helpless, angry and lost. It's clear that the things the world gives us can never give us lasting security or freedom.

Deeper than this lies the prisoner of spirit that we must release to make our world whole. Call it God, spirit, the divine, morality. Call it

(continued on page 7)

January Sermons by Rev. CJ McGregor

Jan. 07 – **Guest at Your Table**

Music by Joseph Brauer

Jan. 14 – **Black Leaders & White Allies**

Music by Joseph Brauer & Rebecca Peets

Jan. 21 – **Home Economics**

Music by Joseph Brauer

Jan. 28 – **Walking Toward Trouble**

Music by Joseph Brauer & Darlene Mitchell

Ongoing Events at All Faiths

Happy January Birthday to you!



Jan 1 Shea Fierro
Jan 5 Colleen North
Jan 13 Joyce Schaffer
Jan 20 Ellen Pendleton
Jan 21 Ernie Fierro
Jan 22 Susan Meissner
Jan 27 Lewis Robinson
Jan 27 Matt Stark
Jan 28 Fran Way

And Coming Up...

Feb 3 Midge Magstadt
Feb 7 Kendra Maroon

*If you are missing or see someone
who is missing from the birthday
roster, please let Regina know.*

MLK, Jr. Peace March January 15 - 11 a.m.

The 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk will begin on Monday, January 15 at 11 a.m. at Dunbar Community School, 1857 High Street. If you would like to carpool, we will leave All Faiths at 10 a.m.

The Unity breakfast at Sidney-Berne Davis Art Center at 7 a.m. is SOLD OUT.



Book Club & Brown Bag - January 8 at 12pm

Meeting on the 2nd Monday of the Month

Contacts: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net and
Annely Hudanick, annelyblue@hotmail.com

The Topic: **Care of the Soul.** Be prepared to give a brief talk about a book you're reading or you have read that is relevant to any kind of *discovery* - use your imagination.

Free Inquiry Group (FIG) - January 18 - 6pm

Guest Speaker Mary Tracy Sigman: What about Buddhism?

Contact Sharon Gray for more info. Details will be emailed to those on FIG email list.

Contact: Sharon Gray, geema1@yahoo.com

Meditation - Wed. at 7pm & Friday at 10:30am

Wednesday Contact: Lisa Leonhardt, kindreds@aol.com

Friday Contact: Jeanne Ezell, jeannezell@gmail.com

Join friends to develop your mindfulness, compassion, and sense of serenity.

McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, Jan. 21

Collection is on the third Sunday of every month.

Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

Please donate non-perishable foods such as cereal, peanut butter, tuna, as well as men's and women's clothing to help HIV/AIDS patients and their families. This month the clinic would appreciate CEREAL over other non-perishable foods.

All Voices Choir Practice- Wednesdays at 5pm

Except the 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Contact: Joseph Brauer, jodabrauer@gmail.com

Solos Group Events

Contact: Annely Hudanick, annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the solos for outings and lunch w/wo a movie date. The potlucks, however, are reserved for "single" solos.

Sat. Jan. 06 - No Potluck this Month

Sat. Jan. 13, 1pm - Lunch w/wo a movie, Molon Labe Souvlaki, 5100 S. Cleveland Plaza (Sam's Plaza) *Change of date due to Blockbuster FUNraiser being held on 1/20*

JANUARY 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



HAPPY NEW YEAR

<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10am Choir Practice</p> <p>12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support Group</p> <p>1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm Meditation</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30am Meditation</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert <i>Reckless Saints</i> w. David Hintz opening</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9am & 11am Service</p> <p>10:10 am Adult Ed. Forum</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am Sun. Service Team Mtg.</p> <p>12pm Book Club</p> <p>6pm Ed Elrod's Odyssey</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support Grp.</p> <p>1pm Teaching Tues. (see pg. 10)</p> <p>6pm Social Action & Outreach Mtg.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm Meditation</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 am Finance Comm. Meeting</p> <p>12pm Exec. Comm. Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30am Meditation</p> <p>13</p> <p>1pm Solos Lunch w/wo Movie</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert <i>Nikki Talley & Jason Sharp</i> w. <i>Chakulla</i> opening</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9am & 11am Service</p> <p>10:10 am Adult Ed. Forum</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>MLK Day Downtown March</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:45pm Board Meeting</p> <p>No Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm Meditation</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Free Inquiry Group (FIG) Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30am Meditation</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert <i>Kip Lawrence</i> <i>HomeGrown</i> w. <i>Cindy & Alan Bickford</i> opening</p> <p>20</p> <p>5:30pm BLOCKBUSTER FUNraiser w. Joan Marshall</p> <p>Sold Out!</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9am & 11am Service</p> <p>10:10 am Adult Ed. Forum</p> <p>McGregor Clinic Collection</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2pm Animal Ministry Mtg.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support Grp.</p> <p>1pm Teaching Tues. (see pg. 10)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5pm Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm Meditation</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30pm VISUALITY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:30am Meditation</p> <p>27</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert <i>Bill Mize</i> w. <i>Bill Burkert</i> opening</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9am & 11am Service</p> <p>10:10 am Adult Ed. Forum</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5pm Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm Meditation</p>	<p>See the calendar on-line: http://www.allfaiths-uc.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in Red Print.</p>	

