



Where you *belong!*

CONNECTIONS

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

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So much to Celebrate at All Faiths!

Stewardship Campaign Kicks Off January 14
"Celebrate All Faiths!"
We are only here because of you!
Your generous pledge of support is the only reason.

Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.!
March in the Dunbar Parade and Help
staff the All Faiths table at Centennial Park January 15

New Membership Directory Coming in 2024!
Free Professional Family Photographs take place on January 22
and 23 for our New Membership Directory (see pg. 7)

Themed Monthly Potlucks Start in January
Fellowship is food for the soul! Come break bread with friends,
old and new. Sign up on the bulletin board.

The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

I hope you all had a wonderful, peaceful holiday, whatever you celebrate, and that you are looking forward to a great new year here at All Faiths. Our Board and Staff have been very busy as we complete 2023 and move into 2024.

Our holiday services were beautiful, thoughtful and well attended. Our two Christmas Eve Services were inspirational and enjoyed by all in attendance. Thanks to Albie, I learned more about many holidays. The Christmas Concert performed by Joseph Brauer was absolutely wonderful and he sounded as good as he ever has. We enjoyed having Joseph and Cody back with us. We will try to schedule other concerts with Joseph in the coming months.

A new casting call has been scheduled for The Vagina

Monologues for Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to perform in this interesting, thought-provoking play, please join us.

We are still awaiting dates for our new front doors and the parking lot resurfacing, since getting permits takes time.

Don't forget to sign up for your pictures for the new All Faiths directory. It is important to have all of our members and friends included. The photo sessions are scheduled for Monday, January 22, and Tuesday, January 23. There is no cost to you and you will receive a portrait of your shoot.

A potluck dinner is planned for Wednesday, January 24, at 5:00 p.m. Please sign up and list what dish you plan to bring. We plan to hold monthly potluck dinners, which will provide an opportunity to share good food and

conversation. We hope to see you all there. Our Founder's Day celebration is scheduled for Sunday, February 18. We will order sandwiches again from Jason's Deli. Watch for an email to place your order or pick up a form in the office.

The UUA is presenting workshops on Digital Security on January 22 and February 5. We are allowed only 5 slots, so if you are interested, please let Regina know ASAP.

We are looking for participants for the Martin Luther King Day events on Monday January 15. We especially need people to set up and attend our booth. There will be a sign-up sheet available.

Albie will be attending the LIFE Annual Clergy Conference in February in Orlando. The Board voted to fund this important event. We are eager to hear all about it when Albie returns.

Our annual Pledge Drive kicks off in January. We hope to make our proposed budget this year. With our new members, and if we all increase our pledges just a little, we can have a successful year. You will be receiving information from our very dedicated Stewardship Team. Remember - freely have you received blessings in life, so freely give!

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, members and friends who contribute and do so much for us at All Faiths.

Peace and Love,
Marge



Mission Statement

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is committed to Justice, Equity and Compassion.

Vision Statement

Recognizing our role as each other's keepers, we strive to be an inclusive, loving, spiritual community working to bring harmony to the world.

All Faiths Collection Schedule

Monthly Share-the-Plate & Special Collections

(Please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check.)

December - Employee Year-End Bonuses

January - Quality Life Center - Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

February - Minister's Discretionary Fund Special Collection

December Share the Plate raised \$4,847 for Employee Bonuses!

*Your generosity directly benefits our community!
We are grateful!*





The Thoughts for the New Year -

For many people, there is nothing like a good book, a good story that stirs the imagination and brings hope, joy and enlightenment. I am one of those many people. Touching the pages, feeling the weight of the book, hearing a story told and listening deeply for hidden truths are all joys for me.

Books also have a scent, especially as they age. We can see the words on the pages and allow those words to paint a picture in our minds. We begin to imagine!

