



CONNECTIONS

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

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Bake Sale!

Drinks!
Treasures!

Burgers!
Hotdogs!

Fun!

Saturday, April 14, 2026
8am - 1pm (see Pg. 12)

SPRING FORWARD WITH PHOTOGRAPHY
Photo Exhibit & Sale
 Hosted by
The Fort Myers Camera Club
Saturday, March 21, 2026
1pm - 4pm (see Pg. 11)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
to Approve the 2026-2027 Budget and Elect Board & Nominating Committee Candidates
Sunday, March 22, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.
All Faiths Sanctuary (see Pg. 7)

“Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life forever.” — (attributed to) Amy Poehler

Turning Our Attention Toward Healing and Hope

In every season of congregational life, there are moments that test our patience, our trust, and our sense of connection. These moments can feel heavy, especially when we care deeply about this faith and one another. And yet, it is often in the most trying times that the heart of our covenant becomes clearest.

This month, the UUA invites us to reflect on the spiritual theme of Attention—what we notice, what we nurture, and what we choose to hold with care. It is a fitting theme, especially now, as we navigate our way forward in light of the recent results of our vote for Ordination and the many emotions that accompany it.

The consequences of this vote are yet to be fully known,

but the potential loss of a minister, whether through resignation, retirement, conflict, or circumstance—touches every part of congregational life. It can stir grief, confusion, relief, gratitude, or even all of these at once. There is no single “right” way to feel. What matters is that we bring attention to our hearts, to one another, and to the path ahead.

As your Board, we are paying close attention to the needs of this moment. We see the ache of uncertainty. We see the longing for stability and clarity. We see the resilience that has always carried this congregation through change. And we see, unmistakably, the love that continues to bind us together.

Attention, in the spiritual sense, is not passive. It is an act of choosing. Choosing to listen deeply. Choosing to speak with kindness. Choosing to stay curious rather than assume. Choosing to honor our covenant even when emotions run high.

In the coming weeks, we will have opportunities for reflection,

conversation, and collective discernment. These will be spaces where we can name what we are feeling, ask questions, and imagine our future with intention. This is not quick work, but it is sacred work—and we will do it together.

If you are grieving, we hold you. If you are hopeful, we welcome your energy. If you are unsure, you belong here just as much as ever. Every voice matters as we move forward. Let us turn our attention toward what strengthens us: our shared values, our commitment to justice and compassion, our belief that community is something we build and rebuild with love. Let us remember that transitions, while difficult, also open doors to renewal, creativity, and deeper connection.

All Faiths has, in fact, faced many challenges before. As long as we work together, stay connected and keep each other in love, we will find our way forward. We are strong enough to meet this challenge,

and it shows in our history and in examples and vision of our Founders. We will come out stronger and will thrive.

May we meet the days ahead with open hearts. May we speak with kindness and listen with courage. May we trust that this community has the strength to grow through challenge and emerge even more connected. Thank you for the grace you offer, the care you show, and the faith you place in one another. It is an honor to serve alongside you. Thank you for the trust you place in this congregation and in one another. Thank you for showing up with open hearts. Thank you for choosing love. Together, we will find our way.

In other congregational news, I want to update you all on a few important items.

• I am very pleased to inform you that this year’s pledge drive was **VERY SUCCESSFUL**. With a few minor tweaks to the budget, All Faiths will continue to thrive in the next fiscal year.

(continued on page 3)

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.)

March - Community Cooperative Soup Kitchen (Hunger Team)

April - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

February Share the Plate raised \$1,155 for the Minister's Discretionary Fund!

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



SPRING FORWARD
SUNDAY, MARCH 8

BOARD NOTES *(Cont'd from Pg. 2)*

In these trying times, it is important to be able to count on our members to make All Faiths a loving home, dedicated to each other and our ministry.

- Our 25th Anniversary of Founder's Day was an amazing event. It was attended by 71 members and was well received. A big thanks go out to Marge, Barb, Rosalie and Regina among others who were instrumental in making this a memorable event. All Faiths would not be the amazing place we are without the inspiration, hard work and strong leadership of those 98 founding members. Here's to another 25 years and more.

- The building expansion team is currently evaluating 3 contractor bids to determine who we wish to place the contract with. John Conrad has worked so hard over the last 5 years or more leading this project, along with his many other responsibilities at All Faiths. We will be able to update the congregation with the final details and design at the March Annual Meeting on March 22. At that point, a Capital Campaign will be necessary to raise the funds needed to move forward.

- Two new All Faiths teams have been formed and are looking for members. Anyone interested, please reach out. The teams are:

- **The Hunger Team:** This team is working to help fight local food insecurity. They have decided to collect food items on Sunday mornings with a different theme every month. The first food drive will be called "Macaroni March" with proceeds going to The Community Soup Kitchen.

- **The Fun(d) Raising Team:** Plans to work on ways to generate additional income for All Faiths by hosting various FUN & Fundraising events like a Services Auction, or craft events where we could raffle off homemade items etc. This group allows anyone who may have more Time and Talent than Treasure to get involved in supporting All Faiths. The initial meeting will be announced soon.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, at 1:00 pm and is open to all members who wish to attend.

PLEDGE DRIVE A BIG SUCCESS!

by Ken Malkin, Stewardship Chair

I want to thank everyone for making our pledge drive for the coming fiscal year a success. It was a challenging year. We attempt to reach at 85% of our goal so that we do not have to make reductions in our budget. We were still about \$20,000 short as we approached our deadline. However, pleas from the Stewardship Committee and our Treasurer along with phone calls helped us cross the finish line. In fact, we surpassed our expectations having received 94.2% of our goal. This was also one of our most inclusive pledge drives having received commitments from a broad representation of our congregation.

This year's theme is *Growing Our Spiritual Garden*. Though we face challenges in our future, it is our hope that we can live up to that theme.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Linda Arthur will have surgery for esophageal cancer on March 3rd, which will require extended hospitalization and a long recovery. We hope that the results restore her health.

Diane Cartwright had cataract surgery in both eyes. She reports that the world is brighter now.

John Conrad came down with Covid. We hope he has a good recovery.

David Donovan came down with Covid. We hope he has a good recovery.

Bo Filipski and Su Lurker's 14 year old Terrier, Jackie, died. We extend our sympathy to them.

Frank Geltner shared the joy that his book, *Godscience*, has been published and is now available at Amazon.

Ken Malkin came down with Covid. We hope he has a good recovery.

Carsley Merrell's friend, Sue Feldman, died from cancer at the age of 75. We extend our sympathy to her.

Pam Pfalzer's son-in-law, Tony Palmer, has bladder cancer. We hope that he gets good treatment.

Wayne Reese's service dog, Chloe, died suddenly. She was an honorary member of All Faiths. We extend our sympathy to him.

Pamela Vazquez's cat, Shikra, died from heart disease. We extend our sympathy to her.

Joyce Ramay,

Care and Support Coordinator



Happening at All Faiths

Happy March Birthday to you!



- March 1 Eileen Moran
- March 3 Charlotte Blitt
- March 4 Frankie Jennings
- March 12 Diane Chernow
- March 13 Cathy Banks
- March 23 Bob Moore
- March 24 Lorene Noe
- March 25 David Maijala
- March 28 Claudia Shanahan

And Coming Up...

- April 1 Carol Heilsberg
- April 2 Patty Hart

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



Solos Luncheon!

**Saturday, March 7, 2026
1:00 p.m.**

**Clase Azul
3922 Del Prado S.
Cape Coral 33904**

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos for outings and lunches. You just have to be flying solo that day (in other words, without your better half - it's tradition!)