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



2018 will be a busy year for the Climate Action Team. We are part of a grassroots movement that is gaining strength and momentum from every corner of our society. Americans everywhere are embracing our need to act in concert with the rest of the world in fighting the menace climate change poses to every aspect of our lives. The time is past to debate

whether or not this threat is real. The painful impacts of climate change are being felt right now, right here in America and around the globe. The window of opportunity to effectively alter the dramatic increase in global warming is closing and we must act immediately to avoid catastrophic consequences.

This year you will be asked to join with the rest of the congregation in the process of becoming a Green Sanctuary. Your Climate Action Team will be an integral part of this process and will work in close cooperation with the Green Sanctuary team to help educate, motivate and guide our members in becoming more environmentally informed and personally engaged in implementing the changes essential to our survival.

This will also be a year marked by collaboration with other organizations. We are strengthening our ties to organizations such as the Calusa Sierra Club, the Pachamama Alliance, the League of Women Voters and the Citizens Climate Lobby. We encourage you to learn more about these groups and get involved in one or more of them and find your own way to make a difference. The Climate Action Team wants and needs input from each of you on ways our congregation can best contribute to this existential fight for survival.

We encourage you to add your name to our CAT mailing list to stay informed about our activities. Just drop a note with your email address and phone number to Joan Marshall at jfmdbm@yahoo.com and she'll add you to our list.

Our next CAT meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd, 2018. The meetings are open to all interested parties. Please join us.

And mark your calendars for Sunday, January 14th, when we will host another letter-writing party after services in the community room.

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Sharon Gray, Treasurer

CASH ASSETS AS OF 11-31-17

100 · Iberiabank General Fund	4,671
102 · Iberiabank Operating Reserve	45,503
103 · Raymond James Legacy Acct	31,912
105 · Pay Pal	448
107 · 2017 Capital Fund Acct.	<u>4,536</u>
Total	\$87,070

November 2017 P&L

Income	10,393
Expense	<u>20,293</u>
Net Loss	(\$ 9,900)

We have had several months with low attendance, vacations, hurricanes, etc. We trust in the next three months we will see an increase in income to compensate for the temporary slump. When each month is examined, we need to remember that it is the annual budget that is the important factor. At the end of November, which is three-quarters of our fiscal year, we were in the 75% range for both income and expenses.

The finance committee, treasurer, minister, board and others will begin preparing for the preliminary budget for the next fiscal year (April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019). Committees will need to look at what expenses they incur and submit that request to the finance committee chair.



**January's
ODYSSEY
Ed Elrod
Monday January 8
6:00 p.m.**

Each month Rev. CJ schedules an Odyssey with the member chosen to be highlighted. He will host an evening program where he will "interview" the member. It will be a mix of interview, storytelling, and an intimate look at the life and story of our members. This month Ed Elrod will share his story. He's more than just our sound technician!

Unitarian Universalism. It always loves, is accepting, and is peace and gladness. When we are able to lift our thinking out of our own little ego desires and live in this loving realm of the heart, then we will be free and have real security.

We are to rebuild the nations. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we would like it, or as we know it could be. Our world has become a global village and we live on a small planet. We must learn that we're one humanity and one earth in order to survive. Right now the nations of the world seem to be in terrible turmoil and it can be overwhelming to think what we might do to help. I am just one small person. What could I do, we might ask. I guess being informed is one thing. We have some real activists among us. They are aware of how our taxes pay more for war than for feeding the hungry, how our clothes are made using children. They have a passion for peace and regularly work for that quality to be the reality in our world, beginning with ourselves. Martin Luther King Jr. writes: "When will the dark night end? When we look into our neighbor's face and see it as our own." This is difficult for us to do, but it is a spiritual truth that what we do to the other one, we do to ourselves.