In order to engage in the hope, joys and enlightenment of a good book, a good story will require at least four of our natural senses or ... so it may seem. I believe that natural or physical senses are mirrored in our spiritual senses. Therefore, taste is also included. We know one cannot eat a book; however, I recall reading in one of our many spiritual texts the idea of tasting a story, a written word, saying, quote, "Oh Taste and See the Lord is Good."

In this message, I would like to reflect on tasting a story, a book, even our own stories. The education system here in America is specifically geared towards memorization, but how many of us actually memorize an entire book? Aside from those with a photogenic memory, most of us can recall only a few phrases. And yet we continue to read for various reasons, such as learning new things, to escape reality, to imagine, to find purpose and personal enrichment. Reading is an experiential activity that opens our senses to experience words on a page. In fact, we may find that reading becomes so profound that we seek to slow down, so that we may savor the story, to prolong it, and then, at other times, we desire to turn the pages quickly, with the anticipation of what we may find on the next page.

For me, especially as I age, I find that I savor the readings more. I have found that moving slowly, even pausing through a book, is a gift to myself. The self that seeks to learn, grow and be of service to others as well as myself. I think that pauses represent the one physical sense that appears to be absent when reading.

Taste! Again, we see, hear, smell, and feel the pages, but do not physically taste the pages and wording ... or do we? I propose we do, but not in the natural sense of the word. Instead, it is figurative - we pause, we ruminate, we consume them, that they may become one with us. Like memories collected, we possess them and store them for future use. This allows us to move both forward and backward in the timeline of our book or readings.

Now, in our first month of 2024, I am reminded to turn the pages slowly, to cease rushing and worrying, and instead reflect on the year that has recently come to an end. I think about the information and occurrences I have consumed, and ask if they were good for me. I also think about what my tomorrows will look like, my next years. I ruminate and ponder the past year and all the years of my life, while imagining my life going forward - reminding myself that I can turn the pages both forward and backward.

This thoughtful exploration is the key to our successful maturation in life. There are many experiences we glean from books, reading materials, and events, but let us instead consider our individual lives as books, a stack of materials.

As You Turn Your Pages Slowly, answer these questions:

- What do you leave behind as you turn the pages and reflect looking (backward)?
- What do you take with you into the New Year as you turn the pages (forward)?
- What is not written yet...what are your hopes for the new year, dreams, expectations (write them down)?
- What plans do you have to pause, to vacation for self-care, to retreat, to meditate, to read?
- What have you put off, delayed, allowed to slip away that may require a return?
- What do you want to accomplish, to embrace, to do?
- Who is with you?

None of these answers can be determined quickly.

In these early days of 2024, my plan is to return to these questions and do my best to answer them. I believe they will help me move forward comfortably in the New Year. Perhaps they will do the same for you. Either way, my Beloveds, 2024 is here and we are all moving forward together into the New Year. Rest assured Family, All Faiths will be with you. You are not alone!

Love and Hugs, Albie

Your CL Minister



Happening at All Faiths

Happy
January
Birthday
to you!



- Jan 1 Shea Fierro
- Jan 13 Joyce Schaffer
- Jan 22 Susan Meissner
- Jan 23 Judy Whitcomb
- Jan 27 Lewis Robinson
- Jan 28 Fran Way

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

The Epicureous Group

Strictly Social Dinner Group - All Are Welcome!
Saturday, January 27, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner & Conversation at **5pm, Saturday, January 27, 2023, at India's Grill - 4724 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers**

Please text, call or email John Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566 or silverfischstudios@gmail.com with your name, contact information and the number in your party. The restaurant needs exact numbers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from ALL FAITHS when you arrive.

The Rainbow Connection

Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at 12 p.m.

The Rainbow Connection is an inclusive group that supports the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.

Contact: Frank Stephens at fdinfla99@gmail.com

Racial Equity Team Meeting

Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10 a.m.

The Racial Equity Team will meet twice a month until further notice to accommodate a book read. The team is currently reading Layla F. Saad's "*me and white supremacy.*" All are welcome.

