



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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May is for...Music, Music, Music!



GOLDEN PASSION CONCERT
Songs to celebrate the Divine!
with Felicia Rose

Saturday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m.
(Doors open at 6:30)
Tickets \$20 - or what you can pay

Join us for an inspirational evening
of Songs, Stories and Chants!
(see pg. 11 for details)

Americana Community Music Association Summer of LOVE Open Mic!

Saturday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

This is a fun-raiser for All Faiths to
show the ACMA's appreciation

All members of the ACMA and All
Faiths are invited to perform.

\$ 10 Door Donation for Everyone
Entering, including Musicians
(see pg. 11 for details)



The Board of Directors met on April 19, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

After welcoming new Board Members, Barbara McFarlane, Greg Monk, Rosalie Kuehn and Secretary Diane Chernow, Marge DiGalbo was nominated, and accepted, to serve a second term as Board Chairperson; Michelle Gemma was nominated for Vice Chair and accepted the position.

The Board Retreat held on April 7, “Dreaming Out Loud,” was discussed and agreed it was a wonderful workshop and Becky Ross really presented our vision perfectly. Her notes from the day will be shared with the Congregation in the next newsletter. It was decided we should continue with Next Steps to the ideas brought out in the discussion. Our accountability in moving forward with our

dreams will be an ongoing process.

Our new AED is here. We will be scheduling CPR training for the Board and any congregants who are interested in taking the course. I will be setting a date with the Fort Myers Fire Department. So watch for the date if you’re interested.

Alberita (Albie) Johnson has accepted the position as our new CYP Director. Albie is currently enrolled in a Lay Ministerial Program through the UUA and brings many year experience in teaching and preaching. She started on April 23, 2023. Her enthusiasm is infectious.

Lewis Robinson brought a request from Frank Geltner of the Racial Equity Team that All Faiths commit to an Ancestral Land Acknowledgment statement. Greg Monk will provide a handmade document to hang in

the church. It was decided that Michelle Gemma will bring the request to the Sunday Services Committee on how we can include this in our services/order of service.

A request was received to have our events available on live stream for our members at a fee. After discussion it was decided we will trial stream certain events in May for a donation. To set up a fee for service program would be very difficult for us. It was also suggested we restart the Committee to write grant requests. This idea was put on hold until we have a minister who can lead us in this process.

The Junk-In-The-Trunk yard sale held on April 15 was a wonderful day and brought in just under \$500. We agreed to repeat this in cooler weather. The new security monitoring system is in place and operational.

The Board discussed the UUA’s proposed changes to Article II, which replaces the Seven Principles. You should have received an article via email that briefly outlines the new proposal. We will have them available at services. Please review this proposal. The UUA will host three workshops on the subject on May 11, 18 or 23 at <https://discuss.UUA.org/>. We will present a discussion period after services on Sunday, May 7, on the proposed changes. Please join us and help us decide how All Faiths will vote on this proposal at the General Assembly in June. It affects us all. Your input is very valuable on this proposal. There are lots of articles available for you on the UUA website.

May - it's all about the music! On May 6 All Faiths will host a *Golden Pas-*

(continued on page 3)

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.)

May - All Souls Episcopal Outreach (Heart for the Homeless Team)

June - Quality Life Center Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

April Share-the-Plate raised \$250 for SWFL RESET Center!

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



ALL FAITHS WELCOMES NEW CYP DIRECTOR

by Rachel Spiller, Chair, Child & Youth Program Committee



All Faiths is thrilled to announce the hiring of our new Children and Youth Program Director, *Alberita Johnson*, aka “Amazing Albie.” Albie is possessed of all

the right adjectives that we should want in a CYP Director: interesting, kind, inquisitive, soft spoken, open minded, organized, grounded in UU faith. She comes to us with not only experience in religious education but in lay ministry as well, and is currently pursuing certification in commissioned ministry (lay led ministry) through the UUA. My own children have given their own wholehearted approval, Emmie with a “duh, why didn’t WE think to ask her?” Nova doesn’t remember much before COVID, but she has quite literally grown up at Albie’s feet, playing in the earth in the protection of sacred sisterhood and circles with CUUPS, the Covenant of UU Pagans. With a Christian background and a pagan leaning present, Albie will bring that open heart, sense of wonder and faith exploration right into the Robinson Room with our children. Albie also has experience facilitating Beloved Conversations, a program through Meadville Lombard and the UUA centering difficult conversations about race. I was lucky enough to have gone through this program with her at the helm, and it was this where I learned how to name and confront white supremacy.

