



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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The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

Fall is here and we are seeing many of our members returning to All Faiths. It is so good to reconnect with so many friends.

Alberita Johnson has been in the pulpit for several weeks now and is bringing lots of enthusiasm and new ideas. We had a wonderful, well attended welcome picnic after her first service on September 3. Thank you to Chris Stotler and Bob DiGalbo for manning the grill and providing the hamburgers and hotdogs. Thank you to Michelle Gemma and Marsha Bates for doing all the shopping planning and management of the day. Thank you to all of you who helped with set up, helping during the picnic, and clean up. The side dishes and desserts you all provided were

so wonderful and enjoyed. We couldn't do these events without your support and participation.

Greg Monk has resigned his position on the Board of Directors and Richard "Dick" Scudder has agreed to fill the remainder of Greg's term. Thank you Dick for agreeing to join us. I'm sure Dick will be a good addition.

Chris Stotler, Peter Erickson, and Ken Malkin are working on some revisions to the All Faiths' Bylaws. We will call a Congregational meeting to vote on the changes when the changes are completed.

The Board is discussing combining the Stewardship and Legacy Committees. We will keep you all updated on any committee changes.

The good news is the Board has voted to replace

our very difficult front doors. John is getting quotes from some local companies. Bob is painting the porch ceiling and replacing the can lights. The front of our church will be warm, welcoming and easily accessible. We are still waiting for a date on the parking lot resurfacing.

There are several fundraising events planned in the next few months. The Board has voted to not plan an auction at this time. We are going to have a Junk-in-the-Trunk sale with a bake sale and sell hamburgers and hotdogs on October 28. Doug and Diane Cartwright's play *Oreos* will be Thursday, November 9. Carlos has suggested a Christmas Cookie Swap. We are planning on doing a big item raffle. We would also like to have more Dinner and Movie nights.

The Fort Myers Camera

Club will rent our facilities two nights per month. They would like to have a fundraising event for All Faiths showcasing their photos. All Faiths will receive a Percentage of the profits.

October 14 at 9 a.m. we will have the Fort Myers Fire Department provide us with CPR and AED training. We have seven available spots if anyone would like to take this uncertified training. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the community room.

It's a very exciting and busy time. We are looking forward to a great new church year. Please join us and participate in as many events as you can. It is good to be together in whatever way we can. May it be so.

The next Board of Directors meeting is October 18, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

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.)

October - All Souls Episcopal Outreach (Heart for the Homeless Team)

November - St. Martin de Porres (Operation Joy)

December - Special Collection for Employee Bonuses

September Share the Plate raised \$400 for SWFL RESET Center!

*Your generosity directly benefits our community!
We are grateful!*





This month of October is filled with celebratory days.

Here are a few:

- LGBTQ History Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)
- Sisters in Spirit Vigils (Canada) (October 4, 2018): Honoring the lives of Missing and Murdered

Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)

- Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day (U.S.) - Oct. 9, 2023 (second Monday of October)
- Thanksgiving Day (Canada) - Oct. 9, 2023 (second Monday in October)
- Halloween, All Soul's Eve - Oct. 31
- Día de los Muertos - Nov. 1-2

A few of my favorites are LGBTQ+ History, National Coming Out Day, Halloween (eve of All Saints Day, Dia de los Muertos and Samhain). So let us celebrate here at All Faiths.

Early October we celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, with music, singing, dancing and a short homily. And then at the end of the month we have four celebrations: Halloween, All Souls/Saints Day, Samhain, and Dia de los Muertos.

Our LGBTQ+ siblings are great people and love to have a party and get dressed for the occasion. So let me encourage you all now, to get ready. Who knows? We may have a runway for National Coming Out Day celebrations here at All Faiths.

In mid September, I attended a grand celebration. My great nephew got married and family and friends from far and wide came to the event. Weddings whether small or large are beautiful occasions.

The wedding was a traditional Christian celebration, filled with rituals and symbolism. The groom stood alone as he waited for his betrothed to enter. There were five flower girls, four maids and one matron, each had an escort, and of course a best man. But no ring bearer. The matron and best man held the rings, for the ritual of exchange. The father of the bride walked his daughter down the aisle to give her to my nephew...to have and hold from this day forward...

There was the unity candle lighting ritual and of course the all important covenant words from the officiant or minister. It was beautiful and many cried tears of joy as I did.

I am not sure when it happened but I have matured and am considered an elder in the family. Maybe it has something to do with years and age (smile). After the formal toasts I was asked to share a few words. I was surprised and had not prepared anything.

As I made my way to the microphone I had a few seconds to ponder what to say. I began with the regular congratulatory words and welcoming his bride to the family.

During the ceremony I was listening to the minister as if I had never heard the traditional wording and I thought about one part intensely. The part when the minister asks something like, is there any reason these two should not be joined together or let them forever hold their peace.

Aha, there it was...my questions, as we all sat there in silence for a moment while the minister looked around for any objections to their union. I realized that our silence meant something more than our simple agreement that the ceremony should continue. It means that we also agree completely with their union and that we will support them in it.

We as witnesses are committed to pray for them, to share wisdom received from our elders. To share with them experiences from our unions and to love the nuptials equally. I realized that we as attendees have an especially important role and that we are also included in the covenant of their union, by our silence voicing no objections whatsoever. And that there were a host of ancestors whose blessings are with them. That is what I shared with them.

Ending with two words repeated three times—as the number three has great spiritual significance—Be Blessed, Be Blessed, and the last Be Blessed I laid my hands upon their shoulders, releasing blessings from the ancestors and myself.

Later during the reception, I was approached by several people who thanked me for those words of wisdom. It was a beautiful event filled with love, and joy.

Celebrations are marked in time as a time to remember, to be with others and just for a short time leave the cares and concerns of the world outside and embrace the intimacy of friends and family in happy times.

Weddings, the union of two souls committing themselves to each other is still a miracle, after all they are no longer $1+1=2$, they are now $1 \times 1=1$. Perhaps one day, all people may realize we are not separate at all, and know and accept the unity, oneness and interdependence of all people.

May it be so,
~ Albie

Happening at All Faiths

Happy October
Birthday to you!



October 4 Michael Pierre
October 9 Lynda Thompson
October 11 Susan Anthony
October 11 Joan Velasquez
October 11 Jeff Lazar
October 16 Linda Forcey
October 17 Dan DeShon
October 18 Anita Battaglia
October 27 Donalie Benyak

And Coming Up...

November 5 Linda Runkle

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



Solos Monthly Lunch!

Saturday, October 7, 2023
1:00 p.m.

El Gaucho Inca

4383 Colonial Blvd, 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, October 28, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner & Conversation at **5pm, Saturday, October 28, 2023, at KJ's Steak House - 15271 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL**

Please text, call or email John Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566 or silverfishstudios@gmail.com with your name, contact information and the number in your party by Sunday, October 22. The restaurant needs exact numbers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from ALL FAITHS when you arrive. PLEASE, if you must cancel, contact John by Monday, October 23.

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

OCTOBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service	2	3 1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg. via Zoom	4	5	6 2pm Dominoes	7 11am Choir Practice 1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)
Regina on Vacation		Regina on Vacation		Regina on Vacation		
8 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service 12pm Rainbow Connection	9 10am Sun. Service Team Mtg.	10 10am Racial Equity Team Mtg.	11 10 am Finance Mtg. 1pm Board Retreat	12	13 2pm Dominoes	14 9am-12pm CPR Training (Limit 15) 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
15 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP McGregor Clinic Collection 2pm ACMA Workshop	16	17 10am Care & Support	18	19 1pm Heart for the Homeless Mtg. 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	20	21 11am Choir Practice 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
22 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP	23	24 10am Racial Equity Team Mtg.	25	26	27 11am Choir Practice Sat. →	28 8am JUNK-in-the- TRUNK SALE 5pm Epicureous Dinner Group (Pg. 4)
29 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP Ice Cream Social Animal Shelter Collection	30	31 Halloween 6-8pm Tricks or Treats in the Parking Lot!				

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

OCTOBER 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "HERITAGE"

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

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

October 1

Title: *Let Freedom Read*

by Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia

October 8

**Title: *Out Doors or Out of Doors:
What Is the Difference?***

by Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Greg Monk

Music by Carlos Garcia

October 15

**Title: *Heritage – A Historical and Cultural
Transference to Self-Awareness***

by Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

October 22

Title: *Ancestors – Whose Are You?*

by Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Bob Moore

Music by Carlos Garcia

October 29

Title: *The Veil – Where Past and Present Meet*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

Music by Carlos Garcia and Choir

Animal Shelter Collection

Halloween Candy Collection

SHARE THE PLATE

October's Share the Plate:

All Souls Episcopal Church Outreach
(Heart for the Homeless Team)

Write "All Souls" in the memo line.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Carol Elrod was hospitalized again with aphasia. She has regained her ability to speak and has returned to Shell Point. We hope that she continues to improve.

Peter Erickson was hospitalized with blood clots on his lungs. He is on oxygen and recovering at his home in Minnesota now. We hope that his breathing capacity improves.

Sharon Gray's daughter, Terry Foster, was diagnosed with heart failure last fall. She had surgery in mid-September to install a combination pacemaker/defibrillator. We hope that she has beneficial results.

Peggy JSingh has decided to return to New Mexico after spending 3-1/2 years back here with us. We hope that she enjoys her life there. We will miss her.

Displaced Persons from Hurricane Ian - Some of our people were able to return to their homes after nearly a year of renovations. But some are still waiting. We hope that work can be completed soon so that they can once again be in their own homes.

All Voices Choir has resumed singing at our Sunday services. We are grateful to Carlos Garcia and our singers for all the joy they bring into our lives.

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

Will resume on October 15 - Stay Tuned!

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



October will be an event-filled month for everyone concerned with protecting our environment, especially here in Florida. Your Climate Action Team encourages you to take the time to participate when possible.

RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER Event: 7 p.m., October 2nd

"Healing Waters, Saving Lives: The time to act is NOW!" is an online event featuring guest speaker, Reverend Dr. Latricia Edwards Scriven, Senior Pastor at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church. Click here for the event link on Facebook. Click here to register for the event!

FLORIDA CLIMATE WEEK: October 2nd-8th

There are both in-person and virtual events happening in Florida during this week. You can check them all out on their website: floridaclimateweek.org. Registration is free for the virtual events.

RESET Conversation: 6:00 p.m. on October 3rd.

This will be a panel discussion of "Florida Native Lives and Land" featuring leaders from the Miccosukee, Seminole and Taino indigenous tribes. Jan Booher will be the moderator. **REGISTER TO ATTEND**

POPE FRANCIS releases LAUDATO SI 2.0 on October 4th

Pope Francis will be releasing an update to his landmark 2015 environmental encyclical on October 4, the feast of his nature-loving namesake, St. Francis of Assisi. In it he calls for an end to the "senseless war against our common home."

Your Climate Action Team is asking for your help in gathering petitions for the Right to Clean Water campaign. At our October 1st service we will be handing out envelopes, which each contain five petitions to be signed by your friends and neighbors who are registered Florida voters. 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 signed

petitions are then simply mailed to the RTCW office. 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, October 3rd 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.



Just a few of the 201 bikes collected by the Heart for the Homeless Team. Thank you to Brian Bigelow and his little dog May Bell, for transporting the bikes to All Souls.

HELPING THE HEART FOR THE HOMELESS TEAM

You can help the Heart for the Homeless Team prepare :Blessing Bags: at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 19. There will be bins in the Community Room for the below listed supplies from October 1 through October 14.

Travel size toiletries:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Shampoo | Hand sanitizer |
| Soap | Band-aids |
| Washclothes | Feminine products |
| Baby wipes | Toilet paper |
| Comb | Tissue packs |
| Shaving supplies | Laundry detergent pods |
| Lip balm | Socks |

Your generosity and participation is much appreciated!

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Nicole Racine, Co-Chair

We live in a world where the greatest achievements have happened in the last hundred years or so -- from horse-drawn buggy to landing on the moon, from wooden peg leg to bionic limb, from heart and lung machine to heart and lung transplant, from transistors to microchip, from looking into a telescope to space exploration, from broom to robot vacuum, (the list goes on and on) just because of men and women inventors' hunger for progress and positive change making the world a better place to live. How effortless the acceptance of these achievements has been. Yes, they have greatly contributed to the advancement of mankind, yet, they've done little to ameliorate or cure the most lethal disease afflicting America and the world -- racism. Racism, which dominates, excludes, segregates and kills.

For centuries the fight against racial injustice, racial inequality, racist ideology, white supremacy, and white privilege has gone on and is still going on. A long line of superheroes, black and white, like the Underground Railroad, Rosa Parks, the Freedom Riders, Gloria Steinem, Joan Mulholland, MLK, Robin DiAngelo, Layla F. Saad (to name a few) have fought and are fighting to bring a change. Many are weary and wonder if the change will come in their lifetime but, one thing for sure, they are not ready to give up the fight. What a daunting task, what an intimidating undertaking! At All Faiths, our Racial Equity Team is taking the bull by the horn. As white anti-racist educator Robin DiAngelo suggests, we are doing the necessary personal work to build the stamina required to challenge, as best we can, the racist status quo in our beloved community, a critical part of our work.

Please meet All Faiths' Racial Equity Team:

John Conrad	Nicole Racine
Frank Geltner	Joyce Ramay
Carol Heilsberg	Lewis Robinson
Jo Ann Hilliard	Becky Ross
Carole Latino	Melissa Schramme
Ken Malkin	

The Racial Equity Team is meeting twice a month through December 12. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to join us.

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane, Co-Chair

The team has several upcoming projects.

1. There will be a **sock collection Sunday, Nov. 5**. Please bring new or clean used socks in good condition. Athletic socks are preferred. These will be delivered to Matt Wallace with the Homeless Outreach Team for distribution.

2. The **sleeping bag project** is underway. Susan Meissner and Pam Pfalzer have purchased and cleaned 21 sleeping bags from thrift and resale sites. The goal is to have **30 sleeping bags** by early October when they will be delivered to Matt Wallace.

3. **Hats for homeless women**, is another project Susan initiated. She has knitted 35 hats thanks in part to the yarn donated by members of All Faiths. We hope you will join us at the team's October 19 meeting to help put them into gallon zip lock bags with useful items. Please refer to the list in this newsletter of helpful items (page 7). A bin will be available at All Faiths to place any items you wish to donate. These bags will be delivered to Matt Wallace in early November.

4. Pam Pfalzer, Judy Alberda, and Tina Noel attended a workshop in August sponsored by the Homeless Coalition called *Bridges out of Poverty*. Besides raising awareness and looking at ways to better serve people without housing, they met other community members serving this population. We hope to invite one as a speaker at a Sunday Service.

5. The **bike collection** continues. **201 bikes have been donated** to organizations that repair and distribute to people without housing or transportation since we started collecting. Transporting the bikes to the North Fort Myers site for repairs is presently a challenge. If you are able to occasionally transport a few bikes, please let Judy Alberda or Barb McFarlane know.

6. **Share the Plate in October** will benefit the Heart for Homeless team. Proceeds are donated to All Souls Homeless Ministry. Besides refurbishing the bikes, they provide a weekly meal, food pantry, and assist people with IDs, paperwork.

7. We are looking into organizations that help kids who are aging out of foster care and new single moms without housing. Once we understand how All Faiths may be able to help, we will let the congregation know.

Everyone is invited to attend the team's meetings, the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – August 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 44,627
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,250
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,494
Raymond James Legacy	4,495
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	7,891
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,630
Live Oak Capital Reserve	29,053
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,227
Live Oak Legacy CD	20,283

Total	\$176,983
Prior Month	<u>184,403</u>
Net Loss	(\$ -7,420)

August 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 13,119
Operating Expense	<u>13,954</u>
Net Gain	(\$ -835)

Comments:

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
- No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good in August. There were no minister related expenses.
- Our Pledge Goal from April to August was \$84,796; and \$76,655 was received (90.4%). However, some congregants pledge was received at the end of the last fiscal year (during the pledge drive); that amounted to \$22,600. Factoring in those funds, we have received a total of \$99,254.58 towards the Pledge Goal. Thank you for your generosity!
- In August, the \$3,000 gift to the UUA was paid.
- 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 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 August, \$654 was collected for Operation Joy.



Ice Cream Social

After Service
Sunday, October 29, 2023
Sponsored by Laura Snow

Tricks or Treats in the Parking Lot!

We are pleased to announce that Tricks or Treats in the Parking Lot is back! We lost a year because of COVID, but we will be handing out goodies in the parking lot from 6 - 8 on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help. This is really a lot of fun.

We appreciate your donations of candy. Please drop them off on Sundays between now and then.

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, October 14 - 7:00pm
Sarah McQuaid – Bill Veach opens

Saturday, October 21 - 7:00pm
Ellis Paul 30th Year Anniversary Tour!
Featuring, Darryl Purpose,
Gene Martin opens



The Listening Room at All Faiths
2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
33901

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

LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT UPDATES

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

In September, All Faiths' Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE) Team Leads hosted three house meetings that were attended by 20 All Faiths congregants. Attendees learned more about LIFE's history and All Faiths' ten-year involvement in the organization. Participants shared their concerns about issues that impact them, their families, or their neighbors.

All Faiths is one of 15 congregations that comprise LIFE. House meetings were held in all 15 congregations. The concerns expressed by congregants of all 15 churches will be reviewed to identify the top four or five concerns that were most frequently mentioned.

On Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30 pm, network members will gather at LIFE's Fall Assembly. It will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers, 13411 Shire Lane. At that meeting, network members will vote on which of the top concerns identified in the house meetings to determine what issue LIFE will pursue in the upcoming year.

If you were unable to attend a house meeting and are interested in supporting All Faiths' LIFE activities, you are welcome to join our network. You can contact one of All Faiths' Team Leads:

Michelle Gemma @ (781) 913-5122

(Email: michelle.dinicola@gmail.com);

Barb McFarlane @ (651) 808-8271

(Email: mcfarlanebar@gmail.com);

Marsha Bates @ (740) 278-2357

(Email: gcsmbk@gmail.com) to get more information.

OCTOBER IS 5TH SUNDAY ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION



Every month with a 5th Sunday is All Faiths Animal Shelter Collection.

Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for animals until they can find a forever home. Hurricane Ian displaced many family pets and have created a challenge for local shelters.

To help these shelters with their mission, they would appreciate donations of pet food and treats, and any of the items listed below. Your donations will be delivered to a local shelter by Sharon Gray.

For more information contact: Sharon Gray (geemal@yahoo.com 565-2474).

SHELTER WISH LIST

Cat Food (Dry and Canned)

Dog Food (Dry and Canned)

Cat Litter (Clay and Scoopable)

Contractor Grade Trash Bags

Towels, large & small

Blankets, Comforters,

Pillow Cases, Sheets

Clorox Wipes

Tissues

Paper Towels

Bleach

Gift cards from Petsmart, PetCo or Pet Supermarket (or other local pet stores) are also greatly appreciated.

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 at 6:30 p.m. on November 2. We hope you can join us.



New Picture Directory Coming Soon

Yes, it's been a while, and we have so many new and interesting people to get to know.

Universal Church Directories

will be scheduling individual and family photo shoots in November. Stay tuned!

Minister's Weekly Study Group

Wednesdays starting in November

Facilitated by Albie Johnson, this study group will meet Wednesday mornings to explore Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's pathways to repentance and repair.

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.

"Oreos" a Play by the Cartwrights

Thursday, November 9 at 7pm

"Oreos," is about two elderly people who find themselves in the same nursing home under different situations. David has been a resident for years after undergoing a heart operation, brought on by his becoming destitute, losing his business, and his wife (through bitter divorce) after Super Storm Sandy hit the northeast U.S. Betty is a financially secure widow facing an end-of-life illness, and is choosing to live out her remaining days in the nursing home so as not to be a bother to her children and grandchildren. They bond over crossword puzzles and reminiscences about their lives, government red-tape, and what the future holds for each of them.

Deck the Halls....

November 24 and 25, 2023

It's time to prepare for the holiday season. Please join Annelly Hudanick on Friday, November 24 and Saturday, November 25 to decorate for *Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza!*

We have many decorations on hand, but if you wish to donate or let All Faiths borrow, we will be looking for holiday colors:

Hanukkah - blue, white, gold

Christmas - red, green, gold

Kwanza - red, black, green, yellow

Beverages and snacks will be served!

HAPPENING ACROSS TOWN

'Tis the season for some fun at the MACC (Music and Arts Community Center on UUCFM campus)!

To help cover some Ian-related repairs to our facility, UUCFM and Gulf Coast Symphony are making plans for a little fun come Saturday, October 21. We hope you will join us for this "Masquerade at the MACC"! Masquerade attire is optional.

Here are some high-level plans for our event. You won't want to miss it!

- "Masquerade at the MACC" starts with dinner in Hobart Hall with live musical entertainment.
- Raffles and auctions: travel ventures (Costa Rica, Safari, Wisconsin), specialty baskets, 50/50 drawing
- Followed by a Masquerade concert in the Sanctuary
- Admission donations: \$50/person or \$75/ for two people.

For more details and to order tickets, please see <https://gulfcoastsymphony.org/concert/masquerade-macc/>

IT'S BACK! ALL FAITHS' JUNK IN THE TRUNK SALE!

Saturday

October 28, 2023

Reserve a Spot
by October 28!

Bake Sale, Burgers
& Hotdogs too!



WHAT: A garage sale out of the back of your car! Pile all your stuff in your car, pickup or truck and sell it out of the back or set up a table/umbrella.

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

HOW: Park in your assigned space. Sell your stuff, donate 50% of your proceeds to All Faiths! Space is limited, so reserve your space soon.

WHEN: Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 8 am to 12 pm. **7 am set-up time.**

COST: Free - *sort of...* This fundraiser will support our general operating budget. By donating 50% of your proceeds, you still make money - and save a trip to Goodwill! It's a great way to spend time with friends and have some fun.

Reserve your spot now - only 20 spaces available!

Call the office at 239-226-0900

(unfortunately, we are unable to store your items prior to sale)



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Livestreaming

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

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 **November** Issue of *Connections* is **October 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