All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Saturday at 11 a.m.

The choir welcomes new members. You do not have to be a professional singer or read sheet music to join. Go ahead, give it a try. Contact: Carlos Garcia, ceegeefm@gmail.com.

Book Club

Meeting on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 12 p.m.

The book club is casual and fun. No assigned books, just show up and be prepared to talk about an interesting book you've read or are reading. Contacts: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net

McGregor Clinic Collection

Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month

This month the clinic is in need of new socks. Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!

Solos Monthly Lunch!

Saturday, January 6, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Three Fisherman

13021 N. Cleveland Ave, No. Fort Myers, FL 33903

check your email for details.

RSVP to: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos for outings and lunches.

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday


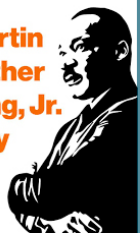
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Wishing You Peace in the New Year and Beyond...

	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30pm Fort Myers Camera Club</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11am Choir Practice 1pm Solos Lunch 1pm Play Casting Call 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 9)</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service - No CYP 12pm Rainbow Connection</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am Sunday Service Team Mtg. Animal Shelter Collection</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am Racial Equity Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am Finance Mtg.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11am Choir Practice 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 9)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>10am Care & Support Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar 1pm Board Meeting 6:30pm Fort Myers Camera Club</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1pm Homeless Team Mtg. 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11am Choir Practice 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 9)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP McGregor Clinic Collection</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11am-5:30pm Directory Photo Shoot Sessions</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10am Racial Equity Meeting 1pm-7:30pm Directory Photo Shoot Sessions</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5pm JANUARY POTLUCK DINNER "New Beginnings & Resolutions"</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11am Choir Practice 5pm The Epicureous Dinner Group (see pg. 4)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP Ice Cream Social</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar</p>	<p>See the calendar online: http://www.allfaithsuu.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in red print.</p>		

JANUARY 2024
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
THEME: LIBERATING LOVE

In-House & Live on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Recorded services can be viewed at www.allfaithsuu.org
or on our YouTube channel.

January 7

Title - *Choosing the Freedom of Love*

Speaker – Joyce Ramay

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

Music by Carlos Garcia

January 14

Title - *Weight of a People*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia

January 21

Title - *Show Your Love*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

January 28

Title - *Mano a Mano: Uplifting Lives in Bolivia*

Speakers – Joan and Segundo Velasquez

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

Music by Carlos Garcia

PLEDGE DRIVE KICKS OFF SOON!

by Marsha Bates, Committee Chair

Heads up! The Stewardship Committee has been planning All Faiths' 2024-25 Pledge Campaign. The kick-off will be January 14th. Pledge cards will be sent electronically, can be picked up at church on Sunday; can be found on All Faiths' website, allfaithsuu.org, or will be mailed to those without computer access.

By pledging, the Finance Committee and All Faiths' Board of Directors can plan expenditures for the upcoming year. You can give your contribution in a manner that best suits your budget: in one lump sum or by breaking your payment into monthly, weekly or quarterly payments. Your support is always appreciated. Remember: no pledge is too big or too small.

JOYS & SORROWS

With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys & sorrows expressed by our members in September.

Carol Elrod was hospitalized again for treatment of aphasia. Please keep her in your healing thoughts and prayers.

Joe Gayton, our Sexton, visited his family in Detroit over the holidays. We appreciate all that he does to brighten our lives.

Annely Hudanick continues to have pain and difficulties with vision from an eye infection and complications after eye surgery. Please keep her in your healing thoughts and prayers.

Judy Kay decided to move to Washington State to be close to family. We enjoyed having her with us and hope she enjoys her new location.

Pam Pfalzer recovered from surgery on one shoulder and will now be having replacement surgery on her other shoulder. We hope that she has improved use of both of her arms.

Michael Pierre had knee replacement surgery on his second knee. We hope that he has a good recovery and improved ability to walk.

Six New Members were welcomed to All Faiths in December. We are happy to have them join our family.

In the New Year, be sure to reach out to friends, neighbors and relatives who are home-bound or ill, so that they know they are remembered and loved.

Joyce Ramay,

Care & Support Coordinator

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary

News talk is a facilitated group that will offer a time and space for you to discuss the weekly headlines.

Child & Youth Program

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.



New CHURCH DIRECTORY

Take Your Picture

SCHEDULE NOW!

Photography will take place at All Faiths for two days only Monday, January 22 & Tuesday, January 23

- Make online appointments at www.ucdir.com
CHURCH CODE: FL876
PASSWORD: photos
- Or schedule your appointment on Sundays at the sign-up table.

Can't make either date? See Regina Kilmartin or Becky Ross to alternative arrangements.

CALL FOR THESPIANS!

by Doug Cartwright, Play Co-Director

Thespians Needed for All Faiths' Production of "The Vagina Monologues." All Faiths has secured the rights for a production, February 10, 2024, of Eve Ensler's Broadway smash hit, "The Vagina Monologues." We are searching for women of all ages to participate as actors/performers. The play will be presented as readers theater, so there will be no memorization required.

If you are interested, All Faiths will conduct tryout readings at the church on **Saturday, January 6, beginning at 1:00 P.M.** The tryouts should not last over an hour, depending on turnout. Women will need to make themselves available for rehearsals in dates to be determined in January and February for the one performance February 10.

JANUARY CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director



The theme of the month is *The Gift of Liberating Love*. We will explore the differences between comfort-ing love, the type of love that feels good and allows us to feel safe, love that is offered through hugs and smiles and high-fives from family and friends (the kind of love that children are probably most familiar with), and liberating love, the kind of love that pulls us to take action or make choices. Translating this for young children ; Love makes us feel good and safe, but it also pulls us to make good choices and take good actions. We will sing songs, listen to stories and have activities to help us think about these concepts. The activities include heart magnets, pushing and pulling with magnets, dances and games, and caring for the church by helping with gar-dening.

Opening this month: We are here together. We think with our minds. We love with our hearts. We create with our hands. We explore together.

January 7: No CYP

January 14: Talk about different kinds of love and the power of love. Learn about the love shown by Martin Luther King Jr. Heart magnets to decorate and explore their power.

January 21: Love connects us to one another. Read "Stone Soup". Cooperative games and more magnets.

January 28: We are lovable just as we are. We do not have to be perfect. Read "The Water Bearer". Play "Rolling in Acceptance Game".

Closing this month: "As we make choices each day, may we remember to make them with love in mind."

If you have any questions, ideas or something to share please contact me.

Sharon, CYP Director
heinrich.sharon.s@gmail.com

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



As we begin this new year, your Climate Action Team renews its focus on reaching out to the All Faiths congregation and to the larger community with a message of hope and urgency in our quest to meaningfully address the Earth's climate change crisis. We are encouraged by the fact that

the United Nations Climate Conference, COP 28, which took place last month in Dubai, made history by finally acknowledging the need for the world to transition away from fossil fuels. To better understand how that will happen, CAT is sponsoring a series of workshops on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at All Faiths on January 17th, 24th and 31st that will include screening and then discussing a series of short documentaries about the move away from fossil fuels. These are excellent films and we urge you to participate in these meaningful discussions. Each session will include one of three films in what is called the Current Revolution Series sponsored by the American Resilience Project. The screening of the film will be followed by a group discussion. Here is a description of the films to be screened:

Current Revolution – A Film Series for the Energy Transition

American Resilience Project's new film series and associated outreach campaigns tackles the challenge of how the utility, auto, tech, and defense industries can help modernize the aging power grid to make it more secure and responsive to the needs of its users while enhancing environmental performance. With a focus on national security, economic prosperity, and environmental justice, the films, and campaigns will show how the nation can embrace smart policies and investments that support grid modernization through distributed renewable energy generation and the development of an electric vehicle infrastructure.

Episode 1: The Transformation Cannot Be Stopped

For decades, the utility industry has been a driving engine of the U.S. economy, contributing significantly to our progress and standard of living with a business model that focused on centralized generation. But now, because of reduced demand from a number of factors, including more efficient energy systems, power companies face a crisis that requires them to capture new market share to survive in the 21st century. The industry has its sights on the transportation

sector, which means a chance to catalyze the electric vehicle industry, but which also sets it on a collision course with major petroleum interests. And with the need for a smart, cyber-secure grid, the tech and defense industries also have critical roles to play.

Through interviews, observational and archival footage with top executives, military personnel, utility workers, elected officials, and others -- from substations to gas stations, board rooms to military bases -- the film tells the story of a towering American industry on the brink of massive change. Whether it fails, prevails, or adapts, the outcome will profoundly affect us all.

Episode 2: Nation in Transition

Nation in Transition explores the coal-to-renewables transition on the Navajo Nation and across northern Arizona through the stories of workers, their families and communities, business and tribal leaders, utility executives, policy makers and environmental activists. The film offers a roadmap for accelerating and navigating just energy transitions for workers and communities everywhere.

Episode 3: Workforce Rising

The rapid advancement of electric vehicles is disrupting numerous industries and workforces, and the lack of charging infrastructure and grid capacity is lagging behind advances in automotive technology. The already-passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill provides the greatest opportunity to accelerate the transition, as long as the money is spent quickly and wisely.

For the sake of future generations, it is imperative that during this decade of the twenties we make essential changes to our economy and our way of life. Your Climate Action Team is dedicated to helping all of us understand what needs to be done and how we can best insure that we all rise to the challenge. We invite you to join our next meeting on Zoom on Tuesday, January 2nd at 1:30 p.m. Together we can help make a difference.



Ice Cream Social

After Service

Sunday, January 28, 2023

Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – November 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 41,950
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,286
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,746
Raymond James Legacy	4,497
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	4,300
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,199
Live Oak Capital Reserve	33,108
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,426
Live Oak Legacy CD	20,531

Total	\$175,077
Prior Month	<u>183,282</u>
Net Loss	(\$ -8,204)

November 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 9,955
Operating Expense	<u>19,570</u>
Net Loss	(\$ -9,615)

Comments:

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
 - No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good in November.
 - Our Pledge Goal from April to November was \$135,673.00; and \$118,159.58 was received (87.1%). However, some congregants pledge was received at the end of the last fiscal year (during the pledge drive); that amounted to \$22,600.00. Factoring in those funds, along with \$3,500 received in October 2023 for next year's pledge drive, we have received a total of \$137,259.58 towards the Pledge Goal. Thank you for your generosity!
- Several new accounts were created at Live Oak to generate increased interest income. The 1 Year CD rate is 5.0%. And the Savings rate is currently at 4.0%.
- The monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,250.00 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. A contract has been issued to repave the parking lot and we now expect that this work will be completed by March 2024. In addition, we have contracted for new front doors which we expect to have installed by March also. During November, a new computer monitor was purchased for \$287.53.
- In November, \$850 was collected for St. Martin de Porres (Operation Joy).

THANK YOU



All Faiths is an organization that truly lives its values by providing its employees with benefits, fair compensation, and most importantly, appreciation. We are all proud and grateful to work here. It is from the bottom of our hearts that we thank all of you who contributed towards employee bonuses this year. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated.

With much love –

Albie, Regina, Carlos, Joe and Sharon

BIBLE BAD GIRLS

“Bible Bad Girls” will perform at the Alliance for the Arts on Saturday, January 13 at 7 PM. Tickets are \$15-\$18.

Pam Minton, Marilyn Graham, Linda Lea, Lisa Leonhardt, Joy Perez, Cece Simon, Mary Lou Williams will program a series of monologues of Biblical women who have tarnished reputations.

Come and listen to the infamous women of the Bible defend their tarnished names with compelling reasons for their choices. Their stories will entertain you and perhaps help you rethink history! For tickets visit artinlee.org.

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, January 6 - 7:00pm

Reckless Saints with Susie Hulcher,
Ken Dunn opens



Saturday, January 13- 7:00pm

Seth Walker in Concert
Dhruva Stephenson opens

Saturday, January 20 - 7:00pm

Dan Navarro in Concert,
Andy Getch opens

The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
General public \$18/Member discount \$12
Donations at the Door

THE RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Frank Geltner, Co-Chair

There are a number of events coming in January and February related to our general racial justice theme in the context of Martin Luther King and Black History Month. All Faiths will have an Informational Table. Members will be encouraged to join the march wearing All Faiths yellow t-shirts.

- Monday, January 15, 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast - \$40.00
- Monday, January 15, 2024 -- 2024 March -- To Centennial Park and vendors
- Saturday, February 10, 2024 – Gala – Commemorating MLK -- \$130.00

Contact Frank Geltner if you are interested in participating in any of these events.

frank@newportnet.com or 541-961-1482

Breakfast Info

Start your day off right with a hearty breakfast and inspiring speeches that honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Together, we will reflect on his powerful message of unity and continue the fight for justice and equality for all. At the Unity Breakfast, you'll have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for social change. Engage in meaningful conversations, build new relationships, and leave with a renewed sense of purpose as well as recognize local community leaders that espouse the legacy of Dr. King.

Gala Info

Join other community members and organizations as we commemorate the Life and Legacy of Dr. King, community progress and our 2024 MLK Honorees.

- Presidential Award Honorees
- Shavon Chester, Healthcare Executive
- Karen Watson, Executive Director After the Rain
- Class of 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees
- Flora Blackshear, Retired Health Care Professional
- Dr. Cecil Carter, Retired Education Administrator
- Willie Green, Entrepreneur and Civil Rights Activist
- Youth In Service Award

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

The Homeless Coalition's annual Standdown Day is Saturday January 27. This is a great opportunity to help those without housing access goods and services. Volunteers walk with each person as they collect items, receive a haircut, or medical info. Watch for more information.

Our bike program continues, with a new church accepting our donated bikes. All Souls Episcopal church now coordinates with North Shore Alliance Church (also in No. Fort Myers), for repair and distribution of our donated bikes. They have a consistent mechanic to repair and refurbish the bikes. Thanks to *Judy Alberda* for connecting these two churches who have the same ministry. We continue to need volunteers to bring 2-3 bikes to North Shore Alliance (330 W. Mariana Ave. No. Fort Myers) about once a month. Please contact *Judy Alberda* or *Barb McFarlane* if this is something you can do periodically.

\$100 worth of shampoos and bar soap were donated to Eva's Closet. This is a nonprofit helping families in need. Thanks to Susan Meissner for connecting us with this group.

We have scheduled a Habitat for Humanity Day on Saturday January 6th. Watch for more information on signing up and how to volunteer.

Everyone is invited to attend our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1pm. The team is enhanced each time someone new brings their questions and ideas.



TO ALL FAITHS MEMBERS WITH LOVE FROM MANO A MANO

by Joan Velasquez

We send greetings and heartfelt thanks from Mano a Mano to everyone at All Faiths. The resilience and abundant generosity of your/our faith community as you worked tirelessly to recover from Ian truly inspire us. You have continued to support Mano a Mano's work while responding to your own local disaster. A special thanks to *Kathleen Weber, Dottie Mayol, and Charlotte Blitt* for selling Bolivian crafts in December to help fund our programs.



With gratitude and grit Mano a Mano has managed to survive the worst of the pandemic. We think of 2023 as our year of return to a new normal. We sponsored travel two trips to Bolivia, our first since 2019.



Operating room completely furnished by Mano a Mano



Volunteers with the 3 containers they filled

We have been blessed with a continuous flow of medical supplies and the dedicated staff and volunteers in both Minnesota and Bolivia to process these life-saving donations and distribute them. In mid-December we loaded **74,000 pounds of medical items** and other needed supplies into three shipping containers, the third of three similar shipments this year. And the beat goes on.

Segundo and I plan to attend the All Faiths service on January 28, when we will share more about this work with you. Wishing you Holiday Blessings.
Segundo and Joan Velasquez

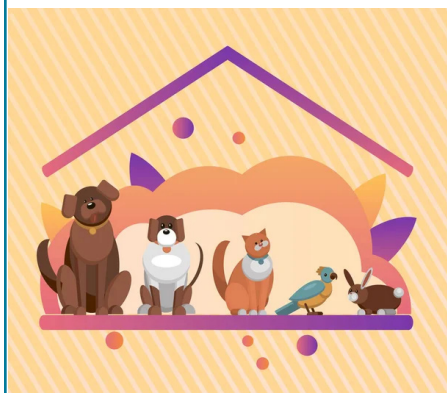
ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION JANUARY 7

by Sharon Gray

December's Animal Shelter Collection will take place on Sunday, January 7, due to Sharon Gray being out of town in December.

Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for animals until they can find a forever home.

To help these shelters with their mission, they would appreciate donations of pet food and treats (dry dog and cat food, canned dog and cat food), cleaning supplies (Clorox, paper towels, clean rags), or gift cards from Petco or Pet Smart. Your donations will be delivered to a local shelter by Sharon Gray. For more information contact: Sharon Gray (geema1@yahoo.com 565-2474).



NEW PROGRAMS COMING IN FEBRUARY

RISE UP AND CALL HER NAME
***A Woman-honoring Journey into
 Global Earth-based Spiritualities***
by Elizabeth Fisher

CAN WE TALK?
Exercises in Civil Discourse
***A Facilitated Weekly
 Discussion Group***

Sign up on the Bulletin Board!

TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR
 Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Community Room
 Facilitated by **Joan Marshall**



Three-Part Movie Series
 Program Topic: **“Current Revolution”**
 sponsored by the American Resilience Project

January 17
Episode 1: The Transformation Cannot Be Stopped

January 24
Episode 2: Nation in Transition

January 31
Episode 3: Workforce Rising

*(More information is available in Joan's Climate Action
 Team Article on Page 8)*

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 – Email: office@allfaithsuum.org – Website: www.allfaithsuum.org

Executive Board: Marge DiGalbo, Chair; Michelle Gemma, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer;
 Diane Chernow, Secretary; Chris Stotler, Past Chair.

Directors: Rosalie Kuehn, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle, Richard "Dick" Scudder.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director; Carlos Garcia, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson

Communications

Newsletter
 Regina Kilmartin
Proofreaders
 Weezie Close
 Joyce Ramay
Social Media & Website
 Regina Kilmartin,
 Becky Ross
Adult Education Forums
Sunday Service Team
 Joyce Ramay

Member Services

Fran Way
Greeters
 Marsha Bates
Care and Support
 Joyce Ramay
Finance
 Joyce Ramay
Stewardship Committee
 Marsha Bates
Nominating Committee
 Sharon Gray

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod
Livestreaming
 Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray
 Brad Davidson
Building and Grounds
 Bob DiGalbo
 Judy Alberda
Social Action & Outreach
Climate Action Team
 Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg
Heart for the Homeless
 Barb McFarlane

Racial Equity Team
 Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine
L.I.F.E.
 Marsha Bates, Michelle Gemma,
 Barb McFarlane
Mano a Mano
 Charlotte Blitt
Operation Joy & Solos Group
 Annely Hudanick
Animal Ministry
 Sharon Gray
Rainbow Connection
 Frank Stephens

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



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

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



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday–Thurs;
 9am to 12pm, Friday & Sunday.
 Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin