



Where you *belong!*

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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Happy Thanksgiving!

All Souls Ceremony in the Memorial Garden
Thursday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY
for Alberita Johnson
Sunday, November 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Newcomers Orientation
Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 19, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.
for the purpose of Bylaw revisions.
(Q&A Session regarding the changes
November 12 at 9:30 a.m.)

"OREOS"
A Play by the Cartwrights
Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7 p.m.
Tickets \$10



The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Fall is here and the colors of the license plates in the parking lot are changing. I see Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Illinois and many more. Welcome back to all of our returning members. We're very glad you're back.

Your Board of Directors has been busy this last month. On October 11 we held a Retreat with Becky Ross leading us as we dreamed about what All Faiths' future will look like five years from now. We all agreed we would like to see All Faiths grow in membership and building size. We envision an active, robust CYP program with many children. We dream of more activities with all our members participating in them.

On October 14 you may have seen the Fort My-

ers Fire truck in our parking lot -- no emergency! -- three wonderful firefighters provided 14 members and friends with CPR/AED training. Techniques have really changed since I was originally trained in CPR. It's comforting to know that members are available here at AF who can provide care if needed until EMS arrives. Please note, the AED is located near the patio door in the Community Room.

We welcome Sharon Heinrich as our new Child & Youth Program Director. Hopefully, Sharon will help grow our CYP program.

We will hold a Special Congregational Meeting after services on Sunday November 19 to approve bylaws changes. We will hold a Q&A session the prior Sunday, November 12, to review the changes. You may vote in person or via email. Bal-

lots will be emailed to you before the meeting.

Work continues on replacing the front doors and resurfacing the parking lot.

We will be commissioning Albie on November 5 at a special service. We are doing a new photo directory in January. Doug and Diane Cartwrights' original play "Oreos" takes place on November 9. And we will be welcoming new members in November. We are planning monthly, themed potluck dinners starting in the new year. Please join us and participate in any way you can.

As all remember "Love is the spirit of this church and service its law. This is our great covenant, to dwell together in peace and to help one another."

May it be so.

The next Board of Directors meeting is November 15, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
Sunday,
November 19, 2023
9:30 a.m.
(Before Service)

Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, Inc. are invited to attend a Special Meeting of the Congregation to vote on Bylaws revisions.

Ballots and copies of the complete proposed updated Bylaws will be distributed to Members by email, or by mail for those without email addresses.

On Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. we will hold a **Question & Answer** session to provide information.

Diane Chernow,
Secretary

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.)

November - St. Martin de Porres (Operation Joy)

December - Special Collection for Employee Bonuses

January - Quality Life Center - Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

October Share the Plate raised \$565 for All Souls Episcopal Outreach!

Your generosity directly benefits our community!
We are grateful!





Many years ago, I can recall hearing a song that included this line... “Give and it will come back to you.” I later found out it was a quote from one of the many spiritual books that we may come in contact with. I remember thinking - what a profound statement! It reminded me of the Indian concept of Karma, or what goes around comes around, which is

a simple explanation; however, in my opinion, the line in the song points towards generosity, the theme for this month.

Dr. Mara Karpel writes about the Benefits of Kindness and Generosity sharing the following: “Several recent studies have found that being generous increases our ability to cope with physical pain and symptoms of chronic diseases. Volunteering has been associated with significant decreases in blood pressure, stomach acid, and cholesterol levels, and increased Immunoglobulin-A, which boosts our immune system. In fact, volunteering has been correlated with a lowered risk of mortality in older adults, decreased symptoms of stress, and better sleep. This is due to the phenomenon called “the helper’s high,” which is a release of endorphins (those natural mood-elevating and pain-reducing chemicals produced by the brain) when we engage in an act of generosity.”

It was 2017, when I entered All Faiths for the first time, and met Regina, our Administrator. At the time, I was the President of the SW Florida Gay and Lesbian Chorus, and we were looking for locations to offer concerts and celebrate our anniversary. All Faiths was the perfect size and location, and All Faiths said yes. Although the chorus had a small budget, we offered a concert that was well attended, and we split the proceeds. Mostly we wanted to give what we had to give and that was the gift of singing.

We had something to give, and All Faiths accepted us and our gift to share. It was a win-win. Our choir here has the gift of song and shares it with us at least once a month. I am so very pleased with them that I have asked them to share more frequently and our Music Director Carlos, along with the choir, has said yes.

Let us get ready, All Faiths! Our choir is preparing to give of themselves even more. They are not compensated monetarily; however, their reward comes as they share their voices with us in melody and harmony, and we in return express our gratitude in multiple ways. Some of us may be

considering joining them even as they are reading this article, others may offer to purchase or assist with the purchase of choir stoles and professional song folders to hold as they sing. Who knows? Perhaps instrumental accompaniments will come.

In fact, generosity is not held back here. Just last month we held a recognition and appreciation service for our Worship Associates and for those who prepared and gave a message from the pulpit and others. This month we will have another recognition and appreciation service for those of you on our Social Action Teams and our outreach to the McGregor Clinic.

Our Beloved Community cannot go wrong when we give of ourselves. As Dr. Mara Karpel shared in her article, there are multiple benefits to generosity. We are drawing close to the holiday season which is the season of giving. Let us give generously and enjoy the turnaround!

May it be so,

~ Albie

NOVEMBER CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

Welcome back! I am looking forward to meeting all of our children soon.

This month’s theme is Generosity. We will be exploring giving through songs, poems, stories, games, and creative activities.

November 5: Kindness is expressed through generosity. What can we give? Discuss examples of someone being generous (giving). Discuss how we feel when we give. Group project.

November 12: Share experiences of giving or receiving. Discuss ways we can show others we care for them. Create something to give.

November 19: Continue to identify generous acts and the feelings around generosity. Create something to give.

If you have any questions or ideas to share please contact me.

Happening at All Faiths

*Happy November
Birthday to you!*



- November 5 Linda Runkle
- November 12 Terri Stark
- November 14 Ariel Hoover
- November 15 Doug Deininger
- November 21 David Hauenstein
- November 21 Judy Kay
- November 30 Brian Bigelow

And Coming Up...

December 6 Sharon Gray

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



Solos Monthly Lunch!

Saturday, November 4, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Nomiki Plakka Greek Rest.
12901 McGregor Blfc., Fort Myers, FL
check your email for details.

RSVP to: Annelly Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos for outings and lunches.

The Epicureous Group

Strictly Social Dinner Group - All Are Welcome!
Saturday, November 25, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner & Conversation at **5pm, Saturday, November 25, 2023, at Azucar Cuban Restaurant - 3326 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral**

Please text, call or email John Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566 or silverfischstudios@gmail.com with your name, contact information and the number in your party. The restaurant needs exact numbers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from ALL FAITHS when you arrive.

The Rainbow Connection

Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at 12 p.m.

The Rainbow Connection is a new addition to All Faiths' social justice teams. This group will support the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.

Racial Equity Team Meeting

Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10 a.m.

The Racial Equity Team will meet twice a month through Dec. 12 to accommodate a book read. The team is currently reading Layla F. Saad's "*me and white supremacy.*" All are welcome.

All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Saturday at 11 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.

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. Contacts: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net

McGregor Clinic Collection

Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month

This month the clinic is in need of new socks. Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Ten O'clock Scholar 6:30pm Fort Myers Camera Club	2 6:30pm All Souls Ceremony and Gathering in the Memorial Garden (see Pg. 10)	3 2pm Dominoes	4 11am Choir Practice 1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4) 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
			5 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service and Commissioning Ceremony	6	7 1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg. via Zoom	8 10am Ten O'clock Scholar
12 9:30am <i>Bylaws Q&A</i> 10:30am Service & CYP 12 pm Rainbow Connection	13 10am Sun. Service Mtg.	14 10am Racial Equity Meeting 6:30pm LIFE Board Mtg.	15 10am Ten O'clock Scholar 1pm Board Meeting 6:30pm Fort Myers Camera Club	16 1pm Homeless Team Mtg. 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	17 2pm Dominoes	18 10am Newcomer Orientation *12pm Choir Practice 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
19 9:30 am <i>Special Congregational Meeting</i> 10:30am Service & CYP McGregor Clinic Collection	20 12pm Book Club	21 10am Care & Support Mtg.	22 NO Ten O'clock Scholar	23 Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 11am Choir Practice 6pm Epicureous Dinner (see pg. 4)
26 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP Ice Cream Social	27	28 10am Racial Equity Meeting	29 10am Ten O'clock Scholar	30	31 2pm Dominoes	
Check the online calendar at: allfaithsuu.org for post-printing updates						

NOVEMBER 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "GENEROSITY"

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

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

November 5

Title: *Time Has No Gender*

Speaker – Annely Hudanick

Commissioning Ceremony for Lay Minister,

Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

Music by Carlos Garcia

November 12

Title: *Diwali – A Festival of Overcoming*

*Strike a match, flick a Bic, observe the sunrise,
as she dispels darkness and ushers in the beauty
of the morning light.*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia

November 19

Title: *Gratefulness, A Good Thing*

*Generosity, a precursor to Gratefulness,
the gift of reciprocity.*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Bob Moore

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

November 26

Title: *Generosity in Action*

Appreciation for Social Action

Speaker – Joyce Ramay

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

Music by Carlos Garcia and Choir

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary

News talk is a facilitated group that will offer a time
and space for you to discuss the weekly headlines.

Child & Youth Program

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Hipolita Avila, Jr., 70, passed away in September.
“Hippy,” as we called him, was our sexton many years
ago. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Peter Erickson was hospitalized twice in Minnesota
for breathing problems with blood clots on his lungs.
We hope that he recovers well.

Jan Guardiano has returned to her assisted living
here in Fort Myers after being displaced by Hurricane
Ian to the East Coast of Florida for a year. We look
forward to seeing her at services.

Nathalie Hahn had surgery to replace a battery in
her heart pacemaker. She has not been able to attend
services regularly lately, but appreciates hearing from
us.

Pam Pfalzer had right shoulder replacement surgery,
followed by pain complications. We hope that she has
a good recovery soon.

**All Souls Gathering – Thursday, Nov. 2, 6:30
p.m.** Please join Alberita Johnson and others for a
ceremony at our Memorial Garden, honoring our
members who have died. *Bring a photo or personal
item of your loved ones to place on the altar.*

Emergency Contact - We would like to have
Emergency Contact information for you. It is
important that we be able to contact someone if we
have not seen or heard from you, or if you need
assistance. Please send the Name, Phone Number and
Email address for your emergency contact person -
spouse, child, relative, or neighbor to [joyceramay@
comcast.net](mailto:joyceramay@comcast.net)

SHARE THE PLATE

November's Share the Plate:

Operation Joy - benefiting St. Martin de Porres

Write "Op Joy" in the memo line.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



On October 23rd, the Climate Action Team held a viewing at All Faiths of the film, *"The Letter."* a powerful documentary about a Rome visit with Pope Francis of five climate leaders from four countries around the world. These leaders represented those who are most

heavily impacted by climate change: (1) The poor - represented by a young black man from a village in Africa destroyed by the effects of climate change, (2) The indigenous - represented by the chieftain of an indigenous tribe in Brazil fighting the industrial assault on the Amazon, (3) The young - represented by a teenage activist from India and, (4) Wildlife - represented by two scientists specializing in coral reef survival. The small group attending the screening were deeply moved by the film and asked if it is available to view online. It is, and we strongly recommend that you make time to view it and encourage family and friends to do the same. You can find it online at:

<https://youtu.be/I3EBHebH17Y?si=EE2Sacfpn3-HsoXj>

Your Climate Action Team is also once again asking for your help in gathering petitions for the Right to Clean Water campaign. At our October 1st service we handed out envelopes, each containing five petitions to be signed by your friends and neighbors who are registered Florida voters. We appreciate your help in getting these petitions signed and submitted and will be handing out envelopes again at the November 5th service. Please take an envelope and help us get more of petitions signed. The petition supports the placement on the November 2024 ballot of an amendment to the Florida constitution guaranteeing to Florida citizens the legal right to clean and healthy water. No such right currently exists. The petition drive ends on November 30th, and we need to all pitch in and help.

Our next Climate Action Team meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5th on Zoom. Everyone is invited to join us as we explore together how we can best address the ever-increasing impact of the climate crisis on our environment and our lives.

"OREOS" TO BE PRESENTED NOVEMBER 9 AT 7:00 P.M.



"Oreos," a one-act play written, directed, and performed by Doug and Diane Cartwright, will come to All Faiths for one evening Thursday, November 9, at 7:00 P.M. The play will be presented without intermission in four scenes all taking place in a somewhat seedy nursing home called "Golden Acres." Running time will be about 45-50 minutes.

David, an aging divorced man, spends his time doing crossword puzzles that he retrieves from the trash in the visitors' room. Barely subsisting on his monthly Medicare allotment after the nursing home gets its cut, he labels himself a curmudgeon that life has passed by.

Betty, a widower, has chosen "Golden Acres" to be near her children in her last days, having been informed by her doctor that she hasn't long to live and will soon have to enter hospice care.

The pair strikes up an unlikely friendship over memories and crossword puzzles; and they discover that life may sometimes be unfair, but it is also worth putting an effort into and discovering what joys it can bring.

Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the church or at the door. Refreshments will be served following the play.

All four scenes take place in the outdoor garden space of the nursing home, and will be separated by the piano music of Hank Shapiro, a founding member of All Faiths who died at the age of 101 and worked until shortly before his death at what he loved - playing the piano for the residents of nursing homes: the majority of which were far younger than he.

IT'S CELEBRATION TIME!

The Commissioning of Alberita Johnson



On Sunday, November 5th, All Faiths will host Alberita Johnson's Commissioning Ceremony. The ceremony officially recognizes her completion of the three-year Commissioned Lay Ministry Program, which is sponsored by the UUA's Central East and Southern Regions.

The ceremony will follow the Sunday service and will include words from Albie's mentors who provided feedback and guidance to her as she completed her studies. Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson will lead the pledge Albie will take followed by the Congregation reading the Commissioning words.

Carlos Garcia and Darlene Mitchell will perform that Sunday. Your Board of Directors has organized a finger-food reception that will follow the Commissioning Ceremony allowing the Congregation to celebrate Albie's achievement and show our gratitude that she is part of our beloved community.

ALL FAITHS' NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION

Hosted by the Membership Committee

Saturday, November 18, 2023

10 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m.

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?

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, November 18 at 10:00 a.m. for snacks and an informative workshop that will bring you up to speed on our faith community. Visitors are welcome, too!

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Community Room, or RSVP to Fran Way at franwayrn@aol.com.

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Susan Meissner, Team Member

The Team met in September to discuss charitable projects for the Fall of 2023.

Susan Meissner suggested the assembly of "Blessing Bags" for Homeless Women.

These bags would be delivered to Matt Wallace at the Lee County Coalition for the Homeless in Fort Myers. His staff would then distribute them as appropriate.

Susan used yarn donated by All Faiths members to knit 35 colorful hats for women to wear while sleeping "rough" during colder months.

A list of needed toiletries, socks and other items was published in the All Faiths October Newsletter and via broadcast email to All Faiths members. Members then contributed a large supply of needed items for these Blessing Bags.

On Thursday, October 19, 2023, the Team met and assembled 35 Blessing Bags!

"Bag Stuffers" included: Barb McFarlane, Judy Alberda, Susan Meissner, Lewis Robinson, Dottie Mayol, and Marsha Bates.

Once the Blessing Bags were assembled, a generous quantity of toiletries remained. These were sorted, bagged and will also be delivered to Matt Wallace for general use by his staff.

Susan contacted Matt Wallace to arrange for delivery on Monday, October 23, 2023.

The Heart for the Homeless Team would like to thank everyone at All Faiths for helping us with this project. We had a great time organizing it, but more importantly, we enjoyed being able to address a very real need among homeless women!



Ice Cream Social

After Service

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – September 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 43,580
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,262
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,577
Raymond James Legacy	4,495
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	7,891
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,632
Live Oak Capital Reserve	30,399
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,292
Live Oak Legacy CD	20,364

Total	\$177,527
Prior Month	<u>176,983</u>
Net Gain	\$ 544

September 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 16,243
Operating Expense	<u>15,187</u>
Net Gain	\$ 1,055

Comments:

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
- No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good in September. Minister related expenses commenced again in September for the first month in this fiscal year.
- Our Pledge Goal from April to September was \$101,755.00; and \$88,698.58 was received (87.2%). However, some congregants pledge was received at the end of the last fiscal year (during the pledge drive); that amounted to \$22,600.00. Factoring in those funds, we have received a total of \$111,298.58 towards the Pledge Goal. Thank you for your generosity!
- 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 4.0%.
- The monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,250.00 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. A contract has been issued to repave the parking lot and we are waiting for the work to be scheduled.
- In September, \$400.00 was collected for SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team).

TELLABRATION 2023

Presented by the Tamiami Tale Tellers



Tellabration, a Feast of Stories, will be presented by the Tamiami Tale Tellers, a local storytelling guild and member of the Florida Storytelling Association, on Saturday, November 18 at 2:00 at Peace Community Church, Fort Myers Beach, FL.

Communities all over the country and in many parts of the world enjoy coming together for Tellabration the week before Thanksgiving to share the ancient art of oral storytelling, no doubt the oldest form of entertainment and education on earth. But some people ask, what is storytelling? Is it reading stories aloud? Isn't it mostly for children? No, it is not reading aloud. It is the performance art of sharing many types of stories - personal tales from one's own life, historical tales bringing history alive, literary tales from well known literature, traditional folktales, or original or fractured tales largely from the teller's imagination. All are performed without notes before a live audience. School age children can enjoy storytelling, but our audiences for Tellabration have traditionally been mostly adults.

This year our Tellabration will feature storytellers Joel Ying, Lisa Leonhardt, Janel Behm, Lynn Jaffe, Pam Minton, Janice Beever, Mary Lou Williams. They will share a variety of stories - one original tale, three personal stories, one original tall tale, two traditional folktales. All our storytellers have honed their stories with many past performances, and they will be presenting heartwarming, humorous stories you are sure to enjoy. Marilyn Graham will be the emcee, tying the feast of stories together with a story of her own.

Please join us on Saturday, November 18 at 2:00 for Tellabration, A Feast of Stories, at Peace Community. Invite your friends!

The church is located in the same building as the Masonic Lodge, 17671 Pine Ridge Road, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to defray the cost of using the venue. No tickets or preregistration is required.

Contact Person: Marilyn Graham, 239-849-7666.



ALL SOULS DAY - NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Join in Remembrance in the Memorial Garden - 6:30 p.m.



Celebrate All Souls Day on November 2 by honoring the memories of those we have lost! This special holiday dates back to 998 AD, when the Catholic Church began celebrating it as a day to remember the souls of all those who had gone before. Today, it is a day of remembrance and commemoration for people of many different faiths. It's also a great opportunity to reflect on the lives of loved ones, whether they were family, friends, or even pets that have passed away. So celebrate this special day in honor of all those who are no longer with us - light a candle, say a prayer and cherish their memory forever.

All Faiths will plan a small celebration in the Memorial Garden and the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. on November 2. We hope you can join us. ***If you plan to attend, please bring photos and/or memorabilia to place on the Altar.*** We hope you can join us.

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Nicole Racine, Co-Chair

Upon becoming involved with All Faiths Racial Equity Team, I learned about *MISTAKES AND MIRACLES: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism (MM)*, a book published in 2019 by Skinner House Books (an imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association) in Boston. For those who are not familiar with this work, it traces Unitarian Universalist (UU) antiracism efforts. Central to the message of this book are these words: "It is our culture and not our theology that has been our biggest obstacle." This book explores efforts in five different UU congregations striving to change their culture. The authors describe some Common Threads that they found running through the stories of these congregations. Their hope was to uncover practices to help Unitarian Universalists change a congregation's culture and build multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community.

The book reveals how explicit and longstanding this body of work [in UUA] is, going back decades. "Unitarian Universalism has wrestled, off and on, with issues of race and culture, implicit bias, and sometimes life-destroying exclusion since the establishment of its parent religion more than two hundred years ago."

To me, this is an invitation to All Faiths members to enter the vanguard of Unitarian Universalists eager to change their culture to build a multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community.

The Racial Equity Team currently meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT UPDATES

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

Thank you to the 19 All Faiths congregants who attended LIFE's October 24th Annual Assembly held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers. Over 250 network members from 16 LIFE congregations gathered to decide what social justice issue LIFE will focus on in the upcoming year.

The two concerns that had been mentioned most frequently by the LIFE network members who attended their congregation's house meetings were education and mental health. The majority of those attending the Annual Assembly voted for LIFE to pursue an issue related to mental health.

On November 28th, after assembling a Research Action Team, LIFE will officially kick-off the research that will be conducted to more closely examine how our community is impacted by mental health issues. The Research Team will identify Lee County mental health issues, explore how other communities have approached the problem, and interview mental health experts in the field. Ultimately, the Research Team will pinpoint an action that community leaders and/or local legislators could take that would address the specific mental health need that the Research Team has identified.

Your Team Leaders will keep you informed about developments as they arise.

Michelle Gemma michelle.dinicola@gmail.com;

Barb McFarlane mcfarlanebar@gmail.com;

Marsha Bates gcsmbk@gmail.com)

Sneak Peek Coming in December

The Fort Myers Camera Club (FMCC) Photography Show & Sale December 8, 2023, from 5-8pm

The Fort Myers Camera Club will be presenting a photography show at All Faiths Unitarian Congregation on December 8, 2023, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The show is titled “*Celebrate the Season*” and will highlight the photography talents of the FMCC members. Wine and holiday cookies will be available along with Christmas music to make the evening more festive for everyone young or old. The photographs are modestly priced and would make a perfect gift for a loved one, or perhaps yourself! Most importantly, come and join us for an evening of fun to celebrate the holiday season. A portion of the proceeds will benefit All Faiths. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Holiday Concert JOSEPH BRAUER

presents

SONGS OF THE SEASON

Saturday, December 16, 2023

Tickets - \$20 (with a portion to All Faiths)

Stay tuned for details!

Mano a Mano Bolivian Craft Sale

The always popular Bolivian crafts sale will be back this year. These handcrafted goods make great gifts for the holidays.

**December 3 and December 10
before and after Service.**

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, November 4 - 7:00pm

Rupert Wates in Concert,
Gareth Rockliffe opens



Saturday, November 18 - 7:00pm

Grant Peebles in Concert,
David Hintz opens

The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
33901

*General public \$18/Member discount \$12
Donations at the Door*

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE AT THE CHURCH.
EVERY FAMILY RECEIVES A FREE 8X10 FAMILY
PORTRAIT AND A PRINTED DIRECTORY!
IT WON'T BE OUR DIRECTORY WITHOUT YOU!

COMING SOON

Jan 22 @ 11AM - 5:30PM

Jan 23 @ 1PM - 7:30PM

**Signup Sheets and Online Registra-
tion will be available soon.**

Be sure to SAVE THE DATES!

TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR RETURNS!

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Community Room

Facilitated by Alberita Johnson



This study group will meet Wednesdays beginning November 1 at 10 a.m. to explore Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's *Pathways to Repentance and Repair*.
(Subsequent dates: Nov. 8, Nov. 15, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13 and Dec. 20)

Unitarian Universalism has deep roots in Judaism and Christianity and this will be a good beginning for All Faiths while also exploring our Jewish roots.

A crucial new lens on repentance, atonement, forgiveness, and repair from harm—from personal transgressions to our culture's most painful and unresolved issues

American culture focuses on letting go of grudges and redemption narratives instead of the perpetrator's obligations or recompense for harmed parties. As survivor communities have pointed out, these emphases have too often only caused more harm. But Danya Ruttenberg knew there was a better model, rooted in the work of the medieval philosopher Maimonides.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

Executive Board: Marge DiGalbo, Chair; Michelle Gemma, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Diane Chernow, Secretary; Chris Stotler, Past Chair.

Directors: Rosalie Kuehn, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle, Richard "Dick" Scudder.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; t/b/d Child & Youth Program Director; Carlos Garcia, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson

Communications

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Weezie Close

Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin,

Sharon Gray, Becky Ross

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Marsha Bates

Nominating Committee

t/b/d

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Livestreaming

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Brad Davidson

Building and Grounds

Bob DiGalbo

Judy Alberda

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

Heart for the Homeless

Barb McFarlane

Racial Equity Team

Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine

L.I.F.E.

Marsha Bates, Michelle Gemma,

Barb McFarlane

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

t/b/d

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



Deadline for the **December** Issue of *Connections* is **November 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