



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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*Bon Voyage
Rev. CJ*

Special
Congregational Meeting
July 31, 2022 - 9:45 a.m.
All Faiths Sanctuary
Vote to Approve Ministerial
Search Committee
(see page 13)



BOARD NOTES by Marge DiGalbo, Board Chair

The Board of Directors met for its monthly meeting on June 15, 2022. All members were present except Linda Runkle and Peter Erickson.

The tree trimming is presently being done so that the construction of our new patio can hopefully begin the last week of June. We will need new patio furniture. Our wish list now includes patio furniture for those of you who would like to make a special donation to the wish list items.

The All Faiths Five-Year Strategic Plan has been updated by Peter Erickson, John Conrad and Rev. CJ. The Board will review the updates and discuss the changes at our August meeting.

We have added security measures during Sunday services. All doors will be locked from the inside but you may

exit the building if you need to. Anyone with large bags, packages, etc. being brought into the building will have to leave them in the vestibule.

The Board approved a proposal by Carlos Garcia for monthly Ice Cream Socials after Sunday services. A generous congregant has offered to pay for ice cream. The first social will be held on July 31, 2022, after the Special Congregational Meeting to approve the Search Committee members.

The proposed Ministerial Search Committee held an organizational and planning meeting last month. Marsha Bates agreed to be the Chair and Bob Moore will serve as the Secretary. Other members are Frankie Jennings, Joseph Batal and Annely Hudanick. Although they have started planning a congregational survey and other actions that will be needed for the search,

they need official approval of All Faiths' members to be compliant with our bylaws. The Board scheduled a Special Congregational Meeting for July 31st to vote on the committee membership.

Chris Stotler suggested, and the Board agreed, that we should plan other social events to encourage more gatherings of the church family. He has prepared a slide show of his and Marsha's trip to the Galápagos Islands and suggested similar programs could be done monthly. Perhaps they could be combined with a potluck dinner providing the opportunity for congregants to get to know each other better.

John Conrad reported on his research into our insurance plans. The Board voted to continue with our present plan, Guideone, as the cost savings would be minimal if we changed policies.

Rev. CJ is planning a ceremony in the Memorial Garden in August prior to his departure to lay bricks in honor of those who have passed.

Many programs will be on hiatus for the summer, the Child & Youth Program and choir practice. The Board will not meet in July, but the Executive Committee is available for any matters that may need our attention. You may contact All Faiths' office or me at marjoriedigalbo@gmail.com or (860) 805-0236 with any comments or concerns.

Have a safe and happy summer and keep in touch with us. Be sure to watch our livestreamed Sunday services if you are out of town.

The next meeting will be on August 17 at 1:00 p.m. at All Faiths.

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

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

July - Visuality - (LGBTQ+ Team)

August - Operation Joy - (Back to School Part I)

Special Collections

July 24-31 - Animal Shelter Collection

August 14 - School Uniforms (for Heart for the Homeless Team)

June Share-the-Plate brought in \$150 for BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism)



FROM McGREGOR BOULEVARD

by Rev. CJ McGregor



Because the July and August newsletters are combined, this will be my last article for From McGregor Blvd. Richard and I are preparing for our September move to London. There aren't a lot of preparations. We are shipping some art, preparing our dogs, packing clothes, and awaiting our visas. My cousin is moving into our house in Cape Coral so we don't

need to pack anything in the house. Our son, Robert, will remain living there as well. We will board our plane with two suitcases of clothes and arrive at our wonderful furnished flat awaiting us in north London. I'm grateful for the ease of the move, although there are a million details to take care of and the expense!

There is a song in the musical *Wicked* that I love and seems appropriate now. It's titled *For Good* and here are a few of the lyrics that describe how I'm feeling as I prepare for my departure:

I've heard it said

*That people come into our lives for a reason
Bringing something we must learn
And we are led
To those who help us most to grow
If we let them
And we help them in return
Well, I don't know if I believe that's true
But I know I'm who I am today
Because I knew you*

*Like a comet pulled from orbit
As it passes a sun
Like a stream that meets a boulder
Halfway through the wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better?
But because I knew you
I have been changed for good*

*It well may be
That we will never meet again
In this lifetime
So let me say before we part
So much of me
Is made of what I learned from you
You'll be with me*