I have long believed that a good religious educator is a co-conspirator with our children and teens in building a more just world. It’s not just a Sunday

job, though our children should leave Sunday services full of what “we” are going to do. Albie has my full faith that she will be able to grow a program where kids feel free and empowered, and I know she will have the full support of the congregation. We are lucky to welcome Albie and her wonderful wife Carole to All Faiths. Let’s see what we build together.

Make sure to introduce yourselves!



BOARD NOTES (Cont'd from pg. 2)

sion Concert: Songs to Celebrate the Devine with Felicia Rose. This will be an evening of inspiration, songs, stories and chants! Tickets are \$20 or whatever you can pay, with 20 percent of the proceeds benefiting All Faiths.

The ACMA will also hold an Open Mic Fun-Raiser Concert on May 27 at 7pm, with all of the proceeds going directly to All Faiths. ACMA and All Faiths' members are invited to perform. Please come have a fun night and support the ACMA and All Faiths.

Our next Board Meeting will be on June 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Rev. Emily Palmer passed away at hospice. She lived a joy-filled 93 years. She served as a UUA minister at 15 congregations, including those in Australia and New Zealand. Rev. Wayne Robinson presided at her memorial service. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Barbara Goolsby suffered a fall at her home, and was hospitalized. She was transferred to hospice, but revived and is now receiving therapy. She is 90 years old. We hope that she recovers well.

Carol Elrod came down with a case of COVID and was hospitalized for treatment. We hope that she has a speedy and full recovery.

Doug and Diane Cartwright said goodbye to their beloved dog, Sadie, who lived more than 16 years. We will miss seeing Sadie at our services and meetings.

Regina Kilmartin shared the joy that she has adopted a seven-year old cat named Grayce. We hope they share a love filled life together.

Bill Snider will be going to Berlin to celebrate the graduation of his grandson from graduate college there.

Lewis Robinson shared the joy that All Faiths is now displaying the Black Lives Matter flag on our flagpole on McGregor Boulevard.

Terri Stark expressed her gratitude for our friendship, and donated an orchid that will be placed in the Memorial Garden. She reported that her late husband, Matt Stark's, orchids at their home survived Hurricane Ian.

Susan Meissner thanked those who donated yarn so that she could knit hats for homeless women.

Joyce Ramay,

Care & Support Coordinator

Happening at All Faiths

*Happy May
Birthday to you!*



May 7 Ed Kleinow
May 13 Annely Hudanick
May 15 Audrey Olson
May 16 Laura Snow
May 22 Laurie Babcock
May 23 Jeanne Ezell
May 25 Lisa Leonhardt
May 26 Marge DiGalbo
May 27 Rev. CJ
May 30 Nancy Frasca Cabazares

And Coming Up...

June 5 Vanessa Gilyard
June 6 Joyce Davison
June 6 Arlene Han

The Epicureous Group

*New Social Dinner Group - All Are Welcome!
Saturday, May 20 - 5:00 p.m.*

Dinner & Conversation at **5pm, Saturday, May 20, 2023, at MONARCAS MEXICAN GRILL - Edison Mall, 4125 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, FL**

Please text, call or email John E Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566 or SilverFischStudios@Gmail.Com with your name, contact information and the number in your party by Friday, May 12th. The restaurant needs exact numbers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from ALL FAITHS when you arrive. PLEASE, if you must cancel, contact John by Monday, May 15th.