We are to bring peace among our brothers and sisters. We can move from our egos up into our hearts, This is where we are able to experience our humility and vulnerability as a human being and realize that we are all working hard to navigate this earthly existence. We can drop our fear and competition and our hearts can open with love and compassion for our fellow travelers. Especially those stranded in airports!!

Jeffrey Miller, an American born lama in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, asks "if we were able to go inside right now and awaken our sleeping Buddha what would we find?" Tibetan Buddhism says that at the heart of you, me, and every single person there is an inner radiance that reflects our essential nature. They refer to this as inner light, innate luminosity. That's what we would find inside. Jesus said it like this. "You are the Light of the World." When we get in touch with this light it will guide us to be the compassionate people our faith calls us to be, which the world so profoundly needs.

Thurman gives us an immense calling, for the need is great. It is our work after the lights. Where do we start? How do we decide where we should serve, what we can do? Thurman writes another important poem:

Don't ask what the world needs.

Ask what makes you come alive and go do it.

Because what the world needs are people who have

come alive.

What is it that makes you come alive? What is calling you?

I offer you this Metta prayer of loving kindness: "May you be at peace, may your heart remain open, may you awaken to the light of your own true being, may you be healed and may you be a source of healing to all others."

May this new year bring peace to your heart, your spirit, and the world.

- Blessings, CJ

STEWARDSHIP GEARING UP FOR A GREAT NEW FISCAL YEAR!

by Doug Cartwright

The Stewardship Team has announced plans for the pledge drive and theme of 2018/19. The pledge drive will begin January 21 with a distribution of this year's brochure and pledge cards which will emphasize the theme of "Championing an Attitude of Gratitude."

All Faiths saw many improvements in 2017 including installing our settled minister, establishing weekly children's programs, expanding the duties of our office manager, hiring a music director who also will perform at services and will select music for services, hiring a new hospitality manager, implementing a dynamic new direction for landscaping and building and grounds, negotiating a new mortgage, and forming a new choir. As we complete 2017, All Faiths finds itself in a solid position financially, having raised our monetary reserves and established a capital fund.

We hope to grow and be a recognizable force in the spiritual community of the greater Fort Myers area. But growing into a financially feasible and a socially responsible spiritual entity in Southwest Florida takes an expanding commitment by the congregation: in other words "Championing an Attitude of Gratitude."

The pledge drive will emphasize raising money to plan a budget for fiscal year 2018/19 (April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019). We are grateful for the past year's program growth and need to grow our pledges ten to twenty percent to continue meeting Congregational goals.

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

by Fran Way, Member Services

Each month the newsletter will profile an All Faiths' veteran and/or new member. This month we feature Ellen Pendleton.



Ellen Pendleton Member Since October 2017

Born in Orange, New Jersey, Ellen Pendleton and her parents moved to Fort Myers Beach when she was three years old. Her father developed and sold trust programs and travelled nationally to help banks set them up. The family would often accompany him, and by the time she was six years old Ellen had been to 41 states. When at home on the Beach, the family first lived in a travel park and later purchased property near Estero Blvd. Ellen says the roads were mostly unpaved back then, and there were three churches, three bars and one cop on the Beach.

She attended one of the churches and became president of the youth group. As she grew older, she was turned off by the messages she heard from the pulpit. By the time she graduated high school, she had become an agnostic.

Ellen attended Fort Myers Beach schools until sixth grade and then transferred to junior and senior high schools in Fort Myers. She earned her undergraduate degree at Florida State where she majored in marketing and advertising. Resisting pressure from her father to pursue "secretarial science" as a career - considered at that time a "safe path" for women - Ellen earned her master's degree in marketing at the school of business at Georgia State.

One day, while buying a bottle of wine, she noticed a Reader's Digest article titled "women make equal pay in computer field." So she incorporated computer programming into her studies. Her first job after graduation was with Eastman Kodak where she worked on an early IBM-1130. It had only 8,000 megabytes.

At age 24, Ellen struck out on her own, purchased an airline ticket, and spent four months traveling throughout Europe. "I actually hitchhiked alone through the Alps," she said.

Thinking back on her life, Ellen says she could "never quite figure out what I wanted to do." She says that she "perfected the art of going around in circles," both career-wise and geographically. Over the years, she moved from Fort Myers to Atlanta, to Southern and Northern California, back to Atlanta and, in 2005, finally back to Florida.

Ellen married at 30, saying she was attracted to her husband Jim for three reasons: "He could make pizza from scratch; he was not into sports; and he had a color TV!" When they married, she insisted the minister eliminate the word "obey" and

substitute "cherish" in the ceremony. While living in California, she attended a Unity church and has pleasant memories of a large Unity congregation in Atlanta whose sanctuary overlooked a beautiful forest.

Jim and Ellen's marriage lasted 24 years. Jim stayed with computers, while Ellen moved from Kodak to operating her own business for eight years, then worked in advertising and, finally, real estate. She "retired" at 62, and worked for the non-profit Healthy Start where she wrote small grants and planned events.

A lover of fast cars, Ellen says that she wishes that she could have been a race car driver. While in California, a race car driver took her on a 200 mph spin around the track, ending with a 360 degree spin. "It was one of the thrills of my life...every pore in my body opened!" She "fell in love" with her '71 Datsun 280-ZX and even once drove it in competition.

Now in retirement, Ellen says she is on a more contemplative and deeper spiritual journey. She tried out several churches in Fort Myers but did not find them meeting her needs. After a 40-year search, she says she has "fallen into grace" and has found All Faiths to help her on that journey.

She first became aware of All Faiths during our winter rummage sale. She was impressed by the volunteerism, and after visiting services and attending an orientation class, she called Regina and said, "Sign me up!"

"It's the first time I have enjoyed all of the service," she said. "It's the very first time I have thoroughly enjoyed being in church. Regina is great and CJ is phenomenal! And after services, folks don't divide into cliques. They talk to everyone!"

COLLEEN NORTH SHOWS ART IN NAPLES



Colleen North will display her original oil on canvas paintings of the beaches at Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park during the January 20th "Wild-life & Wetlands Art Show" at the Park from 9am-4pm.

The Annual Art Show is a special event organized by the Friends of Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, held in Area 3, on the sand with native Florida vegetation within view of the Gulf. The Art Show, begun 20 years ago by Colleen's father, artist William North, provides an opportunity to show her paintings along side prints of her father's paintings of the Park in North Naples.

For more information, contact Colleen at (239) 437-9757.

SUNDAY ADULT ED. FORUM TACKLES THE GREAT AMERICAN SHORT STORY

Over twelve weeks beginning in January, the Sunday Adult Ed. Forums will center around the study of the topic of Great American Short Stories. All these stories are available on the internet and deal with problems of American life (or life anywhere). Some of them are women's issues, some are men's issues, and all of them deal with relationship or societal issues. The format will be a Socratic Seminar conducted by *Doug Cartwright* with help from *Diane Cartwright* and will require participants to read the stories online or from other sources and come willing to offer their opinions.

Participants will read the stories and prepare to discuss the issues that they deal with in a 40-minute discussion at the Adult Ed. Forum between Sunday services starting at 10:10. If you do not have access to a computer, we can provide copies or direct you to your local library. If you miss a session, it will be easy to pick up by just reading the next selection. In other words, the sessions are self-contained, not relying on the previous ones to progress in the course. We will start January 7 and proceed through April, allowing for some alternative sessions and general meetings, etc.

The titles, which we will discuss in order, are as follows:

- 1-07 - *The Story of an Hour*: Kate Chopin
- 1-14 - *Miss Brill*: Katherine Mansfield
- 1-28 - *The Chrysanthemums*: John Steinbeck
- 2-04 - *A Jury of Her Peers*: Susan Glaspell
- 2-11 - *Paul's Case*: Willa Cather
- 2-25 - *A & P*: John Updike
- 3-04 - *The Rich Boy*: F.Scott Fitzgerald
- 3-11 - *Dr. Heidegger's Experiment*:
Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 4-01 - *The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg*:
Mark Twain
- 4-08 - *The Short, Happy Life of Francis Macomber*:
Ernest Hemingway
- 4-15 - *The Lottery*: Shirley Jackson
- 4-22 - *There Will Come Soft Rains*: Ray Bradbury
- 4-29 - *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*:
F. Scott Fitzgerald

JOYS & SORROWS

With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys & sorrows of our members expressed in December:

by Joyce Ramay

We experienced many joys and sorrows in 2017. We have a new minister who is providing loving pastoral care and guidance. We have a new music director who brightens our lives with his music. Some of our beloved members died. Others moved away to be closer to families. We are grateful to modern medicine that provided miracles for improving the quality of life for those with chronic conditions, and sustaining people on chemotherapy. Children and grandchildren were born, others got married. People found new jobs and started new careers. We have new members who have joined us and many visitors attend our services.

