



Where you *belong!*

# CONNECTIONS

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

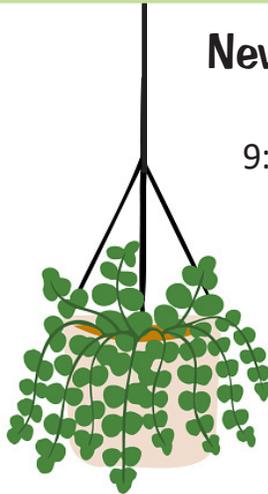
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## Newcomers Orientation

Saturday, June 4, 2022

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 (see pg. 8)



## Affixing a Mezuzah

Sunday, June 5, 2022

after service (see pg. 3)

## The Great All Faiths Annual Plant Sale

June 5 — June 11 (see pg. 11)

## Happy Father's Day!

Sunday, June 19, 2022



Your Board of Directors held its regular meeting on May 18, 2022 at All Faiths.

The Board received a proposal from Kathy Fanny to have a Family Fun Day over the summer. For this event we would invite families from the community to join us on our grounds for a day of food, games and entertainment. The anticipated cost would be \$1,220. We agreed the proposal needed to go to the Finance Committee for funding.

We also agreed we would recommend to the Search Committee that they go with a single-track approach for recruiting a contract minister for a 1-2 year contract. This will allow the committee to take their time in finding the right minister for this congregation. If they decide the contract minister is the one they want to call as our settled minister this can be

done. Rev CJ discussed the use of the Settlement Handbook as a guide not a bible. It has been made available to all Search Team members and the Board members.

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) has requested our financial support in the form of a pledge. The board agreed to have our Share-the-Plate collection for June 2022 and January 2023 go to the BLUU.

COVID is on the rise again. We have several members who have been diagnosed positive in the last few weeks. We don't want to consider enforcing a mask mandate at this point. Regina will include a suggestion that if you're not feeling well you stay home. Masks are recommended if you feel at risk.

The five-year plan has been on hold for several

years and has not been reviewed. Peter Erickson, John Conrad and Rev. CJ have agreed to review it and make necessary updates.

The Board decided not to meet formally in July as several members will be away.

*The next board meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022, starting at 1:00 p.m. at All Faiths. Please feel free to contact any of your board members if you have any questions or concerns.*

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**INVITATION  
TO PARTICIPATE  
WITH CARE &  
SUPPORT TEAM**

*by Joyce Ramay,  
Coordinator*

**We are each other's keepers.**

Our minister has done a commendable job of providing pastoral care for our

people, but he will be leaving us in the fall.

Here at All Faiths, all of us are encouraged to do what we can to help others. Every person needs support when they have experienced losses in their lives – deaths of loved ones or pets, divorces, or job losses. They need encouragement during times of depression or anxiety. Visits to hospitals help people to heal. Shut-ins appreciate receiving phone calls or home visits.

We do regularly communicate some information in our Care and Support notices, but there are often issues faced by our people needing comfort or assistance, who prefer more confidentiality.

Please let me know if you would like to be an active participant on our team to help others in need: joycera-may@comcast.net

## 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.

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## All Faiths Collection Schedule

### Monthly Share-the-Plate

*(Please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check.)*

**June** - Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) - (Racial Equity Team)

**July** - Visuality - (LGBTQ+ Team)

**August** - Operation Joy - (Back to School Part I)

May Share-the-Plate brought in \$319 for Angel Wings!



by Rev. CJ McGregor



Hope and optimism drive us forward to achieve our goals. It is that fierce optimism that can withstand all shocks, all mistakes, all barriers — that is needed for self-renewal. It is standing in the face of relentless obstacles and finding a pathway to succeed. Many extraordinary individuals employed fierce optimism, above all. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote that “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” Winston Churchill almost single handedly kept hope alive for the Western world in the early days of World War Two when Hitler’s rule over Europe seemed

unstoppable. He instilled hope with his words when almost everyone else had lost hope. Churchill decided he was going to stand up to Hitler even if no one else stood with him (for that first year of WWII, almost no one stood with him). Similarly, Martin Luther King kept hope alive for millions amidst the degradation, and abuse of individual, and institutional racism. He did this by setting the sights of his followers on a better day. He helped them imagine a land where people were not judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Our Unitarian ancestor, William Channing, understood this citing salvation by character. Unitarians speak warmly of salvation, but in terms of character. We prefer to think of it as an achievement dependent on deeds rather than creeds. We are concerned with the ethical relations and understanding

of life, not about the salvation of souls.

These great leaders set dreams much broader than themselves — their goals were bigger than generations after them could have even imagined. Their hope and optimism led to some of the greatest movements of our time and transformed humanity to become better, stronger and more resilient. Spiritual transformation is a process, and as life happens there are tons of ups and downs. It’s a journey of discovery — there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair.

Spiritual transformation is fueled by a growing awareness of the reality of the soul. There is a conscious commitment to a life of self-discipline and active service in the world.

Spiritual disciplines such as meditation, study and service become habits of daily

living. It becomes less about personal ego and worldly achievements. We can’t all get to the top, and that isn’t the point of life anyway. Spiritual qualities such as compassion, wisdom, and inclusive love take center stage. Spiritual self-renewal means relinquishing your old and limited identity and becoming something more expanded, powerful, and closer to your true self. It is not enchained by what others think — or society’s dictate about what encompasses success (e.g. money, job, title, et cetera). With spiritual transformation, the focus of your life has gone through an evolution — it’s not focused on the valleys anymore — it’s now focused on turning those valleys into mountaintops — through serving humanity and achieving happiness in the now.

– Blessings, Rev. CJ

## AFFIXING A MEZUZAH

*Sunday, June 5 - After the Service*

Rev. CJ will be affixing a mezuzah to the front door after the service on June 5. The mezuzah was gifted to the congregation by the late *Elaine Leventhal*. The custom of affixing a mezuzah to the doorpost fulfills the biblical commandment: “You shall write them upon the doorposts of thy house and upon thy

gates” (Deuteronomy 6:9). The mezuzah distinguishes a Jewish home and is a visible sign and symbol to all those who enter that a sense of Jewish identity and commitment exists in that household. The mezuzah reminds us that our homes are holy places and that we should act accordingly—when we enter

them and when we leave them to go out into the world. We will gather at the door to honor Elaine and a short ritual:

In Hebrew

הַלֵּל וּבְרַךְ אֱלֹהִים, הַיְהִי תְהֵאֵדָרְךָ וְיִרְאָו וְיִתְצַמְּחַב וּבְשֵׁדֶךָ רְשָׁא, מְלוּעָה הַזִּוּזִמְ עֲבָקֵל רְמֵאִיו הַנְקִשְׁנִי הַנְעַבְקִישׁ רַחֲאוּ זָב וְאֲבִי מִיְקִינְדָצ, הַזֶּהֱנִל רַעֲשֵׂה־הֶזָּו

In Transliteration

*Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam, asher kiddeshanu be-mitzvotav ve-tzivvanu likboa mezuzah.*

In English Translation

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to affix a mezuzah.

## Happening at All Faiths



### TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR

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

Facilitated by Rev. CJ McGregor

June 1 - Part 4: Leading Change in Congregations (2 hours)

June 8 - No Program

June 15 - **Screening of White Savior:** Racism in the American Church. This will take place in the Community Room at All Faiths (2 hours)

June 22 - (On Zoom) **An Ethic of Risk:** Unitarian Universalism is grounded in the understanding that our actions speak louder than our words or beliefs. Faithful living for us includes discerning the course of action that best reflects our beliefs and values and then acting or choosing accordingly. As inheritors of a faith tradition that honors a wide variety of sources of religious understanding and authority, our big questions are: How do we discern the moral course of action in a particular circumstance? To what source(s) of authority do we turn for help?

### All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Saturday at 2:00 p.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](mailto:ceegeefm@gmail.com).

### Book Club

Monday, June 20 at 12:00 p.m. - Community Room

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](mailto:dianecher@comcast.net)

### The Rainbow Connection

Meeting on the 1st Monday of the Month at 6:00 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.

### McGregor Clinic Collection

Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month

This month the clinic is in need of towels, sheets, men's and women's clothing. Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

## Happy June

### Birthday to you!



- June 5 Vanessa Gilyard
- June 6 Joyce Davison
- June 6 Arlene Han
- June 8 Segundo Velasquez
- June 9 Twink Markytan
- June 10 Michelle Gemma
- June 13 Rebecca Peets
- June 15 Joyce Ramay
- June 15 Tina Noel
- June 23 Carol Elrod
- June 24 Judy Alberda
- June 25 Alice Schaefer
- June 27 Joseph Batal
- June 28 Quillen McDaigle

### And Coming Up...

- July 3 Becky Ross
- July 5 Jan Guardiano
- July 6 Nita Veber

### Solos Group Events

Saturday, June 4, 12:30 p.m..

#### Bonefish Grill

14261 S. Tamiami Trail, Ft. Myers, FL 33912

*Check your email for details.*

Contact: Annely Hudanick,  
[annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

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

# JUNE 2022 CALENDAR

| Sunday   | Monday                                    | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|    |   |   | 1<br><b>10am</b><br>Ten O'clock Scholar<br>(see pg. 4)  | 2<br> | 3<br><b>12:30pm</b><br>Solos Lunch<br>(Pg. 4) →   | 4<br><b>9:30-12pm</b><br>Newcomer Orientation<br><br><b>2pm</b><br>Choir Practice<br><br><b>7pm</b><br>ACMA Concert<br>(see pg. 10) |
| 5<br><b>9:15am</b><br>News Talk w.<br>Richard Keelan<br><br><b>10:30am</b><br>Service<br>No CYP  | 6<br><b>6 pm</b><br>Rainbow<br>Connection | 7<br><b>1:30pm</b><br>Climate Action<br>Team Mtg.   | 8<br><b>No</b><br>Ten O'clock<br>Scholar Today  | 9<br><b>10 am</b><br>Zoom Finance<br>Mtg.   | 10  | 11<br><br><br><br><br><b>2pm</b><br>Choir Practice  |
| 12<br><b>9:15am</b><br>News Talk w.<br>Richard Keelan<br><br><b>10:30am</b><br>Service and Child<br>& Youth Program                        | 13<br><b>10am</b><br>Sun. Service<br>Mtg. | 14<br><b>10am</b><br>Racial Equity<br>Meeting   | 15<br><b>10am</b><br>Ten O'clock<br>Scholar<br>(see pg. 4)<br><br><b>1pm</b><br>Board Meeting | 16<br><b>2pm</b><br>Homeless Team<br>@ All Faiths                                       | 17<br> | 18<br><br><br><br><br><b>2pm</b><br>Choir Practice  |
| 19<br><b>9:15am</b><br>News Talk w.<br>Richard Keelan<br><br><b>10:30am</b><br>Service and Child<br>& Youth Program<br><br>Father's<br>Day | 20<br><b>12pm</b><br>Book Club            | 21  | 22<br><b>10am</b><br>Ten O'clock<br>Scholar<br>(see pg. 4)                                    | 23  | 24  | 25<br><br><br><br><br><b>2pm</b><br>Choir Practice<br><br><b>7pm</b><br>ACMA Concert<br>(see pg. 10)                                |
| 26<br><b>9:15am</b><br>News Talk w.<br>Richard Keelan<br><br><b>10:30am</b><br>Service and Child<br>& Youth Program                        | 27  | 28<br> | 29  | 30  |        |   |

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

## JUNE 2022 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "SANCTUARY"

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

Recorded services can be viewed at [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)  
or on our YouTube channel.

**June 5 – *In This House*** - By Rev. CJ McGregor  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma  
*Celebration of June Birthdays*

**June 12 – *Sanctuary Everywhere***  
by Rev. CJ McGregor  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
Worship Associate – Susan Meissner  
*Share the Plate with SURJ (Racial Equity)*

**June 19 – *Green Sanctuary***  
by Rev. CJ McGregor  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
Worship Associate – Bob Moore  
*Life of Congregation Report  
McGregor Clinic Collection*

**June 26 – *High Places and Low Places***  
by Rev. CJ McGregor  
Music by Carlos Garcia and Choir  
Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

**Rev. CJ McGregor will be on Study Leave  
June 26 through July 31**

### SUNDAY PROGRAMS

**News Talk with Richard Keelan**  
9:15 a.m. - at All Faiths in the Sanctuary  
(No program on 3/20 and 3/27)

**Child & Youth Program**  
10:30 a.m. in the Robinson Room  
(Confirm Dates on Calendar)

## CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES FOR JUNE 2022

**In House & on Zoom**

**June 5** — No CYP

**June 12 — *Stuff Happens*:** I think of life as a good book. The further you get into it, the more it begins to make sense. — Harold Kushner *Big Question: Why do bad things happen?*

**June 19 — *Speaking of Fair*:** Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget....

**June 26 — *Right and Wrong*:** There must always be a remedy for wrong and injustice if we only know how to find it. — Ida B. Wells

### JOYS & SORROWS

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

**Ann Batal** tested positive for COVID-19. We hope that she recovers without complications.

**Donalie Benyak** was hospitalized following a major stroke. We hope that she recovers well.

**Carol Elrod** has returned home after many weeks of rehabilitation following brain surgery. We are happy for her and Ed.

**Joan Marshall** was hospitalized with Covid 19 and some heart issues. We hope she has a full recovery.

**Pam Pfalzer** had knee surgery. We hope she has good results from the procedure.

**Hank Shapiro**, beloved member of All Faiths and pianist extraordinaire, passed away. He would have been 102 years old in September. We appreciate the years that he spent with us.

*Joyce Ramay*

Care and Support Coordinator

# CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Carol Heilsberg, Co-Chair



On the evening of May 18 we were pleased to present a screening of “Youth v. Gov” in our sanctuary. We are also considering a second screening, this time in the afternoon, for those who don't want to drive at night. In addition, we encourage anyone who subscribes to Netflix to access the film and watch it in the comfort of your own home. This is a very important and informative film about the dedicated efforts of young people to convince our governmental entities to step up their efforts to ensure a livable environment for them and their descendants, and we hope everyone takes the opportunity to view it. (Note: Linda Bigelow has discovered that one of the original 21 plaintiffs who filed suit against the federal government is the young man named Levi, who lives right here in Florida.)

Linda has also alerted us to an article generated by WUSF News in Tampa about another group of young people, all from Florida, who are working to convince our state governmental agencies to move forward with more alacrity and purpose in combatting climate change before it's too late. You can read the article here:

<https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/environment/2022-02-12/florida-to-set-goals-for-100-renewable-energy-by-2050-but-will-it-actually-happen>

Our committee is considering supporting these young activists with a letter-writing campaign to the proper state authorities to urge them to “step up the pace” in converting to 100% renewable energy.

We have learned of an organization called Eco-Voice that publishes environmental news about South Florida daily. People can sign up if they're interested at [eco-voice.org](http://eco-voice.org). Next month they are also presenting a two-part online event series entitled “The Dirt on Soil.” Here are the details:

What does soil have to do with the climate crisis? And why should everyone be concerned about soil health if they're serious about nurturing community resilience?

We'll dig into these questions—and plenty more—during our two-part online event series, The Dirt on Soil.

WHAT: The Dirt on Soil—Online Event Series

DATE: Thursdays—June 16 and 23, 2022

TIME: 11:00 AM PT / 2:00 PM ET / 6:00 GMT

COST: FREE

REGISTER NOW: <https://www.postcarbon.org/events/the-dirt-on-soil/>

In the first session with David Montgomery, on Thursday, June 16, we'll learn about why soil matters and how the state of the world's soil correlates to the worsening climate crisis.

The second session, with Don Smith, on Thursday, June 23, will be all about action. We'll find out what others are doing and what we can do as individuals and communities, to build and nurture healthy soil.

Register once and you'll be all set to attend on June 16 and June 23.

Last month we reported on an upcoming program entitled “Being a Good Relative” that our congregation will be participating in later this year. We will explore how to build strong ties to local indigenous tribes and support their efforts to protect and preserve local south Florida environment. Details are still being finalized, and we will relay the information as we receive it. Stay tuned!

CAT ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/7787257501>

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## ANGEL WINGS TO CLOSE ITS DOORS

by Barb McFarlane

Dr. Helen T. Gierke, President of Angel Wings, has announced that the organization will be closing its doors in October. Angel Wings, one of All Faiths' Share-the-Plate recipients, has provided shelter, security, and sustenance to homeless single women without dependent children here in Lee County. More than thirty women have lived in the house since it opened in January of 2019, with hundreds of others being helped in numerous ways.

Angel Wings is hearing from three categories of women: those fleeing domestic violence situations, either with or without children; those with serious mental health issues; and older women between 55 and 70 who are losing their homes to rent increases and sales. Those changes, in part, have led the Board to choose to end Angel Wings.

“We are assisting our last clients and the house manager in securing housing and will disburse any remaining funds to other programs for homeless women. We are grateful for all of the support you and others have given us over the past years. We have housed nearly 40 women and provided help and services to hundreds of others. We are proud of what we have accomplished.

“Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we travel this road and know that you will always be in ours.”

by Barb McFarlane

The team continues to regularly receive bikes left at All Faiths or from our individual communities and neighbors. They are brought to All Souls church in North Ft Myers or the sheriff's office. All Souls repairs and distributes to those in their extensive outreach to people without housing. The inmates do some repairs and are given to those returning to the community.

Thanks to the congregation's generosity, \$325 was collected in March's Share the plate. We look forward to May's collection. Angel Wings, a home for four adult women without housing receives this money.

A small team worked on a Habitat for Humanity site May 20. It's amazing what even three people with no construction skills can accomplish. We were grateful that after two hours, the team leader moved us to a home needing finishing inside work...with air conditioning!! Another opportunity will be scheduled in January.

We have enjoyed the attendance of new members at our monthly meetings the past few months. Tina Noel, Pam Pflazer, Joyce Davison, and Arlene Han all have had new ideas and bring their experiences to team discussions. Everyone is welcome to attend the 3rd Thursday afternoon of each month.

## **NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION**

*Hosted by Rev. CJ McGregor and the  
Membership Committee*

**Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m.**

**2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers**

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, June 4 at 9:30 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](mailto:franwayrn@aol.com).

## **IT'S OKAY TO SAY GAY AT ALL FAITHS**

by Rev. CJ McGregor

A few years ago, All Faiths was recognized by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation. We've always been welcoming to people who identify as LGBTQ+, but this accreditation from the UUA applauds our work and ministries that we engage. We know that religious spaces haven't always been welcoming places for all people, especially when it comes to gender and sexuality. We've changed that. Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences. For over two decades we have worked hard to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are full members of our faith community.

When people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ) first come to our congregation, they may be uneasy until they know they are welcome. Many religious denominations and individual churches are actively hostile to and condemning of LGBTQ+ people, ignore them, and/or claim to treat everyone the same regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, refusing to acknowledge that LGBTQ people face additional issues in society and around matters of faith and religion. Because of this, many people who are marginalized due to sexual orientation and/or gender identity will assume that our congregation doesn't want them unless you clearly invite them in.

To feel welcome in our congregation, members of oppressed groups need to know that the congregation is aware of their issues and that they are welcome as their full selves. Little things are often the most important. What will really make people feel welcome, and what will make them want to return, is inclusion in all aspects of congregational life. We make it clear that they are welcome without their having to ask.

We now have a LGBTQ+ ministry called "The Rainbow Connection." This ministry is led by Greg Monk and they meet on the first Monday of every month at 6pm. All are welcome, LGBTQ+ members and friends and allies alike. The work of this group is to provide opportunities for the congregation to advocate for LGBTQ+ issues, to bring new learning to the congregation, and to help us remain a truly welcoming congregation. Please consider joining. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack in Florida and needs your voice.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

### Balance Sheet: Cash Assets – April 2022

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| First Horizon Checking         | \$ 16,863        |
| First Horizon Op. Reserve      | 25,041           |
| Live Oak Op. Res. CD           | 20,873           |
| Raymond James Legacy           | 21,979           |
| Pay Pal                        | 35               |
| First Horizon Capital Checking | 6,213            |
| First Horizon Capital Reserve  | 21,150           |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$112,154</b> |
| Prior Month                    | <u>110,817</u>   |
| <b>Net Gain</b>                | <b>\$ 1,336</b>  |

### April 2022 Profit & Loss

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Operating Income  | \$ 20,592       |
| Operating Expense | <u>18,594</u>   |
| <b>Net Gain</b>   | <b>\$ 1,998</b> |

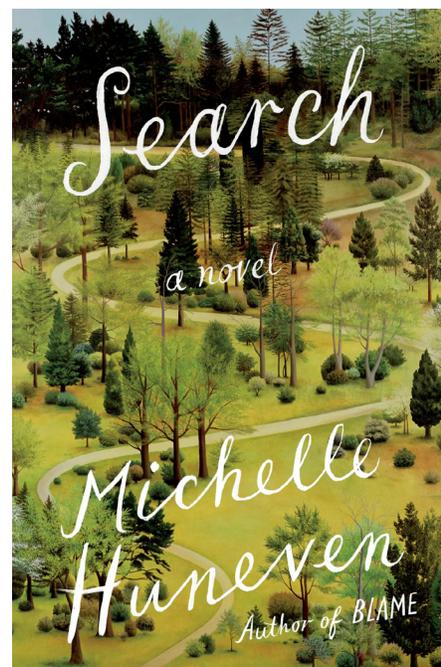
### Comments:

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
  - No unusual expenses were incurred.
  - The Income was “on track”.
  - A good start to the new fiscal year!
- The first monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,150. to the Capital Reserve account was made in April. The only expense/charge for this new account was for checks.
- A \$5,280 contract for a paver patio (to replace the wooden deck) has been authorized by the Board. A check for \$2,000 has been issued for the down payment in April. We anticipate that this work will be completed in June 2022. Funding for this was available from the gift from the estate of Ed Fulker.
- In April, \$235 was collected for One Tree (Climate Action Team).

## COMPLIMENTARY BOOK

*A Novel About a Search Committee!*

While having nothing to do with our ministerial search, we thought it timely that Michelle Huneven's new novel, *Search*, about a Unitarian Universalist search committee became available -- and you can get a complimentary copy!



*Search* by Michelle Huneven

A loving and lacerating novel about one Unitarian Universalist church committee's search for a new minister.

We meet Dana Potowski, a restaurant critic and food writer and a longtime member of a progressive Unitarian Universalist congregation in Southern California. Just as Dana is finishing the book tour for her latest bestseller, she is asked to join the church search committee for a new minister. The committee ends up being good material for Dana: ranging from a microbrew master/pastor to a reverend who identifies as both a witch and an environmental warrior. Although she may have been ambivalent joining the committee, Dana finds that she deeply cares about this institution, and she ends up in a battle royal over its fate. Huneven thoughtfully explores how leadership and charisma work in our polarized age, how institutions and the people who belong to them shape our lives, and what it really means to seek and find a place of personal refuge in community.

To order a complimentary copy of the book, follow the link: <https://sites.prh.com/searchcampaign>

## LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT UPDATES

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

LIFE's Affordable Housing Action Team (AHAT) has continued to attend Ft Myers City Council meetings to urge the council to more adequately fund the housing ordinance that was passed in January. LIFE is also advocating that the \$400 monthly voucher in the ordinance be changed to a sliding scale so housing fund recipients will not be cost burdened by rent. Unfortunately, Council has delayed taking action and has refused to discuss the funding issue.

The next AHAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 pm at Covenant Presbyterian (2439 McGregor Blvd). All Faiths members who are interested in the affordable housing issue are welcome to attend. No pre-reservations are required.

The Brain Health Action Team is reorganizing and re-starting its research activities. If you are interested in that effort, let Marsha Bates (740.278.2357), Barb McFarlane (651.808.8271), or Lana Cowell (216.701.1378) know so they can keep you informed about the team's activities.

There is an opportunity for All Faiths members who are interested in Creation Justice to participate in the local committee's meetings. Meetings which include participants from other parts of the country will be held via zoom. Let one of your team leads know if you wish to support that effort.

Thank you to the members who have provided financial support to LIFE. Because many congregations are struggling financially in this post-COVID period, individual contributions are especially important this year. If you wish to contribute, there are several ways to do so:

Send a check to LIFE Office, PO Box 62692, Fort Myers, 33906.

Contribute via CashApp to \$LIFEjustice.

Text the word Lifejustice to 44321 which will connect you to a secure link to donate from your bank account (Automated Clearing House) or using a debit card.

Invest on-line at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/life-lee-interfaith-for-empowerment-corp>

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

- Anne Frank

## THE GREAT ALL FAITHS ANNUAL PLANT SALE!

by Judy Alberda, Buildings & Grounds Co-Chair

The good news we have all been waiting for -- the Great All Faiths Annual Plant Sale will be from June 5th, a Sunday, through Saturday, June 11th. Many plants in pots are already on our property but many more will be coming from our homes, that we have been nurturing all year.

Dan DeShon and I have been working diligently to keep them in tip-top shape. So come one, come all. Nothing is priced but there will be a box on the front porch for a donation for the plant(s) you select. Some are for sun and some shade, so consider your light on your property before making your purchase. Happy shopping!

*Note: The Garden Team is always looking for participants to help with watering and weeding. If you are interested in helping to keep our grounds beautiful, contact Judy Alberda at [judyalberda@yahoo.com](mailto:judyalberda@yahoo.com).*



### ACMA LIVE MUSIC!

The Americana Community Music Association's Facebook page is updated every Saturday with YouTube or music links for scheduled artists for that date. Also check out new concerts outdoors at the Alliance for the Arts.

**Saturday, June 4 - 7:00pm**  
The Heather Pierson Duo!  
with Andy Getch opening



**Saturday June 25 - 7:00pm**  
Passerine in Concert!  
Millie Van Horn Opens

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

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

Check ACMA Facebook or website:  
[www.americanacma.org](http://www.americanacma.org) for more info.

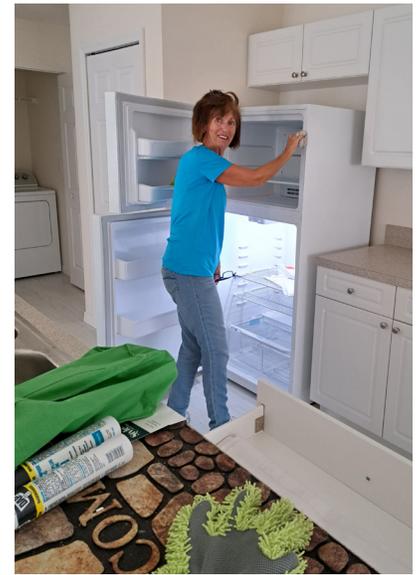
# OUR SPRING CLEANUP WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to all of our congregants who showed up to clean up on May 14. They washed and polished and dusted and painted and raked and power washed and shredded and organized and hauled away leaves and donated to Goodwill... Wow!

We are grateful to *Judy Alberda, John Conrad & Kathleen Hoban, Wayne Dean, Marge & Bob DiGalbo, Peter Erickson, Joe Gayton, Michelle Gemma, Sharon Gray, Annely Hudanick, Regina Kilmartin, Dottie Mayol, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson, Joyce Schaffer, and the Spiller Family.*



Thank You!



A big shout out to *Barb McFarlane, Michelle Gemma* and *Rosalie Kuehn* for volunteering with Habitat for Humanity to put the finishing touches on a home in Cape Coral. The next Habitat for Humanity project will be in January. Stay tuned.

## All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 – Email: [office@allfaithsuo.org](mailto:office@allfaithsuo.org) – Website: [www.allfaithsuo.org](http://www.allfaithsuo.org)

**Executive Board:** Marge DiGalbo, Chair; Rachel Spiller, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Chris Stotler, Past Chair.

**Directors:** Judy Alberda, Peter Erickson, Michelle Gemma, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle.

**Staff:** Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Kathy Fanny, CYP Director; Carlos Garcia, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

**Minister Emeritus:** The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

### Communications

*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

*Proofreaders*

Carol Elrod

Joyce Ramay

*Social Media & Website*

Regina Kilmartin,

Sharon Gray, Becky Ross

**Adult Education Forums**

**Sunday Service Team**

Joyce Ramay

Richard Keelan

### Member Services

Fran Way

*Greeters*

Marsha Bates

*Care and Support*

Joyce Ramay

**Finance**

Joyce Ramay

**Stewardship Committee**

Marsha Bates

**Nominating Committee**

Lisa Leonhardt

### Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

**Livestreaming**

Regina Kilmartin

Sharon Gray

**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*

Michelle Gemma

*L.I.F.E.*

Marsha Bates, Lana Cowell,

Barb McFarlane

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

*Operation Joy & Solos Group*

Annely Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

Sharon Gray

*Rainbow Connection*

Greg Monk

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



Deadline for the **July/August** Issue of *Connections* is **June 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