



CONNECTIONS

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

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I want to express my sincere thanks to all those in the Congregation who have made overwhelming expressions of support for me and to those who have offered help and guidance in my new position as Board Chair. It is truly inspiring. I hope to exceed all expectations and welcome any advice and thoughts on the direction for All Faiths.

UUA General Assembly

I am extremely fortunate to belong to such a loving and caring Congregation that have made it possible for me to attend this year's UUA General Assembly in Baltimore. I truly appreciate the very generous support of those who have made this possible. I cannot say enough how much that means to me. My plan is to learn as much as possible and bring those ideas and programs that will benefit our Congregation. This will be a time for me to learn how to be a good UUA leader and what programs are

offered by the UUA that we can benefit from.

Social Justice Outreach

At our Annual Retreat, the Board discussed how we are doing towards fulfilling our mission statement. We focused a lot of time on Social Justice outreach, as that seemed to be where we rated ourselves needing improvement. I want to thank the Board members for a successful meeting, and I plan on making this a major focus of my term this year and through those actions to help increase membership. I am working on plans to ensure that we are truly a Congregation for ALL FAITHS and ALL PEOPLE. There will be more coming on this in the months to come.

I believe that one of the best and most attractive features of the Congregation is our ZEST to help others. We express this in many ways at All Faiths. We contribute to Share the Plate, participate in

Social Action Teams, and help with food drives, and various other events that bring awareness and support to oppressed groups within OUR community. When we REACH OUT into the community and start affecting actual lives of others, we are working on the HEART of the Congregation.

Our weekly services are designed to support and nourish the hearts, minds and souls of our members. However, that is only part of our goal at All Faiths. We must continue to work within the community to help lift the lives of those who are in need.

These unselfish acts of charity and kindness not only nurture us, but they also act like a drug or medicine that courses through the Congregation to instill a spirit of love and happiness to make us better. These outward actions of support and compassion show the outside community who we are, what we stand for and what's impor-

tant in this world. As Unitarians, this flows through our veins and is what sustains our being. This also helps to attract new members to join us in this work. I ask all of you to see where you can make a difference in supporting our Social Justice actions and work of the All Faiths Teams.

Congregational Teams

I am sad to announce that the Heart for the Homeless Team is disbanding at the end of May. I would like the Congregation to do some soul searching and see what else we can do to support those around us. It was suggested that we could continue to serve the homeless in terms of Hunger. This could be accomplished by working with various food banks, soup kitchens etc, if people are interested.

The UUA is updating its Green Sanctuary program, and it will be known as Green Sanctuary 2030. They have simplified the process, and we will be self-reporting our prog-

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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.)

June - Pride Cape Coral (Rainbow Connection)

July - Operation Joy - Back to School

August - Quality Life Center Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

May Share the Plate raised \$500 for St. Matthew's Shelter!

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





Greetings All Faiths Unitarians and Universalists.

In a month we will welcome summer. The long hot and lazy days of the season are here! The Florida snowbirds have left us and returned back home and we regulars can stop complaining about the traffic.

After the pandemic and hurricanes that followed we are bracing ourselves for the hurricane season once again which starts June 1st. Here are a few things to consider:

[Know Your Risk: Water & Wind >](#)

[Prepare Before Hurricane Season >Ensure you are insured and document your possessions, prepare a hand written list of contacts and strengthen your home](#)

[Understand Forecast Information >](#)

[Get Moving When a Storm Threatens >Develop an evacuation plan and assemble disaster supplies](#)

[Stay Protected During Storms >](#)

[Use Caution After Storms >](#)

For more information check NOAA, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, then check your preparedness twice and make sure you are ready.

This summer we anticipate Bringing the Fun back to All Faiths. At the Sunday Service Team meeting we discussed bringing back the fun. Our own Carlos Garcia, Director of Music, and new member Greg Madsen, Worship Associate, will work together on Bringing the Fun with fun activities and outings for all of us.

Some fun activities may include:

Tea Dances and Balls-Everyone gets dressed up, think Met Gala, Red Carpet etc., take lots of pictures, share why you are wearing what you have on, eat, drink, dance and be merry.

Odysseys – Getting to know our people.

All Faiths Got Talent – singers, musical instruments, dance, personal stories, poetry

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, etc.

The All Faiths Common Read, Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life began May 18. It is open to the public, so feel free to invite friends and family to join us.

And in June we are launching All Faiths Circles of Care, as reflected in the Circle Way format, not only will they offer support but intend 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

BOARD NOTES *(continued from page 2)*

ress to the UUA. We must complete at least one action per each of the following Four Essentials and have plans for ongoing actions. Then we can apply for Yearly Recognition. The Four Essentials are:

- Congregational Transformation: Working together to improve the ways we organize and collaborate
- Community Resilience: Cultivating communities of care to prepare for and respond to climate disruption.
- Justice: Partnering with those most harmed by climate change to build thriving communities
- Mitigation: Reducing emissions from energy usage, transportation, waste, & consumption

Sharing our progress is the only requirement for Recognition. We do not need to wait for feedback from the UUA. The Action Report tracks the congregation's actions; there is no need for a final report.

The UUA is working to implement a new program called Mosaic Congregation. It is intended to be similar to the Welcoming Congregation for the LGBTQ community, but instead emphasizing lifespan learning in diversity, equity and inclusion and anti-oppression. It is an effort to widen the circle of concern to include a more multicultural program. It will have its own framework that will include a certification process.

June is Gay Pride Month, and I want to give a shout out to the Rainbow Connection Team for all the work they do in the community. The team hosted the movie "Will & Harper" on May 16th, and it was attended by 15 people, with a lively discussion about Trans issues and the dangerous environment they face living in the US today.

The next event for the Rainbow Connection Team is Naples Pride which will be held on June 7th at Cambier Park from 11 to 4pm. Our minister will be a speaker at the event. Let's support her and the Rainbow team by making our presence known. If you want to volunteer and help at the event, please see one of the members. ■

Happening at All Faiths

Happy June & July Birthday to you!



June 5 Vanessa Gilyard
June 7 Ron Abplanalp
June 8 Segundo Velasquez
June 10 Michelle Gemma
June 15 Joyce Ramay
June 15 Tina Noel
June 24 Judy Alberda
June 25 Alice Schaefer
June 25 Rosalie Kuehn
June 27 Joseph Batal

July 3 Becky Ross
July 3 Ruth Iyengar
July 5 Jan Guardiano
July 7 Regina Kilmartin
July 12 John Conrad
July 13 Nathalie Hahnz
July 16 Wayne Reese
July 19 Joe Gayton
July 22 David Donovan
July 24 Robert Bennett
July 25 Richard Scudder
July 27 Barb McFarlane
July 30 Doug Cartwright
July 31 Bob DiGalbo

Solos Luncheon

Saturday, June 7, 2025
1:00 p.m.

Bonefish Grill
14261 S. Tamiami Tr., Fort Myers

*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

On Hiatus 6/21 through 8/9 - Resumes on 8/16

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. (Starting 5/18 - 12 Weeks)

In this important and thought-provoking work, 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 albiestalk@gmail.com 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.

JUNE 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle	2	3 	4	5 	6 Eid al-Adha	7 11am Choir Practice 1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4) 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)	
8 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 12pm Rainbow Connection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	9	10 10am Racial Equity Team Mtg. 11:30am Social Justice Comm. Mtg.	11	12 10 am Finance Mtg.	13 2pm Dominoes in the Community Room	14 11am Choir Practice 12pm Sunday Service Team Mtg.	
15 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service Father's Day! 2-5pm ACMA Circle McGregor Clinic Collection	16 12pm Book Club 1pm Board Meeting (this month only)	17	18 Board Meeting rescheduled to Monday 6/66	19 Juneteenth 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	20 Summer Solstice	21 World Music Day 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)	
			UUA General Assembly			UUA General Assembly	UUA General Assembly
22 No Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle	23	24	25	26 	27 2pm Dominoes in the Community Room	28 Building Unavailable	
UUA GA	Regina on Vacation	Office Closed	Regina on Vacation	Office Closed	Regina on Vacation	Office Closed	
29 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle Ice Cream Social Pet Shelter Collection Regina on Vacation	30	31 	Please check your emails over the summer for events, programs, and any calendar updates or changes.				

**Check the online calendar at: <http://www.allfaithsuu.org>
for post-printing updates**

JUNE 2025
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
THEME: THE PRACTICE OF FREEDOM

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

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

June 1 – Celebrating Flower Communion

Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Annely Hudanick
Music by Carlos Garcia

June 8 – Honoring the Stonewall Uprisings

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

June 15 – Honoring our Fathers

Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright
Music by Carlos Garcia
McGregor Clinic Collection – David Donovan

June 22 – Summertime Music

Speaker – Joyce Ramay
Worship Associate – Ken Malkin
Music by Carlos Garcia

June 29 – Celebrating Juneteenth and July 4

Speaker – Alberita Johnson
Worship Associate – Helen Dixon
Music by Carlos Garcia
Pet Shelter Collection – Sharon Gray

Adult Education - 9:15am in the Sanctuary

May 18 - August 3:

12 Steps to a Compassionate Life

facilitated by Alberita Johnson & Joyce Ramay

The Rainbow Connection

Meeting 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.

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

Thank you for a great year!

There will be no CYP in June or July. We'll start up
again in the middle of August.

Have a wonderful love-filled summer.

Sharon, CYP Director

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Doug Cartwright came down with a case of covid. We
hope that he has a speedy recovery.

Helen Dixon celebrated her 80th birthday with a get-
together with friends and a musical evening led by Carlos
Garcia.

Regina Kilmartin had been experiencing episodes of
vertigo. We are happy to report that she received successful
treatment. We appreciate all the wonderful work that she
does for our congregation.

Joan Marshall was hospitalized with pneumonia and
some heart problems. She spent time in rehab, and will
continue to have physical therapy as she recovers at home.

Joyce Ramay shared the joy that she has adopted a
5-year-old German Shepherd mixed breed dog named
River.

Wayne Reese is hospitalized for treatment of abdominal
cancer. We hope that the treatment is effective. We hold him
in our healing thoughts and prayers.

Carol Siferd continues to suffer with damage to the front
of her brain. We hope that she improves and will be able to
enjoy a good quality of life.

Becky Ross and **Sharon Heinrich** shared their personal
stories, experience and wisdom as mothers at our Mother's
Day Sunday Service.

We join with our Catholic brothers and sisters in welcom-
ing the new **Pope Leo XIV**. May he continue to promote
justice, compassion, peace and environmental protection as
Pope Francis did.

Joyce Ramay

Care and Support Coordinator

July 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday






Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Have a Safe and Happy Summer!



						
	1	2	3	4	5	
				 Office Closed	1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)	
6 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle	7	8 10am Racial Equity Meeting 11:30am Social Justice Comm. Mtg.	9 	10 10am Finance Mtg.	11 2pm Dominoes	12 12pm Sunday Service Team Mtg. 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
13 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 12pm Rainbow Connection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	14	15 	16 No Board Meeting	17 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	18	19 11am Music History Workshop (Pg. 11)
20 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service McGregor Clinic Collection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	21 12pm Book Club	22	23 	24	25 2pm Dominoes	26 11am Music Theory & Performance- Workshop (Pg. 11) 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
27 9:15am Sun. Workshop 10:30 Service 2-5pm ACMA Circle Ice Cream Social	28	29	30	31	Check online: www.allfaithsuo.org for Calendar Updates & Corrections	

RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

by David Donovan, Co-Chair

The Rainbow Connection wants to acknowledge our snowbird team members who have returned to their homes up north. We are so thankful for their presence and contributions to the success of our amazing team and the Congregation as a whole. We also want to recognize all the new members that have joined recently. We are so blessed to include you in what we do at All Faiths. It is truly inspiring to think about our successes this year and realize what we can do when we work together.

We are halfway through renewing our Welcoming Congregation status for 2025. All we have left to do is honor 3 more days of observances and 1 worship service. Here is a recap.

- Days of Observances: We have completed three of the six Days of Observations. The next ones coming up are Stonewall Riots, LGBTQ History month, and National Coming Out Day.

- Worship Services: Our first service was International Transgender Day Visibility on March 30th. The second and last worship service will be in June to honor LGBTQ Pride month where we will be honoring Stonewall, Pulse Night of Remembrance and the Black Ball Culture as depicted in the miniseries POSE featuring Billy Porter.

- Welcoming Training: On May 16th the Rainbow Connection team showed the movie “Will & Harper,” a story about the revelation by Will Ferrell when his best friend decides to come out as Trans to him. A 30 minute discussion followed the meeting.

- Welcoming Project: We accomplished this task when we became the Major Sponsor of Cape Coral Pride in March of this year.

The Rainbow Connection will be hosting a booth at Naples Pride on June 7th in Cambier Park. Last year’s event was very successful, and we are excited to be returning this year. We are looking for help with the event.

Rainbow Connections is interested in hosting a social event in the spirit of the miniseries Pose, the Met Gala or just a Tea Dance in the coming months. We are looking for ideas and help with planning such an event. This will be a reason to get “Dressed to the Nines” and have some fun. Please let one of us know if you might be interested.

[Carole Latino: carolelatino@gmail.com](mailto:carolelatino@gmail.com)

[David Donovan: ddonovan722@gmail.com](mailto:ddonovan722@gmail.com)

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM DAVID DONOVAN, BOARD CHAIR

First, I want to say that I am always blown away by the AMAZING COMMUNITY that is All Faiths. I am always inspired by the beautiful messages, the way Carlos’s music flows through me, and how connected it is to the theme of the week’s service. Then, there is the outpouring of love and concern from the members of this Congregation; it is like nothing I’ve ever experienced before. I think it’s like walking into the Cheers Bar from TV, with Sam, Cliff, Norm, Woody, and Carla, et cetera... Where everyone knows your name. The love and support is overwhelming and allows me to be who I am meant to be. I am so proud to be a member of this Congregation for the last six years. My plan is to bring some energy and inspiration to the Congregation and hope you will come along with me for the ride. Thank you.

I want to express my gratitude to the Board and the Congregation for placing your trust and faith in me and my ability to serve as your Board Chairperson. It seems a little daunting, but I know I’ll rise to the challenge. I pledge to do my best to represent all the members of this Congregation and getting our message out into the Community.

To those of you who don’t know me, I grew up in New Hampshire and had the privilege to attend college at the University of Lowell in Massachusetts. I received a BS degree in Plastics Engineering and later earned a Masters degree in Engineering Management from Wayne State University in Detroit.

I spent the next 28 years at Ford Motor Company, where I started as an engineer and moved my way through the ranks in various roles such as Production Superintendent, Engineering Manager, and finally finishing up as Quality Manager for a 2 million square foot production facility making and assembling Instrument panels (dashboards) for 90% of Ford vehicles. In 2012, as Ford began to downsize, they started selling their automotive parts plants. My plant was sold to a French company, and I found myself without a job for the first time ever.

It was then that my partner, Dante, and I decided to move to Cape Coral. We had been together for 2 years at the time and took a big leap in moving to SWFL. It took us a little time getting used to living here, but we made it. For the next 6 years, I worked in retail as a Store Manager for Dollar General, and then 3 years at Firestone selling and installing tires and doing oil changes. You can see that I am not afraid of hard work! I FINALLY retired after working at Lowe's Home Improvement for 1 year as an overnight crew manager in the Receiving Department, responsible for unloading trucks and re-stocking the store. Now, I work part-time at Lowe’s and spend the rest of my time volunteering for Meals on Wheels and The Community Cooperative Soup Kitchen. I am also the Secretary on the Board of The McGregor Clinic and now All Faiths Board as its Chairperson. These activities, along with

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A PERSONAL MESSAGE *(cont'd from page 8)*

my required pool time (sitting on the lanai reading a book), fills up any free time I thought I would have.

Enough about me.

I want to thank the prior Officers and Board members for their tireless work and dedication to our Congregation. They did a great job finalizing our bylaws and Congregational Manual (procedures) last year. Now, we can focus on deepening our commitment to growing the congregation and our Social Outreach actions. ■

MUSIC NEWS - SUMMER 2025

by Carlos Garcia, Director of Music

The All Voices choir will sing their final song on Father's Day (June 15th), before taking their summer break. Rehearsals will resume on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 11am.

If anyone is interested in joining our music program for the upcoming 2025-26 choir season, whether to sing in the choir, or play a musical instrument (like guitar, tambourine, violin, drums, etc.), please contact Carlos Garcia by email at CeeGeeFM@gmail.com. You can also call 305-951-3332 and leave a message; Your call will be returned so that we can set you up with a time to meet, and/or audition. No experience is necessary... Just have the love and desire to learn how to play/sing music, in a fun and very exciting way!

See more music news on page 11.

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Susan Snow, Chair

At our recent meeting on May 13th, and having considered that Frank Geltner and Nicole Racine plan to move in the not too distant future, the team voted to approve Susan Snow to succeed Nicole and Frank as Chairperson.

Susan had been approached prior to the May 13th meeting by several members. She was asked if she would consider the commitment and she agreed.

At the May 13th meeting we were joined by Julian Ramirez and Shannon Soffian from the Quality Life Center in Fort Myers. In an effort to further prepare us for a compassionate connection between All Faiths and QLC they encouraged us to read ***Unbroken Wholeness - Six Pathways to Beloved Community*** by John Bell.

We hope this sacred connection will result in positive action reaching and widening the circles of our community in line with our goal of reducing racial inequality.

Congregational members are always welcome to join us at our regular monthly meeting on the second Tuesday. The next meeting is June 10th at 10 a.m.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

Carol Heilsberg Co-Chair



As Joan Marshall recovers from some recent health issues, the Climate Action Team will be taking a short hiatus during June and July. We plan to resume our regular monthly meetings later this summer. In the meantime, everybody stay cool!

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS TEAM

by Judy Alberda, Co-Chair

The Heart for the Homeless Team began in 2018. Original leaders were Barbara Gaiser and Judy Alberda. There were ten people on the team. Barb McFarlane led for five years. Most recently, Robert Bennett and Judy Alberda have been acting as leaders with four active members. We appreciate the donations of items and money given by the congregation over the years, as requested. Over time, we have learned a lot about the community and the hundreds of people in their organizations, churches and even the police force to better the lives of those who end up without shelter.

After seven years, we have decided to end the team. We feel confident that our work has been successful. If anyone would like to take on the responsibility of leading a new group of interested congregants, there is a lot of information to get you started.

We will continue to collect bicycles for the homeless, and individuals can personally get involved by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity or St. Matthew's House Women's and Children's Shelter.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Carole Latino, Co-Chair

The Membership Committee is happy to report that Lewis Robinson, David Donovan, and Carole Latino staffed an All Faiths' table at the Alliance for the Arts Night Market. This is a pop-up market occurring every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5 to 8pm. It was very successful as we were able to hand out pamphlets on Unitarian Universalism and discuss All Faiths' mission. We invited at least ten people to visit us. The next event will be June 11th. You can get involved by signing up on the bulletin board!

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – April 2025

First Horizon Checking	\$ 5,175
Raymond James Legacy	5,260
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	23,277
First Horizon Capital Reserve	4,477
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	33,316
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	42,814
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	22,000
Live Oak Legacy Savings	30,045
Total	\$166,363
Prior Month	<u>145,933</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 20,430

April 2025 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 13,131
Operating Expense	<u>19,132</u>
Net Gain/Loss	(- \$ 6,002)

Comments:

Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

The only unusual expenses incurred in the General Fund Operating Account during April were the entire annual contribution to LIFE of \$1,000 and a major repair of our landscaping irrigation system to better irrigate the garden areas.

April's Interest Income was \$444.64.