It has been a year in which we shared much with each other. The All Faiths family is one in which we are all welcome. We celebrate together, we shed tears together. It's what loving families do. As we start a New Year together, know that we are here for you.

Ellie Boyd was hospitalized after a fall, but did not have any serious injury. We hope that she is able to continue to join us for services in the New Year.

Joe Guardiano passed away on December 22nd shortly after moving to hospice care. A memorial service will be planned for January. Our loving thoughts and prayers go out to Jan.

Barb Pizzini's vision is limited, so she had to move to the Pavilion at Shell Point for more assistance. Please keep Barb and Lou in your loving thoughts.

Joyce Reischuck continues to heal after suffering a broken pelvis while visiting in Vermont. The good news is that she expects to return to Fort Myers in early January.

Joe Whitehill passed away from heart failure on December 15th. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

SOCIAL ACTION & OUTREACH

by Richard Keelan, Chair

We need your input. The newly formed Social Action and Outreach Committee will be taking a quick survey of the congregation on the first two Sundays of January. You will receive your survey at the door on your way into service. The survey will be quick and painless. In order for the committee to do the work of focusing and supporting our social justice work, we need your direction.

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

Save the Date! February 3, 2018 - 10am - 3pm

FORWARD THROUGH THE AGES

This retreat will help us define appreciative inquiry and use this concept to name All Faiths' DNA, who the congregation is at its core. We will use the SCOP model to identify strengths, challenges, opportunities, and a plan to move forward. Help us discover a process of naming who the congregation wants to be and naming where the congregation wants to be. This retreat will educate the congregation about the Life Cycle and Stages of Development for Congregations, and identify where our congregation stands.

TEACHING TUESDAYS

Four-Part Series - Led by Rev. CJ McGregor
January 9 and 23 & February 13 and 27
NEW TIME - 1pm to 3pm

Haunting Church: Owning Your Religious Past

As Unitarian Universalists we need to reckon with our religious upbringings and integrate them into our current religious lives. This four part program is offered to all ages because its activities and discussions help Unitarian Universalists grow in their faith, moving from a space of discomfort and awkwardness to a space of affirmation and wholeness. The program's exercises invite participants to revisit religious spaces and people from childhood in a way that promotes greater self-understanding and personal peace.

ANIMAL MINISTRY

January 22, 2018 - 2:00 p.m.

All Faiths' Animal Ministry needs ten people to commit to an eight-session program called *Seeking Circles*, which is a cornerstone of the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry Reverence for Life Program.

The sessions provide a framework for a deepening faith in the UU principles as they relate to other species. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the community room or contact Debra MacDonald, 920-379-0782, debepot@yahoo.com.

This group is not a vegetarian, or animal rescue group, and does not take in animals or make donations. The group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m.; however, the next meeting will be on January 22 due to Martin Luther King Day.

Visuality Voices

"HOW WE GOT HERE" *Open to the public*

6:30pm- 8:30pm "WHERE WE ARE NOW"

January 25th, 2018

LGBTQ+ Panel

We have lived the LGBTQ+ experience...

"Understand the struggle sustained by your LGBTQ+ Neighbors, Friends, Providers, etc.."



2756 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

VISUALITY VOICES: This panel discussion highlights the stories of LGBTQ leaders in Fort Myers as a means to help allies and others better understand the LGBTQ community, their needs for the community and advocacy. Free/Open to the Public

SHELL POINT RADIO



This month tune into Program 289 for "Jewish House," a humorous dialogue with *Joan Marshall* and *David Hauenstein*. You can also find an excerpt from Rev. CJ McGregor's Christmas sermon on Program 290.

Programs can be found on *David's Listening to the Words Program* at shellpoint.net/listening.



**Children's R.E. is held during the 11 a.m. service
in the Robinson Room**

January 07 - Children learn how beliefs about what is right and fair connect with actions people can take to express their beliefs. They are guided to begin forming concepts of faith and faith in action.

January 14 - In this session, a story about Hosea Ballou (1771-1852), one of the most influential preachers of Universalism, introduces the children to the first Unitarian Universalist Principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The story, "Muddy Children," describes a young Ballou whose father loves him unconditionally despite his tendency to get muddy.