The Rainbow Connection

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

The Rainbow Connection is a new addition to All Faiths' social justice teams. This group will support the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.

Racial Equity Team Meeting

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

The Racial Equity Team is regrouping. As we seek to live into the 8th Principle, we look forward to ideas and engagement with the congregation. All are welcome.

All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Thursday at 2 p.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



Solos Monthly Lunch!

**Saturday, May 6, 2023
1:00 p.m.**

Bonefish Grill
14261 S. Tamiami Trail,
Fort Myers, FL 33912

check your email for details.

**RSVP to: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com**

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

MAY 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday




Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Memorial Day - in memory of many, in honor of all

	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)</p> <p>7pm Felicia Rose Golden Passion Concert (see pg. 11)</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>UUA Article II Revision Discussion</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am Sunday Service Team Mtg.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am Racial Equity Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am Finance Mtg.</p> <p>2pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 9)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12pm Book Club</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:30am Homeless Team Mtg. (at First Watch)</p> <p>2pm Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5pm The Epicureous Dinner Group (see pg. 4)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am (No CYP)</p> <p>McGregor Clinic Collection</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm ACMA Fun-Raiser Open Mic Concert (see pg. 11)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>Ice Cream Social</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Memorial Day Office Closed</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>See the calendar online: http://www.allfaithsuo.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in red print.</p>		

MAY 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "MAKING HOLIDAYS HOLY"

In-House & Live on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.
Recorded services can be viewed at www.allfaithsua.org
or on our YouTube channel.

May 7 – *Queen of the May*

In this season of the maiden, we search for hope.

by Rachel Spiller

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Regina Kilmartin

May 14 – *Mother's Day – It's Not Just for Mothers*

The changing perception of what a mother's role has become in the 21st century, while blending my personal experiences as a husband and teacher.

by Doug Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Diane Cartwright

Share the Plate with All Souls Episcopal Outreach

May 21 – *The Most Endangered Species*

A talk about humans being endangered.

by Emmie Spiller

Music by Carlos Garcia and Choir

Worship Associate Bob Moore

McGregor Clinic Collection

May 28 – *Unknown Soldiers of the Civil War*

Honoring the black soldiers who fought for freedom and to save the Union

by Joyce Ramay

Music by Bob Way, Darlene Mitchell
& Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Susan Meissner

News Talk with Ray Ellis

9:15 a.m. - at All Faiths 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

In the Robinson Room at 10:30 a.m. with Albie Johnson

MINISTERIAL SEARCH UPDATE

by Marsha Bates, Chair

Your Search Team remains engaged with UUA's ministerial search process. When UUA requested all congregations in search to address additional questions that become part of their profile, All Faiths' team promptly posted our answers to those questions. Per a suggestion by Christine Purcell, UUA's Transition Manager, we are revising our Congregational Profile to add more detail about All Faiths' social justice activities.

In a recent conversation, Ms. Purcell said that one-third of the 35 churches in search have not yet found a new minister. In the past, there were typically at least two ministers looking for a pulpit compared to the number of congregations in search. That is not the case this year.

One potential reason for the shortage of ministers in search is that many seminary graduates are opting to choose career paths other than parish ministry. Instead, they become chaplains or decide to serve in some other social service capacity. Also, UUA is evaluating whether relaxing its stringent requirements for a minister to be in "good standing" with the Association would encourage more seminarians to seek a parish position.

When asked whether Florida's extremely conservative political climate is a deterrent to applicants, Ms. Purcell said only two ministers had indicated they would not consider moving to Florida or Texas. On the other hand, she said some ministers welcome the challenge of serving in a community where a UU church is a haven for those with liberal ideas.

Her overall message to All Faiths: stay the course.

