



CONNECTIONS

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

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<i>by Alberita Johnson, CL Minister</i>	
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Welcome Back September!

New All Faiths' Care Circle Support Group Begins on September 29 at 2pm

facilitated by Alberita Johnson
The *Care Circle Support Group* is here to provide support for individuals dealing with emotional pain, and will provide a safe space to share experience, receive support, and learn coping strategies.
(see page 7 for details)

Child & Youth Program Resumes Sundays at 10:30am

with our CYP Director, Sharon Heinrich, Unitarian Universalist curricula are one of the best in shaping and supporting our children as they grow.
(see page 6 for details)

All Faiths' Little Known Secret... *The Book Club!*

Did you know All Faiths has a Book Club? This eclectic group meets once a month on the 3rd Monday of the month. They would love for you to join them!
(see page 7 for details)





Greetings All Faiths Family,

Here we are in September, and the heat of SWFL continues. There is no hint of fall at all. No falling temperatures, no dip in the heat index or water temperatures. Some call it *The Dog Days of Summer* even though *The Dog Days of Summer* don't actually have much to do with dogs! Their roots lie in the ancient sky, when the brightest star, Sirius, rose with the Sun and inspired myths, calendars, and weather lore for centuries. But for most us, *The Dog Days of Summer* refer to the hottest, most sweltering stretch of the year in the Northern Hemisphere—typically mid-July to early August. However, here in SWFL, our *Dog Days* stretch through Sep-

tember. The phrase reaches back through millennia, tied to both astronomy and ancient folklore.

*Dog Days bright and clear
Indicate a happy year;
But when accompanied
by rain,
For better times, our hopes
are vain.*

Yet we do hope, and look forward to cooler days as we ready ourselves for the season here in SWFL, and the return of the birds, snow birds that is. When large numbers of people begin to slowly return to Florida escaping the impending winter. This is a time when we at All Faiths begin to prepare for the start of our liturgical calendar year which begins on September 1 and ends on June 30 annually. The liturgical calendar includes monthly themes that many Unitarian Universalist congregations follow. Our liturgical calendar themes for the 2025-2026 are as follows:

- Sept.** - Building Belonging
- Oct.** - Cultivating Compassion

- Nov.** - Nurturing Gratitude
- Dec.** - Choosing Hope
- Jan.** - Practicing Resistance
- Feb** - Embodying Resilience
- March** - Paying Attention
- April** - Embracing Possibility
- May** - Awakening Curiosity
- June** - Flourishing Together

Each month, we will focus and highlight our theme in Sunday Services, including Music, Children and Youth Programming, Social Media and Small Groups. I encourage you to take time to ponder and meditate on our themes monthly. They are designed to inspire us to personal application and external action that positively affects the Beloved Community inside our doors and out.

This month our theme is *Building Belonging*. This topic carries great significance today, as a prevailing sentiment of displacement and loneliness persists among individuals, even within social settings. This often manifests in defensive behaviors as people navigate their environment,

seeking to establish a sense of understanding and acceptance.

In October we will revisit the practice and Cultivation of Compassion, a theme that stretches us to center love and sustain the Beloved Community as in the following quote: *Compassion hurts. When you feel connected to everything, you also feel responsible for everything. And you cannot turn away. Your destiny is bound with the destinies of others.* – Andrew Boyd

All Faiths is a place of love and joy, a place filled with people of hope. As we continue our journey, let us look forward to sharing our themes and embodying them. They call us to self-reflection with hope to inspire action.

*Soon the Dog Days
will end but...*

*Our Love Train will
keep rolling.*

*All aboard...DestinationJoy.
Love, Minister Albie*

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.)

September - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

October - Cape Coral Pride (Rainbow Connection)

June Share the Plate raised \$455 for Cape Coral Pride!

July Share the Plate raised \$2,214 for Operation Joy - Back to School!

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



My husband and I spent 3 AMAZING weeks in Italy during the month of July. We visited the cities of Florence, Sorrento, Pompei, climbed Mt Vesuvius, took a boat tour of the Amalfi Coast and toured the Isle of Capri and Blue Grotto. We saw amazing towns and beaches around the city of Lecce, which is in the heel of the boot, and then we finished in Rome for the last 5 days. I spent my 64th birthday overlooking the city of Rome. How cool is that?? We walked so much (most of it uphill) and saw so many unforgettable sites that I lost 8lbs, even while eating gelato every day!! I took almost 1000 pictures in those 23 days. That's how memories are made!

In my absence, the Board and Executive Committee were very active in keeping the business of the Congregation running smoothly and went out of their way to make my vacation peaceful. I greatly appreciate all that they have done and want to express my sincerest gratitude. We have so many great and capable people. Thank you all. Arrivederci Italia, and now I am back at it.

Gratitude:

Speaking of gratitude, I want to say that this Congregation is blessed to have so many wonderful, charitable and giving members. At our last Board meeting, we spent some time to acknowledge how much work goes into supporting this community and all the volunteers who work to make this happen. We are blessed to have a Con-

gregation so actively involved in supporting our various committees & teams, activities, and programs. You willingly donate your time, talent and treasure to make All Faiths the special place that we hold dear in our hearts. Sometimes, we get so busy that we forget this. Our community would be nothing without YOU! A BIG thanks goes out to everyone for all that you do. We are blessed to have you.

Membership:

We welcomed six new members into the Congregation last month and I am so happy to see us continue to grow. Membership is a TEAM EFFORT, and it needs all of us to make it work. I want to acknowledge some of what makes us successful in that regard. Membership depends on an inviting and welcoming community. It starts with dedicated smiling greeters every week along with the minister and her inspiring messages, the uplifting music that we enjoy every Sunday, as well as the various teams, services and especially the individual members who make our visitors feel comfortable and welcomed and want to stay. We are truly blessed for this family.

I also want to recognize our Membership team who continues its amazing work in representing All Faiths at the Alliance for the Arts Night Market. Every month we set up our booth alongside other vendors, artists and organizations, where we interact with everyone who comes to visit our booth. We share our personal All Faiths

stories with them and let them know who we are and how we serve the community. Over the last 4 months, we have made some great new contacts, met with various community leaders and passed out All Faiths literature to everyone we can. In fact, this past month, we were blessed to have two such people come to see what we were talking about. They came to services the very next Sunday, where YOU ALL made them feel welcome. Great Job team. The next event is on September 10th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Social Justice:

I am happy to see so many people signing up to volunteer for the many opportunities that our Social Justice teams are sponsoring. Your continued support for all that they do for our community is welcomed and appreciated. A list of the upcoming activities is posted on the black announcement board located right next to the Superman cutout, so it's not hard to miss! I also encourage everyone to review the bulletin board on Sundays to see what opportunities that you can help with or things to do that you may enjoy.

I am looking for volunteers that can help with an upcoming All Faiths Fall Festival, scheduled for Saturday October 25th. The plan is to host a 9-hole mini golf game (designed by me) on the front lawn and serve hot dogs and hamburgers etc. It will be an open invitation to all, including our local neighbors, children, friends, family and members

of all ages. This will be a fun and entertaining way to introduce the Congregation to the outside world and show them who we are as well as raise some money for our outreach programs. If successful, it is intended to become an annual event. Please see the sign-up sheet and flyer for more details.

Building Improvements:

We are moving right along with our building improvements as presented at the last Life of the Congregation. Here are some updates:

1. The new street sign is finally in place and looks great along with the sidewalk feather banners. The last sign was destroyed during hurricane IAN, and this one is designed to be much stronger. Hopefully, it will not be tested so soon. Thanks to John Conrad for his dedication in leading us through many of our major renovations and keeping them on track.

2. The Sound Team has resolved an annoying noise interference issue that has been plaguing our Facebook uploads of the recent Sunday services. They have worked very hard to get this resolved. Thank You.

3. A big shout out goes to the Building & Grounds Team, and especially Brian Bigelow who has put in a lot of hard sweaty work keeping our exterior grounds looking great. We have accomplished so much this year and appreciate how nice it is kept up.

(continued on page 7)

Happening at All Faiths

Happy September Birthday to you!



September 07 Brad Davidson
September 07 Amanda Mejias
September 08 Patti Schwartz
September 16 Ainsleigh Babcock
September 23 JoAnn Hilliard
September 23 Ken Malkin
September 25 Dottie Mayol

And Coming Up...

October 4 Michael Pierre

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



Solos Luncheon

Saturday, September 6, 2025
1:00 p.m.

P.F. Chang's
10081 Gulf Center Drive ...
Fort Myers, FL 33913

*check your email for details.
This special Solos gathering
is open to all.*

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

NewsTalk

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

(The next adult education workshops are to be determined. Check emails and the newsletter for information when it becomes available). In the meantime, NewsTalk will resume at 9:15am on Sunday mornings. A forum for current affair discussions.

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.

September 2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						
	1 WE WILL BE CLOSED ON LABOR DAY	2 1:30pm-Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.	3 	4 5pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6 1pm Solos Lunch
7 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle	8	9 10am Racial Equity Team Mtg.	10 5-8pm Alliance for the Arts Night Market	11 10am Finance Mtg. 5pm Choir Rehearsal	12 2pm Dominoes	13 
14 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service 12 pm Rainbow Connection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	15 12pm Book Club	16 1pm Board Meeting	17	18 5pm Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm Sunday Srvs. Team Zoom Mtg. 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	19	20 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 9)
21 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle McGregor Clinic Collection	22 Fall Equinox Rosh Hashana begins	23	24 	25 5pm Choir Rehearsal	26 2pm Dominoes	27
28 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service Ice Cream Social	29 2pm New Circles of Care	30	31	 Visit our website for information on events and programs www.allfaithsuo.org		

SEPTEMBER 2025
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
THEME: THE PRACTICE
OF BUILDING BELONGING

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

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

September 7 - Building Belonging
(Let's Stay Together, Making Commitment)
Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Annely Hudanick
Music by Carlos Garcia

September 14 – Make Room for You
(Belong Alone)
Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Helen Dixon
Music by Carlos Garcia

September 21 – Celebration of Belonging
(Power of Beloved Community)
Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay
Music by Carlos Garcia
McGregor Clinic Collection – David Donovan

September 28 – Back Together Again
(Ingathering and Water Communion)
Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Nicole Racine
Music by Carlos Garcia

Sunday Workshop - 9:15am in the Sanctuary
12 Steps to a Compassionate Life
(Every Sunday except August 10th)

The Rainbow Connection
Every 2nd Sunday at Noon
David Donovan – ddonovan722@gmail.com
A space for the LGBTQ community and allies to
gather in fellowship, plan activities and offer support.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Doug and Diane Cartwright celebrated their 53rd anniversary. Doug said that the secret to a happy marriage is, “Yes, Dear.”

Peg Clayton Fischer took a fall in a parking lot. She cracked her tibia, sprained her ankle and hyperextended her knee. She was in rehab, but has now returned home. We hope that she recovers well.

Ken Malkin suffered from pneumonia after being on a cruise. His shoulder surgery has been postponed. We hope that he regains his strength.

Wayne Reese experienced more hospitalizations but he is trying to remain at home as much as he can. Frank Stephens has been caring for his dogs and giving him transportation

Carol Siferd passed away peacefully under hospice care at her home. A celebration of her life was held with family and friends on August 28th. We extend our sympathy to Joe Gayton and her sons.

Joyce Ramay
Care and Support Coordinator

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director



Our theme in September is “Building Belonging”. Through stories and activities we will explore what it means to build belonging in our congregation, community and wider world web.

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

September 7: Seeking Water Communion - Seek Truth and Nourishment from Many Sources!

September 14: Pluralism - “Widen the Circle!”

September 21: Generosity - “Share What You Have!”

September 28: Interdependence: “Notice and Care for the Wider Web!”

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

CARE CIRCLE SUPPORT GROUP

by Alberita Johnson, CL Minister

The Care Circle Support Group is undergoing a realignment and will resume on Monday, Sept. 29 at 2:00 p.m., facilitated by our Minister, Alberita Johnson. Our Care Circle is here for you to provide support for individuals dealing with emotional pain, and will provide a safe space to share experiences, receive support, learn coping strategies and reduce feelings of isolation.

Small Groups are beneficial in many ways. We are pleased to announce *All Faiths Small Groups* will be formed to share and connect with one another. If you are wondering why, here are a few reasons:

- **Shared Experience:** Hearing from others facing similar challenges can alleviate feelings of isolation and provide a sense of common humanity
- **Expressing Feelings:** Support groups offer a platform for individuals to express their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment
- **Learning and Empowerment:** Members can learn from each other's experiences and share knowledge on effective coping strategies while offering hope.
- **Improved Social Skills:** Engaging in group activities helps to improve communication and social interactions and reduce loneliness.
- **Valuable Resource:** Offering a supportive environment where individuals can find comfort, guidance and a sense of belonging.

Small Groups are an essential resource for many congregations, offering a respite. Our Soul Matters Small Group curriculum points out, "Around us swirls a shallow, frantic and materialistic culture that leaves us cut off from our deepest self, life's gifts and needs greater than our own." Many of us come to All Faiths, hungry to mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. The format is simple: first we listen to each other; second, we listen to our lives, because life is a companion not a challenge; and lastly, we listen to our deepest self. Together these three sacred practices of listening, to each other, the world and our deepest self, add up to a more intentional and authentic life.

Quaker teacher Parker Palmer explains this well:

"So, what do we do in a circle of trust? We speak our own truth; we listen receptively to the truth of others; we ask each other honest, open questions instead of giving counsel; and we offer each other the healing and empowering gifts of silence and laughter... Our purpose is not to teach anyone anything but to give the inner teacher a chance to teach us."

We look forward to launching All Faiths Small Groups Ministry in late October 2025.

BOARD NOTES *(continued from page 3)*

4. The building expansion of the inside vestibule and entryway is moving forward. The team reached agreement on the scope of the project so now the architect can begin the design work. When we have updated drawings, we will then send them out for contractor approval and review with the Congregation. This will allow more room to accommodate incoming guests while also welcoming visitors, signing up new members, and passing out hymnals and orders of service.

This work also includes adding a soundproof wall further back from the Sanctuary that will allow us to have a larger space to accommodate a meeting room as well as hosting the children's education during service.

"The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion."

– Paulo Coelho



All Faiths' Book Club meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Their next meeting is Monday, September 22 at 12:00! Unlike most book clubs, All Faiths' Book Club is an open forum, facilitated by Diane Chernow, where participants read a book of their own choosing and then critiques the book to the group. It is a fun, relaxing atmosphere, and you can bring a bag lunch if you like. New Members are welcome to join the fun!

If you have questions contact Diane Chernow dianecher@comcast.net.

COMPASSIONATE APPEAL

a Message from Frank Stephens

I need someone to take Wayne Reese's dog, Lyra, for an extended period of time, perhaps indefinitely.

I have had Wayne's two dogs with me for several months. This was to be a temporary arrangement but he has gone back and forth from better to worse and back again; and in and out of the hospital. He has informed me that they are sending Hospice to visit with him. This leads me to this appeal for assistance.

Lyra is a good girl and I love her, but she is quite energetic and needs extra attention, which I am unable to adequately provide.

Please contact me if you can help or know someone who can; feel free to share my contact information: fdinfla99@gmail.com 239-747-4976.

RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

by David Donovan & Carole Latino, Co-Chairs

We are anxiously waiting to welcome all of our beloved Snowbirds back for the season. We missed you so much this summer. As we approach the end of 2025, the Rainbow Connection has big plans for the remainder of the year:

- We will celebrate the last two Days of Observances on the Welcoming Congregation calendar. This will complete our renewal of the Welcoming Congregation program for 2025. The two days will be October 12th, where we will celebrate LGBTQ History month and/or National Coming Out Day and then World AIDS Day on November 31st.

- The 2026 Welcoming program calendar has been agreed upon and I am so very pleased to say that when we honor the Trans community this time, we will have a speaker to share their journey.

- The Rainbow Connection decided that we WILL have an All Faiths Pride Float to march behind when we participate in Cape Coral's Pride parade, scheduled for March 7th, 2026. A committee to design and decorate the float will be required.

- We are still waiting to see if Fort Myers will have a Pride event this year. If so, we will be there with a booth. Last year it was in November.

- Several fundraisers are scheduled or being worked on are as follows:

- Lasagna Luncheon on December 14th. Others have volunteered to help make lasagna and serve at the event. Last year we raised an amazing \$800.

- SWFL Voices holiday concert. Along with selling tickets to the concert, we want to include a 50/50 event and possibly do a silent auction. We are in talks with the choir and will need volunteers when the time comes.

- All Faiths will be holding its 1st Annual Fall Festival on Saturday October 25th, 2025. We intend to invite all our friends, members AND neighborhood (especially children) to play in a "homemade" 9 hole mini-golf course on the front lawn. We plan on having other games and hosting a cookout as well. Proceeds from this event will help support All Faiths outreach activities. This event will also showcase the Congregation and what we are all about to our neighbors. More information to follow.

I encourage anyone interested in helping or joining the Rainbow Connection team to come to a meeting or see David or Carole. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 14th. Please let one of us know if you might be interested.

Carole Latino: carolelatino@gmail.com

David Donovan: ddonovan722@gmail.com

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Susan Snow, Chair

Our Racial Equity Team reached out in July to various locations/organizations within Fort Myers, and specifically Dunbar, to invite and encourage attendance at our movie showing: *Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom*.

On Friday August 22nd at 6:30 p.m 51 people from our Congregation at All Faiths, their guests and members of community organizations watched the documentary.

Refreshments and dialogue ensued. The participants were actively engaged in discussing the history of slavery, segregation and racism, as well as its impact on our present day society. The remarkable resilience of the enslaved was recognized as a testament to their unwavering faith, hope and love of God.

This was truly a team effort to raise consciousness and move Fort Myers toward becoming a compassionate community.

The Racial Equity Team meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. We encourage you to join us.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



CAT would like to begin our message to you with some positive and important news recently reported online:

“In a historic moment for climate justice and international law, the International Court of Justice recently declared that the right to a clean,

healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.

As an advisory opinion, it does not impose enforceable obligations but serves to clarify international law and guide future decisions. The court’s unanimous ruling marks a significant shift: climate responsibility is no longer seen as an abstract goal or an act of goodwill, but as a legal and moral obligation owed to every person on the planet.”

You can read the full article about this significant development here:

<https://volofoundation.org/news/a-legal-win-for-the-planet-and-the-people/>

(continued on page 9)

This month CAT will be focusing on identifying positive actions we can take to help our community address the environmental challenges inherent in our changing climate. Our focus in September will be on promoting the use of solar power. We will look for ways to participate in a national campaign called Sun Day:

Sun Day is a day of action on September 21, 2025, celebrating the power of clean energy.

The clean energy revolution is here. Solar, wind and batteries are the cheapest form of power on the planet, lowering costs, creating new jobs, and strengthening our communities. But some politicians and industries are trying to hold it back.

On Sep 21, we'll celebrate the progress we've made and push for more. We'll install new solar, host e-bike parades, give heat pump tours, and rally for change. Together, we'll make the sun rise on our clean energy future.

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Carole Latino, Membership Co-Chair & Delegate

Thank you all for sending me to be a delegate for All Faiths at our General Assembly this past June 2025, in Baltimore, MD.

It was my first time and I really enjoyed all the workshops I attended and I believe I came back with many new ideas for growing our Congregation.

The congregation we were compared to was twice our size so take that into consideration.

- The first thing was being a Radical Welcoming Congregation, which we do very well.
- We also follow up with a welcome letter a week after the new person comes in. We kind of drop the ball from then on.
- Also recognizing people when they come in. Try to remember their names. If you haven't met don't say "are you new," instead say Hi I'm
- Invite, Invite, Invite, neighbors and friends. This is everyone's job!
- Monthly Potluck groups, we discussed this at the membership meeting and I was told the same people always do the cooking and clean up. We decided that each group will be responsible for the cooking and cleaning up. By groups I mean Social Justice, Rainbow Connection, & Climate Action Team. We can also utilize people that signed up for clean up detail.
- We could possibly make the potluck night also game night.

- Groups.....we UUs like groups. We could have yoga, tai chi, small groups, games, etc.

- During service the Minister can say meet your neighbor and also if this is your first time at All Faiths, let the basket pass, you are our guests.

- Everyone gets the same name tag as they come in. So we are not "othering" anyone.

- A monthly flyer of activities.

- Burnout session for those who volunteer a lot.

- We are implementing a new policy. It's called the Ambassador Committee.

Every time a new person comes in for the first time, one of our Membership Committee, or anyone who has been with All Faiths for a year or more will be able to become an Ambassador. They will be assigned to a new member. Make sure they get coffee and show them around the grounds and where the bulletin boards are. Make sure they have filled out a connection card and find out what teams or committees they may be interested in. Most importantly when they are absent, call and make sure everything is okay. Additionally, be sure to gain their permission to share any personal information with the congregation and communicate their desire to Care and Support via Joyce Ramay. This will be rotated regularly. And will require tracking. Would any one like to volunteer?

It takes a village to make things happen, Anyone who is interested in becoming an Ambassador please let me know.

COMPASSIONATE CITY INITIATIVE

by Regina Kilmartin, Cong. Admin.

Back in July, our minister, Alberita Johnson, and several members from All Faiths attended a daylong gathering at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fort Myers to begin a conversation about moving the City of Palms toward openly becoming a Compassionate City. One that holds empathy, dignity, and care at the core. The organizers are calling for educators, civic leaders, healthcare workers, artists, entrepreneurs, faith voices, and anyone really, who wants to join the conversation about the importance of compassion and empathy and how to find ways to build them into the community.

Guest Speakers were Dr. Maria Roca, Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University, and Director of FGCU's Root of Compassion & Kindness (ROCK) Center, and Julian Ramirez, Executive Director of the Quality Life Center in Fort Myers, and Bill Petrarca, co-founder of the nonpartisan nonprofit Floridians for Democracy.

Check your emails for further information on how to get involved. The group has been meeting via Zoom on a monthly basis

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – July 2025

First Horizon Checking	\$23,068
Raymond James Legacy	5,262
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	23,545
First Horizon Capital Reserve	5,614
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	28,020
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	43,171
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	22,233
Live Oak Legacy Savings	26,044
Total	\$176,956
Prior Month	<u>171,858</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 5,098

July 2025 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 28,972
Operating Expense	<u>17,706</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 11,266

Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

As we entered the new 2025-2026 fiscal year on April 1, All Faiths budgeted \$202,086 for pledge giving; to date, actual Not Alone pledges totaled \$185,160 (86.9%).

In July, we received \$20,903 in pledge giving towards our Not Alone Pledge Drive. And in the fiscal year that just ended, \$28,413 was received for the Not Alone pledge drive.

Year to date (since April 1), our pledge giving has totaled \$59,260, while we budgeted \$67,366 (88.0%).

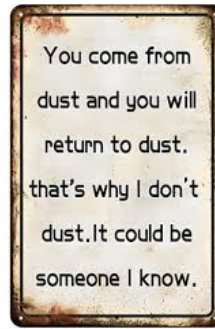
No unusual expenses were incurred in the General Fund Operating Account during July.

July's Interest Income was \$450.

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 3.255%.

The July monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,640 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. A new commercial vacuum was purchased, along with new office furniture for Regina and Albie; and we also paid for the new sound board and microphones which were a gift from Fran Way (in memory of her husband Bob Way).

In July, \$2,229 was collected for Operation Joy (Back to School).



The Grateful Dead Workshop presented by Lily Nieves

Come out and join us with open hearts and minds to the **Grateful Dead Workshop** at All Faiths on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 2 to 4pm. A free event.

Inscription at a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery reads: "Here lies an Atheist: All dressed up And no place to go."

In many cultures, people seek providence from their deceased ancestors; this practice is sometimes known as ancestor worship or ancestor veneration. The veneration of the dead can include one's ancestors, friends, and animals that have transitioned.

As we approach Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), examine global ancestral practices and the myriad ways by which those who have transitioned "come out" to communicate with us. **Engage with one another** in sharing your **personal** experiences about your very own **Grateful Dead**.



Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival, held on the first (also sometimes the second) day of Tishri (in September). It is marked by the blowing of the shofar, and begins the ten days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur.

**STAY TUNED...AND GET YOUR
IMAGINATION GOING!**



LAKES PARK FALL FESTIVAL 2025

**SCARECROWS
IN THE PARK**



**"The Wild, Wacky, Weird World of
Scarecrows in the Park!"**

October 10 ~ 31, 2025

A scarecrow trail winds through the Children's Garden and is viewed by over 50,000 visitors. Businesses, schools, families, associations, community groups, and individuals are all encouraged to compete in this friendly community event.

All entries must consist of a single scarecrow attached securely to a pole/post or pallet. Design and display your crazy, funny, unusual, silly, scary or strange scarecrow and show your support of Lakes Park! Build your own scarecrow, or sponsor a youth group to build the scarecrow for you.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 25, 2025

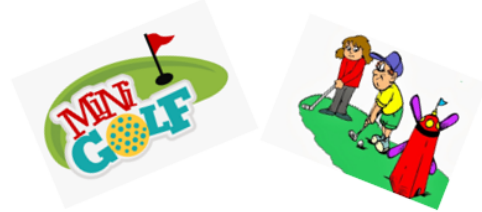
Registration Form, Dates & Details :
Lakespark.org/scarecrows-in-the-park-2025
Or visit www.LakesPark.org



Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation is a non-profit.
Questions? Call 239-470-9715 or email us at Scarecrows@LakesPark.org

**Fall
Festival**

Come and help celebrate our 1st Annual Fall Festival. Enjoy some games like mini golf and grab a hamburger or hot dog.



**Come Join us and have some fun!!!
Everyone is invited**

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation
2756 McGregor Blvd (just before the Edison Estate).
Fort Myers, FL 33901

When: Saturday, October 25th
Time: 12:00 noon to 5pm

Cost is \$10.00 & includes hamburger or hot dog and a drink

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARKET
AT THE ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS**

Join the Membership and Justice Committee at our All Faiths' table at the Alliance's Wednesday Night Market. Night Market is held the second Wednesday of each month from 5 pm – 8 pm and provides a unique opportunity to shop local artist booths featuring a variety of products while savoring food and drinks available on-site. Bring your lawn chair to enjoy live music or sign up for a chance to perform for your community. Be a part of creativity in the making!

If you can help staff the All Faiths' table one month, please sign up on the bulletin board.



**ACMA
LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!**



Saturday, September 6 - 7:00pm
Nate Currin in Concert! Carlene Thissen Opens

The Listening Room at All Faiths
2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
General public \$20/Member discount \$15
Donations at the Door



**Ice Cream
Social**

Next one on September 28
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson



This is how we roll...assembling Hungry Hungry Kid kits for the Community Cooperative Soup Kitchen!!



Meditation at All Faiths with Chloe



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

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

Executive Board: David Donovan, Chair; Dick Scudder, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Barb McFarlane, Secretary.

Directors: Helen Dixon, Frank Geltner, Carol Heilsberg, Ken Malkin, Lewis Robinson.

Ex-Officio, Non Voting: Marge DiGalbo, Past Chair; Alberita Johnson, Minister

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

Commissioned Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson

Communications

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin/Becky Ross

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Alberita Johnson

Hospitality

Frank Stephens

Program Support

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

Member Services

Dottie Mayol/Carole Latino

Greeters

Dick Scudder

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Circles of Care

Susan Snow

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Ken Malkin

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

Susan Snow

L.I.F.E.

Barb McFarlane

JoAnn Hilliard

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annelly Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

David Donovan/Carole Latino



Deadline for the **October** Issue of *Connections* is **Septembr 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