January 21 - This session uses the story of Unitarian Universalist Christopher Reeve to examine our first Unitarian Universalist Principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. After a fall from a horse, Reeve went from being an active, athletic man who portrayed Superman on-screen to losing the ability to move his body below the neck. Reeve went on to live a different kind of heroism as an advocate for research and support to help people with spinal cord injuries. He spoke to Congress and many other audiences. He founded the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, which funds research on spinal cord injuries and offers grants to improve the lives of people who have become disabled.

January 28 - In this session, children explore the second Unitarian Universalist Principle: justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. They hear about Fannie Barrier Williams (1855-1944), a Unitarian who was active in the club movement and in creating clubs for African American women. They will discuss what it means to belong and how it feels to be excluded, and explore how organizing a group to fight injustice can be effective. They create their own inclusive Faithful Journeys Action Club. The signpost "Be Fair" is added to the Faithful Journeys Path.

*A big Thank You to our fantastic
volunteer teachers, Mary Corrigan,
Karen Grabia, and Dawna Lieber*

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

January 2018 Concert Line-Up
Concerts Start at 7pm
\$15 General Public/\$10 ACMA Members

Saturday - January 6
The Reckless Saints
w. David Hintz opening

Saturday - January 13
Nikki Talley & Jason Sharp
w. Chakulla opening
(bring canned goods for food drive)

Friday - January 19
Kip Lawrence Home Grown
w. Cindy and Alan Bickford

Saturday - January 27
Bill Mize
(Grammy award winner instrumentals)
w. Bill Burkert opening



REPRINT of the CHURCH DIRECTORY

We will be printing an update of the church directory. If you did not get your photo taken last spring, are a new member or friend, or need a new photo....we will be having photographers here on January 30th.

Please sign-up after services for the Jan. 30th portrait session or call Kendra Maroon at 518-572-9221.

The professional photography session is free and you will get a free 8x10 portrait and a free directory.

GREEN SANCTUARY UPDATE AND SURVEY RESULTS

The Green Sanctuary Team, supported by the Climate Action Team (CAT), is well on their way to application for candidacy with the UUA. The Green Sanctuary Survey that you participated in earlier this year is tallied and the results can be found by clicking on this link: [GS Survey Results](#). You are encouraged to read through it and see what great steps we are making as a congregation, and as individuals, to support the “Green” movement and become aware of areas for improvement.

The building evaluation that included input from Florida Power and Light, kitchen aware congregants and input about our waste/recycling is being completed. Thanks to those who helped with this. We have planted a butterfly garden and have moved forward on more rain barrels for our grounds.

Please get involved if you want input on the many projects that the GS Team will be discussing with various committees.

Once the application is finished, we will present it to the board and the congregation. Stay Green! Any questions or suggestions: Karen Grabia lifeisgood1317@gmail.com



STORYTELLING SHOWCASE

featuring *Lisa Leonhardt*
and *Howard Silverman*

The Alliance for the Arts presents The Elephant: Stories You'll Never Forget on January 31 from 7 - 9 p.m. The event features ten area storytellers who recount a variety of narratives from personal tales to folktales. This storytelling showcase is produced by Storytellers of the Round Table.

The group has been staging smaller storytelling events over the past year. Tickets to this event are \$15 for Alliance members and \$20 for non-members.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 Fax: (239) 278-5743

Email: office@allfaiths-uc.org Website: www.allfaiths-uc.org

Board of Governors: Diane Cartwright, President; Bill Snider, Vice-President; Sharon Gray, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Ed Kleinow, Past Chair;

Governors: Robert Bennett, Barbara Gaiser, Annely Hudanick, Lisa Leonhardt, David Slocum.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joseph Brauer, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton; Robert Bennett, Hospitality

2018
17

Communications

Regina Kilmartin
Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin
Jeanne Ezell

Proofreaders

Carol Elrod, Eileen Moran
Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin, Kendra Maroon,
Sharon Gray, Steve Pennisi

Adult Education Forums

Pat Nuding

Member Services

Greeters
Fran Way

Care and Support
Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Doug Cartwright

Nominating Committee

Carol Elrod

Sunday Services

Joyce Ramay

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Building and Grounds

Michael Pierre

Social Action & Outreach

Richard Keelan

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall

L.I.F.E.

Bill Snider & Regina Kilmartin

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Debra MacDonald

Minister: Rev. CJ McGregor - Cell: 508-736-3361

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Deadline for the **February** Issue of *Connections*
January 18

(Brief announcements may be accepted later,
and will be included *if* space and time permit.)



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday thru Thurs;
9am to 12:00pm, Friday and Sunday.

Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin