



CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation
 A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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Happy Easter!

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."
 – Lady Bird Johnson

April 11, 2026 - 12 to 4pm
All Faiths Friends & Family Appreciation Day
 2nd Annual Lakes Park Potluck & Party!
 (Sign up on the bulletin board - see pg. 12 for details)

April 12, 2026 – Capital Campaign Kickoff!
Planting the Tree for Our Future
 As part of Growing Our Spiritual Garden,
 All Faiths will conduct a Capital Campaign to fund
 expansion of our foyer, the addition of a classroom
 and the installation of new carpeting!
 (see page 11 for details)

New in April – Armchair Philosophy!
 Frank Geltner will facilitate a thought-provoking and
 and brain-cell-stimulating new monthly workshop.
 (see page 7 for details)



“Survival is not a tank. It’s a Potluck.”

– Leon Megginson

The Board meeting was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

As we close out this fiscal year, I want to keep you informed about several significant developments from this past month.

Because of your generosity, commitment, and belief in the mission of All Faiths, we were able to approve the 2026–27 budget at our Annual Meeting on March 22nd. This ensures that our ministries of compassion, justice, learning, and spiritual renewal will continue to thrive in the year ahead.

This achievement was made possible by a very successful pledge drive campaign, Growing Our Spiritual Garden. My heartfelt congratulations go to the Stewardship and Finance Teams for

their dedication, and to every member who pledged to make this effort such a success. Every pledge, every act of support, every expression of trust strengthens the foundation we build together. Thank you for sustaining this community we love and for helping us carry our great work boldly into the future. Your generosity keeps All Faiths strong and able to continue its spiritual work and outreach. Truly—a job well done.

At the Annual Meeting, we also elected two new members to the Board of Directors, as well as a new Treasurer, and re elected our current members to another term. Congratulations to Susan Snow, Marge DiGalbo, and Ken Malkin as Treasurer. We look forward to your leadership and the impact you will bring to the future of All Faiths.

On a bittersweet but well deserved note, I want to offer my heartfelt gratitude to

outgoing board members Dr. Lewis Robinson and John Conrad, who have faithfully served our congregation for many years and will no doubt continue to help shepherd us as we move forward. Dr. Robinson’s thoughtful presence, steady wisdom, and deep commitment to our mission have strengthened the Board’s work in countless ways. John Conrad has served on the Board for six years and as Treasurer for five. His meticulous stewardship of our finances—paired with his calm reliability and generous spirit—has been a true gift to this congregation. He has been instrumental in coordinating many of our most important projects, including the Building Expansion Plan. Their service has guided us through challenge and change with integrity and grace. We thank them both for their dedication and the lasting impact they leave on our community.

(And on a side note—if elected by the Board—I will continue to serve as your Board Chair for two more years. Yikes!)

Regina has also been very busy this month preparing both the newsletter and the Annual Meeting Report. In it, you will find summaries of the activities of the many teams and committees that serve this congregation. You should have received a copy by email, and it is also available on the All Faiths website: www.allfaithsuu.org.

I also want to share that on January 28, 2026, a comprehensive review of All Faiths’ financial systems, processes, and documentation was conducted by a team consisting of Helen Dixon and Linda Runkle. Their review found our systems to be accurate and well managed. This included receipts, bank transactions, expenditure authoriza-

(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.)

April - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

May - St. Matthew's Women's & Children's Center (Hunger Team)

June - Cape Coral Pride (Rainbow Connection)

March Share the Plate raised \$450 for Community Coop Soup Kitchen!

*Your generosity directly benefits our community all year long!
We are grateful!*



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

by David Donovan, Board Chair

Dear Friends,

As I sit here writing my final newsletter message for this fiscal year, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've shared. When I first stepped into this role, I knew it would be a significant responsibility—one that would stretch me, challenge me, and yes, sometimes scare me. What I could not have imagined was the sheer amount of work ahead of us, nor the number of obstacles we would face and ultimately overcome.

We began the year at our Annual Board Retreat with the theme "Navigating the Road Ahead", grounded in this quote:

"There will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or stepping stones; it all depends on how you use them."

— Friedrich Nietzsche

Little did I know how true those words would become.

Every year brings its own terrain. Sometimes it's smooth pavement, other times a winding trail, and sometimes—let's be honest—we find ourselves staring at a road scattered with rocks we never asked for. This past year was one of those times.

Yet through it all, we moved forward together.

Working as a team toward a shared purpose, we navigated complex decisions—sometimes under pressure, always with the intention of doing what's best for All Faiths. We debated passionately, listened respectfully, and found common ground even when our perspectives differed. Along the way, we built sacred bonds and relationships strong enough to carry us through every challenge. I had no idea how much I would grow, how many tears I would shed, or how deeply I would come to cherish this work.

To me, that is the true strength of a congregation: our ability to unite around our mission while honoring the diversity of thought that makes us stronger.

I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished. We strengthened our governance, expanded our reach, and laid the foundation for initiatives that will continue to bear fruit long after this Board completes its term. These achievements are not the result of any one person, but of the collective dedication, expertise, and heart that each member of this congregation brings.

What defines a Unitarian Universalist community is not the absence of obstacles, but the way we meet them—together. When challenges appeared—unexpected transitions, hard conversations, moments of uncertainty—we did not turn back. We slowed down. We listened. We checked on one another. We

remembered our covenant, not as a set of pretty words, but as a living promise about how we move through the world.

Those rocks taught us something essential:

- **Resilience** — We learned that our community can bend without breaking.
- **Courage** — We practiced speaking truth with compassion, even when it was uncomfortable.
- **Creativity** — We found new ways to gather, worship, serve, and care.
- **Connection** — We rediscovered that our strength lies not in perfection, but in showing up for one another.

Together, we will turn those rocks into stepping stones—each one lifting us a little higher, giving us a clearer view of who we are becoming.

As we look ahead, the path is brighter because of what we've already walked through. We carry forward not the weight of the rocks, but the wisdom they offered. And we continue onward—grounded in love, guided by our values, and strengthened by the simple, powerful truth that we travel this road together.

My commitment to All Faiths remains unwavering. I will continue to champion our mission, support our leadership, and celebrate our successes. I have every confidence that we will grow stronger and more resilient in the coming years. We will not only sustain our momentum—we will reach new heights.

Thank you for your trust, your collaboration, and your friendship. Serving as your Board Chair has been the honor of my professional life, and I cannot wait to see what the coming year brings.

BOARD NOTES *(Cont'd from page 2)*

tions, payroll, invoice filing, and budgetary controls. A well earned "good job" goes out to Regina and John for their thoroughness and for keeping All Faiths' finances in excellent order.

And now for some exciting news: the Building Expansion Team has narrowed the project to a single bidder with whom we hope to move forward. We will hold a Life of the Congregation meeting on April 12th after service to present the plans, vote on approval of the project, and officially launch our capital campaign, Planting the Tree for our Future, to raise the funds needed to proceed.

The next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Happening at All Faiths

Happy April

Birthday to you!



- April 1 Carol Heilsberg
- April 2 Patty Hart
- April 12 Pamela Vazquez
- April 14 Jack Kennedy
- April 18 Deborah Vahab
- April 19 Diane Cartwright
- April 19 Su Lurker
- April 20 Sharon Heinrich
- April 20 Jamie Kafei
- April 20 Joy Reinhart
- April 22 Ashlee Peppenelli
- April 24 Ann Batal
- April 24 Louise "Weezie" Close
- April 25 Susan Snow
- April 27 Kathleen Weber

And Coming Up...

- May 1 Eileen Moran
- May 3 Charlotte Blitt
- May 4 Frankie Jennings



Solos Luncheon!

Saturday, April 4, 2026
1:00 p.m.

Salty Papa's
25271 McGregor Blvd
Ft. Myers

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos for outings and lunches. You just have to be flying solo that day (in other words, without your better half - it's tradition!)

Please RSVP to: Annelly Hudanick
annelyblue@hotmail.com

The All Voices Choir Practice

Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30pm

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.

McGregor Clinic Collection

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month at Service

The McGregor Clinic is a non-profit health care clinic designed to provide an integrated and holistic approach to patient and community care. Your donations of *men's and women's clothing, and non-perishable foods*, benefit people with HIV/AIDS and their families. Contact: David Donovan, ddonovan722@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. Contact: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net

News Talk & Sunday Adult Ed. Workshops

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. News Talk Until March 29

Adult Ed. Workshop facilitated by Joyce Ramay will begin on April 5 and is entitled: *Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life*.

Mexican Train Dominoes

Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Join in on this fun and popular dominoes game. Don't know how to play? Come and we'll teach you -- it's easy. Contact Ken Malkin at kennethmmalkin@gmail.com to get on email distribution list.

ACMA Songwriters Circle

Meeting on Sundays 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The circle is for Acoustic Songwriters of all levels. Songs and experiences are shared in a non-judgmental, casual atmosphere. All are welcome to come and play or just listen. ACMA is secular and is all about original music. No Membership required. We support Americana/Folk, Singer/Songwriters and provide a venue for performing original music.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 5pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4 10am-5pm Building Unavailable 1pm Solos Lunch
5 9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP *Cong. Survey 12pm Rainbow Connection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	6	7 11am Care & Support 1:30 pm Climate Action Team Zoom Mtg. 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	8 7pm Fort Myers Camera Club (last meeting)	9 10 am Finance Mtg. 5pm Choir Rehearsal	10 2pm Dominoes	11 12-4pm AF Friends & Family Appreciation Day at Lakes Regional Park
12 9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP 12pm Capital Campaign Kickoff Pizza Party!	13 10am Sunday Service Team 12pm Book Club	14	15 10am Board Meeting and Board Retreat	16 5pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	17	18 1pm Ethan Romans Memorial Service Naples Pride 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)
19 9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP 2-5pm ACMA Circle McGregor Clinic Collection	20 6pm Hunger Team	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts (last meeting)	22 2pm *New* Armchair Philosophy	23 5pm Choir Rehearsal	24 2pm Dominoes	25 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)
26 9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP *2nd Collection Capital Campaign 2-5pm ACMA Circle Ice Cream Social	27	28	29	30 5pm Choir Rehearsal	31	

Visit our website for information on events and programs www.allfaithsuu.org

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: EMBRACING POSSIBILITY

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

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

April 5 – Easter: Resiliency of Hope

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer

Worship Associate - Ed Turpin

Music by Carlos Garcia

April 12 – Mission Possible: The Power of Belief and Affirmation

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer

Worship Associate – Ken Malkin

Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

Noon: Congregational Meeting to Launch Capital
Fundraising for Renovation

April 19 – Protecting Our Planet: The 7th Generation Principle

Speaker – Joan Marshall

Worship Associate – Annelly Hudanick

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

April 26 – Embracing Brother Trees

Speaker – Joyce Ramay

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

Second Collection for Renovation

APRIL CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

The UU practice we will focus on in April is embracing possibilities. This theme naturally invites us to lift up UU values and meaningful calendar connections. For instance, in our first session, we explore the UU value of transformation as we reflect on the possibilities found in the Christian Easter story. In our third session, we celebrate Earth Day through the lens of our UU value of interdependence. Finally, our fourth session leans into the fun of National Superhero Day as a way to recognize the possibilities that live within each of us.

Opening: We are here together with love at our center. We will think with our minds, love with our hearts, and create with our hands .

April 5: Embracing the Possibilities that lie Beyond Grief and Loss (Easter) “A UU Version of the Easter Story”

Session Two: Embracing the Possibility of Building a Better World “Adin Ballou and the Hopedale Community”

Session Three: Embracing the Possibility of Healing the Earth (Earth Day) “Why the Sky is Far Away”

Session Four: Embracing the Possibilities in Each of Us “The Journey of the Birds”

Closing: As we make our choices each day, may we make them with love at our center.

I would like to encourage our congregation to share talent, skills and knowledge with our young people. Please let me know if you would like me to schedule a short time on a Sunday morning for you to share with the young ones.

Sharon, CYP Director

SUNDAY WORKSHOP: SPIRITUAL LITERACY

Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life

Discussions led by Joyce Ramay and Ed Turpin

Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. - 12 Weeks Starting April 5th

Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life Spiritual Literacy answers the universal question, "How can I live a spiritual life every day?" Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat reveal a way to read the texts of our lives and of the world around us for sacred meaning. Using brief examples from contemporary books and movies, they tutor us in the art of lingering with our experiences and seeing the world with fresh eyes.

They present spiritual perspectives on things, places, nature, animals, leisure, creativity, service, body, relationships and community. Join us to share our personal journeys and experience of the sacred.

"ARMCHAIR PHILOSOPHY"

discussion facilitated by Frank Geltner



Frank Geltner is proposing an (Fourth Wednesday at 2 p.m.) opportunity for stimulating conversation around a topic announced in CONNECTIONS a month in advance. He wants discussion to be informal — which the title “Armchair Philosophy” is meant to imply. He doesn’t want to limit the ideas that might flow from this proposal, but has set the discussion for the first session on Wednesday, April 22 to be based on a quotation from Reinhold Niebuhr’s *Moral Man and Immoral Society*.

“A realistic analysis of the problems of human society reveals a constant and seemingly irreconcilable conflict between the needs of society and the imperatives of a sensitive conscience.”

In such a situation all the highest ideals and tenderest emotions which people have felt all through the ages, when they became fully conscious of their heritage and possible destiny as human beings, will seem from our perspective to be something of a luxury. They will be under a moral disadvantage, because they appear as a luxury which only those are able to indulge who are comfortable enough to be comparatively oblivious to the desperate character of our contemporary social situation. We live in an age in which personal moral idealism is easily accused of hypocrisy

and frequently deserves it. It is an age in which honesty is possible only when it skirts the edges of cynicism. All this is rather tragic. For what the individual conscience feels when it lifts itself above the world of nature and the system of collective relationships in which the human spirit remains under the power of nature, is not a luxury but a necessity of the soul. Yet there is beauty in our tragedy. We are, at least, rid of some of our illusions. We can no longer buy the highest satisfactions of the individual life at the expense of social injustice. We cannot build our individual ladders to heaven and leave the total human enterprise unredeemed of its excesses and corruptions.

In the task of that redemption the most effective agents will be people who have substituted some new illusions for the abandoned ones. The most important of these illusions is that the collective life of mankind can achieve perfect justice. It is a very valuable illusion for the moment; for justice cannot be approximated if the hope of its perfect realization does not generate a sublime madness in the soul. Nothing but such madness will do battle with malignant power and “spiritual wickedness in high places.” The illusion is dangerous because it encourages terrible fanaticisms. It must therefore be brought under the control of reason. One can only hope that reason will not destroy it before its work is done.

SUNDAY SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE

Sundays 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Share Your Songs

Part of the ACMA (Americana Community Music Association) mission is to support original independent music and musicians and to promote original music and connections between musicians and songwriters. To that purpose, back in 2012, a Singer/Songwriter Circle was established where local musicians can meet to share their work. A core group of musicians meets weekly, with many local and visiting artists joining in as they have time or are in town. The primary purpose is of course to network and support fellow singer/songwriters through sharing of songs, critique (when requested), and discussion. Members have also been known to throw out challenges, from which several well written songs have been created and have since achieved a fair amount of local fame.

Contacts: Gene Martin at demnoah@aol.com or
Doug Shemenski at dshemenski@comcast.net

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!



Saturday, April 18 - 7:00pm

Damon Fowler in Concert
JD Lashley opens

Sunday, April 25 - 7:00pm

James Kirby in Concert
Zachary Pierce opens

Visit ACMA website: americanacma.org

The Listening Room at All Faiths

General public \$20/Member discount \$15
Donations at the Door

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



April 22nd is Earth Day. Your Climate Action Team will be assisting our congregation in a meaningful and, hopefully, impactful celebration of life on our magnificent planet. At 9:15 on Sunday, April 19th, Ensign Cowell will lead a Spiritual Literacy Workshop on Nature. Ensign

has not only been a long time member of CAT; he is one of the directors of an organization called the Spirituality and Sustainability Global Network (SSGN). You can learn more about them at their website: <https://spirituality-sustainabilitynet/about>.

Joan Marshall, co-leader of CAT, will deliver a sermon during the April 19th service on Protecting our Planet: the Seventh Generation Principle.

We are inviting our congregation to participate in an Earth Day demonstration at 10:00 a.m. before service and again after service where we will hold signs in front of the church on McGregor street encouraging passersby to care for the Earth. We did this last April and the response was very positive.

We'd also like to call your attention to an important League of Women Voters meeting coming up on April 4th:

Overdevelopment in SWFL: Sacrificing Wildlife and Erasing Agriculture, a LWV Lee Ed Event

Saturday, April 4, 2026 - 9:00am to 11:00am

Location

Collaboratory

2031 Jackson Street

Fort Myers Florida 33901

See map: [Google Maps](#)

[Register Here](#)

Public Invited Free

Earth Day started in 1970, fifty-six years ago. Today, people from all over the world celebrate Earth Day by taking action. They take action by participating in a clean up, using less plastic, and writing letters and signing petitions to make better and lasting changes in their community. We encourage you to view every day as Earth day and take the action needed to protect it from climate change. Learn about ways you can help here:

<https://earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>.



HUNGER TEAM NEWS

by David Donovan



Our All Faiths Hunger Team is back in action with its second monthly food drive – **Applesauce April** – supporting our neighbors served by the **Gladiolus Food Pantry** in Fort Myers.

Applesauce is more than a simple staple. It's a nutritious, shelf stable item that families of all ages can enjoy, and the pantry has shared that it's one of their most needed foods this season. By focusing our efforts on a single item each month, we're helping the pantry keep its shelves reliably stocked while making it easy for everyone in our congregation to participate.

Throughout April, you're invited to bring jars, cups, or pouches of applesauce to the collection box in the lobby. Every donation—large or small—helps nourish a neighbor and strengthens our shared commitment to compassion in action.

Let's make Applesauce April a sweet success for our community.

Each month will have a different theme. If you are interested in being part of this community activity, please contact David Donovan to see when the next meeting will be. Together, we can help build a community where no one goes hungry and everyone is held in the circle of care.



Ice Cream Social

Next one on April 26, 2026
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Linda Arthur had successful surgery to remove esophageal cancer on March 3. We wish her well as she embarks on her recovery.

Louise Close shared the joy that she has a new granddaughter.

David Hauenstein died on March 7th at the age of 87. She had been living at Shell Point, where he was treated for Alzheimer's for the past few years. He had been a longtime member of All Faiths, and helped to organize many entertaining programs. May he rest in peace.

Eileen Moran – Had radiofrequency ablation on 3-3 for back problems. We hope it gives her relief. She and Jeff plan to return to Florida in April.

Ethan Romans died on March 16th at the age of 73. He had been struggling with cancer. He became a member of All Faiths in October of 2025. May he rest in peace.

Kathleen Weber expressed joy for the 15 years that she has been with us at All Faiths, and the sorrow that she will be returning to her home in Dubuque, Iowa, year around. We hope she will visit us.

We celebrated **Cape Coral Pride Day**. We appreciate all those who contributed in funding and building our float, which led the parade.

Several of our members have recovered from COVID and flu. If you are suffering with symptoms, stay home, take rest, and don't share with others.

We are Each Other's Keepers

*Joyce Ramay,
Care and Support Coordinator*

In Loving Memory...

Haiku by David Hauenstein

The world of time and form
is on our way home
to timeless, formless Spirit

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – February 2026

First Horizon Checking	\$ 3,916
Raymond James Legacy	5,281
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	24,101
First Horizon Capital Reserve	979
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	34,159
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	32,714
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	22,758
Live Oak Legacy Savings	23,625

Total	\$147,533
Prior Month	<u>150,663</u>
Net Gain/Loss	(\$ -3,130)

February 2026 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 28,921
Operating Expense	<u>31,049</u>
Net Gain/Loss	(\$ -7,353)

As we entered the new 2026-2027 fiscal year on April 1, All Faiths budgeted \$202,086 for pledge giving; to date, actual Not Alone pledges totaled \$185,160 (81.9%).

In February, we received a total of \$25,300 in pledge giving. Of this total, \$5,263 was for the Not Alone pledge drive and \$20,037 was for the Growing Our Spiritual Garden pledge drive.

Since January 1, 2026, \$27,776 has been received for the Growing Our Spiritual Garden pledge drive.

The only unusual expenses during February were the annual insurance premiums for Flood, Property, Umbrella, and Wind. These totaled \$13,701.

February's Interest Income was \$329.

Between September and February, \$15,000 was "borrowed" from our Operating Reserves to ensure all expenses were covered. In February, \$5,000 was repaid to the Operating Reserve savings account.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, several new accounts were created at Live Oak to generate increased interest income. The 1 Year CD rate is 4.1%. And the Savings rate is currently at 2.85%.

The February monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,640 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. We paid \$2,885 for the sealcoating of the parking lot.

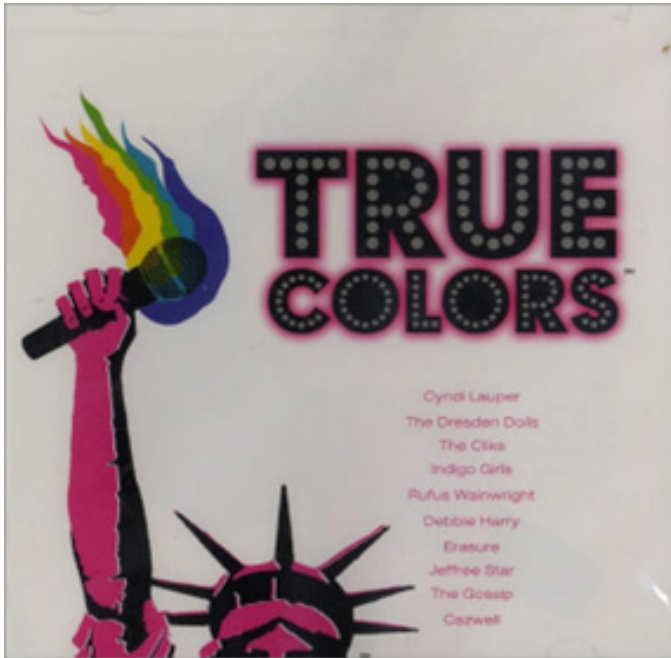
In February, \$1,216 was collected for the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Thanks to all for the generous donations!!

RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

David Donovan, Chair

*“I see your true colors shining through
I see your true colors and that’s why I love you
So, don’t be afraid to let them show – your true colors,
True colors are beautiful, Like a Rainbow.”*

– Cyndi Lauper



Every time I hear those words from Cyndi Lauper, I tear up knowing that it is hard to show who you really are and be celebrated for it in the world today. Those words express so much emotion that it has become a gay anthem to so many. That’s why I was so moved by seeing the participation and support of our community – not only All Faiths, but the city of Cape Coral and everyone who came out to support Cape Coral Pride on March 7, 2026. It was truly uplifting and personally inspiring to know that there is acceptance and even joy in being who you are and to be celebrated for it. All Faiths **SHOWED UP IN FORCE**, and it was noticed. We even had a visitor come to service the next day because they saw our banners everywhere. Thank you to everyone who participated. I am so PROUD of us.

I am forever grateful for all the help we got in pulling this event together – especially Cathy Banks, for all her hard work helping put the All Faiths float together. Without her, I don’t think it would have been possible. Kudos go out to all the folks who showed up to decorate the float as well. You were awesome! The sounds of supporters cheering from the crowd as we passed by on our float was tremendous and truly

touched me deeply. It is a wonderful feeling to be in a truly welcoming community, and I am blessed for it.

Coming up on April 18th, Naples Pride will be hosting their Pride event, and we have purchased a spot in the festival. Anyone interested in helping at the booth, please see me ASAP.

On an exciting note, Fort Myers has announced plans to host a Pride event in DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS in front of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on June 13th of this year from 2pm to 10pm. Visuality has taken over this effort and has been successful in getting the city to agree. This will be an amazing opportunity to show up for the community and show Fort Myers that we are Out, Loud & Proud. All Faiths has reserved a spot at this event as well. It will be epic and a huge change from “hiding” it at the Alliance for the Arts like in past years. This will include blocking off a portion of the street in front of the center as well as using the inside of the facility as well as their roof top bar. Sometimes, progress does happen – even in Florida.

I am trying to restart some connections within the community this year. As such, on March 10th, I had a meeting with the new Executive Director of Visuality, Alex Lennon Cahill, and expressed an interest in collaborating with them in the near future. I believe that there is a benefit to working together with other organizations to bring our message of diversity and inclusion to our cities. More information will be shared when it becomes available.

We honored International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 29th per our Welcoming Congregational Program, with the next Day of Observance planned for April 26, Lesbian Visibility Day. We are working hard towards achieving our 3rd annual renewal for this program.

The Rainbow Connection team meets on the 2nd Sunday of every month at noon, if you are interested in learning more or wanting to join.

*Never forget
the difference
you make*
♥

Planting the Tree for Our Future

Capital Fundraising Campaign – Goal – Approximately \$75,000

Schedule: April 12 to July 5

April 12 – Noon Pizza Party and Launching of Capital Fundraising Campaign for Renovation

Last Sundays of Each Month

April 26 - Second Collection for Capital Fundraising Campaign

May 31- Second Collection for Capital Fundraising Campaign

June 28 - Second Collection for Capital Fundraising Campaign

July 5 - Noon - Cookout after service and report on Campaign results

Highlights of Contract for Renovation

Contractor – Black Sand Construction

(They did repairs to our building after Hurricane Ian and also our Street Sign on McGregor)

Total Bid to Date - \$118,876 (including a 10% contingency).

Approximately \$20,000 for Wall & Two 4' Doors with hurricane windows to divide Social Hall

Balance \$98,876 for expanding the Front Doors and Foyer out 10 feet

Adding a layer of plywood to strengthen the stage floor and lowering the track for existing folding doors to be flush with the floor.

Construction to be done in September and/or October

Downpayment – \$5,000 down to cover upfront cost of the custom doors in Social Hall.

About 50% (minus \$5,000) at start of construction – probably September. And final 50% payment after completion and passing city inspection.

Note: If we have to cancel before start of construction our only cost would be \$5,000 and the contractor would deliver the doors to us for future use.

Carpeting Tiles

Mixed color tight-weave commercial carpet tiles have been chosen for easy replacement of individual tiles if stains cannot be removed. *Cost would likely be covered out of Capital Reserves*

This renovation has been part of All Faiths' long-term strategic plan for approximately six years. *The goal is to create a better space for Religious Education of our youth (currently in the minister's office) and to enlarge the foyer which is too small and congestive feeling when people are arriving for services.* Over the past two years, the architectural plans have been produced and all City Permits have been obtained. Now that we've *Grown Our Spiritual Garden*, It's time to finally *Plant the Tree to All Faiths Future!* Please be part of this exciting new journey with your generous donations.

All Faiths' Friends and Family Appreciation Day!



Saturday, April 11, 2026

12:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Lakes Regional Park - Pavilion B3

7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers

Potluck - Bring a Dish to Share

Burgers & Hotdogs will be provided.

All Faiths Members, Friends & Families
are invited to enjoy a day of fun, food, music
and fellowship!

Please sign up on the bulletin board.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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



Executive Board: T/B/D, Chair; Dick Scudder, Vice Chair; Ken Malkin, Treasurer; Barb McFarlane, Secretary.

Directors: Marge DiGalbo, David Donovan, Frank Geltner, Carol Heilsberg, Susan Snow

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

Founding Minister: The Late Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson

Communications

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin/Becky Ross

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Hospitality

Frank Stephens

Program Support

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

Member Services

Dick Scudder

Greeters

Dick Scudder

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Frank Geltner

Nominating Committee

Sharon Gray

Sound Technicians

David Donovan/Brad Davidson

Livestreaming

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

Brad Davidson

Building and Grounds

Frank Geltner/Brian Bigelow

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

Racial Equity Team

t/b/d

L.I.F.E.

Ken Malkin

Barb McFarlane

JoAnn Hilliard

Cindy Thompson

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

David Donovan



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