*Like a handprint on my heart
And now whatever way our stories end
I know you have re-written mine
By being my friend*

*Like a ship blown from its mooring
By a wind off the sea
Like a seed dropped by a skybird
In a distant wood
Who can say if I've been changed for the better? But
Because I knew you
Because I knew you
I have been changed for good.*

I have been changed for the better and for good. I am a better person and a better minister because of my time at All Faiths. I've said that I arrived in May 2017 battered. I had just ended a ministry that was beyond challenging and I felt no love from this ministry. That changed at All Faiths. You have loved me. You have healed me. You have restored my faith in congregants and our UU tradition. Thus, I am better because I knew you. I will be forever grateful and New Unity in London is receiving a darn good minister because of your generosity and care.

It's time for us to reflect on all we've done together over the past five years. We've laughed, cried, celebrated and mourned together. We brought ourselves and our ministries through an unprecedented pandemic-one that still nags us. All Faiths is stronger and remains a place of love and acceptance. We grew a little, but maintained our familial feel and all that makes us different from other congregations. I am proud of us.

You will have a new minister to love and to teach just as you have for me. It will be a gift for any minister to join All Faiths. You are indeed a loving and inspiring bunch. I will be watching from afar and wish you happiness, success, and peace. I truly love you all. Thank you for your friendship and grace.

This opportunity in London for my ministry is bittersweet. I am excited to grow, yet parting All Faiths is heartbreaking. My spirit is being led in a new direction and I must listen. May your new ministry be blessed. If you'd like to write or visit, our new address is:

47 Florence Street, London N1 2DU, UK

My email address will remain the same.

Until we meet again,

– Rev. CJ

Happy July & August

Birthday to you!

July 3	Becky Ross
July 5	Jan Guardiano
July 6	Nita Veber
July 7	Regina Kilmartin
July 8	Janet Goen
July 9	Jennifer McDaigle
July 10	Jean Hany
July 12	John Conrad
July 13	Nathalie Hahn
July 16	Bill Mason
July 18	Kathy Fanny
July 19	Joe Gayton
July 22	Terri Lazar
July 22	David Donovan
July 24	Robert Bennett
July 25	Richard Scudder
July 27	Barb McFarlane
July 29	Mary Corrigan
July 30	Doug Cartwright
July 31	Dawna Lieber
July 31	Bob DiGalbo
August 7	Joyce Reischuck
August 12	Joan Marshall
August 13	Wayne Robinson
August 15	Jackie Wendorf
August 16	Glenn Camp
August 18	Mahilena Dianz
August 19	Marsha Bates
August 21	Marilyn Webber

And Coming Up...

- Sept. 07 Brad Davidson
Sept. 08 Wayne Dean



Happening at All Faiths

Social Justice Outreach Teams

Rainbow Connection: 1st Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at All Faiths - Contact: Greg Monk, gregmonk1967@gmail.com

Climate Action Team: 1st Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom - Contact: Joan Marshall, jfmdbm@yahoo.com

Racial Equity Team: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. via Zoom - Contact: Rev. CJ McGregor, revcjmcgregor@gmail.com

Heart for the Homeless Team: 3rd Thurs. of the month at 2 p.m. at All Faiths - Contact: Barb McFarlane, mcfarlanebar@gmail.com

The Ten O'clock Scholar

Meeting on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Check Calendar

Facilitated by Rev. CJ, The Ten O'clock Scholar is an Adult Education Forum exploring different topics of interest to Unitarian Universalists ([see page 10 for details](#)). All are welcome.

Solos Group Events

Meeting Every 1st Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 2 - Lunch at PF Chang: 10081 Gulf Center Dr. Gulf Coast Town Center, Ft. Myers

Saturday, Aug. 6 - Lunch at Izzy's Fish & Oysters: 2282 1st St., Ft. Myers

Contact: Annely Hudanick, annelyblue@hotmail.com

All Voices Choir Practice

On hiatus in until late August

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 Every 3rd Monday at 12:00 p.m. - Community Room

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 men's and women's clothing. Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

July 2022 Calendar

AUGUST 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		2 1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.	3	4	5	6 1pm Solos Lunch @Izzy's Fish & Oysters (Pg. 4) 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
7 9:15am News Talk w. Ray Ellis 10:30am Service No CYP	8 10am Sunday Service Team Mtg.	9 10am Zoom Racial Equity Meeting	10 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 10)	11 10am Finance Mtg.	12 2pm Dominoes	13
14 9:15am News Talk w. Ray Ellis 10:30am Service No CYP	15 12pm Book Club	16	17 1pm Board Meeting	18 No Homeless Team Mtg.	19 2pm Dominoes	20
21 9:15am News Talk w. Ray Ellis 10:30am Service and Child & Youth Program McGregor Clinic Collection	22 Brick Laying in the Memorial Garden after Service	23	24 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 10)	25	26 2pm Dominoes	27
28 9:15am News Talk w. Ray Ellis 10:30am Service and Child & Youth Program	29	30	31		<p>See the calendar online: http://www.allfaithsuum.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in red print.</p>	

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Carol Heilsberg, Co-Chair



Our CAT team was pleased to welcome several new attendees to our June meeting who shared with us what their respective programs have been doing in the fight to mitigate climate change. We will be developing closer relationships with them, participating in the SWFL RESET Program's upcoming "Being A Good Relative" course and gathering petitions for the Right to Clean and Healthy Waters Amendment. You can go online to download and sign the amendment petition at <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org>. We were also pleased to learn that UUCFM is establishing a UU Ministry for the Earth committee, and we will be cooperating with that group in their activities.

We spent a few minutes discussing news reports about specific consequences of climate change. NPR Radio had recently aired a segment about how a few degrees of warming has led to a decline in the moose population in Maine. Since warm weather lasts longer into the fall, the larvae of wood ticks have more time to fully develop and mature and start producing their own larvae. This has led to an explosion in the wood tick population, and since they feed on the blood of moose, forest rangers are finding more emaciated carcasses of these magnificent animals.

Of course, we humans are animal denizens of this planet too, and a news report about the drying up of Great Salt Lake presented an alarming prediction of what might happen to people if (when?) the lake waters have completely evaporated. The lake has currently lost two-thirds of its water, and when the lake bed soil dries out completely it will be picked up and carried by the winds. Here's the scary part: the soil contains arsenic, which people living near the lake (up to two-thirds of the population of Utah) could unknowingly inhale. In addition, one of our committee members informed us that many of the lake beds in the west contain arsenic, mostly as a byproduct of mining activities, so unless global warming is halted soon this frightening scenario could be replicated in other states as well.

Closer to home, a recent article in the News-Press outlined the failure of our state government with regard to the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The program was designed to reduce water pollution, but the state has done nothing to enforce it but send warning letters, and this year's legislative session did nothing to remedy the problem. As a result of this inaction, excessive fertilizer use has led to red tides and excessive toxic algae, which have killed seagrasses, which are the main food source for the manatees.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Donalie Benyak has moved to an assisted living facility. We hope that she continues to improve and enjoys living there.

Jim Kersey had surgery for umbilical hernia repair. We hold him in our healing thoughts and prayers.

Bob Nuding passed away on May 28th. Bob and his wife Pat were very active members of All Faiths for many years. Bob was our past Treasurer. We extend our deep sympathy to Pat and her family.

Pam Pfalzer received rehab following her knee replacement surgery. We hold her in our healing thoughts and prayers.

Rev. Wayne Robinson, our founding minister, has been in rehab, following surgery to repair his hip after a fall. We hold him in our healing thoughts and prayers.

Joyce Ramay

Care and Support Coordinator

LIFE NEWS & UPDATES

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

There are no major LIFE events scheduled this summer, but the Action Teams are continuing their work and the LIFE Board is interviewing potential candidates for the LIFE staff.

LIFE's Affordable Housing Action Team has continued to press Fort Myers City Council to fund the affordable housing ordinance passed in January, 2022. LIFE will hold a press conference outside City Hall before Council's August 15 meeting to influence council members to take positive action on the affordable housing issue. It is important that the meeting be well attended, so please plan to attend!

There are 28 justice groups in Florida and other states that are collaborating on Climate Justice issues. All Faiths' Climate Action Team is exploring how we can support a local LIFE group that will work on climate issues in the upcoming year. More information will be forthcoming.

The Brain Health Action Team (BHAT) is contacting the City of Fort Myers and Cape Coral Police to learn whether their departments are providing Crisis Intervention Training to their staff. They are trying to identify a specific issue they can focus on in the upcoming year.

House kick-off meetings will be held in September. Your Team Leader will be contacting you once the dates have been established.

JULY 2022

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "STORIES"

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

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

July 3 – *What Racial Equity Means to Me*

by Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia & Bob Way

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

July 10 – *My Passion for Justice*

by Marsha Bates

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Greg Monk

Share the plate with Visuality (Rainbow Connection)

July 17 – *Respect the Rainbow*

by Greg Monk

Music by Carlos Garcia & Joan Marshall

Worship Associate Michelle Gemma

McGregor Clinic Collection

July 24 – *Heart for the Homeless*

by Judy Alberda

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

July 31 – *The Shape of Justice*

by Richard Keelan

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Doug Cartwright

Pet Shelter Collection

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk

Sundays at 9:15 in the Sanctuary
facilitated by Ray Ellis

Child & Youth Program

No programs July 3 through August 14.
CYP resumes August 21.

**Rev. CJ McGregor will be on Study Leave
June 26 through July 31**

AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "MINISTER'S FAREWELL TOUR"

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

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

August 7 – *My Mountain*

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Greg Monk

August 14 – *Reflections*

by Rev. Wayne Robinson

Worship Associate CJ McGregor

Music by Carlos Garcia

Share the Plate with Operation Joy

August 21 – *Turning Toward the Unknown*

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Regina Kilmartin

Life of Congregation Report

Brick Laying in the Memorial Garden

August 28 – *Expect the Unexpected*

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate Joyce Ramay

Farewell Luncheon after service

BRICK LAYING AUGUST 21

On August 21 after our morning service, we will gather in our Memorial Garden to honor those who have died by laying bricks in their name. We will be laying bricks for:

Herman Bips	Elaine Leventhal	Vivian Sawaya
Robert Bruce	Jeannine Martin	Hank Shapiro
Ernie Fierro	Pervez Murad	Matt Stark
Edmund Fulker	Bob Nuding	Robert Vandewalker
Jim Goodman	Lou Pizzini	

Please join us as we celebrate the lives of our members and friends.



FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane, Co-Chair

As many of us go north for the summer, I'm reminded that those without stable housing don't get a vacation or break from their daily routine of worry. Worries about rising rent, landlords selling their home, finding housing, or just a place to sleep each night are constants for too many in our area.

As a member of LIFE, All Faiths continues to advocate for affordable housing. Watch for emailed opportunities to show up at City Council meetings when the housing trust fund is on the agenda. Your presence makes a difference!

Bicycles continue to be donated to All Faiths. They are brought to organizations that serve those without housing. All Souls ministry in North Fort Myers, receives the majority.

For three and one-half years, All Faiths has supported Angel Wings, through Share the Plate and with miscellaneous items. The Angel Wings board has decided to close this home over the next few months due to changing needs of the local homeless population.

The team hopes to support All Souls Homeless Ministry with May's and future Share the Plate collections. All Souls provides a weekly meal, volunteers repairing donated bikes, and community outreach.

There will be no team meetings during the summer. We look forward to gathering in September.

A WORD FROM OUR RACIAL EQUITY TEAM

by Rev. CJ McGregor

The Racial Equity Team has been meeting on the second Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 am on Zoom. The team will be offering monthly programs and will focus on dismantling white supremacy and examine our active and passive roles in anti-racism. White supremacy affects everyone. As Unitarian Universalists, we must fight white supremacy individually and together if we hold hope for Beloved Community. There is work to do in our congregations and there is personal work to do.

White supremacy is the idea that white people are better and more deserving of wealth, power, and privilege than people of color. White supremacy pervades our culture, institutions, and relationships. It is a self-perpetuating system that continues to fuel colonialism, exploitation, oppressions, inequities, and brutalities that people of color experience.

The team will work to:

Expose the impact of white supremacy

Engage in study and change

Enter partnerships for action

Please consider joining us in this work.

ALL FAITHS CARE AND SUPPORT TEAM

We Are Here for You!!!

by Joyce Ramay, Care and Support Coordinator

Here at All Faiths, you are part of our family. We don't just come to attend Sunday services, listen to the music and the message, and go home.

When we bought our building on McGregor Boulevard in 2010, our founding minister Rev. Wayne Robinson gave a sermon entitled *We Are Each Other's Keepers*. One of our members was so moved by that message that he donated \$10,000 to hold a contest for artists to create an art piece for the front of our sanctuary. Three finalists were selected, and the congregation voted in favor of the proposal by Susan Gott. The result is the magnificent glass sculpture that overlooks our Sunday services as a reminder that we are, indeed, each other's keepers.

We now have an expanded Care and Support Team consisting of *Judy Alberda, Marge DiGalbo, Michelle Gemma, Barb McFarlane, Susan Meissner and Joyce Ramay*.

We are here for you. Let us know if you are having surgeries, facing long term treatment for illness, or have suffered a loss through death or divorce. If you are feeling lonely or would like to have a home visit, get in touch with us. We will protect your privacy and confidentiality when preferred. Or with your permission, we can share your news with our members through our Care and Support notices.

These past two years have been particularly challenging for many people. Living in separation and isolation is not a normal or healthy condition for human beings. We need to have real contact with real people. So, let's all take care of each other.

Contact: Joyce Ramay

joyceramay@comcast.net

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Guided Garden Tour

Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Join Horticulturist Dan Deshon and Judy Alberda on a guided tour of our gardens to learn more about our native plantings and perhaps get a greener thumb.

Mental Health First Aid

Monday, July 25, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
at All Faiths - Lunch Provided

Facilitated by Gabrielle Sholes, Public Educator of Lee Health Mental Health. First Aid is a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues. Participants MUST RSVP to the office by July 10, (239) 226-0900 or office@allfaithsuum.org.

TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR

Stonewall Uprising

Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

In 1969, homosexuality was illegal in almost every state. But that was about to change. On June 28, 1969, New York City police raided a Greenwich Village bar, The Stonewall Inn, setting off a three day riot that launched the modern American gay rights movement. Join us at All Faiths in the Community Room and watch this documentary with a discussion to follow.

American Heretics

Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Go into the buckle of the Bible belt where a group of defiant ministers, congregations, and community leaders are challenging deeply rooted fundamentalist Christian doctrine. Join us at All Faiths in the Community Room and watch this documentary with a discussion to follow.

ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION



July 31 is the 5th Sunday of the month, so you know what that means. Please drop off shelter supplies such as dog/cat food, cleaning products, towels, garbage bags -- anything a shelter could use to provide a safe and healthy environment for the animals while they await a forever home.

For more information contact Sharon Gray at geema1@yahoo.com or 239-565-2474.

SNEAK PEEK

SEPTEMBER 10 O'CLOCK SCHOLAR

Centering Theology:

A Conversation About Faith and Race

3 Part series on September 14, 21, 28 at All Faiths

Facilitated by the Racial Equity Team

How do we bring to the center the task of addressing white supremacy within our institutions and congregations, our shared religious values, traditions, and perspectives? Engaging this question also leads to a second question: Can we call for the reinvigoration of Unitarian Universalist theology as a theological option committed to promoting equity as a spiritual value? Join the conversation with theologian Sharon Welch, historian Dan McKanan, and ethicists Sofia Betancourt and Elías Ortega-Aponte to address these and related questions in the hopes to ignite this conversation. This is a three-part video and discussion series.

ACMA LIVE MUSIC!

The Americana Community Music Association's Facebook page is updated every Saturday with YouTube or music links for scheduled artists for that date. See full calendar at www.americanacma.org.

Saturday, July 6 - 7:00pm

Nate Currin In Concert
with John Butler opening

Saturday July 30 - 7:00pm

Keith Rea In Concert
with Bill Burkert opening

Saturday, August 6 - 7:00 p.m.

Dana Cooper In Concert
with Houseboat Jim Visone opening

The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

General public \$18/Member discount \$12

Donations at the Door

Check ACMA Facebook or website:

CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT... THEY SAY

by Regina Kilmartin, Congregational Administrator

As I celebrate my 13th year at All Faiths, I find myself reflecting on the past and hopeful for the future. They say that change is the only constant, but I don't completely agree with that. There are many constants at All Faiths. The community changes, people leave for a variety of reasons, health, death, circumstances, but the love of our community never changes. Many people have physical limitations and find they can't do as much as they used to, but our deep appreciation for the contributions they've made never changes. Our leadership changes often as board and committee members come to the end of their terms or move on to other things, but the dedication and commitment of our leaders, well, that never changes. And our priorities to justice, equity and compassion in our congregation and in our community, I'm confident will never change.

I recently started indexing the bricks in the memorial garden. I go out there every few days and jot down the names and dates engraved on the bricks. There really are very few people I didn't personally know. As I write their names down,

thoughts of what I remember about them pop into my head and stir up fond memories. The memorial garden is a constant. We gently lay engraved bricks to honor those who were once part of All Faiths for the same reasons we are all part of All Faiths. There are 102 bricks in the garden, and after our bricklaying on August 21, there will be 116.

As Rev. CJ moves on to greener pastures I am grateful that, but for change, he may never have found us. He brought us closer together and enriched our congregational life. He's a good reminder that change is not always bad. UU ministers are as diverse as the stars in the universe, and I'm certain we will connect with a good one who will be proud to follow in the footsteps of the Rev. Wayne Robinson and the Rev. CJ McGregor. Our work will never be done. We are all part of a larger legacy that will live on forever because at All Faiths we hold the key to our own destiny – knowing how to change and not change at the same time.

Godspeed, Rev. CJ.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets – May 2022

First Horizon Checking	\$ 10,362
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,708
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,883
Raymond James Legacy	21,979
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	4,213
First Horizon Capital Reserve	22,300
Total	\$105,481
Prior Month	<u>112,154</u>
Net Loss	(\$ -6,673)

April 2022 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 15,663
Operating Expense	<u>18,951</u>
Net Loss	(\$ -3,287)

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
 - The income was slightly lower than budgeted; but this is normal as snow birds leave for the summer.
 - It feels so good that the mortgage is paid off!! Our Sanctuary is secure.
- In May, \$319.00 was collected for Angel Wings (Homeless Team).

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

by Chris Stotler, Legacy Coordinator



What is a legacy? For many, it is how they are remembered, what lives beyond them, what they accomplished that stands out in the future, or what they left for others in their memory. It is often what was important in a person's life. Is All Faiths an important part of your life? If so, should All Faiths be part of your legacy? If you enjoy the services and programs, the music, the community of supporting friends, the social justice actions, and/or having a liberal religious voice in the community, wouldn't you want to see those things continue? Continued support of All Faiths could be part of your legacy. Gifts from the estates or families of deceased members and friends are important in maintaining our spiritual home. If All Faiths is not part of your will or current estate plan documents, please consider adding it. Also, it is important to let your loved ones know that All Faiths is important to you and you want it remembered.

Making a change to a will can be simple. Marsha and I recently amended ours. Because we do not know how large our estate will be when we die, we simply stated that we wanted a minimum dollar amount or a certain percentage of our assets to be given to All Faiths. Others may choose other options.

If you would like more information about our Legacy Fund and leaving a legacy gift to All Faiths, please contact the office or me at (239)770-0795 or gdstotler@gmail.com

UUs REMAIN COMMITTED TO REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

from the UUA President

Boston, Mass. (June 24, 2022) – The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued its decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson's Women Health Organization case, which overturns Roe v. Wade, upending nearly 50 years of access to abortion. Below is a statement from Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), regarding this decision:

This decision manifests the worst fears of those of us who have been working for decades to protect and affirm reproductive rights.

The Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health decision does not alter Unitarian Universalists' commitment to Reproductive Justice.

The overwhelming majority of Unitarian Universalists (UUs) support keeping abortion legal in all or most cases. This is rooted in our Principles and our core religious beliefs that affirm gender equity. It also reflects a moral commitment to the idea that reproductive care is healthcare and is essential to the well-being of individuals and families.

This anti-choice decision by the Supreme Court infringes on our deeply held religious beliefs. Access to abortion and the right to choose is an issue of gender equality, bodily autonomy, and religious liberty, all of which are long held Unitarian Universalist religious teachings.

As I said when the draft decision was leaked in May, I fear this decision will justify efforts to further limit the rights of women, pregnant people, and other vulnerable people and communities. Curtailing reproductive rights will be felt most by people of color, young people, poor and working-class people, and those living in rural areas. The rights of people in more vulnerable communities will only become more limited and diminish healthcare equity. Too many people are already deprived of ready access to comprehensive and equitable reproductive healthcare, including abortion access.

Unitarian Universalists are committed to Reproductive Justice, a framework created by Black women in the 1980s and 1990s, which affirms the human right to have children, not to have children, to parent the children one has in healthy environments, to safeguard bodily autonomy, and to express one's sexuality freely. The UU faith has a long history of collaborating in this movement and advocating for safe, legal, accessible abortion care.

The Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health decision does not alter Unitarian Universalists' commitment to Reproductive Justice.

Comprehensive reproductive care, including access to abortion, is essential to the health and well-being of individuals and

families. The decision to limit this basic human right means that this fight will shift to state legislatures across the country. Guided by our moral values, we are prepared to be a part of that ongoing struggle and continue to show up for Reproductive Justice in all aspects of public life.

Our faith calls us to advocate on behalf of all those who need ready access to safe, legal abortion care whenever and wherever they need it. We will not rest until that reality is true across the country. I urge lawmakers, elected officials, and leaders in public life across the country to take action for gender and healthcare equity for all.

About the UUA

The UUA is the central organization for the Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious movement in the United States. Our faith is diverse and inclusive and the UUA's 1000+ member congregations are committed to Seven Principles that hold closely the worth and dignity of each person as sacred, the need for justice and compassion, and the right to choose one's own beliefs.

THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

by Greg Monk, Chair

The Rainbow Connection will meet regularly online and/or in-person, as situations and our conscience dictates. Currently, we meet every 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m., at the All Faiths. (In the event of a holiday, we will move to the 2nd Monday that month.) Typically, we try to provide information of current events and happenings that affect the LGBTQ+ community, and provide a forum for discussion, support for anyone struggling, and event planning. Our next meetings will be July 11th and August 1st.

Our organization is new, and small, though we hope to continue to grow. Those in our community who live under the rainbow can use the support, from one another and their allies. We are seeing an increase in hate and fear-based actions against the LGBTQ+ community, particularly towards those in the transgender community – this is our opportunity to show support, and seek solutions, through dialogue, event attendance, and education. Join us!

Upcoming events for the LGBTQ+ community that we hope to participate in: Naples Pride Festival Saturday, July 9 from 11:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Cambier Park.

For more information, contact Greg Monk at gmonk1967@gmail.com or Cameron Anholt at cjanholt@gmail.com We hope to hear from you.

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING To Approve Ministerial Search Committee

Sunday, July 31, 2022

9:45 a.m. - All Faiths Sanctuary

All Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation are invited and encouraged to attend a Special Congregational Meeting to Approve Candidates

Nominated by the Board of Directors
to Serve on the Ministerial Search Committee

Absentee ballots and candidate bios will be available at the office and sent via email prior to the meeting.

SCHOOL UNIFORM COLLECTION

Sunday, August 14, 2022

The Heart for the Homeless Team will have a school uniform collection on Sunday, August 14th.

A uniform consists of a polo shirt, short or slacks, a dress or skirt. The polo shirt can be any color but must have no logos or embroidery. The other items must be navy blue or khaki.

Kiwanis Thrift Shops have a school uniform section. Stores that carry them are Penny's, Target and Kohl's. Items can be ordered on-line. The grades are K – 5. The schools with the highest percentage of homeless students are Colonial and Wedgewood Academy. That's where the uniforms will be donated. This is the third year we have taken on this worthy project. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any monetary donations. Happy shopping!



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Executive Board: Marge DiGalbo, Chair; Rachel Spiller, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer;
Ed Elrod, Secretary; Chris Stotler, Past Chair.

Directors: Judy Alberda, Peter Erickson, Michelle Gemma, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle.

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

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

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Heart for the Homeless

Barb McFarlane

Racial Equity Team

t/b/d

L.I.F.E.

Marsha Bates, Lana Cowell,

Barb McFarlane

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annelly Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

Greg Monk

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

Deadline for the **September** Issue of *Connections*
is **August 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