



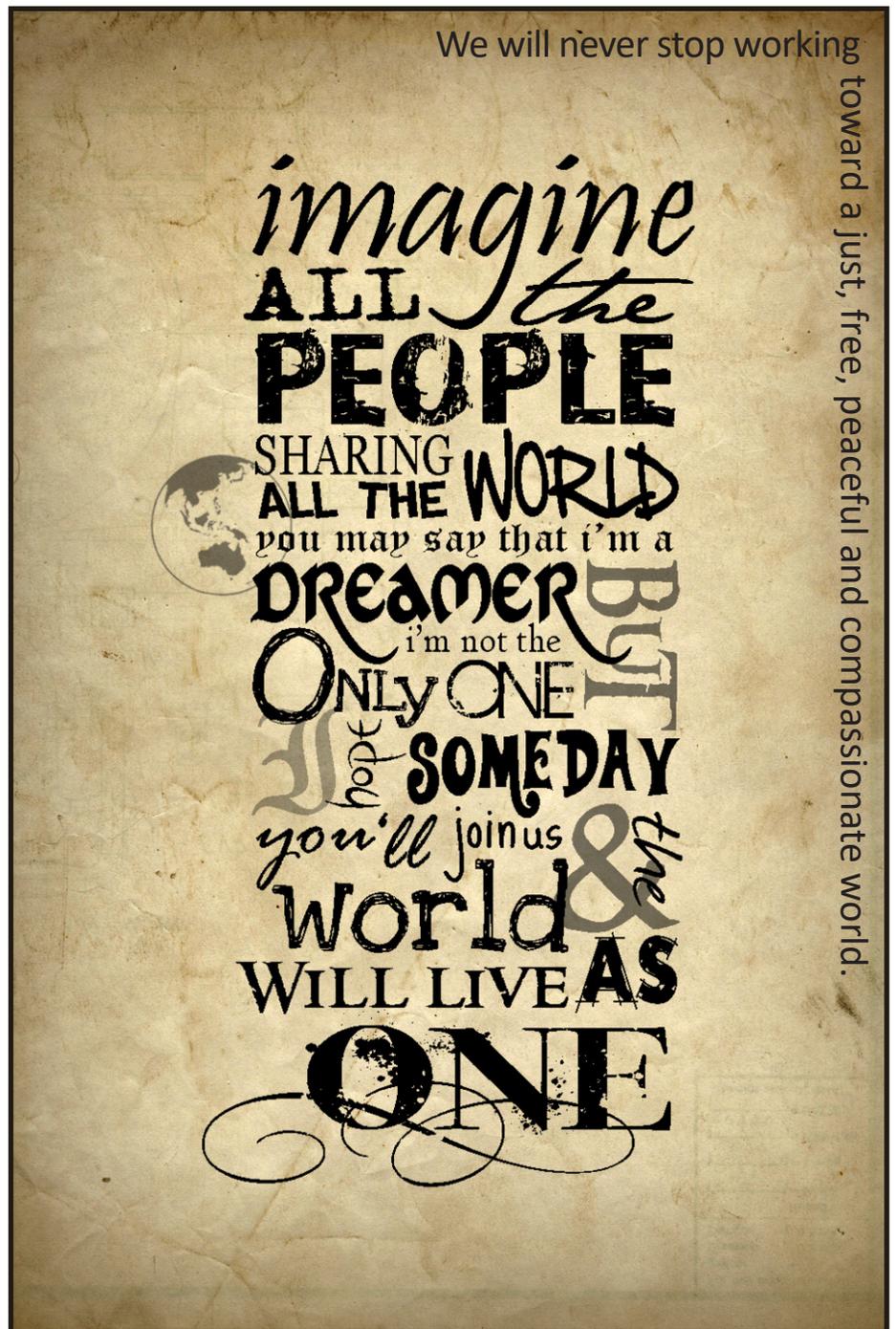
ALL FAITHS
UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, *where diversity is treasured.*
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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The October 21, 2020, Board of Directors meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

We were glad to hear that Emmie Spiller hosted another successful Teen Racial Justice Summit on October 16. It was held via Zoom (see article on page 6).

With the improving local COVID numbers in September we were hopeful that we could start to reopen services in November. Several reopening options had been discussed earlier in October. However, by the time of our board meeting, we realized that the surge in rising numbers means yet another delay in holding in-person services. Your Board of Directors will continue to monitor the situation and move forward with reopening as soon as science and common sense says it is reasonably safe.

For the past two meetings we have discussed the possibility of creating a Director of Youth Religious Education

(DYRE) staff position. Everyone acknowledges the need for YRE and the importance of YRE in our ability to grow and maintain the vitality of our Congregation. The big issue has been the timing of creating a new staff position. At the last Annual Meeting the Congregation voted to create and fund a YRE consultant role. Mary Corrigan has been doing a wonderful job filling this role. However, the program needs to expand and the hours involved would need to increase. Rev. CJ presented a proposal to the Board and Finance Committee to create a DYRE position with the increased hours needed (a combination of paid and volunteer hours). After much discussion of various opinions, the Board decided to not create a new staff position at this time but rather leave it to a Congregational vote at the next Annual Meeting. However, we will expand the role of consultant to include the same number of hours that would have

been provided with the staff position. The Religious Education Consultant line item of the budget would increase \$2850 for the remainder of this fiscal year. (As a side note, we have received pledge increases from members totaling \$1,000 to help offset the increased cost of YRE. These pledge increases are not reflected in the budget changes summarized below. The donors hope others will show their support for YRE by making additional donations or pledge increases.) Also included in the motion that passed was the request to study the position and hours involved to have an analysis available for the Congregation when a position is presented for vote. This was a good compromise that enables the YRE program to continue as planned while not creating a perceived longer-term commitment of a staff position without full Congregational approval during these uncertain times.

The Finance Committee presented the six-month budget review and revision which was approved by the Board. Obviously, the biggest impact is the reduced revenue due to not having plate donations, fundraising events, rental income and other usual revenue sources. Pledges have been down about 10%, but hopefully those will be fulfilled in the next few months. The lost revenue was partially offset by the PPP loan of \$27,300 which should be forgiven. We are still projecting a reduction of \$16,372 from the original budget of \$237,980 to \$221,608. Expenses are projected to be lower going from the original budgeted amount of \$237,980 to \$228,808, a reduction of \$9,372. The revised expense budget included the planned pay raises for staff that were delayed until October 1 and the increased funding for YRE (from \$1050 to \$3900). The only other large increased

(continued on page 6)

Mission Statement

“All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community, seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth.

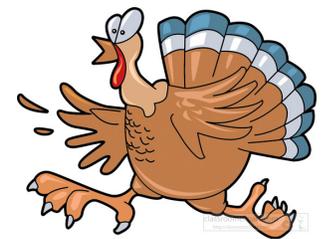
“We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world.”

All Faiths Collection Schedule

Share-the-Plate (please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check. See article on page 12)

November - Operation Joy (Christmas for children)
December 6 - Employee Bonuses

Food, Clothing, and Other Collections
McGregor Clinic - T/B/D



The October Share-the-Plate resulted in \$373 for "Meals of Hope"

by Rev. CJ McGregor



Unitarian Minister the Rev. A. Powell Davies wrote, “The American commitment is to universal justice, the rights of all people -- not the special interests of some. It is a commitment to fair play, to patience, to tolerance, to neighborliness. It is a commitment to THE COMMON GOOD. It protects...the opportunity of each with the good of all. It is compassionate, humanitarian. It believes in humanity and in its future. It is the Golden Rule [“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”]... It battles prejudice and false opinion. It seeks the truth. It is opposed to barriers of exclusiveness. Its principles are universal. It despises cowardice, including moral cowardice. But it has no use for obstinacy, inflexibility, and intolerance. It prefers honesty to cleverness, kindness to self-sufficiency, goodwill to narrow-minded aims. If anyone asks by what right I define these characteristics as American, I point him to those Americans the rest of us revere as great. I say that America is defined by the moral progress she has sought and by exemplars -- not by the hour of perfidy (and by her little-minded, greedy foes). And if anyone tells me that these

characteristics are more than American, that they are universal, I will reply that that is why they are American. Because this nation was not founded on the divisive and the separate, but upon the rights of all people. Can we restore these standards? Can we seek again the touch of greatness? The future will depend upon the answer. Upon what takes place in [the American] heart and conscience. A nation, like an individual, must have a soul.”

On the edge of this election, we fear for the future of our democratic republic. But the truth is that no matter what happens on Tuesday, no matter which of the two major political parties takes control and “has the upper hand” in the Senate, and in our state, so much damage to the soul of our nation has already occurred. No matter who “wins” or “loses” on Tuesday, no matter what the outcome on Tuesday, our hearts are already shaken by nasty election politics, tragically spurred on by the dark, poisonous and divisive rhetoric that has already markedly diminished the heart and soul of America. America has tragically been made a meaner, poorer, more divided and fearful nation. We sit, we wait, on pins and needles.

As your minister, it is my responsibility to offer you support and counsel in times where you find yourself on pins and needles. When you are anxious or in suspense, worried about something. This election season is contentious, tawdry and angry. The world, this country,

is in chaos and it’s taking a toll on our spiritual and emotional health. The American Psychological Association says that 52 percent of American adults are coping with high levels of stress brought on by the election. Therapists around the country said in interviews that patients are coming to appointments citing their fears, anger and anxiety about the election. Both poll data and anecdotal reports show that the high levels of election anxiety are affecting both Republicans and Democrats equally. “People seem to be getting more worried every day,” said Elaine Ducharme, a licensed clinical psychologist in Glastonbury, Conn.

While every election provokes some level of anxiety as we watch our preferred candidate move up or down in the polls, the battles appear to be taking a significant toll. Mental health experts across the country tell us what they are hearing from their patients, a common theme has emerged: People feel less safe. Some of the issues that have emerged in this election — national security, the pandemic, corruption, poverty, a destabilized economy, the withdrawal of legal protections, and healthcare — play into some of our deepest fears and anxieties. Issues of secrecy and allegations of conspiracies and voting rights abuses, have compounded some feelings of distrust. People are wondering, how can I feel safe? Who will take care of us? I wonder if you are one of those people.

The Rev. A. Powell Davies was right. A nation, like an in-

dividual, must have a soul.

The American commitment is to universal justice, the rights of all people -- not the special interests of some. It is a commitment to fair play, to patience, to tolerance, to neighborliness. It is a commitment to THE COMMON GOOD. It protects...the opportunity of each with the good of all. It is compassionate, humanitarian. It believes in humanity and in its future. This nation was not founded on the divisive and the separate, but upon the rights of all people. Can we seek again the touch of greatness? That is the question being posed to every American after this election season. And that is the question posed to Unitarian Universalists.

Let us set aside living on pins and needles and care for ourselves and one another. May we replace anxiety and news stories with the promise of a great country-just for a little while. May we hold one another close as our freedom, our reason, our love, and our spirits are challenged these next few days.

- Blessings, CJ



Happening at All Faiths

*Happy November
Birthday to you!*



November 1 Edith Rood
November 5 Linda Runkle
November 14 Ariel Hoover
November 15 Doug Deininger
November 17 Mildred Smith
November 21 David Hauenstein
November 21 Judy Kay
November 22 Ernie Reid
November 26 Jane Broadstone
November 28 Barbara Gaiser

And Coming Up...

December 6 Sharon Gray
December 9 Scott Kilhefner

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



Solos Group Events

*Saturday, November 7, 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Luncheon*

*Friday, November 20 - 12 p.m.
MASKED LUNCH!*

***Rumrunner's in Cape Coral on
the patio! RSVP to Annely***

Contact: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the solos for
outings and lunch w/wo a movie date.

TEACHING TUESDAYS

Zoom Link

<https://zoom.us/j/7787257501>

November 10 - 1pm on Zoom

Learn more about the Florida Rights Restoration Program, with *Neil Volz*.

November 17 - 1pm on Zoom

Learn more about the Fort Myers Police Department Re-entry program,
with *Meropi Souza*.

November 24 - 1pm on Zoom

Part 2 of our Spiritual Practice series, with *Rev. CJ McGregor*.

To live with soul is to live deeply rooted in knowing and feeling that we
are connected to one another and to the earth, that our life is held in the
embrace of something larger than ourselves—a wisdom, a presence, a grace
"whose beatitude is accessible to us," says Ralph Waldo Emerson in his
essay "The Over-Soul."

ZOOM MEETINGS

Monday Schedule a one-on-one meeting with the Minister
via Zoom, or in person

Tuesdays Zoom Teaching Tuesdays - 1 p.m.

Wednesday Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering 7-9 p.m.

Thursdays Zoom Coffee Hour - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan - 9 a.m.

Zoom Youth Religious Education - 10:45 a.m.

Zoom Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday service is streamed *live* at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, on
our public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/allfaithsuc

View the services anytime on our website: www.allfaithsuu.org
by clicking on the You Tube button, or go to YouTube.com and
search "All Faiths."

NOVEMBER 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	2	3 1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg. 	4 7 pm-Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	5 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	6 7pm ACMA Concert Joe Jencks with David Martin opening (see pg. 11)	7 1 pm Solos Zoom Luncheon
8 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed Share the Plate w. Operation Joy 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	9 10am Zoom Sun. Service Team Mtg. 12pm Zoom Book Club	10 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. with Neil Volz, FL Restoration Rights	11  7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	12 10 am Zoom Finance Mtg. 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	13	14 7pm ACMA Concert Cliff Eberhardt with Louise Mosrie opening (see pg. 11)
15 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	16	17 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. with Meropi Souza, Fort Myers PD Re-entry Program	18 10am Racial Justice Mtg 1pm - Zoom Board Meeting 7 pm-Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	19 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 2pm - Zoom Homeless Team	20 12 pm Solos Outdoor Luncheon at Rumrunners	21 7pm ACMA Concert John Worth Hannam with Ricky Cegalis opening (see pg. 11)
22 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	23	24 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. Soul Practices (Part 2) with Rev. CJ McGregor	25 7 pm-Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	26 Thanksgiving Day No Coffee Hour	27	28
..... Office Closed November 23 through November 30						
29 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	30					
..... Office Closed						
Check the online calendar at: http://www.allfaiths-uc.org for post-printing updates						

NOVEMBER 2020 SUNDAY SERVICES - "THE UNEXPECTED"

Livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Recorded and available on our website
www.allfaithsuu.org

News Talk with Richard Keelan
9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Youth RE with Mary Corrigan
10:40 a.m. on Zoom

Coffee Talk with Staff
11:30 a.m. on Zoom

November 1 – (Daylight Savings ends)

Message: Expect the Unexpected
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate: Joyce Ramay

November 8

Message: Prophesied
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate: Carol Elrod
Share the Plate with Operation Joy

November 15 - (No Youth RE)

Message: Calming Our Hearts
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate: Susan Meissner

November 22

Message: Thanksgiving Leftovers
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer & Darlene Mitchell
Worship Associate: Joyce Ramay

November 29 - (Animal Shelter Collection)

Message: Being Thankful for the Half Full Glass
by Chris Stotler, All Faiths President
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate: Rev. CJ McGregor

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Cameron Anholt has tested positive for COVID-19. Please hold him in your thoughts and prayers.

Sandy Conrad, wife of John Conrad, has moved from palliative care to "full" hospice care as her Alzheimer's progresses. John is grateful that he can now visit her after seven months of separation due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Jan Guardiano was hospitalized for evaluation and treatment of her heart condition. She has returned to skilled nursing at her residence. We hope that she continues to improve.

Quillen McDaigle, daughter of Jennifer and Nicole, has been diagnosed with a neurological condition that affects her breathing. Please hold her in your thoughts and prayers

Greg Monk has tested positive for COVID-19. Please hold him in your thoughts and prayers.

Michael Pierre was hospitalized with COVID-19 virus but returned home within a few days. He is doing well and we hope he has a complete recovery.

Howard Silverman is having heart surgery on November 3rd. We hope that the surgery goes well and that he has a speedy recovery. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

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

line item was adding \$1,000 to repairs and maintenance. If we do not have increases in revenues from other sources or increased giving, we will have to pull \$7,000 from our Operating Reserve Fund.

Our deck is in serious need of major repair. Upon inspection, Bob DiGalbo and I discovered that it is in worse shape than previously thought. The city requires a demolition permit for removing it and a new construction permit accompanied by engineering drawings. We are waiting for a proposal from an engineer. We know it will cost more than previously estimated. We do not anticipate submitting permit applications before January because requirements change January 1.

Please stay safe and healthy. If you have comments or suggestions for your Board of Directors, please e-mail All Faiths or contact me (239.770.0795 or gcestotler@gmail.com) or other Board members. We like hearing from you.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for November 18 at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



Finally, it is here... November, and the most consequential election of our lifetimes.

If you have not yet voted when this newsletter arrives in your inbox, please be sure to vote your values on November 3rd. Whatever the outcome of the 2020 election, our role as citizens has never been more clear or more urgent. Your Climate Action Team is critically aware that government action at every level, from our cities to the federal government, is essential during this decisive decade of the twenties if we are to be able to mitigate the impact of global warming on our planet. We are asking each of you to personally engage with our elected officials and let them know you demand action now on climate change.

We strongly recommend you check out the local Fort Myers chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby. *Connie Hudson*, the founder and leader of this group, is a member of our Climate Action Team. Be sure to check out their webpage at: https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL._Ft._Myers/.

You'll find information not only about their organization and the Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation they are promoting at the federal level, and educational material to help you learn how to effectively lobby your elected representatives.

Your CAT team also invites you to a major event taking place online at 3:00 p.m. on November 19th. One of our partner organizations, the Southwest Florida Pachamama Alliance group is hosting participation in a Global Community Gathering which will bring together climate activists from around the world for a presentation that includes guest speakers *Van Jones*, and *Jane Goodall*. Our local Pachamama chapter is a dynamic organization led by CAT members *Holley Rau* and *Gary Robbins*. You need to register for this event by 8:00 p.m. on Nov. 6th at: <https://landing.pachamama.org/gathering>. When you sign up select *Holley Rau* as the person who invited you.

2020 is no doubt a year that will go down in history as both challenging and highly consequential. We simply cannot afford to be mere spectators of these historic challenges. We encourage you all to engage actively in helping to shape the future. Thank you for your support and for all the ways you help to bring about a better world.

CAT meetings are open to everyone wishing to participate. We meet at 1:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. We hope you will join us at our next meeting.

REPORT ON TEEN RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

by Emmie Spiller

The second annual Teen Racial Justice Summit took place on October 16th from 6pm-8pm via Zoom. The focus this year was peaceful, safe, and effective protesting. The three speakers we had this year were community organizer *Chantel Rhodes*, community organizer and candidate for NAACP president local chapter *Earl Sparrow*, and teen community organizer *Ricky Bocanegra*. Ricky Bocanegra was the organizer of the "Keep Robert E. out of Lee" movement. We had twelve teen attendants this year. Each was engaged and involved in conversation. Speaking to both youth and presenters, I learned that everyone is looking forward to attending this event next year. We hope this event continues to grow and respond to community needs.

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barbara McFarlane

October was full of generosity from our All Faiths community. Members donated school uniforms for children without stable housing. We gave them to Colonial Elementary and Edgewood Academy, schools our team has supported over the last couple of years. These schools now have enough uniforms for the school year thanks to All Faiths.

Other members of our congregation donated personal care products for people without homes. These items were given to the White Cross Church in North Fort Myers, which provides meals and support to people living on the street.

And, we received two donations of \$100! At the team's November meeting, we will decide how to use this money for people needing housing.

We are grateful and inspired that our congregation is engaged in this issue. Thank you!

Team members participate and follow LIFE's efforts for affordable housing, as well as advocating with our local government for services to this population.

Join us at the team's November meeting via Zoom on Thursday November 19th at 2:00 p.m.

OPERATION JOY - HOW IT ALL BEGAN

by Annely Hudanick

One day in the fall of 2011, a group of All Faiths' members, *Evelyn Evans, Nathalie Hahn, Priscilla Johnson, Jeanine Martin*, and I were sitting together for lunch, what else! The subject of how we could get involved in our community came up. What to do, how to get involved!

Evelyn, one of the kindest people I ever met, was already very active in her "Back to School" efforts, collecting supplies all year long. I had just read a book about the dismal sleeping conditions children in poverty faced, sleeping on floors, couches, in corners, without sheets or pillows or any comfort whatsoever.

I decided to try an idea that I had read about, asking people in a letter to help by donating a sleeping bag or pillow. The letter was phrased to encourage people to approach others in their family to do the same.

I sent letters to my neighbors, friends, family, and members of All Faiths Singles Group. One of the members of the Singles Group that contacted me was Jinny Tilly, and together we decided to sew colorful, child friendly pillow cases to go along with the pillows and sleeping bags!

We needed a name for our group, and so "Operation Joy" was formed. On November 30, 2011, we donated 27 sleeping bags and pillows, with cases, to Community Cooperative Ministries.



After we received permission to approach the congregation, other campaigns followed. A blanket drive in January of 2012 brought in enough blankets for the homeless population to stuff three cars to overflowing!

March 2012, we collected children's socks and underwear. These were donated to the Good Shepherd Ministries.

April 2012, "Project Dry Bottom" brought in close to 4,000 adult and children's diapers. The same year Operation

Joy went into the fashion business with "Project Ruffles and Bows." With donations from the congregation and others, and the labor of members of the Singles Group, 58 adorable little girls dresses were sewn and donated to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.



Project after project followed. Christmas gifts and food for needy families, a Holiday Party for English for Speakers of Other Languages class, clothing and necessities for many. Yearly honor and support for our All Faiths' teachers during our "Back to School" campaign.

Sadly, we had to say our final "good byes" to *Evelyn Evans* and *Priscilla Johnson* a few years ago; we will never forget them. We waved "good bye" to some other members who went on to new adventures, but new faces and energy joined in. Currently, Operation Joy is comprised of All Faiths' members *Linda Runkle, Diane Chernow, Nathalie Hahn, Joyce Schaffer, Sue Meissner*, and *Annely Hudanick*.

Every Holiday we seek out a worthy charity or cause. We have been able to do so only with your generous help. This year will be a challenge in more ways than one. We will have to change our giving, and concentrate on very real needs during these very difficult time.

Please help us make this a good year!



TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets - Sept. 30, 2020

Iberiabank Checking	\$12,669
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	29,994
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,616
Raymond James Legacy	37,024
Pay Pal	145
Iberiabank Capital Fund	<u>3,893</u>
Total	\$104,340
Prior Month	<u>108,453</u>
Net Loss	\$ (-4,113)

September 2020 P&L

Operating Income	\$ 12,810
Operating Expense	<u>15,835</u>
Net Loss	(-3,025)

Revenue/Operating Income declined in September, compared to August. This will hopefully improve over the coming months as many of our congregants return to southwest Florida. The generosity of our congregants is very much appreciated especially during these times of being unable to attend All Faiths in person.

Most of our expenses have remained lower than budgeted because of the fiscal restraints that the Board approved at earlier Board meetings.

Our outstanding mortgage principal at the end of September was \$97,975.19. This is significant progress because on April 1, 2019 (less than 1.5 years ago) the mortgage principal balance was \$151,234.48!!

In September, \$305 was collected for One Tree (the new beneficiary of the Climate Action Team).

We are seven months into our fiscal year, and the holidays are around the corner. Now might be a good time to check on the status of your pledges. Please give Regina a call if you need an update on your giving. And remember to do your holiday shopping through AmazonSmile. Any purchases you make through AmazonSmile will benefit All Faiths with a percentage of the sale.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

LIFE

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

In October, Lana Cowell, Donalie Benyak, and Marsha Bates each led an All Faiths house meeting (via Zoom) to kick off our congregation's involvement with Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE) for the upcoming year. We were one of the 19 congregations which belong to LIFE to hold house meetings.

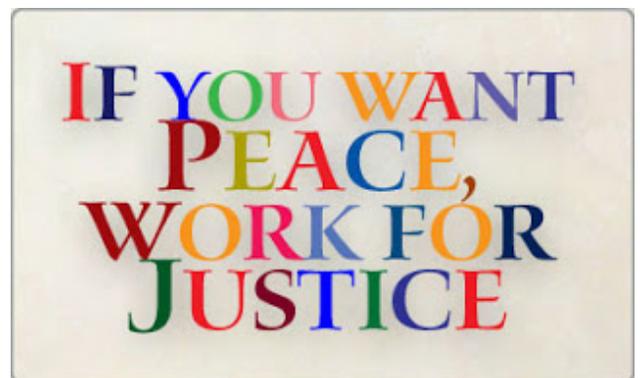
Each meeting participant shared his/her most pressing social justice and community concerns. Concerns from all house parties will be compiled and the three most often mentioned will be presented to LIFE's network members at the November 9th *Annual Assembly*. The concern receiving the most votes will become LIFE's new initiative for the 2020-2021 year. Because housing remains a concern, LIFE's work on affordable housing will also continue in the upcoming year.

More support is always welcome! If you did not participate in a house meeting and want to support All Faith's involvement in this important social justice work, please call Marsha Bates (740-278-2357), Donalie Benyak (239-482-3545), or Lana Cowell (216-701-1378). They will be happy to explain LIFE's approach and how you can help make our community a more just place to live.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Assembly via Zoom
Monday, November 9 - 7:00PM-8:30PM

Members from all LIFE congregations will join together to vote on a new topic area for the year ahead and to kick-off a new year of justice ministry. All are welcome and Zoom info will be sent out in the November newsletter.



THE CHALLENGE OF COVID FOR MANO A MANO IN BOLIVIA

by Segundo Velasquez, *Mano a Mano Founder*

The impact of COVID – 19 in Bolivia has touched Mano a Mano staff and volunteers and my family very personally. I talk with personnel from each of our Mano a Mano counterpart organizations almost every day. Since the virus began spreading in Bolivia in March, I have heard fear in their voices, a level of fear that I have never heard during protests and unrest. The unspoken questions: Who will be next? Who will not survive?

Mano a Mano experiences many challenges in our work in Bolivia. We always cope and manage to get the work done. But the pandemic has tested us in unprecedented ways. Several of the Mano a Mano personnel in Bolivia contracted the disease as it began spreading through the city of Cochabamba: our architect, one of the engineers, project directors and office assistants fell ill with COVID during the shutdown.

After our aviation program received permission to fly again in May, our lead pilot contracted COVID in spite of taking extreme precautions when flying COVID patients from the tropics to urban hospitals. His wife and 4-year-old son also became ill. Thankfully, all have recovered. My older brother Ivo became more seriously ill but is on the mend.



Mano a Mano aircraft about to airlift a COVID patient from the tropics to a large urban hospital. The patient is enclosed in a capsule that protects his caregiver and the Mano a Mano staff.

Sadly, Dr. Hugo Castrillo, founding member and current board member of Mano a Mano Bolivia, died after weeks of struggling with the disease. One of our volunteer dentists died in early October.

Our staff received special permission from the Bolivian government to distribute medical supplies and fly patients, while air and ground

transport were prohibited. Several literally moved into and lived in the warehouse where supply-filled containers had been delivered one day before the shutdown, so they could unpack PPE to be picked up by ambulances that came from throughout the country.

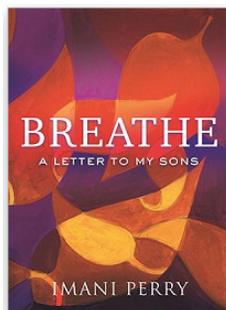
Others got up before dawn and walked several miles to their Mano a Mano office each day to maintain the Center for Ecological Agriculture and other essential work.

We stand in awe of their creativity in times of crisis and deeply appreciate their determination to move forward with the work that they know makes such a difference in the lives of so many.

We send a special thank you to All Faiths members who stand in solidarity with us as we face these challenges.

For more information on the Mano a Mano, visit their website at manoamano.org.

UUA COMMON READ FOR 2020-2021



The UUA is pleased to announce that *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* by Imani Perry (Beacon Press, 2019) is the new Common Read.

Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity. She admits fear and frustration for her African American sons in a

society that is increasingly racist and at times seems irredeemable. However, as a mother, feminist, writer, and intellectual, Perry offers an unfettered expression of love—finding beauty and possibility in life—and she exhorts her children and their

peers to find the courage to chart their own paths and find steady footing and inspiration in Black tradition. The New York Times calls *Breathe* “an elixir of history, ancestry and compassion, which, together, become instruction... a parent’s unflinching demand, born of inherited trauma and love, for her children’s right simply to be possible.”

Breathe offers a broader meditation on race, gender, and the meaning of a life well lived and is also an unforgettable lesson in Black resistance and resilience.

Congregations, groups, and individuals may purchase this book in hardcover from inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop; group discount available. The e-book and audio book (CD or MP3) are available from Bookshop.org.

AN INVITATION FOR YOU



Youth Religious Education would like to invite YOU to "stop by and say hi" any Wednesday evening during the first half hour of our Social Zoom gathering, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Please contact Mary Corrigan at mary837@gmail.com for the link. See this month's Youth Religious Education (adjacent column) for more information.

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER CONCERTS

The ACMA Facebook page is updated every Saturday with YouTube or music links from our scheduled artist for that date.

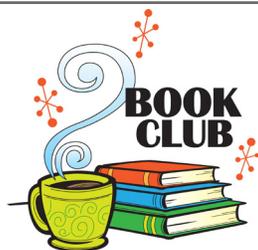
Nov. 6 - Joe Jencks with David Martin opening on Facebook Live and You Tube.

Nov. 15 - Cliff Eberhardt with Louise Mosrie opening on Facebook Live Stream

Nov. 21. John Worth Hannam with Ricky Cegalis opening on Zoom and Facebook live.

THANK YOU ACMA

All Faiths would like to thank the ACMA for their generous donation to help pay for two new track lights to be installed in the sanctuary. We will not let darkness fall -- on the music or the messages!



The Book Club is meeting via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of the month at 12:00 p.m. If you are on the Book Club email list, you will receive a Zoom link prior to the meeting. If you would like to join the Book Club or check to see if you are on the list, please contact Diane Chernow at dianecher@comcast.net.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Mary Corrigan, Director of Youth RE

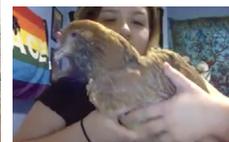
Youth RE Sunday lessons have been aligned with Rev. CJ's sermons. Hopefully, when we are able to gather in person, this will enable everyone in the congregation to discuss common topics. Additionally, Youth RE has been meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for a more relaxed social gathering. One project that we have been working on this past month is rewording the 8th Principle to reflect how our youth interpret its meaning. For example, the UUA articulates the 1st principle in their children's program as, "We believe that each and every person is important." However, Emmie questioned the purpose of attempting to simplify such a complex topic as the 8th Principle, advocating that clarity and understanding preempt conciseness. Therefore, this is our current interpretation:

We strive to make a kind, loving, and accepting community by educating ourselves, participating in conversations with others, and showing up to take actions that will take apart hatred and unfair treatment of people of color and others who have been pushed down, silenced, and denied their rights. We commit to doing this work within ourselves, our communities, and our society.

A recent request from congregant, JoAnn Hilliard, led to her joining us during one of our Wednesday evening Zoom gatherings. She wanted to personally thank our youth for the birthday postcard she received. Everyone enjoyed the visit so much that we are extending an invitation to all of our members to join us during the first half hour of our Wednesday evening socials. Please email me to receive a Zoom link (mary837@gmail.com).

Finally, I would like to express appreciation for the suggestions, resources, and ideas that many have sent me. I have kept and thematically filed all of your emails for future reference.

Wednesday Social Zoom



Nova is getting tall!



Someone special drops by.

ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION THIS MONTH

NOVEMBER 16 - 20 - DROP SUPPLIES OFF AT ALL FAITHS



Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for homeless animals until they can find a forever home. To help them in their mission, they would appreciate donations of pet food and treats, and any of the items listed on the Shelter Wish List. During the pandemic, supplies may be left at All Faiths front doors.

SHELTER WISH LIST

- Cat Food (dry and canned)
- Dog Food (dry and canned)
- Cat Litter (clay and 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)

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

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

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

Directors: Marge DiGalbo, Peter Erickson, Annely Hudanick, Eileen Moran, Linda Runkle.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joseph Brauer, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

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Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Carol Elrod,

Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

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Kendra Maroon, Sharon Gray

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Youth Religious Education

Mary Corrigan

Hospitality Coordinator

Nicole McDaigle

Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

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Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

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

Nominating Committee

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Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Building and Grounds

Michael Pierre

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall

Community Events

Richard Keelan

Heart for the Homeless

Barb McFarlane

Racial Justice Team

Rachel Spiller

L.I.F.E.

Marsha Bates, Donalie Benyak,

Lana Cowell

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick



Deadline for the **December** Issue of *Connection*:
is **November 18**

(Brief announcements may be accepted later,
and will be included *if* space and time permit.)



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday thru Thurs;
9am to 12pm, Friday and Sunday.
Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin