



# 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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**FOUNDERS' DAY**  
*Celebrating 21 Years!*  
**Sunday, February 13, 2022 - 10:30 a.m**

***Special Service***  
*by The Rev. CJ McGregor  
and The Rev. Wayne Robinson*

***Special Music***  
*by Carlos Garcia, Joan Marshall,  
Darlene Mitchell, Nancy Frasca Cabazares  
& Robert Bidney*

***Special Collection***  
*for the Minister's Discretionary Fund*

Your Board of Directors held a special meeting on January 5. and its regular monthly meeting on January 19, 2022. Both meetings were held via Zoom.

At the special meeting, the board discussed the worsening COVID status and the guidelines that had been established to determine whether services would be restricted. Originally, the board had said in-person services would be suspended if the positive COVID testing rate exceeded 10%. In January, that rate was exceeded; however, the board and staff believe the situation is different than when we established the original guideline. We discussed all options and weighed the need of many Congregants to attend services versus the risks of potential COVID exposure. We concluded that services would stay open for those who are vaccinated. In addition, masks must be worn at all times during services; at-

tendees are to leave the building immediately after the service and socialize outside; social distancing of seating would be increased; and there would be no hospitality table inside. Each person must evaluate his/her own situation and COVID risk tolerance.

We had to cancel our service on January 16 because of tornadoes in the area. This delayed the launch of the Stewardship Campaign by a week. Pledge brochures and forms were distributed Sunday, January 23 to attendees and the remainder were mailed that week. If you have not received your pledge card and brochure, please contact the office. Your pledge form is due by February 13. We hope you respond promptly and generously.

The Board approved several upcoming event dates. After the pledge drive ends on February 13, the Finance Committee will reevaluate the draft proposed budget based on pledged amounts and de-

velop the final proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23. On March 20 we will hold a congregational workshop to discuss the proposed budget and other items that will be considered at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2022.

Are you interested in feeling more connected with other members on our congregation? If so, get to know others by participating in one of our social justice teams or join some of the other programs and activities that are available. We also need an individual or two to coordinate an auction or other fundraiser. An auction had been planned for this March, but COVID caused delays and created uncertainty as to the format of the event. If you have organizational skills, we need you for this important fundraiser. If we don't hold an auction this spring, we must start organizing a larger event that would be held next fall or winter.

We still have a Wish List. These are items that are needed but were not included in the budget. One item is equipment for conducting hybrid meetings ... meetings that are conducted virtually as well as in-person. The initial estimate for the equipment is \$300 to \$400. The second item is a 'donor recognition tree,' a wood or metal wall hanging that is in the shape of an artistically designed tree. The leaves will be etched with the names of people to recognize them for their legacy or other special gifts to All Faiths. Rev. CJ has information about both Wish List items. Please contact Regina, Rev. CJ, or a board member for more information.

Please feel free to contact me (239.770.0795 or [gcstotler@gmail.com](mailto:gcstotler@gmail.com)) or any other board members with comments or suggestions.

*Our next board meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.*

## Mission Statement

“All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community, seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth.  
“We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate 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.)*

**March** - Angel Wings (Heart for Homeless)

### Special Collections

**February** - Special Collection – Minister’s Discretionary Fund

*January's Share the Plate raised \$330 for The Change Program!*



by Rev. CJ McGregor



We celebrate Valentine's Day this month as a day of love and devotion. This day has been celebrated for centuries in honor of St. Valentine, a Christian clergyman martyred on February 14 AD 269. Interestingly, he is also the patron saint of epilepsy and beekeepers. Some cocktail party fodder for you! I've read that during the Middle Ages, it was believed that birds paired in mid-February. This was then associated with the romance of Valentine. Although these legends differ, Valentine's Day is widely recognized as a day for romance and devotion.

Richard and I don't celebrate Valentine's Day.

Commercialism and the fact that we show our love and devotion year round justify this decision for us. It could also be that on our first Valentine's Day together Richard was poisoned by our romantic dinner and spent the evening heaving in my bathroom. How romantic?

There is a cause for celebration. On February 13. We will be celebrating Founders' Day. It's a time set aside to recognize the founding of All Faiths and our visionary Founders. If there ever was a day to celebrate love and devotion this is it. Your love and devotion has sustained our congregation and our mission. It is clear to me that All Faiths is home for us and we benefit from its love and devotion.

Send flowers, cards, and chocolates. But remember to include All Faiths as one of your great loves and show your love and devotion of spirit and generosity.

— Blessings, Rev. CJ

## MCGREGOR CLINIC SUNDAY COLLECTION RETURNS!

We are happy to announce the return of the McGregor Clinic Sunday Collection.

Coordinated by *Joyce Schaffer*, clothing and non-perishable foods will be collected on the third Sunday of the month and delivered to the McGregor Clinic. The Clinic provides an integrated approach to patient care emphasizing services for clients living with HIV.

The first collection will take place on Sunday, February 20.

## JOYS & SORROWS

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

**Judy Alberda** had cataract surgery on both eyes. We hope she sees a brighter world now.

**Marsha Bates'** son-in-law died suddenly. We extend our sympathy to her and her family.

**Diana Camp** suffered a stroke and was in a coma for two days in Iowa. Her husband Glenn has been caring for her there. We hope she has a good recovery.

**Jay and Cindy Crean's** son and his family lost their home and all their belongings in the Colorado wildfires. They are safe and with friends, but the family is devastated.

**Carol Elrod** had surgery to remove a large blood clot on her brain near the speech center. She is receiving physical and speech therapy. We hope that she has a good recovery.

**Kathy Fanny** initiated her engagement with our Child and Youth Program. We hope our children join these activities to enrich their lives.,

**Ed Fulker** passed away peacefully at the age of 94. Ed and his wife were founding members of All Faiths, and were very active for many years. The family plans to have a celebration of his life later in the spring. We extend our sympathy to his family.

**Joe Gayton's** brother-in-law died in Texas. We extend our sympathy to him and his family.

**Edi Griffiths** fainted and fell in her home, and was hospitalized. We hope that she has a good recovery.

**Therese Hogle's** older brother, Bill Hogle, passed away unexpectedly. We extend our sympathy to her and her family.

**Hank Shapiro** was hospitalized with heart failure, but has returned home to his apartment, and is walking with assistance. He is mentally alert and socially active. We hope that he continues to thrive.

*Joyce Ramay*

Care and Support Coordinator

## Happening at All Faiths

*Happy February  
Birthday to you!*



Feb 3 Midge Magstadt  
Feb 7 Kendra Maroon  
Feb 14 Jolene Jeranson  
Feb 15 Linda Arthur  
Feb 15 Nicole McDaigle  
Feb 17 Carol Sommer  
Feb 18 Howard Silverman  
Feb 24 Ed Elrod  
Feb 25 Richard Keelan  
Feb 26 Nita Flores  
Feb 28 Cameron Anholt

*And Coming Up...*

March 1 Eileen Moran  
March 2 Robert Way  
March 3 Charlotte Blitt  
March 3 Maria Menendez  
March 4 Frankie Jennings



### Solos Group Events

**Saturday, February 5, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Lunch at Bahama Breeze**  
14701 S Tamiami Trail,  
Fort 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.

**TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR**  
Online via Zoom - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m  
<https://zoom.us/j/7787257501>  
Facilitated by Rev. CJ McGregor



**February 2 – Universalism and Presidents**  
led by Joyce Ramay

**February 9 – White Fragility**  
led by Rev. CJ McGregor

**February 16 – No program**

**February 23 – Feminist Theologies**  
led by Rev. CJ McGregor

### Book Club

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.**  
**Arts & Eats - on Alliance for the Arts Grounds**

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)

### Sneak Peek Spring 2022 Adult Education *WELLSPRING* (LIVE)

Participants are supported by a curriculum designed to strengthen your understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Through class assignments and interactions, you will be enabled to deepen your own understanding of UU values, gain a deeper commitment to your own values, and engage with a deeper connection with fellow participants.

The goals of *Wellspring* are to ground participants in Unitarian Universalism, to develop the practice of deep listening and commitment to spiritual practice and spiritual direction, and to ask the “big questions” that are central to our Unitarian and Universalist faith, including human nature, death, joy, and forgiveness.

Led by Rev. CJ McGregor

We will meet Wednesdays at 10 am - 12 p.m. at All Faiths on March 9, 23, 30; April 13, 20, 27

# FEBRUARY 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

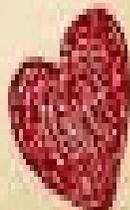
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
		<p>1:30pm <b>Zoom</b> Climate Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar (Pg. 4)</p>			<p>1pm <b>Solos Lunch</b> (Pg. 4)</p>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan</p> <p>10:30am Service and Child &amp; Youth Program</p>	<p>9pm ACMA Concert (pg. 11)</p>	<p>10am <b>Zoom</b> Racial Equity Meeting</p>	<p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar (Pg. 4)</p>	<p>10 am <b>Zoom</b> Finance Mtg.</p>	<p>10 am <b>Zoom</b> Mano a Mano Update with Joan &amp; Segundo Velasquez</p>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan</p> <p>10:30am Service and Child &amp; Youth Program</p> <p><b>Founders' Day</b></p>	<p>10am <b>Zoom</b> Sunday Service Mtg.</p> <p><b>Valentines Day</b></p>		<p>12pm Book Club (Pg. 4)</p> <p>1pm - <b>Zoom</b> Board Meeting</p>	<p>2pm Homeless Team @ All Faiths</p>		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan</p> <p>10:30am Service (No CYP Today)</p> <p><b>McGregor Clinic Coll.</b></p>	<p><b>Presidents' Day</b> Office Closed</p> <p>7pm - <b>Zoom</b> Odyssey with Kathy Fanny</p>		<p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar (Pg. 4)</p>			<p>7pm ACMA Concert (pg. 11)</p>
27	28	<p><i>To Love a person is to see all of their magic and to remind them of it when they have forgotten</i></p> 				
<p>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan</p> <p>10:30am Service and Child &amp; Youth Program</p>						

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

## FEBRUARY 2022 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "BLACK LEADERSHIP"

**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.

### **Feb. 6 – *Beyond a Month***

by Rev. CJ McGregor  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

### **Feb. 13 – *Founders' Day Celebration***

by Rev. CJ McGregor and  
Rev. Wayne Robinson  
Music by Carlos Garcia, Joan Marshall, Darlene  
Mitchell, Nancy Frasca Cabazares, and Robert Bidney  
Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay  
*Special Collection for Minister's Discretionary Fund*

### **Feb. 20 – To be announced**

Guest Visiting Minister,  
The Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis Burgos  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
Worship Associate – Rev. CJ McGregor

### **Feb. 27 – *A Perspective on African American Leadership***

by Lewis Robinson  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

**News Talk with Richard Keelan**  
9:15 a.m. - at All Faiths in the Sanctuary

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

## CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2022

### **February 6**

We'll learn about civil rights campaigner John  
Cashin and Black Lives Matter.

### **February 13**

We'll learn about African American women and their  
contributions to social justice.

### **February 27**

We'll learn about The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.

*Beginning this month you can join us  
in person or on Zoom!*

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN WRAPS UP ON FEBRUARY 13

Our annual Stewardship Campaign -- Where you *belong!*  
-- is well underway. You should have received a packet con-  
taining a brochure, a message, a pledge card and a return en-  
velope. If you have not received one, please contact the Of-  
fice.

The budget proposed by the Finance Committee will in-  
clude, for the first time, a capital reserve fund. This fund is  
necessary to pay for anticipated future capital expenses, such  
as replacing the roof or the air-conditioners. If the mortgage  
(currently down to \$12,428) were paid off by March 31 (the  
end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year) the amount of pledge in-  
come received must increase by approximately 3.6 percent. If  
the mortgage is not paid off, the budget increase would be in  
the range of 11.7 percent. It is understood that not all members  
and friends are in a position to increase by that amount; how-  
ever, it is hoped that others will increase their pledge enough  
to make up the difference.

Remember that Stewardship is made up of three things:  
Time, Talent, and Treasure. We are grateful that All Faiths'  
Members and Friends give generously of all three.

Please be sure to return your pledge by February 13, Found-  
ers' Day. Our Founders left us a great legacy -- a loving com-  
munity, a house of justice, a spiritual haven -- a place Where  
you **belong!**

*Many thanks to the Stewardship Committee: Marsha  
Bates, Ariel Hoover, Mary Ellen Fritz, Ernie Reid, and  
consultant Becky Ross.*

## CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



Your Climate Action Team has cancelled the February 21st outing to the Waste Management Recycling Center and rescheduled it for Friday, March 4th. We hope you will be able to join us to see, firsthand, what happens to all the stuff we put out on our curbsides. Mark your calendars now for the 9:00-11:00 a.m. tour followed by lunch. Details will be posted closer to the tour date.

In the sustainable world we all hope to build for future generations, recovering and reusing materials will not only be desirable but essential, as today's extractive economy continues to deplete the Earth's resources. We all have a part to play in helping to conserve and restore our planet. Of course, we are all already recycling, but are we doing it efficiently and effectively? Join us to learn more about this important component of living sustainably.

One of the Climate Action Team partners, an organization called Growing Climate Solutions, is sponsoring an informative Zoom session online about recycling. Here is their flyer announcing the event. We encourage you to sign up and participate, if you can.

### **Growing Climate Solutions Y&How Workshop #3 Recycling Right Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow - February 2 / 11am - Noon**

While the closing of the China market in 2018 caused challenges in the recycling industry, domestic markets have expanded and recycling has bounced back stronger than ever. Recycling Right, however, remains a priority to keep recycling both environmentally and economically sustainable. Learn how to do your part to Recycle Right.

*Presented By Ms. Dawn McCormick  
Director of Communications and Governmental Affairs  
Waste Management, Inc*

Dawn McCormick is responsible for all communications and community relations activities for Waste Management Inc. of Florida. She co-manages the company's Government Affairs activities in Tallahassee and coordinates the Recycling Improvement initiatives in the state. She is Vice-Chair of the National Waste & Recycling Association Florida Chapter, Board Member and Past Chair of the Florida Recycling Partnership, and Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee of Recycle Florida.

Learn More & Register [HERE](#).

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

## ♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

As we imagine people living in homelessness or housing insecurity in SWFL: What is it like to be without a home... to search each night for shelter or a safe place...to go days without someone calling you by name? Where do you go with your belongings? How do you stay safe? How do you stay clean? Where do you go for a moment of peace? How do you handle the loneliness? Where is your next meal? Or to be constantly worried you may lose the home you have because paying 75% of your income on housing means cutting back on food, medicine, utilities, car payment.

Through collaboration with LIFE, All Faiths' members are working to ensure there is safe affordable housing in Fort Myers. Our Heart for the Homeless Team works to provide small levels of comfort to those without homes through our bike ministry and providing fresh fruit to those using the Salvation Army Day Resource Center.

All Faiths members have generously donated socks, money, and personal hygiene products for those without housing. Share-the-Plate donations have helped women at Angel Wings who are working toward stable housing. Members have volunteered with the annual "Point in Time" count and Homeless Service Day/Standdown.

We will continue to lift up our neighbors and work for solutions. The Heart for the Homeless team meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. It is open to all as we welcome your ideas "wherever you are on your journey."

## THANK YOU FROM MANO A MANO

We send our greetings from Minnesota along with gratitude for your ongoing support of Mano a Mano's social justice work. A special thanks to all who sold Bolivian crafts in December to help fund our programs.

Mano a Mano – 2021. What a Year! In spite of the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, we shipped seven containers filled with over 180,000 pounds of life-saving PPE, other medical supplies and mobility aides to Bolivia; our 176 rural medical clinics had nearly 1,000,000 patient visits; we built four new clinics and two schools; expanded our previously built water reservoir; drilled eight deep wells, and airlifted 254 patients to critical care. Human stories of turning from illness to health, despair to hope, lie behind each of these numbers.

Segundo and I hope to see you at All Faiths on Friday, February 11 at 1:00. We will share the "behind the numbers" stories. Our latest website blog presents more detailed information: [www.manoamano.org](http://www.manoamano.org)



12-year old Pascuala in her new wheelchair

# *The Founding Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation*

On February 19, 2001, at a 4 p.m. meeting at Gulf Harbour Golf and Country Club, All Faiths Unitarian Congregation was conceived. On that date, our founding minister, The Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson, flew in from Michigan and met with 100 people or more to discuss the question: “*Should we or should we not, start an alternative liberal religious congregation?*” They voted overwhelmingly that they should. Twenty years later, here we are, continuing All Faiths' legacy. It all started with a dream and the courage of our founding members, to whom we are ever so grateful.

June Antolino  
Irv Barkan  
Clarence Barnes  
**Jean Barnes**  
Susan Beard  
**Donalie Benyak**  
Bill Benyak  
Wilfred Berman

Alma Bips  
Herman Bips  
**Charlotte Blitt**  
Doris Carroll  
Margaret Chevalier  
Margaret Hires  
Barbara Durkee  
Douglas Durkee

**Carol Elrod**  
**Ed Elrod**  
**Ann Estlund**  
**Janet Falk**  
Ernie Fierro  
**Shea Fierro**  
Lloyd Fish  
**Pat Fish**

Leona Fliss  
Ed Fulker  
Jeanette Fulker  
Gina Gaudette  
Jim Goodman  
Peggy Goodman  
**Jan Guardiano**  
Joe Guardiano  
Louise Gutman

**Nathalie Hahn**  
Tom Hahn  
Bob Hartz  
Linda Jacobs  
**Frankie Jennings**  
**Peggy JSingh**  
James Kaser

Edie Kaser  
Robert Kasten  
Leonard Kauffman  
Rose Kauffman  
**Roy Kennix**  
Anne Kracmer  
Jane Kuckel

Wayne Leaver  
Dorothy Lee  
**Nancy McGlasson**  
Donna McVety  
Jon McVety  
Harold Miller  
Marie Miller

**Maggie Mullins**  
Steve Mullins  
**Jim Nathan**  
**Karen Nathan**  
Michele Ninacs  
**Rev. Emily Palmer**

Bill Peed  
Barb Pizzini  
Lou Pizzini  
Tom Poe  
Steve Pollard

Haneef Ramay  
**Joyce Ramay**  
**Fearn Richards**  
**William Richards**  
**Kay Riegler**  
**Rev. Wayne Robinson**  
Joy Ellen Ryan

Barbara Salzberger  
Emil Salzberger  
Phebe Scott  
Dorothy Shoop  
Lewis Shoop  
**Carol Siferd**  
Willis Siferd  
**Howard Silverman**  
Norma Silverman

Beverly Simpson  
Wray Simpson  
**Carol Sommer**  
Bernard Southgate  
Mary Louise Stewart  
Deanna (Tusack) Evans

Alice Vandewalker  
Robert Vandewalker  
**Frances Way**  
**Robert Way**  
Walter Weck  
Bruce Wendorf  
Jackie Wendorf  
Marjorie Wright  
William Wright  
**Donna Zubert**  
**Peter Zubert**

Names in ***bold/italics*** are founders who remain active or in good standing.

## FINDING JOY AND GRACE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

*A Message from UUA President, The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray*

Dear All Faiths Unitarian Congregation,

As the first month of 2022 draws to a close, I am sending you love and so much care. I have never experienced anything like this extended period of uncertainty, isolation, discouragement, loss and heartbreak. I hear from so many corners how exhausted our religious professionals and leaders are. The constant planning and changing plans. The emotional toll of the difficult decisions we have been making for more than two years. We've been on high alert on so many levels for years now – trying to protect ourselves, our families and communities – trying to save lives from health, economic, and political calamity.

The other thing I know is that virtually none of us are at our best. This is hard as leaders when we hold so many responsibilities and have to navigate so many expectations. It's also hard as we minister to communities of people who are also struggling. Incidents of people acting terribly seem to be everywhere. I send you grace and care as I know too many of you have been on the receiving end. And I pray for all of us to feel the deep compassion and loving kindness that is present to us and a part of us.

---

*I invite you to connect your values to your joy and to be reminded  
that we are not in this struggle alone.*

---

One of the things I've been trying to do each morning is listen to music and dance as a way of connecting with my own joy. Recently, I was reminded of a wonderful video clip of the late John Lewis dancing to Pharrell's "Happy" at a campaign event for Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams. It's a moment that illuminates the grace he showed over many decades of working for social justice. Throughout a long and distinguished career, he experienced daunting obstacles and setbacks but never stopped celebrating life.

This video made the rounds on January 5th of last year as people celebrated the incredible turn out in the Georgia Senate election runoffs. The turnout was the success of Black organizers, registering and turning out voters in historic numbers despite the disenfranchisement efforts of the state.

I share this memory because it matters that we remember the times when the people have led and won. It matters that we take time to savor moments of joy and sweetness. They provide vital sustenance. And sustenance is critical because the struggles we face are long-haul. What are the moments bringing you joy and sustenance? How might you create moments of joy and sweetness in your days?

In these difficult times, when we face daunting challenges on seemingly every front, it's more important than ever that we as leaders continue to offer ourselves and each other grace, and that we have intentional time for rest and joy.

I invite you to connect your values to your joy and be reminded that we are not in this struggle alone by connecting with the UUA's 30 Days of Love, our annual celebration that runs approximately from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day through Valentine's Day. This is an opportunity to collectively nurture our spirits, deepen our understanding, and take action on our values. This week's events focus on Voting Rights and Democracy. I am especially looking forward to the Friday Songs of Joy events.

I remember the video of the great John Lewis dancing, and it inspires me to keep working for the passage of the Voting Rights Act that now bears his name. It inspires me to want to make our ancestors dance as they witness our efforts – rooted in love and joy – creating a sea change toward justice and dignity.

Yours in love,  
Susan

## FEBRUARY'S ODYSSEY KATHY FANNY

Monday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m.



Kathy Fanny will be the subject of our next Odyssey. Kathy was recently hired as All Faiths' new Child and Youth Program Director. We know she is an activist and shares our values, but what else might there be to know about Kathy? Please join us on January 17 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. Hosted by Rev. CJ with Q&A to follow. Link will be sent via email prior to program.

## MANO A MANO VISITS ALL FAITHS

*Save the Date!*

Friday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Our good friends and founders of Mano a Mano, Joan and Segundo Velasquez, will be hosting an online presentation via Zoom on February 11 at 10:00 a.m. they will bring us up to date on the good work they continue to do in Bolivia.

New members and friends, if you want to be inspired, you'll want to meet Joan and Segundo, who created Mano a Mano initially to ship unused US medical supplies to rural areas of Bolivia, and can now take credit for building roads, hospitals, wells, schools and life-saving infrastructures. They have an amazing story that you won't want to miss.

## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month, which is celebrated each year during February, is a chance for Americans to learn details of our nation's history that, unfortunately, are far too often neglected and pushed to the wayside. As the saying goes, black history is American history — and it's a varied and rich history.

A wise nation honors and learns from its past. It refuses to let the most important facts about our shared and collective memory disappear into the depths of forgotten history. What happened in the past shapes and informs where we are heading in the future, and it's of paramount importance to set aside a month for learning as much as we can about black history.



## THE ALL VOICES CHOIR

Our Music Director, Carlos Garcia, cordially invites you to join All Faiths' **All Voices Choir**

Everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of your skill level. If you really can't sing, you may be asked to snap your fingers or whistle, but... just kidding!

The point is, it's all in good fun!



Practices will be held on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.  
Carlos Garcia Contact: [ceegeefm@gmail.com](mailto:ceegeefm@gmail.com)

You can register by clicking the link:  
[Register Here](#)

do re mi fa so la ti do



AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Burn the Mortgage Balance:

**\$12,328!**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

## Balance Sheet: Cash Assets – December 2021

Iberiabank Checking	\$ 4,906
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	16,040
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,832
Raymond James Legacy	36,978
Pay Pal	286
Iberiabank Capital Fund	<u>5,878</u>
Total	\$ 84,918
Prior Month	<u>92,572</u>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(\$ -7,645)</b>

## December 2021 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 12,481
Operating Expense	<u>17,754</u>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(\$ -5,273)</b>

### Comments:

#### ■ December Revenue/Operating Income **decreased.**

□ It is our hope that congregants who have not yet met their pledge goal for the year will be able to do so in the next 1-2 months. Overall, we have received 80.8% of the pledge goal for the first nine months of the year (\$126,643 in pledge contributions, while our anticipated pledge goal through December was \$156,749). It was necessary to transfer \$9,000.00 from the Operating Reserve to cover our December expenses.

■ The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of January was \$12,428. The response to the Burn the Mortgage campaign has been incredible. It is with increasing hope that we can achieve our goal of being debt free by the end of our fiscal year. Thank you to all that have been so generous. **And as of January 31, 2022, the Mortgage balance has dropped further to \$12,328! Can we cross the finish line and Burn the Mortgage by March 31?**

■ The Capital Reserve Study, approved by the Board earlier this year, has been completed. The Finance Committee and the Board are now hoping to incorporate the funding of the reserves into the budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. The reserves, once implemented, will be used for future anticipated capital expenses, such as replacement of air conditioning units, roofs, carpeting, et cetera.

■ In December \$6,108.00 was collected for Employee Bonuses.



Please be kind to  
groundhogs!

## ACMA HAPPENINGS

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

**Feb 8th - The Pearl Street Band  
Songwriters on the Plaza @ downtown Library**

**Feb. 20th - Muriel Anderson Concert and  
AudioVisual Show  
at ACMA @ The Alliance for The Arts**

**Feb. 26th - Lipbone Redding  
@ All Faiths Unitarian Congregation.**



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

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

*The safety of our audience, musicians and hosts is our top priority. CDC COVID protocols observed. Masks required in the building, and we prefer that attendees be vaccinated. Thank you for your cooperation so we can once again gather to enjoy live music in a listening atmosphere!*

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

# LIFE

## Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

### UPDATES AND EVENTS

*by Marsha Bates, Team Leader*

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment continues to work on the Affordable Housing initiative. All Faiths was well-represented at the January 11th zoom meeting; nearly 1/3 of participants were All Faiths congregants. The affordable housing ordinance that City Council is proposing includes vouchers and subsidies; those approaches, in LIFE's view, could reduce the amount of money available for a trust fund. Despite those concerns, meeting attendees indicated that LIFE should continue to work with the Council on the ordinance.

LIFE's Affordable Housing Research Team sent an email to City Council members and pertinent City staff explaining why LIFE objects to vouchers and subsidies. One of the responses received suggested including economic development in the ordinance. However, it is feared that if economic development language is included in the ordinance,

trust fund money intended to help low-income wage earners would be diverted to developers instead.

It is essential that we remain vigilant and monitor City Council's actions. Their calendar lists

an Affordable Housing Workshop on January 31st. No details were available; in the past, posted affordable housing workshops have not materialized. LIFE will monitor the situation and network members will be alerted once the City provides workshop details. It is possible the information will not be available until the last minute, so keep the date open.

Thank you for supporting LIFE's efforts. If you have questions, you can contact All Faiths' team leads: Marsha Bates (740-278-2357), Barb McFarlane, and Lana Cowell.

*LIFE for Justice - Justice for Life!*



## All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

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

**Directors:** Marge DiGalbo, Peter Erickson, Eileen Moran, Ernie Reid, 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

#### Building and Grounds

Bob DiGalbo

Judy Alberda

#### Social Action & Outreach

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall

*Community Events*

Richard Keelan

*Heart for the Homeless*

Barb McFarlane

#### Racial Equity Team

t/b/d

*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

**Child & Youth Program**

**Committee**

Rachel Spiller

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



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