**Please RSVP to: Annely Hudanick
annelyblue@hotmail.com**

The All Voices Choir Practice

Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30pm

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

McGregor Clinic Collection

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month at Service

The McGregor Clinic is a non-profit health care clinic designed to provide an integrated and holistic approach to patient and community care. Your donations of *men's and women's clothing, and non-perishable foods*, benefit people with HIV/AIDS and their families. Contact: David Donovan, ddonovan722@gmail.com

Book Club

Meeting on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 12 p.m.

The book club is casual and fun. No assigned books, just show up and be prepared to talk about an interesting book you've read or are reading. Contact: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net

News Talk & Sunday Adult Ed. Workshops

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. News Talk Until March 29

Adult Ed. Workshop facilitated by Joyce Ramay will begin on April 5 and is entitled: *Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life*.

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.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP 2-5pm ACMA Circle	2	3 1:30pm-Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg. 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	4 7pm Fort Myers Camera Club	5 5pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7 Cape Coral Pride Event 1pm Solos Lunch 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:30am Service & CYP 12pm Rainbow Connection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	9	10 10am Racial Equity Team Mtg.	11	12 10 am Finance Mtg. 5pm Choir Rehearsal	13 2pm Dominoes	14 8am-1pm Junk in the Trunk Sale (7am Setup) 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)
15 9:30am Budget Q&A 10:30am Service & CYP 2-5pm ACMA Circle McGregor Clinic Collection	16 12pm Book Club	17 1pm Board Meeting 5:30 pm Girl Scouts St. Patrick's Day!	18 7pm Fort Myers Camera Club	19 5pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	20 Spring Begins!	21 1-4pm Fort Myers Camera Club Exhibition 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)
22 9:30am Annual Congregational Mtg. 10:30am Service & CYP McGregor Clinic Collection	23	24	25	26 5pm Choir Rehearsal	27 2pm Dominoes	28 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)
29 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP 2-5pm ACMA Circle Ice Cream Social Pet Shelter Collection	30	31	Please check your emails over the summer for events, programs, and any calendar updates or changes.			

Visit our website for information on events and programs www.allfaithsuu.org

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: EMBODYING RESILIENCE

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

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

March 1 – Mending the Fabric That is All Faiths
Speaker – David Donovan
Worship Associate – Ed Turpin
Music by Carlos Garcia

March 8 – Women Who Were Called, Chosen
and Remembered
Speaker – Vanessa Gilyard
Worship Associate – Sydney Burns
Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

March 15 –The Mighty Irish
Speaker – Joyce Ramay
Worship Associate – Susan Meissner
Music by Carlos Garcia
9:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
Q&A on Budget
McGregor Clinic Collection

March 22 – Selective Hearing
Speaker – Doug Cartwright
Worship Associate – Annely Hudanick
Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir
9:30 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

March 29 – Environmental Heroines
for our Planet
Speaker – Ariel Hoover
Worship Associate – Nicole Racine
Music by Carlos Garcia
Pet Shelter Collection – Sharon Gray

MARCH CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

March's theme is paying attention, and to honor that, all month long, we are going to explore the power of attention. Our sessions will be a bridge to exploring our UU values and religious heritage. Epictetus, a Greek Stoic philosopher, said, "You become what you give your attention to. If you yourself don't choose what thoughts and images you expose yourself to, someone else will." It is an important reminder that our journey with attention this month is not simply about learning how to avoid distraction or fine-tune our focus; it's about character formation and how we fine-tune our hearts.

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

March 1: The Power of Paying Attention to Our Impact on Others "What's in Your Cup"

March 8: The Power of Paying Attention to Inequality "Lucy Stone"

March 15: The Power of Paying Attention to the Present Moment "The Farmer's Luck"

March 22: The Power of Paying Attention To Our Relationship with Water "What if Water is God"

March 29: The Power of Paying Attention to The Wisdom Within "Listen to Your Heart and Decide"

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

I would like to encourage our congregation to share talent, skills and knowledge with our young people. Please let me know if you would like me to schedule a short time on a Sunday morning for you to share with the young ones.

Sharon, CYP Director

Sunday in March
News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary

New Adult Ed Workshop Begins 4/5
Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life

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

All Faiths Friends & Family Appreciation Day



Saturday, April 11, 2026

12:00 - 4:00 P.M.

**Lakes Regional Park
Pavilion B-3**

7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers

All Faiths Family and Friends are invited to a day of fun, food, and fellowship. Why?

Because we appreciate you!

We appreciate that you are part of our All Faiths Community. We recognize your presence, your participation, your precious gifts of *Time, Talent & Treasure!*

*Bring a Dish to Share!
Sign Up on the Bulletin Board*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 22, 2026
9:30 a.m. - All Faiths Sanctuary

Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, Inc. are invited to attend a Special Meeting of the Congregation to approve the 2026/2027 budget and vote on Board and Nominating Committee candidates.

Barb McFarlane, Secretary

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2026 9:30 A.M. (BEFORE SERVICE)

All Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation are invited and encouraged to attend a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on approval of the 2026-2027 Budget in the amount of \$249,982.

And elect nominees to the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES:

Ken Malkin - Treasurer (2026-2028) 2nd term on Board
Susan Snow - Director (2026-2028) 1st term
Frank Geltner - Director (2026-2028) 2nd term
David Donovan - Director (2026-2028) 2nd term
Marge DiGalbo - Director (2026-2028) 1st term

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES:

Sharon Gray - (2026-2028) 2nd term. Partial 1st term
Linda Runkle - (2026-2028) 2nd term

A Question & Answer Session on the Budget will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.



SUNDAY SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE

Sundays 2:00 to 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Share Your Songs

Part of the ACMA (Americana Community Music Association) mission is to support original independent music and musicians and to promote original music and connections between musicians and songwriters. To that purpose, back in 2012, a Singer/Songwriter Circle was established where local musicians can meet to share their work. A core group of musicians meets weekly, with many local and visiting artists joining in as they have time or are in town. The primary purpose is of course to network and support fellow singer/songwriters through sharing of songs, critique (when requested), and discussion. Members have also been known to throw out challenges, from which several well written songs have been created and have since achieved a fair amount of local fame.

Contacts: Gene Martin at demnoah@aol.com or Doug Shemenski at dshemenski@comcast.net

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, March 7 - 7:00pm

Ruth Wyand in Concert
Bill Veach opens



Sunday, March 14 - 7:00pm

Bill Kirchen in Concert
Anthony Wayne opens
\$25 Advanced Tickets Required

Visit ACMA website: americanacma.org

Saturday, March 21 - 7:00pm

Betty Soo in Concert
Hank Woji opens

The Listening Room at All Faiths
General public \$20/Member discount \$15
Donations at the Door

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



The work of the Climate Action Team has always been impacted by the influence of the political right in Southwest Florida. We've been aware of an organization known as Braver Angels which helps people learn how to communicate with those with whom we disagree. We are pleased to inform you that there

is a Braver Angels workshop taking place on March 14th here in Fort Myers. Here is their online announcement:

“Much of today’s polarization is driven by how we talk with like-minded people about those on the other side. Too often, we stereotype, dismiss, or ridicule our fellow citizens who support the other political party, its leaders, and its policies.

This free, three-hour workshop teaches participants:

- How to be more aware of their own “inner polarizer”
- How to be critical without demonizing, dismissing or stereotyping large swaths of the population
- Strategies for intervening constructively in social conversations with like-minded peers when these conversations veer into contempt and ridicule for people who hold other political views.

Workshop Format: The 3-hour workshop is offered in person.

Who can come? Anyone interested in examining their own inner polarization and learning strategies to disagree without condemning or ridiculing others.

See you there!”

You can sign up to attend this important workshop at this website: [Depolarizing Within](https://www.braverangels.org/depolarizing-within)



HUNGER TEAM NEWS

by David Donovan

Have you heard? This month, a small group of All Faiths members got together and launched a Hunger Team, dedicated to working together to address food insecurity both within our community and beyond our walls. Their mission is to combine direct service with long term solutions, ensuring that everyone has access to healthy, reliable food.

Every day, far too many of our neighbors face the quiet struggle of not knowing where their next meal will come from. As a Unitarian Universalist community committed to justice, compassion, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person, we are stepping forward in a new way.

The team will focus on three core areas:

- Supporting local partners through food drives, meal programs, and volunteer efforts
- Educating our congregation about the realities of hunger in our region
- Advocating for systemic change so that all families can thrive with dignity

The team will place a donation box in the All Faiths lobby to collect food items that will be donated to non-profit food banks/pantries, and/or soup kitchens, to help meet the needs of those who are in need. This month’s theme is:

“Macaroni March”

Each month will have a different theme. If you are interested in being part of this community action, please contact David Donovan to see when the next meeting will be. Together, we can help build a community where no one goes hungry and everyone is held in the circle of care.



Ice Cream Social

Next one on March 29, 2026
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – January 2026

First Horizon Checking	\$ 11,222
Raymond James Legacy	5,189
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	24,027
First Horizon Capital Reserve	979
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	35,332
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	27,652
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	22,688
Live Oak Legacy Savings	23,574

Total	\$150,633
Prior Month	<u>145,175</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 5,488

January 2026 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 25,875
Operating Expense	<u>18,521</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 7,353

Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

As we entered the new 2025-2026 fiscal year on April 1, All Faiths budgeted \$202,086 for pledge giving; to date, actual Not Alone pledges totaled \$190,532 (94.2%).

Year to date (since April 1), our pledge giving has totaled \$133,209.67, while we budgeted \$168,406.00 (79.1%).

There was no unusual expense incurred in the General Fund Operating Account during January.

January's Interest Income was \$370.

Between September and January, \$15,000 was "borrowed" from our Operating Reserve savings account to ensure all expenses are covered. To date, this has not been repaid.

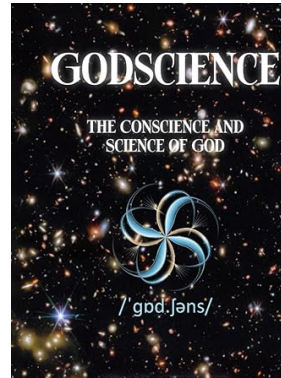
At the beginning of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, several new accounts were created at Live Oak to generate increased interest income. The 1 Year CD rate is 4.1%. And the Savings rate is currently at 2.85%.

The January monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,640 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. There were Capital expenses of \$736 for the final cost to repair the fence and the permit fee for the church renovation design.

In January, \$460 was collected for the Quality Life Center (Racial Equity Team)! Thanks to all for the generous donations!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANK GELTNER ON THE PUBLICATION OF HIS BOOK!

Reclaiming and Resanctifying the Sacred Godscience: The Conscience and Science of God



[BUY THE BOOK](#)

Godscience (/ˈɡɒd.ʃəns/ or /ˈɡɑː.ʃəns/) — one word, pronounced like conscience.

What if the key to understanding the universe lies in merging our deepest moral insights with our most advanced scientific discoveries? That's the essence of Godscience.

Godscience balances the reflective, moral, and spiritual dimensions of inquiry with rational and exploratory investigation. It creates a cohesive framework that is both philosophical and practical—demonstrating how these dimensions interact and complement one another.

The Conscience of God

This dimension of Godscience reflects humanity's intuitive and moral capacity to align human values with divine thought. It represents the internal dialogue that seeks divine wisdom, ethics, and compassion, forming a bridge between our conscience and a higher moral ideal.

The Science of God

This dimension reflects humanity's relentless quest to explore the existence—or non-existence—of God through reason, logic, and empirical discovery. It represents the fusion of curiosity and rationality, bridging faith and evidence to explore the mysteries of existence and the origins of life.

A Holistic Framework

Together, Godscience forms a holistic synthesis of inward reflection and outward exploration. It is humanity's timeless endeavor to connect the spiritual and the material in pursuit of the sacred within the universe.

Importantly, Godscience does not favor one dimension over the other. Instead, it bridges perspectives that are often seen as polarized—bringing together those grounded in spirituality and those inclined toward scientific inquiry.

Gotten this far? Still curious? Contact: godscience@godscience.net

RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

David Donovan, Chair

March is nature's way of saying, 'It's time to bloom.' And bloom we will. Cape Coral Pride is less than a week away and I'm PROUD to say that we will be the PRIDE PARADE HOST again for the 3rd year in a row!! Thanks to the hard work of some very generous members of the Rainbow Connection Team, especially Julie and Patty, who have made it their mission for All Faiths to take a FRONT SEAT at the table for Pride. Along with their own treasure, they have solicited donations from members of the congregation and in the community to collect the necessary funds needed to cover the \$10,000 sponsorship spot at Cape Coral Pride and put All Faiths in the spotlight again this year.

It is impossible to truly express how grateful we are to everyone who has made this possible. Cape Coral Pride attracts thousands of people from all walks of life, and this is an AMAZING OPPORTUNITY for All Faiths to get our name out and showcase who we are and what our mission is. Below are a few benefits that come from being the PARADE HOST:

- The All Faiths logo will be prominently placed across the festival stage
- Our name will be mentioned over-the-mic before and during the PRIDE Parade, as well as 6 on-stage mentions during event primetime
- A "Sponsored by ALL FAITHS" banner placement within the Parade
- We will have many media mentions in all press releases, event promo videos, and PRIDE Cape Coral social media marketing
- A feather banner with our logo will be prominently displayed
- The All Faiths logo will be included on a shared sponsor banner for Pride
- Our logo will be listed on event websites, posters, and rack cards
- All Faiths will have dedicated sponsor spotlights in PRIDE Cape Coral social media
- The All Faiths logo will be included on official PRIDE Cape Coral T-shirts

Due to the loss of a large funding grant and the doubling of security costs, Cape Coral Pride has moved the location of the event to Lafayette Street behind Nice Guys Pizza, where it will be easier to police and protect visitors. They will also have to charge an entrance fee for the Festival and

entertainment events. The cost will be \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. The parade and vendor areas will continue to be free to all visitors. I am hoping to see a LARGE TURN OUT in support of our community.

The Rainbow Connection team is also working on the renewal of our Welcoming Congregation certification for 2026. The next event on that list is to honor **International Transgender Day of Visibility** on Sunday, March 29th. If you are interested in learning more about this UUA program or want to help design how we celebrate various LGBTQ projects, please come to a monthly meeting or see David Donovan.

In January, I posed the question: *How can we deepen our welcome, strengthen our advocacy, and nurture our community in the year ahead?* In other words, how can we show up more fully for our LGBTQ+ neighbors?

The Rainbow Connection has grown into a lively network of support, celebration, and advocacy. The ever-expanding group hosts its monthly meetings on the 2nd Sunday, right after services, and has special gatherings that blend conversation, creativity, and community care. Whether it's a social event, a Pride Booth or a community action, each of these is designed to foster solidarity and remind participants that they are not alone. In a world where the rights and dignity of so many in our community are being attacked, there comes a time when we are called to widen the circle just a little more.

I would like to see the Rainbow Connection start partnering with local organizations to offer resources, educational workshops, and opportunities for collective action. These collaborations along with our work on the UUA Welcoming Congregation Program and sponsoring various Pride events, helps the group live out its mission of justice centered outreach—not only welcoming LGBTQ+ individuals into our spiritual home but also working to ensure safety, dignity, and equity beyond our walls. We will start this conversation at our next monthly meeting.

If you're seeking a place where your full self is celebrated, or if you feel called to deepen your allyship, Rainbow Connection is ready to welcome you with open arms and open hearts. Together, we can continue weaving a community where everyone shines.



SPRING FORWARD WITH PHOTOGRAPHY!

Photo Exhibit and Sale hosted by the Fort Myers Camera Club

Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Save the Date!

The Fort Myers Camera Club (FMCC) is thrilled to present a photo exhibit at All Faiths Unitarian Congregation. The Exhibit titled *"Spring Forward with Photography"* will be on display Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the community room of the church. Everyone is welcome to celebrate this Exhibit that will also include wine and cookies as refreshments.



The club's diverse range of activities caters to a variety of interests, from landscape and wildlife photography to portraits and experimental techniques. Whether capturing the beauty of Southwest Florida's natural landscape or delving into the realm of digital manipulation, FMCC provides a supportive and inspiring space for photographers to grow and thrive. Through regular meetings, workshops, and photo outings,

The Fort Myers Camera Club was founded in 2001 and stands as a beacon for photography enthusiasts in the vibrant community of Fort Myers, Florida. Throughout its history, FMCC has cultivated a welcoming environment where members of all skill levels come together to share their passion for photography. This common bond of photography is nourished by members attending meetings that take place at 7:00 pm on the first and third Wednesday of the month at the All Faiths Unitarian Congregation.

members refine their techniques and explore new horizons that is sure to enhance their photographic creativity. Members not only have the opportunity to learn from each other but through our one-on-one mentoring program, guest speakers, photographic outings, and workshops.

The FMCC extends an invitation to all to join us at the Exhibit *"Spring Forward with Photography"* and see for yourself the array of talent of the FMCC members!



We Are Each Other's Keepers - The History

This large glass sculpture "We Are Each Other's Keepers" was commissioned for All Faiths Unitarian Congregation of Fort Myers, Florida, and installed in 2012. The sculpture is mounted at the front of the sanctuary in a steel frame that hangs four inches off the wall and is backlit with LED light strips, making it glow from the inside.

"As humans, we are all connected to each other, to the earth, to the rest of the universe and time," artist Susan Gott writes. The sculpture's "torus" rings are "a symbol of infinity, the cosmos, and spirit. The human figures, faces, and spirals are symbolic of the mystery of our interconnected life force and are the heart of the spiritual meaning of the artwork."

The sculpture was commissioned by a member of the congregation, the late Joseph Kotler, after hearing a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson entitled "We Are Each Other's Keepers." Over 30 artists from around the country entered submissions.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation Yard Sale!



Saturday, March 14, 2026
8am - 1pm
2756 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Come find your treasures!
Grilled Burgers & Hotdogs
Baked Goods & Drinks for Sale

ALL FAITHS JUNK-IN-THE-TRUNK SALE

WHAT: A yard sale without the yard! Vendors will sell their goods out of their vehicles. Feel free to bring tables and chairs. *One person's junk is another person's treasure!*

WHAT ELSE: Bake Sale, Grilled Burgers & Hotdogs, Beverages for sale.

WHERE: All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, 2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901

WHEN: Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. *Vendors setup starts at 7:00 a.m.*

This is a fundraiser that will support All Faiths' general operating budget. Vendors will be asked to donate 40% of their proceeds -- and save a trip to Goodwill. It's a great way to spend time with family and friends -- and have some fun!

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

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

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

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

Commissioned Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson

Communications

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin/Becky Ross

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Hospitality

Frank Stephens

Program Support

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

Member Services

Dick Scudder

Greeters

Dick Scudder

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

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

t/b/d

L.I.F.E.

Ken Malkin

Barb McFarlane

JoAnn Hilliard

Cindy Thompson

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

David Donovan

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



Deadline for the **April** Issue of *Connections* is **March 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