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 5.0%. And the Savings rate is currently at 3.35%.

In April a \$30,000 Legacy gift was received from the Carol and Ed Elrod estate and a new Live Oak Legacy savings account was set up for this generous gift.

The April monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,640.00 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. The final payment for the new fence was made; and a new irrigation control clock was installed.

In April, \$385.00 was collected for SWFL Reset Center (Climate Action Team).

Thank you for your support!



LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT LATEST UPDATE

Despite no LIFE meetings since last May, the LIFE board has been meeting every other month planning how to concentrate its efforts this year on building “people power.”

This includes inviting more congregations to join LIFE so its people power will be even larger. It also includes strengthening LIFE’s financial foundation so a new lead organizer can be hired to help us achieve LIFE’s ultimate goal of changing discriminatory and harmful laws and procedures.

Before we return to the task of identifying new injustices and fighting for change, LIFE’s board members believe its people power is the foundation of its strength.

We have seen that politicians show up, pay attention, and listen to LIFE only when LIFE shows up with many hundreds of Lee County citizens wanting justice. This occurred in the pre COVID years and to a smaller degree since, resulting in significant policy changes. Once LIFE achieves this stronger foundation, it will resume the important work of collecting and sharing congregants’ concerns about injustice, researching solutions, and urging politicians to change their laws and behavior to end the injustice.

LIFE has had many important achievements during its 13 years of existence in Lee County. All Faiths has been a part of that success for 11 years. The plan is to prepare for many more wins in the future.

It is because of LIFE that the City of Fort Myers has an affordable Housing Trust Fund to support providing affordable housing. There are many other successes. Please ask for more information if interested.

All Faiths has two LIFE team leaders, JoAnn Hilliard and Barb McFarlane. Our congregation is in need of one to two people to serve as our liaisons to the LIFE board. They will attend every other month board meetings and bring back information to JoAnn and Barb. All three/ four will decide how to share LIFE news with the congregation.

Without this liaison, All Faiths will not be able to continue as a member of LIFE. All Faiths members have been very involved for 11 years, by attending LIFE events, city council meetings in support of affordable housing, and generously supporting LIFE through suggested individual \$200/year investments in LIFE.

(continued on page 11)

We have Two important requests:

1. Please consider taking on the liaison role, individually or sharing with someone. Barb McFarlane will support you in this role. This is a great opportunity for new members to become involved, or long-term members to try a new role.

2. If you have supported LIFE in the past, or are interested in starting to support it, please send your annual investment/donation to:

3. LIFE, PO Box 62692 Fort Myers, FL 33906...or
4. Credit/debit card Online at www.lifejustice.org
5. Or Text the word "Lifejustice" to 44321

Note that you are from All Faiths when you invest.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. LIFE is a significant way All Faiths puts our faith into action. ■

Thank you - Alberita Johnson, Barb McFarlane, Robert Bennett and JoAnn Hilliard

HAPPENING THIS SUMMER

by Regina Kilmartin

All Faiths has an exciting summer ahead! Our Building & Grounds crew will continue to beautify our property and plantings. The building will be painted in early July. Albie and Regina will be getting new furniture for their offices. And, hopefully, our new street sign will be installed.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that keep All Faiths alive and well. We are grateful!

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!



Saturday, June 7 - 7:00pm

Wyatt Easterling in Concert
Robert Bidney opening

Saturday, June 21 - 7:00pm

Bear & Robert in Concert
Bill Frey & Len Makowski opening

Saturday, July 12 - 7:00pm

Kristy Lee in Concert
Kevin John Allen opening

The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
*General public \$20/Member discount \$15
Donations at the Door*

ALL FAITHS' SUMMER MUSIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

*Carlos Garcia will host two music workshops:
Music History & Music Theory & Performance*

You will be given all the materials needed for the workshop. Each workshop will have handouts, video and audio samples, games, presentations and more! Open for ages 10 – 100, including members, families and friends of All Faiths. Light Refreshments will be served. **Sign up on the bulletin board.**

🎵 Music History

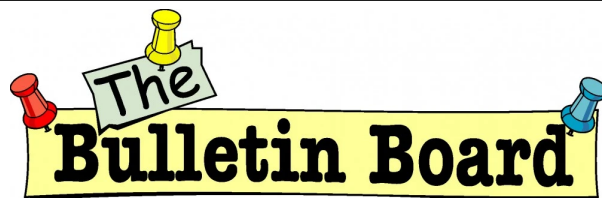
Saturday, July 19, 2025, 11am – 1pm

Travel through time in our Music History course! You will explore the fascinating story of music — from the rhythms of ancient civilizations to the modern sounds of today. You will clearly see how music connects from genre to genre over the course of music's history. This engaging class introduces a variety of musical genres, influential composers, and cultural movements that shaped music across the ages. This course is perfect for historians, amateur musicians and curious minds who love to listen and learn!

🎵 Music Theory & Performance

Saturday, July 26, 2025, 11am - 1pm

Unlock the language of music in our Music Theory course! You will learn the building blocks of music — from reading notes and rests to understanding dynamics and rhythm. This interactive class also includes hands-on practice with simple instruments, light vocal activities, and opportunities to read and create music. A perfect blend of fun and fundamentals for budding musicians! This course is designed to encourage future musicians!



Office Furniture for Sale: Regina and Albie will be getting new furniture soon, which will be funded by the Capital Reserves. Regina's hutch desk and all of the furniture in Albie's office (desk, two bookshelves, filing cabinet, originally belonging to Rev. Wayne Robinson, is for sale for a donation. If no one is interested by June 18, we will donate the furniture to a consignment shop or the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store.

REFLECTIONS ON ANOTHER YEAR AT ALL FAITHS

by Regina Kilmartin, Congregational Administrator



As July 23rd approaches, I find myself reflecting on yet another year at All Faiths. This milestone marks my 16th year as your administrator—a role that continues to be both an honor and a privilege.

In my line of work, change is inevitable. People come and go, leadership evolves, and the congregation itself shifts in essence and spirit. Ideas that once shaped our foundation gradually fade, making way for new perspectives and visions. Amidst this evolution, I strive to uphold the intentions of our founders—those who molded All Faiths into a free and inclusive religious community, dedicated to justice and open to all who walk through its doors.

I often ask myself, *How would Wayne Robinson feel about this?* The Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson's legacy remains an anchor for my reflections. Many reading this may not know who he was, a reminder of why it's so vital to preserve our history—to ensure that the vision and principles of those who came before us continue to guide us forward.

Serving All Faiths and its remarkable congregation is an incredible gift. From my very first day, I have felt deep gratitude for being part of an organization that values its people, lifts them up, and recognizes their contributions. The appreciation I hold for this community runs deep, and I've said it before—there's simply no better job than mine.

With love and gratitude ~ Regina

ALL FAITHS CARE CIRCLES BEGIN JUNE 9

by Susan Snow



Bi-Weekly *Care Circles* will begin at All Faiths on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 2 p.m. We will be a 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.

Facilitated by Susan Snow – vip2susan@aol.com – 239-850-1184

Animal Shelter Collection - Sunday, June 29, 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 & 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 Super-market (or other local pet stores)

Sharon Gray will deliver the donations to shelters in need.

*Sunday,
June 8th*



On Sunday, June 8th the Rainbow Connection will be honoring Gay Pride month and Trans lives, by hosting a short presentation of the mini-series called *POSE* during our regular service.

POSE is an American drama series about New York City's ball culture, an LGBTQ subculture in the African-American and Latino communities, throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Featured characters include dancers and models from the gay and trans community, who compete for trophies and recognition in this underground culture and who support one another in a network of chosen families known as Houses. These Houses provide support to LGBTQ youth who have been rejected by their birth families.

We invite the whole Congregation to participate, by dressing up in your finest most flamboyant "Met Gala" type costumes.
Let's have a party *AND POSE!!*

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; 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

Care Circles

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.

Robert Bennett,

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 **August** Issue of *Connections* is **July 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