ALL FAITHS

NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION

Hosted by the Membership Committee

Saturday, June 3, 2023

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sign up on the Bulletin Board

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



At our April meeting the Climate Action Team discussed a new documentary by three time Academy Award winner Oliver Stone entitled *Nuclear Now* which is set to be released on May 1st in theaters across the U.S.A. We discussed how we

feel about sponsoring a screening of this film as a way to engage with Representative Byron Donalds who chairs the House Nuclear Caucus and has already introduced numerous nuclear energy bills in the House. Several CAT members acknowledged that they have long opposed nuclear energy, but are open to reconsidering what role it could play in combating climate change. No decision was made about a CAT screening of the film.

We also discussed the alarming warnings in the most recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change which asserts that we must cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 or face dire consequences. The team agreed that the time to take action is now and we need to engage with community leaders to make certain Lee County develops a community-based climate action plan. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about possible contacts in either city or county local governments.

A highlight of our April meeting was the participation of the younger generation in the person of Nova Spiller. Nova said she joined the meeting to hear about our climate change plans. She commented that we don't really have seven years to make the necessary changes and said "We really only have ninety seconds." And, of course, she is right, as anyone impacted by Hurricane Ian can painfully attest. Nova also mentioned that no one generation is responsible for the climate crisis as all generations are continuing their habits of over-consumption. CAT has long been looking for ways to engage with young people. Clearly they have a great deal to offer us.

This year CAT resumed its series of monthly film screenings and discussions. In May we will be presenting the documentary *Kiss the Ground*. This film explores how activists, scientists, farmers and politicians are turning to regenerative agriculture to save the planet's top soil and combat climate change. *Kiss the Ground*, released in 2020, is highly rated by critics and audiences alike. Look for an announcement soon of the date and time of our showing.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, May 2nd at 1:30 p.m. on ZOOM. We hope you will be able to join us.

LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT UPDATES

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

Thank you to all who attended LIFE's Celebration on April 25th. Past accomplishments were highlighted and community leaders who have supported past LIFE social justice efforts were applauded. Chelsea Baker Plaisance, who was LIFE's Lead Organizer for many years, was thanked for her service and Paul Leingang was welcomed as LIFE's new Lead Organizer.

For three years, LIFE urged the City of Fort Myers to establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund which was finally established more than a year ago. Because the initial Trust Fund ordinance had some glitches, LIFE then focused on getting amendments in place that made the fund more equitable and self-sustaining. LIFE's Affordable Housing Action Team recently received a financial report from the City's Development Director, Steve Belden. Since the initial funding of \$1.5 million, the City has added additional funds from the sale of city-owned property, a 0.0821 millage rate that was passed, and other sources. As of the end of March, the fund had grown to nearly \$3.8 million! Additional monies had been deposited and the City had used the fund to help make affordable housing projects such as St. Peter Claver and Cleveland Avenue possible. The efforts of LIFE's congregations have had a positive impact on our community. Thank you to all who showed up to help with this significant win.

In late summer, LIFE's activities will begin with individual congregations holding house meetings where network members can share their thoughts about what LIFE's focus should be during its 2023-2024 cycle. Then, at an in-gathering of network members from all the LIFE congregations (the Fall Assembly), attendees will have the opportunity to vote to determine which issue LIFE should pursue. Once a specific focus has been determined, Action Teams will be formed to interview professionals and community leaders who are knowledgeable about the issue and approach other communities who have faced the same situation to learn what they did to address the matter. LIFE's Action Team will also identify local elected officials and/or community leaders who have the power to make changes to improve the lives of everyone in Lee County. Those leaders will be approached at LIFE's Spring Nehemiah Action to ask them to take a specific action that will promote social justice in Lee County.

We look forward to working with you this fall when LIFE's justice work starts again.

Your LIFE Team Leads - Marsha Bates, Barb McFarlane, and Michelle Gemma.

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Lewis Robinson, Chair

A few months ago we spoke on "Building Beloved Community." Our racial justice equity team has been busy working to change the story from division to truth and acceptance. Building our congregational strength, and the space we share so that we can engage in helping our larger community.

We have shared the truth of man's origin and migration, over the planet, with the discussion of "Skin Deep." We discussed "Our Enduring Discontent," how our country arrived at this point of fury, how is it now that we have mass shootings even of children in their classrooms, and police killing of unarmed citizens have become a feature of our day. We spoke about mass incarceration and laws such as, "Two Strikes To Far," have led to record number of life imprisonment sentencing.

I wrote a mailbag article for *The News-Press* which encapsulated the stories in one Sunday's paper, revealing the hardships of just one day's news.

"Today's News-Press, a 'nuclear bomb' for political racism and oppression in Florida."

You can get warmed up with the front page, baseball season at Fort Myers High axed, "principal cites Title VI probe, coaching upheaval." Also, on the front page, "Listen to the last ride podcast Ep. 4 'the polygraph.'"

In *The Views*, there are many, but let us just highlight two of the bombshells, "Bill would victimize immigrants for political theater," and "Elected officials refuse to actively engaged in gun violence solutions." There are many more in *The Views*, and scattered throughout the paper. There is enough there to stimulate the mind even of the doubters.

The Title VI probe is just the surfacing of our long school segregated school issue. No, it isn't just CRT it's about minority students getting an equal opportunity education, and about coaching staffs using racial slurs.

Victimizing immigrants for political theater is a lot more than it seems also. Examine what's really happening victimizing immigrants, and their families at the border even to the point of exposing them to violence and institutional trauma, for example, danger in case of fires, but refusing to allow aid by communities. I think this is criminal. Then you add to the problem of at the same time, offering immigrants community a carrot to vote for them (whitening). This not only victimizes immigrants, but victimizes the entire nation I hope that our congregation's commitment to building a beloved community can extend to building a multiracial,

multicultural, congregation and strengthening of our general community. A commitment that will lead to dismantling Racism, Sexism, Classism and other isms. There are many problems waiting for a group effort to solve.

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, we have the opportunity to eliminate water, air and land pollution. We had the opportunity to create massive, clean energy, carbon free. Florida has a massive number of lead pipes carrying drinking water to residences and our residents are unaware of what they are drinking. We have answers and we have a job to do.

FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane, Co-Chair

This team continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. It is a time to discuss issues around people losing, needing, and finding stable housing.

For a change, we will meet at the First Watch restaurant 2059 Altamount Ave., north of All Faiths in the 1st Street Village, May 18, at 11:30 a.m. Please join us!

The bicycle collection receives 1-2 bikes a week from All Faiths neighbors. A big thanks to Dan DeShon who brings them to All Souls church in North Fort Myers where they are repaired and distributed to people accessing services through their homeless outreach program.

In March, Pam Pfalzer and Judy Alberda purchased 50 Emergency Mylar Blankets, 120 rain ponchos, 96 waterproof mosquito repellent bracelets, and repellent wipes with money from our social justice fund. These were donated to Matt Wallace's team doing street outreach.

We have plans to contact LIFE congregations in order to learn about their ministries to people without housing. Tina Noel will lead that outreach.

This fall we will again ask the congregation to donate hygiene products, socks, and clean sleeping bags. Susan Meissner continues knitting hats that will be donated to Lee County Homeless Outreach Team.

We look forward to seeing you at First Watch in May. Contact Barb McFarlane: 651-808-8271; mcfarlanebar@gmail.com with questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – March 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 18,920
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,801
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,210
Raymond James Legacy	24,551
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	39,108
First Horizon Capital Reserve	27,744
Total	\$157,370
Prior Month	<u>159,897</u>
Net Loss	(\$ -2,527)

March 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 14,415
Operating Expense	<u>16,488</u>
Net Gain	(\$ -2,072)

Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year. There were no minister related expenses from September through March.

Our Pledge Goal through March was \$209,973.00; and \$172,561.78 was received. Most of the recent pledge giving was for the current year (2022-2023): but \$22,600 was for the next year (2023-2024). This "overlap" in pledge giving occurs at the end of each fiscal year, when our Stewardship pledge drive is underway. Your continued generosity to meet our financial obligations is appreciated.

Since Hurricane Ian, with available funds from the UUA and our insurance carrier, the roof and gutters have been replaced. Interior renovations will be done when contractors are available and acceptable quotes are received. Funds for this work are deposited in the Capital Checking Account. This is why there is such a large balance in the Capital Checking Account.

The resurfacing of the parking lot is in the process of being scheduled and work should commence shortly.

The monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,150 to the Capital Reserve account was made. The replacement AED/defibrillator has finally been received (at an additional cost of \$250 because the original model was no longer available).

In March, \$324.25 was collected for Operation Joy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Joyce Ramay, Finance Chair

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I am thanking you for your continued financial support. During the past fiscal year which ended March 31, 2023, we were able to cover our operating expenses. Our Operating Income was 80.5% of the budget, while our Operating Expenses were 77.2% of the budget. Our expenses were low because we did not have any minister's compensation and expenses for seven months of the year. Our Board and Staff members were diligent in keeping costs down wherever possible.

We received funds from our wind and flood insurance to cover costs for a new roof and other repairs necessitated by the hurricane.

The past three years have been challenging due to COVID pandemic, and then the massive losses and displacements caused by Hurricane Ian. We know that had an impact on the capability of some of our people to make contributions. And some members died or moved away to be closer to family.

We are optimistic that many of you will be able to increase your regular giving so that we can hire and compensate a new minister to lead and inspire us in the coming year.

We at All Faiths are truly blessed to have such a vibrant and loving family.

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, May 13 - 7:00pm

Abby Posner in Concert
Fred Ball Opening

Saturday, May 27 - 7:00pm

Summer of Love Open Mic
(Fun-raiser for All Faiths)



The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
33901

*General public \$18/Member discount \$12
Donations at the Door*

SUNDAY SERVICES PRESENTED WITH YOUR HELP

Joyce Ramay, Sunday Services Team Chair

We at All Faiths are particularly blessed to have such talented, interesting and committed people who have enabled us to present inspiring and uplifting Sunday services for the past eight months without a minister.

We have a wonderful Sunday Services Team that has planned and delivered the services. Our Music Director, *Carlos Garcia*, has continued to provide delightful music each week. He has led our choir in performing for us once a month. We have in-house soloists who bring their vocal skills to the microphone with songs relevant to the themes.

We have a group of Worship Associates who lead the service each week – including *Regina Kilmartin, Doug Cartwright, Diane Cartwright, Michelle Gemma, Susan Meissner, Greg Monk, Bob Moore* and *Joyce Ramay*. Our sound and camera systems are operated by *Ed Elrod, Regina Kilmartin, Sharon Gray* and *Brad Davidson*. *Ray Ellis* leads the NewsTalk program every Sunday before service. Our Child and Youth Program is conducted on 36 Sundays per year during the 10:30 service, and a new Director, *Albie Johnson*, has been hired for the coming year.

Most of our sermons have been delivered by members of our congregation who have done a great job week after week. It's amazing what fascinating lives our people have led and we appreciate so much their willingness to share their experiences and guidance with the rest of us. From time to time, we have also had outside speakers from local organizations associated with our Social Action Teams.

Let's all express our appreciation for the superb job that everyone has done. And encourage friends and relatives to visit us on Sundays. Spread the love and the joy.

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by *Alberita Johnson, CYP Director*

Spring/Summer 2023 Theme: Miracles

Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child—our own two eyes. "*All is a miracle.*" — Thich Nhat Hanh

The exploration of miracles has no limits, through the rest of spring till our summer break our children and youth program will explore Miracles in all their awe and wonder.

May 7: We continue our exploration of miracles by cultivating our ability to Notice the Miraculous. Our youth will discover that "looking with absolute attention," a teaching of poet and novelist May Sarton (1912-1995), can bring them in touch with their own capacity for "direct experience of mystery and wonder."

May 14: Miracles continue with Transformation by exploring a folk tale from Korea, "The Snake Husband," that highlights the mystery of transformation and prompts discussion about the natural changes all life forms undergo. We will consider whether and how there is miracle in human birth, life, and death.

May 28: Serendipity and Miracles, Unitarian Universalists affirm the compatibility of religion and science today, our religious forebears celebrated both faith and reason. In Unitarian Universalism, critical questioning can be a religious experience; This session looks at Priestley, known for serendipitous scientific discoveries, because sometimes a miracle appears while we are searching for something else.

And coming up...

June 4: The Miracles of Self- transformation, we will explore inner, human transformations—changes of heart. We will identify inner changes so deep, complete, and meaningful to the self and to others that they can seem miraculous. And explore how such changes happen: What moves a person from greed to generosity? Indifference to caring?



Ice Cream Social

After Service
Sunday, May 28, 2023
Sponsored by Annely Hudanick

GOLDEN PASSION CONCERT ~ Songs to celebrate the Divine! with Felicia Rose

Saturday, May 6 at 7 p.m. - \$20 at the door, or what you can pay



Join us for an inspirational evening of Songs, Stories and Chants!

Felicia Rose is a traveling muse awakening hearts with her crystal vocals and mystical guitar rhythms.

Inspired to become a musician after a profound spiritual experience with Humpback whales, she has devoted her life to writing, performing and recording songs to promote healing and awareness of Higher consciousness.

Felicia's music is a passionate celebration for the Divine! Her music is a combination of uplifting, participatory material as well as deeply emotional ballads.

Since 1990, she has been captivating audiences worldwide with her angelic mystique, stories, and powerful stage presence. Felicia has been receiving airplay globally for years and now more so with her own YouTube Channel FELICIA ROSE MUSIC, SPOTIFY and PANDORA, "FELICIA ROSE RADIO."

Felicia Rose has released 6 produced CDs and 5 official music videos to date. Currently in the studio working on a new album which will have lyric videos for all the songs. Felicia's music is spiritual in nature with styles ranging from world beat, folk & light rock to healing Sanskrit mantra music.

To read more about Felicia's encounter with the Humpback Whales, listen to her songs, watch video's and follow the tour schedule, visit: WWW.FELICIAROSE.COM https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW_5tJBidJ0TpEYrXYVP2Qg

ACMA to Host Fun-Raiser for All Faiths! SUMMER OF LOVE OPEN MIC Saturday, May 27 at 7 p.m. - Tickets \$10



This is a fundraiser for All Faiths Unitarian Congregation to show the ACMA's appreciation.

All members of the ACMA and All Faiths are invited to perform, whatever your interpretation of Songs from the Summer of Love is.

We suggest that you dress appropriately for the occasion.. Flowers in your hair, sandals on your feet, bellbottoms if they still fit. Door donation for everybody entering including musicians is \$10. Signing up to perform will be at the door for the first 20 musicians.

THE PLANT SALE WAS A SUCCESS!

by Judy Alberda - the Plant Lady

The plant sale held on April 22 and 23 was a success. We profited \$300 which will be used for potting mix, mulch, fertilizer, pots and new plants. There was a lot of community participation on Saturday and congregational support on Sunday. We made a connection with our neighbors. This sale and the bike collection keeps us a meaningful part of the community in which we live and work. Two sisters came by with a lady they care for who is in a wheelchair, with dementia being part of her diagnosis. She sat on our porch and pointed at the colorful blossoms with a smile. Another student came with her father and expressed an interest in getting some volunteer hours this summer by helping in the garden. It's a joy to be a part of the outdoor hands-on task of maintaining the beautiful landscape for all to enjoy. Thanks to Dan DeShon for his strong and steady support for this effort. If anyone else would like to be a part of this project, you are welcome. Contact Judy Alberda judyalberda@yahoo.com.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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

Directors: Rosalie Kuehn, Barb McFarlane, Greg Monk, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle.

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

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

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Care and Support

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Joyce Ramay

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Heart for the Homeless

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Marsha Bates, Michelle Gemma,

Barb McFarlane

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

Greg Monk

Minister: In Search



Deadline for the **June** Issue of *Connections* is **May 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