



CONNECTIONS

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

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August 2025

Summer's splendor by the sea,
a gentle, blue serenity.

Caressing rays of golden sun,
blushing, bronzing all who come.

Enticed by its romantic lure,
lovers stroll the sandy shore.

Hushing rhythm of the waves
and salty, misty ocean sprays.

Sea birds echo call of cries,
pierce the deep blue azure skies.

Dolphins dancing on their way
across the sea out to the bay.

A glistening, shiny, sun-soaked day.
All young and old alike at play,

building castles by the sea,
jumping waves and spirits free.

No place on earth as perfect to be
as summer's splendor by the sea!

Patricia L. Cisco.





Greetings All Faiths Unitarians and Universalists.

We have one more month of Summer, well, not really! In Fort Myers, we have several more months of summer weather this year. Happy Summer!

In June I experienced the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly (GA) in person for the first time. I have attended four; the first three were online. But in my opinion, nothing takes the place of being in person. I was pleasantly surprised to find that most of the presenters were people that I have worked with in the past. In fact, my mentor, the Rev. John Crestwell, and his congregation the UU Annapolis have gained more than 250 new members in the last year. He and his Mem-

bership Coordinator offered workshops - both on Growing Membership and one with a large focus on Sunday morning services.

While there I had the pleasure of meeting Rev. Michael Crumpler who heads the LG-BTQIA+ division of the UUA, and Rev. Mykal Slack, who is the minister for BLUU-Black Lives of Unitarian Universalists. They offered workshops. Some of you may recall that I worked for BLUU as an interim minister and was their first CL Minister hired by BLUU. Rev. Mykal continues to be a mentor and confidant.

The Rev. Tony Fisher, minister at the UU in Naples, was at GA. He is also one of my mentors. As a result, I will now be attending monthly clergy gatherings in Naples. He also serves on the Board of the Interfaith Alliance of Southwest Florida, of which I am a member. Rev. Tony and I will be sharing each other's pulpits sometime in the Fall or early winter.

There were many opportuni-

ties for networking, shopping and growth at GA. Most of my time was spent attending the General Sessions, and voting as a Delegate. I thoroughly enjoyed it, look forward to going next year, and am filled with appreciation for All Faiths funding the registration fees. You all are the best!

I look forward to presenting a panel discussion at All Faiths to share in greater detail the experiences and events of the General Assembly in the near future, along with David Donovan and Carole Latino who were also at GA.

Our theme for the month of August is The Practice of Play and Fun, which is just in time for BBF, *Bringing Back the Fun*, to All Faiths. Please email me and let me know if you are interested in fun activities that may include: Tea Dances, Odysseys, Talent Shows, Latin and Ballroom Dance Night, Line Dancing and Karaoke, the Immigrant Experience, Songwriters Circle. In-season out door activities, on-site miniature golf, Simon Says,

off-site BBQ's, Beach Day, Bird Watching, Six Cypress Slough Day and Night Full Moon Walk, et cetera.

I attended the event at our sister UU Congregation on Shire Lane on July 19 about having Fort Myers become a Compassionate City.

In June we launched All Faiths Circle of Care, as reflected in the Circle Way format. Not only will we offer support for those who are grieving, but also the intent is to focus on affirming the essential practice of turning to one another to uphold racial, ethnic, gender, disability, economic, and environmental justice. Much appreciation to Susan Snow, the facilitator.

I look forward to joining you all in fun activities and encouragement in our Circles of Care.

All aboard...Destination Joy.

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.)

August - Quality Life Center Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

September - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

October - St. Matthew's House - Women's Shelter (Homeless Team)

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!*



As I write this article for the newsletter, I am packing my bags for a 3-week vacation to Italy. I need a vacation from my retirement. LOL!! I have been your Board Chair now for about 4 months and have been very busy at work for the Congregation. Since there was no Board meeting in July, I will share with you some thoughts I have about other things.

Social Justice:

I am proud of the Social Justice outreach actions our Congregation does in the community. This is what distinguishes us from other organizations. We express this in many ways at All Faiths, but I believe that having a more visible presence in the community is important as well. It is when we gather in public, wearing our T-Shirts, that people see who we are and what we stand for. This also helps build new partnerships and grow connections which can lead to new members and help us grow our community.

We all know that food insecurity is a major issue in SWFL. It has been suggested that maybe All Faiths could get more involved in feeding the hungry. This could be as simple as someone just organizing outreach efforts supporting other organizations like Community Cooperative Soup Kitchen, increasing our presence at St Mathew's House, conducting more food drives etc. If you are interested, please let me know.

In August, I am planning an event at All Faiths in support of the Community Cooperative Soup Kitchen's summer

project called "Hungry Hungry Kiddo Kits". The idea is to collect snack items like breakfast bars, fruit cups, cereal cups, PB&J and grab-n-go snacks and then assemble them into kits using paper bags that we can decorate. The Soup Kitchen will deliver them to needy children in the local area. I think this will be a fun event held at All Faiths to put the kits together. Watch the bulletin board for more info.

Congregational Teams

I will be working with our Justice Teams in the near future to introduce two new UUA programs to see if we want to implement them here at All Faiths. There are training classes that can be taken to get ready.

1. Green Sanctuary 2030. The UUA has updated the old Green Sanctuary program to make it a more simplified process to achieve, and it will be self-certified.

2. Mosaic Congregation Program. This is the UUA's effort to widen the circle of concern to include a more multicultural program. It will be similar to the Welcoming Congregation for the LGBTQ community, but instead will emphasize lifespan learning in diversity, equity and inclusion and anti-oppression.

I want to give a huge shoutout to the members of All Faiths Congregation. The support that you have shown to the Rainbow Connection has had a significant impact on our lives and made our Pride celebrations this year very successful. We had fun and enjoyed won-

derful services, celebrations of diversity and a very successful Naples Pride, despite the threat of major protests this year. Thank you for all the love and support.

Volunteers for the Membership Team stepped up and have gone outside the box to be present in the community by hosting an All Faiths booth at the last two monthly community events called Wednesday Night Market at the Alliance for the Arts. Thank you for getting our message out into the community and working to invite guests to visit our Congregation.

Are you looking for some FUN?? Please ask me about the 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. This will be a fun event and is intended to be an open invitation in hopes of getting local neighbors of all ages to join in. The plan to make this an annual event and become an outreach effort to attract more families to the Congregation.

General Assembly:

I want to express gratitude to all the people that supported my journey to the UUA General Assembly. I would not have experienced this without your love and support. I attended many events and found them very enlightening. I learned a lot about our denomination, their programs and inner workings. This will be a topic for a future talk.

Building Improvements:

I want to let the Congregation know about the many facility improvements that the Board is working on or has already completed this year. Here are some of those items:

1. Upgraded the sound system (new board, microphones & rechargeable batteries)
2. Planted new native bushes and shrubs at the front of the building and gardens
3. Rerouted the existing unused irrigation system to just water the garden areas
4. Purchased two new Tables and an Umbrella to make better use of the patio area
5. Purchased a new computer for Regina
6. Approved the purchase of new office furniture for both Albie and Regina
7. Approved the painting of the outside of the building as well as Albie's office walls
8. Purchased sidewalk feather banners to increase our presence in the community

As you may know, over the years, the Board has been looking at ways to expand the building to be more useful and able to support a larger congregation. Due to significant cost implications required by the city if we expand the footprint of the building, we have agreed to investigate a more scaled-down version as follows:

1. Expand the current vestibule/entryway. This will allow more room to accommodate incoming guests in a short time frame, while also welcoming

(continued on page 7)

Happening at All Faiths

Happy August Birthday to you!



August 12 Joan Marshall
August 12 Carole Latino
August 15 Jackie Wendorf
August 29 Cynthia Pulham Wolfe

And Coming Up...

Sept. 07 Brad Davidson

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



Solos Luncheon

Saturday, August 2, 2025
1:00 p.m.

Slipaway Food Truck Park & Marina
1811 Cape Coral Parkway,
Cape Coral

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

RSVP to: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

The All Voices Choir Practice

Saturday, August 16th at 11:00 a.m.

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

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

12 Steps to Compassion Workshop

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. (no workshop on August 10)

Karen Armstrong—one of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world—provides an impassioned and practical guide to helping us make the world a more compassionate place. Facilitated by Alberita Johnson and Joyce Ramay

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.

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1pm Membership Committee Meeting 1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)
3 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle	4 2pm Circles of Care	5 1:30pm Climate Action Team Zoom Mtg.	6 6:30pm Fort Myers Camera Club	7 	8 2pm Dominoes	9 1pm Newcomer Orientation
10 10:30 Service 12pm Rainbow Connection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	11	12 10am Racial Equity Meeting	13	14 10 am Finance Mtg.	15	16 11am Choir Practice & <i>Establish new rehearsal day and time</i> 12pm Sunday Service Team Mtg.
17 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service McGregor Clinic Collection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	18 12pm Book Club 2pm Circles of Care	19 1pm Board Mtg.	20 6:30pm Fort Myers Camera Club	21	22 2pm Dominoes 6:30pm Movie <i>Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom</i>	23 
24 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle Hungry Kiddo Kit Making	25 2-5pm ACMA Circle Animal Shelter Collection	26	27	28 	29	30 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
31 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service & CYP Resumes Ice Cream Social	Visit our website for information on events and programs www.allfaithsun.org					

AUGUST 2025
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
THEME: THE PRACTICE OF PLAY

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

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

**August 3 – Joy of Laughter
(Fun, What Is It?)**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Helen Dixon
Music by Carlos Garcia

**August 10 – Leave Your Bones Home
(Movement and You)**

Speaker – Joyce Ramay
Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma
Music by Carlos Garcia

**August 17 – Make Believe
(Pretending and Imagination)**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Sharon Heinrich
Music by Carlos Garcia
McGregor Clinic Collection – David Donovan

**August 24 – Take it Slow
(Meditation/Mindfulness)**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Greg Madsen
Music by Carlos Garcia

**August 31 – Say What?
(Stories, Poems, Prose)**

Speakers – Diane & Doug Cartwright,
Nicole Racine & Susan Snow
Worship Associate – Alberita Johnson
Music by Carlos Garcia
Pet Shelter Collection – Sharon Gray

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.*

Ron Abplanalp suffered the loss of his 13-year-old
dog, Rusty. We extend our sympathy to him.

Donalie Benyak fell and was hospitalized. We are
glad that she has recovered well and continues to be
with us at services.

Doug Cartwright was hospitalized with high
potassium. He is receiving physical therapy and
loving care by his wife Diane. We hope that he
continues to improve.

JoAnn Hilliard's husband **Bob** celebrated his 100th
birthday. With his great talents and multiple careers,
he has been an inspiration to all who know him. He
remains actively engaged in making this a better
world.

Regina Kilmartin celebrated her birthday and also
the 16th anniversary of her employment at All Faiths.
We appreciate what a positive difference she makes in
all of our lives.

Joan Marshall continues to take rest and is
recovering at home from some respiratory and heart
problems. We are happy that she has improved and is
becoming more active.

Dottie Mayol has been dealing with severe arthritis
pain. We hope that she receives more effective
treatment.

Nicole Racine has continued to experience hip and
back pain and is receiving treatment. We hope that she
can find some substantial relief soon.

Wayne Reese is doing well after being hospitalized.
He is happy to have his dog Chloe and bird Princess
back at home with him.

Carol Siferd is receiving hospice care at her home.
We are grateful for all the wonderful contributions that
she has made through the years as the “hostess with
the mostest” at All Faiths.

Joyce Ramay
Care and Support Coordinator

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

by Alberita Johnson, CL Minister



Sharon Heinrich, our Children and Youth Program Director, is excited to return after the summer break. She will be serving as Worship Associate on Sunday, August 17. The service will highlight our August theme: "The Practice of Fun and Play," focusing on the imagination with "Make Believe, the imagination where all things are possible."

Children and Youth Programming (CYP) will resume on Sunday, August 31. Register online at www.allfaithsuu.org.

If you are interested in working with the Child & Youth Program before Sharon's return, please contact me, Minister Albie Johnson, at 239-226-0900 or via email at albiestalk@gmail.com.

BOARD NOTES *(continued from page 3)*

visitors, signing up new members, and passing out hymnals and orders of service to members.

2. Add a soundproof wall further back from the Sanctuary that would allow us to have a larger space to accommodate a meeting room as well as hosting the children's education during service. This wall could include either center doors or be expandable to open up for larger events.

3. Possibly add new carpeting/flooring throughout.

The Board has contracted with an architect to develop a design that can be submitted for contractor quotations. We do not have, nor can we estimate the cost for this expansion without first getting a design completed. No commitments have been made, but the cost of the design. When there is more to communicate, I will certainly let you all know. As you can see, the Board has been very busy, and I thought it was important to give everyone an update on the things we have been working on and where they stand today.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime, I am here to serve you and the community. If you have read this message, please mention it to me during Sunday service. I spend a lot of time putting these together and would love to know that they are being received. Otherwise, this message will self-destruct in 60 seconds!!

"Love is our SOUL purpose"

You are cordially invited to ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION



***Hosted by Minister Albie Johnson
& the Membership Committee***

**Saturday, August 9 at 1:00 p.m.
2756 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers**

How much do you know about our All Faiths congregation? How much do you know about Unitarian Universalism? Did you know that UU congregations are self-governing, and that authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of the congregation?

At All Faiths we want our members and friends to understand what we believe in, what we strive for, and what we celebrate. We encourage every member to participate actively in their faith community.

If you are considering becoming a member, if you are a relatively new member, or if you're just curious, we invite you to come on Saturday, August 9 at 1:00 p.m. for snacks and an informative workshop that will bring you up to speed on our faith community. Visitors are welcome, too!

Signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Community Room, or RSVP to Carole Latino at carolelatino@gmail.com

ALL FAITHS' CIRCLES OF CARE

Susan Snow, Facilitator



Circles of Care will be held this month on August 4 and August 18 at 2:00 p.m.

This is a confidential peer-lead group with a goal of sharing, caring, and healing, providing each other with listening connection, understanding, and hope. Whatever issues you may be challenged with, we want you to know that you are not alone. All will be graciously welcome. Contact: Susan Snow: vip2susan@aol.com, or 239-850-1184.

RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

by David Donovan & Carole Latino, Co-Chairs



This past month has been very busy for the Rainbow Connection Team, and we are very proud of the representation shown by All Faiths members in their support of our work. Here are a few of our accomplishments this past month:

- On June 8th, we held a Worship service honoring the memory of our Trans and Drag brothers and sisters who started a revolution at the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969.
- We held a POSE Dance party after service on June 8th, where everyone dressed up to honor the lives depicted in the mini-series POSE, where Queer and Trans people in the Black and Latino community banded together to form families called Houses. This was to help each other and form their own families because they were kicked to the side or abandoned by their own parents and society. During the 70's & 80's, in large cities around the country, dance competitions were held between these Houses, where they competed for trophies. This was known as the "Black Ball culture" and is portrayed in the mini-series POSE with Billy Porter.
- We conducted a candle lighting and reflection to remember and honor the 49 young lives lost at the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando on June 12, 2016.
- We hosted a very successful booth at Naples Pride again this year. It was well attended despite the threat of large protests. Unfortunately, the Drag shows had to be moved inside due to court intervention. We even got visitors from the event to our services the next day.
- We just need two Days of Observances to complete our renewal of the Welcoming Congregation program for 2025. These will be held in October.

The Rainbow Connection team has big plans for the 2nd half of 2025. We are in the planning phases for several fundraisers and are working to enter a Float in next year's Cape Coral Pride parade. We need decoration ideas and helpers when the time comes.

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 August 10th. 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

On July 19th several members of our team attended a gathering of educators, civic leaders, health care workers and faith voices for a one-day workshop called "Shaping a Compassionate Fort Myers." The seminar was held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers on Shire Lane. Attendees shared their commitment to begin building a more connected, compassionate community.

We'll be sending out flyers soon for the movie "Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom" which will be shown August 22nd at 6:30 at All Faiths (see page 12) - discussion and refreshments to follow.

The Racial Equity team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. All are invited and encouraged to come to **our next meeting August 12th at All Faiths.**

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



Your Climate Action Team will resume its monthly Zoom meetings on Tuesday, August 5th at 1:30 p.m. We hope you will be able to join us as we discuss plans for our fall activities both here at All Faiths and in the larger community. Specifically, we will be discussing ideas for ways we can participate in the Florida Climate Week which takes place in October. Here's a description of the purpose of this annual statewide event:

FLORIDA CLIMATE WEEK

OCT. 6 - 12, 2025

Now in its fifth year, Florida Climate Week is a powerful celebration of engagement, education, and collective action focused on the climate and resilience challenges facing our state.

As Florida confronts the growing impacts of extreme heat, stronger storms, rising seas, and more, the call to strengthen our resilience has never been more urgent. Florida Climate Week offers a moment for communities across the state to come together as one team to protect and preserve the paradise we call home.

This weeklong initiative invites all Floridians to tune in to expert-led virtual sessions, connect through community events, take meaningful action, and amplify their voices for a sustainable future.



Art at All Faiths

Starting in September ~ Drawing in Various Media

Meeting on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the Month for 9 Weeks, 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.
Instruction by John Fischer

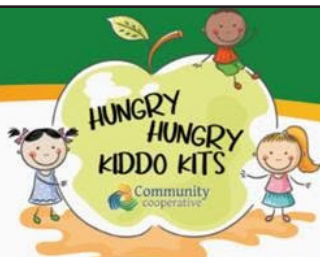
All levels of experience are welcome.

Materials for the first session will be provided. Thereafter, students are required to supply their own materials.

The class will cover:

- Basics of drawing with graphite. Types of pencils, erasers, markers, pen and ink (cartridges only), Tortillions, smudging.
- One, Two and Three Point perspective.
- Aerial perspective (as related to monochromatic art).
- Classes will start with a single sphere and move onto egg shapes, invented buildings, color, aerial perspective, portraiture, caricature.
- All classes will contain a brief (half hour) critique and outside assignments.

We will start promptly at 1pm and end promptly at 3pm. **Please sign up on the bulletin board.**



CREATE YOUR OWN

Hungry Hungry Kiddo Kit

Help feed hungry kiddos this summer by creating Hungry Hungry Kiddo Kits at home. The kits will be distributed to local children throughout our programs this summer to help bridge the gap between meals. Decorate paper bags with drawings, happy sayings, or words of encouragement - be creative and get the kids involved!

EACH KIT SHOULD INCLUDE 2-3 OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| ✓ Grab & go snacks | ✓ Cereal |
| ✓ Fruit cups | ✓ Oatmeal packets |
| ✓ Granola | ✓ Peanut Butter & Jelly |
| ✓ Breakfast bars | ✓ Shelf - Stable items |

Thank you for helping us fight summer hunger!

Drop off your Hungry Hungry Kiddo Kits Monday through Friday
from 8am - 5pm at Community Cooperative.

Questions?

Contact Janelle@CommunityCooperative.com

3429 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.,
Fort Myers, FL 33916
239-332-7687

www.CommunityCooperative.com



Don't miss out on this opportunity to help some Hungry Kiddos!

Save the date:

Sunday, August 24, 2025

for a congregational project!

Please deliver some of the food items from the list to All Faiths between now and August 24th (bin in the foyer).

On August 24th we will gather in the Community Room after service to decorate bags and put together the food kits, which David Donovan will deliver to the Community Co-op.

It's an easy and fun way to help our local children.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to participate!

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – June 2025

First Horizon Checking	\$ 7,765
Raymond James Legacy	5,261
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	23,465
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,159
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	36,789
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	43,050
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	22,158
Live Oak Legacy Savings	30,211

Total	\$171,858
Prior Month	<u>170,293</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 1,565

June 2025 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 16,556
Operating Expense	<u>14,570</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 1,986

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 June, we received \$10,182 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 \$38,356.95, while we budgeted \$50,526 (75.9%).

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

June's Interest Income was \$460.46.

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 3.35%.

The June monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,640.00 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. A new computer for Regina was purchased at a cost of \$1,080. And painting the building's exterior and Albie's office was authorized; this work was completed for July.

In June, \$455 was collected for Cape Coral Pride (Rainbow Connection Team).

SIDE WITH LOVE DENOUNCES UNDERMINING OF JOHNSON AMENDMENT

Side With Love Affirms Commitment to
Separation of Church and State

The IRS recently made news by suggesting that clergy be allowed to endorse political candidates to their churches. While this potential change surfaced as part of a lawsuit the IRS is involved in, no changes to IRS policies or the laws governing political activity for nonprofits have been finalized or fully enacted.

For years, the UUA has published guidance to our congregations and leaders about how to be a prophetic voice advocating for UU values in the public square. Additionally, our faith has a long history of faithful statements and resolutions that unequivocally support the separation of church and state. As such, we are deeply concerned by the IRS's actions which would further erode this fundamental principle and democracy itself. The UUA maintains adherence to this principle and calls on all people of faith and conscience to uphold this cornerstone of democracy. This serves both to safeguard the public pluralism of religious freedom and civil rights from government interference, and to preserve the independence of religious organizations, allowing us to follow our calling without entanglement from the state. Both are more important now than ever in pushing back against the rising tide of authoritarianism and the infiltration of white Christian nationalism into government and public policy.

We offer a plethora of resources supporting congregations in being "Prophetic, Not Partisan," including "The Real Rules" -- a handy guidebook on appropriate political activity and justice organizing. This guidance is woven into all of our nonpartisan, pro-democracy work through UU the Vote. These recommendations remain the UUA's best guidance on navigating IRS rules and current law governing non-profits, including congregations.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to monitor the potential impact of any changes to nonprofit laws. In a time when UUs are under heightened scrutiny from hostile governmental leaders, we are particularly conscious that there are many who would seek any avenue to question our legitimacy and standing. Our guidance remains the same as it has always been to protect our essential position in our communities: partisan activity is incompatible with an organization's 501(c)3 status, including for us as churches, while it remains our moral duty to advocate publicly and unapologetically for laws and policies that align with our shared UU values.

Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom

a Documentary Film

hosted by All Faiths' Racial Equity Team



Friday, August 22, 2025—6:30pm

Please RSVP via email to:

office@allfaithsuu.org by August 18

Uncover the deep spiritual significance of America's newest federal holiday with pastor Rasool Berry in "Juneteenth: Faith & Freedom," a new documentary film presented by the Our Daily Bread Voices Collection and Our Daily Bread Media. Learn how Scripture inspired the faith of enslaved people, travel to the church where America's first Juneteenth celebration took place, and uncover why newly liberated men and women credited God for their freedom. With special guests Ms. Opal Lee, Lecrae, and more, you'll journey to Galveston, Texas to discover a faith stronger than suffering. Refreshments will be provided.

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!



Saturday, August 23 - 7:00pm
George Worthmore and the Divebombers,
in Concert with Bon Mokadam opening

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MARKET AT 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.



Ice Cream Social

Next one on August 31
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

Animal Shelter Collection — Sunday, August 31, 2025



Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for these animals until they can find a forever home. To help shelters in their mission, they would appreciate donations of pet food and treats, and any of the items listed below.

Cat Food (Dry and Canned)
Dog Food (Dry and Canned)
Cat Litter (Clay & Scoopable)
Contractor Grade Trash Bags
Towels, large & small
Blankets, Comforters

Pillow Cases, Sheets
Clorox Wipes
Tissues
Paper Towels
Bleach

Gift cards from Petsmart, PetCo or Pet Supermarket
(or other local pet stores)

Sharon Gray will deliver the donations to shelters in need.

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

Sunday Service Team

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

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

David Donovan/Carole Latino



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