



CONNECTIONS

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

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All Faiths is Honored to Welcome
The Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is proud to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Ron Archer as our new Minister, ushering in a powerful and inspiring new chapter for our congregation and the broader community.

Rev. Dr. Archer brings more than four decades of transformational leadership, global service, and spiritual insight to his new role, which begins on May 1, 2026. Welcome to All Faiths, Rev. Ron!

“In community, possibility is not a distant dream; it is the living proof that what we nurture together can grow beyond what we ever imagined.”

The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Beloved community,

As I begin my second year as your Board Chair at All Faiths, I am filled with gratitude for the trust you place in this leadership team and for the resilient, generous spirit that defines our congregation. Serving this community continues to be an honor.

This month, I invite us into a simple but powerful spiritual practice: **embracing possibilities**. Not the abstract kind that drift above our heads, but the real, lived possibilities that emerge when a congregation chooses courage over caution, curiosity over fear, and

connection over isolation.

We know something about that. Over the past year, we have walked through transition, tended to wounds, rebuilt trust, and rediscovered our capacity to move forward together. This was, in many ways, one of the most difficult chapters in the history of All Faiths. We navigated the potentially devastating loss of a minister, faced hard decisions, and confronted the “rocks in the road”—then used them as stepping stones toward a future we are only now beginning to glimpse.

With a steady hand on the wheel and an honest, transparent approach with the congregation, we kept our community together and moving forward. That is no small thing. It is the quiet, daily work of a congregation maturing into its next chapter.

Today, we stand at a new beginning—one filled with possibility.

This year brings a blessing that feels both timely and deeply hopeful: **the arrival of our new minister, Ron Archer**. His presence marks a fresh chapter in our shared ministry, one filled with promise, and excitement for the ways this new relationship will enrich our worship, deepen our care for one another, and strengthen our impact in the wider community. In the coming months, we will continue strengthening our governance and deepening our collaboration with Rev. Ron Archer to expand our ministry, outreach and social justice work. As part of that effort, we will also keep listening—truly listening—to one another, because the health of our congregation grows from the quality of our relationships.

At the same time, we are engaging in the important work of understanding who we are now and

who we are becoming. Many of you participated in our Congregational Assessment Survey—thank you for showing up with honesty, clarity, and love. We have begun analyzing the responses, and will be listening closely to the themes, hopes, and concerns you shared.

This assessment is not just data. It is a mirror held up to our collective life, helping us see where our ministries are thriving and where we are called to grow.

In the months ahead, the Board will work with Ron to translate these insights into thoughtful action—steps that will help All Faiths move confidently into the future with intention and alignment. Your voices are shaping that future. Your participation is an act of shared ministry. We are not simply maintaining a church.

(continued on page 7)

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.)

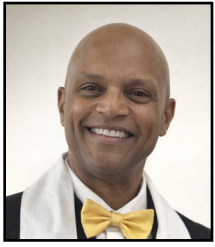
May - Community Soup Kitchen (Hunger Team)

June - Cape Coral Pride (Rainbow Connection)

April Share the Plate raised \$270 for SWFL RESET Center!

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





As your new Minister, I want to be very clear on my Philosophy for Building Racial Harmony.

We will not tolerate an environment where people are shamed, attacked, belittled, or labeled as racists.

Our mission is not to tear people down—it is to build people up.

Our goal is not to create division—it is to create harmony.

Our Guiding Principle

The goal within any organization is to build racial harmony without shaming, name-calling, labeling, or attacking others.

We are here to heal, not harm.

To unite, not divide.

To grow, not condemn.

Educate Without Shaming

We believe that people grow best when they are informed, not attacked.

We will offer education on cultural awareness, history, and implicit bias—recognizing that all human beings carry bias.

We will use stories and real-life examples that demonstrate how organizations successfully create inclusion and unity. We will be solution oriented, not problem obsessed.

We will avoid labeling people and instead focus on behaviors, systems, and growth.

Our goal is to move people from:

Ignorance → Awareness → Empathy → Action

And we will do so with love, compassion, patience, and understanding.

Build Shared Values and Vision

True unity happens when people come together around something greater than themselves—not when they are beaten down by accusations.

We are committed to:

Defining and living out values such as respect, dignity, inclusion, and fairness.

Connecting these values to our mission and spiritual foundation.

Continually affirming:

“This is who we are becoming together.”

We are not seeking perfection.

We are seeking progress, collaboration, and deeper understanding.

A Culture of Respectful Communication

Racial harmony can only exist where there is:

Love in our tone.

Respect in our dialogue.

Appreciation for our differences.

Dignity for every individual.

Final Commitment

At All Faiths, we will foster a culture where:

People feel safe, not attacked.

People are developed, not diminished.

Conversations lead to understanding, not division.

Again, let it be clearly understood:

We will not tolerate shaming, attacking, belittling, or labeling individuals as racists.

We are building something higher.

We are building something better.

We are building harmony.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Joe Batal suffered a fall which prevented him from attending services. We hope he recovers well.

Doug Cartwright has been receiving treatments for his eyes. We hope they restore his vision effectively.

Frank Geltner has some heart issues and visited the hospital for examinations. We hope that he receives good medical attention for his wellbeing.

Jan Guardiano was hospitalized for three days, She has returned to her assisted living home. We hope that she stays well.

Pam Pfalzer's son-in-law is suffering with cancer. We hope that he receives beneficial treatment.

We are blessed to welcome our new minister, Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer, who will be providing pastoral care and counseling to our people. *Please let him know if you are in need of his support.*

We are Each Other's Keepers

*Joyce Ramay,
Care and Support Coordinator*

Happening at All Faiths

Happy May

Birthday to you!



- May 8 Peg Clayton-Fischer
- May 12 Mary Linne
- May 13 Annely Hudanick
- May 16 Laura Snow
- May 22 Laurie Babcock
- May 25 Lisa Leonhardt
- May 26 Marge DiGalbo
- May 28 Elizabeth Bolander
- May 30 Nancy Frasca Cabazares
- May 30 Pam Pfalzer

And Coming Up...

- June 4 Zia Zurbrigg-Maijala
- June 5 Vanessa Gilyard
- June 5 Ed Turpin
- June 6 Mary McMannis

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



Solos Luncheon!

**Saturday, April 9*, 2026
1:00 p.m.**

**(2nd Sat. this month only)*

**Blossom and Brie
8250 Nalle Grade Rd
N. Fort Myers**

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

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

The All Voices Choir Practice

Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30pm

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

McGregor Clinic Collection

Every 3rd Sunday of the Month at Service

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

Book Club

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

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

Sunday Adult Ed. Workshops

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

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

Mexican Train Dominoes

Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Join in on this fun and popular dominoes game. Don't know how to play? Come and we'll teach you -- it's easy. Contact Ken Malkin at kennethmmalkin@gmail.com to get on email distribution list.

ACMA Songwriters Circle

Meeting on Sundays 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The circle is for Acoustic Songwriters of all levels. Songs and experiences are shared in a non-judgmental, casual atmosphere. All are welcome to come and play or just listen. ACMA is secular and is all about original music. No Membership required. We support Americana/Folk, Singer/Songwriters and provide a venue for performing original music.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP 2-5pm ACMA Circle		11am Care & Support No Climate Action Mtg. in May		5pm Choir Rehearsal	1pm Dominoes	10-11:30am Immigration Training Workshop 7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP 12pm Rainbow Connection Happy Mother's Day!	10am Sunday Service Team			10 am Finance Mtg. 5pm Choir Rehearsal			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP 2-5pm ACMA Circle McGregor Clinic Collection	12pm Book Club		1pm Board Meeting	5pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	1pm Dominoes		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP 2-5pm ACMA Circle 9:15am Workshop 10:30am Service & CYP *2nd Collection Capital Campaign Ice Cream Social	Memorial Day Office Closed		2pm *New* Armchair Philosophy	5pm Choir Rehearsal		7pm ACMA Concert (Pg. 11)	
Visit our website for information on events and programs www.allfaithsuu.org							

MAY 2026
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
THEME: BE THE CHANGE YOU SEEK

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

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

May 3 - The Science of Transformation:

What is Psycho-Cybernetics?

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer

Worship Associate – Sydney Burns

Music by Carlos Garcia

**May 10 - The Exousia Conscious Process:
Perception, Association, Evaluation
and Execution**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer

Worship Associate – Dottie Mayol

Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

**May 17 - The Dunamis of the Subconscious: The
Formula $I \times V = Rsc$**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

May 24 – The Immigrant Experience

Speaker - Annelly Hudanick

Worship Associate – Nicole Racine

Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

May 31 – The Efficacy of the Creative Subconscious

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

Music by Carlos Garcia

Second Collection for Renovation

SUNDAY WORKSHOP: SPIRITUAL LITERACY

Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life

Discussions led by Joyce Ramay and Ed Turpin

Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. - 12 Weeks

Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat reveal a way to read the texts of our lives and of the world around us for sacred meaning. Using brief examples from contemporary books and movies, they tutor us in the art of lingering with our experiences and seeing the world with fresh eyes.

Join us to share our personal journeys and experience of the sacred.

MAY CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

May's theme is Awakening Curiosity. We are diving into this theme by exploring how curiosity can be a bridge to other worlds, to what isn't yet but could be - a bridge to new ideas, new experiences, and even new ways of seeing ourselves and others.

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

May 3: A Bridge to a More Just World “The Dog and the Heartless Dog”

May 10: A Bridge to a More Diverse World “Animal School”

May 17: A Bridge to a More Exciting World “We Always Had Wings”

May 24: A Bridge to a World With Wiser People “Ananse and the Pot of Wisdom”

May 31: A Bridge to the World of Our Future Selves “The Pencil and the Path Ahead”

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

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

Sharon, CYP Director



Sunday Adult Ed. Workshop
Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life

The Rainbow Connection

Every 2nd Sunday at Noon

David Donovan – ddonovan722@gmail.com

A space for the LGBTQ community and allies to gather in fellowship, plan activities and offer support.

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

We are cultivating a spiritual home where people can heal, grow, and be transformed.

As we embrace these possibilities, I invite each of you to ask:

What possibility is calling to me? What gift, idea, or hope am I ready to bring forward?

Our future is not something that happens to us. It is something we create—together, with intention, compassion, and a willingness to imagine boldly. Thank you for your trust, your resilience, and your steadfast love for this congregation.

And as we imagine boldly, I want to speak to one of the most tangible ways we can shape that future together: our **Capital Campaign**.

On the more practical side of our shared ministry, I am hopeful that we will rise to this moment and make our campaign a success. This effort is not simply about a facelift. It is about creating the physical space that will allow our congregation to grow into the future we keep talking about with such hope.

I invite you to find, within your heart and your sense of commitment, a place to build upon what we have already begun. Imagine with me the possibilities: a larger, more welcoming entryway to accommodate a larger membership and a classroom filled with children giggling as they head off to Religious Education; spaces that support vibrant worship, deeper connection, and the justice work that is so central to who we are.

This is the kind of future we can create—one that reflects our values, our aspirations, and our belief that All Faiths is a spiritual home worth investing in.

Together, we can make room for the next generation of seekers, learners, and dreamers. Together, we can build the next chapter of All Faiths.

IMMIGRATION WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 2, 2026 - 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Indivisible Gambit SW Florida is a group of concerned citizens working in connection with a number of agencies to coordinate efforts to minister to the migrant community in this day and time. Ways of support range from purely financial, to helping to distribute materials, providing rides for those anxious to travel alone in this day and time, to serving on a response team who goes out to document ICE in action. The most demonstrative show of support is to become a Legal Observer which requires additional training by the ACLU.

We would very much welcome your support. For information, please review the following website:

<https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/920265/>

This event is open to the public. Please spread the word and invite your family and friends to attend.

SUNDAY SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE

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

Share Your Songs

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

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

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!



Saturday, May 2 - 7:00pm

Ben Prestage in Concert
Nick & Kathy Bernardi opens

Saturday, May 9 - 7:00pm

RB Stone in Concert
Gareth Rockliffe opens

Saturday, May 30 - 7:00pm

Rebekah Pully Duo in Concert
Michael Boswell opens

Visit ACMA website: americanacma.org

The Listening Room at All Faiths

*General public \$20/Member discount \$15
Donations at the Door*

"ARMCHAIR PHILOSOPHY"

May 27, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.

discussion facilitated by Frank Geltner



Armchair Philosophy continues on Wednesday, May 27 at 2 p.m. We come together to respond to what I outline here. However, this time I ask for your indulgence. I would like you to look for opportunities this month to read up on any part of this topic. Our first session included nine people in a stimulating conversation in response to a quotation from Reinhard Niebuhr about morality. On May 27 we will widen that lens. We might ask ourselves whether this topic has a “moral” core.

We will take our lead from a recent speech given by Justice Clarence Thomas who argued that the principles of the Declaration of Independence were not merely matters of academic debate to the Black community he grew up in. “They were the holy grail, the north star, the rock, immovable and unquestioned.” Even under Jim Crow, he said, the adults around him – including his grandfather, who had no formal education – understood that equality came from God, not from governments who could then withdraw them. In his thinking, “Others with power and animus could treat us as unequal,” he said, “but they lacked the divine power to make us so.” Thomas then turned to progressivism, which, he argued, dismissed natural rights as “a lot of nonsense.” “Progressivism holds that our rights and our dignities come not from God, but from government.” Thomas stated further that “it requires of the people a subservience and weakness incompatible with a constitution premised on the transcendent origin of our rights.” Thomas ended his speech with a direct appeal to the students present. “Nothing in the Declaration of Independence, I now realize, matters without that final sentence,” he said, referring to its closing. “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.” “Courage, like cowardice, can be habit forming,” Thomas concluded, “and it will become a part of who you are.” There are two sides to this argument. Let’s now suppose a good old-fashioned Oxford-style debate. “RESOLVED: The argument, that the rights of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness are a natural endowment coming from the Creator and not from governments instituted among

men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed, is not an accurate interpretation of what the Founding Fathers intended.” In the **affirmative (for the resolution)**: “The Founders did not intend a separation between divine endowment and political authority. They intended a balance.” (*We have heard today that the Declaration grounds rights in a Creator—and that is true. But it is only half the truth. The Founders did not leave us with an abstract claim about human dignity; they paired it immediately with a practical necessity: government.*)” In the **negative (against resolution)**: “Rights exist prior to government—and therefore cannot be legitimately taken away by it.” (*The Declaration answers clearly. It does not say that rights arise from law or consent. It says they are endowed—given, inherent, and prior to any human institution. Government is necessary, yes—but only as a servant, not a source.*)

ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION

Sunday, May 31, 2026



Animals are valuable members of our families and community. Indeed, pets are some of our greatest teachers and companions. Our Unitarian Universalist 1st and 7th Principles state ‘We Affirm and Promote: The inherent worth and Dignity of every being. The 7th Principle reminds us that we are a part of The Interdependent Web of all existence.

This May has a 5th Sunday which means another Animal Shelter will receive donations from All Faiths friends and members. Please consider bringing items such as dry and wet food, blankets, towels, cleaning products, pet store gift cards.



All Faiths donations from the March collection benefitting Guardians of Florida Rescue (GOFAR).

HUNGER TEAM NEWS

by David Donovan

Our All Faiths Hunger Team is delighted to launch Muffin Mix May, the next installment in our monthly food drive series supporting the Gladiolus Food Pantry in Fort Myers.

Muffin mix may seem like a small thing, but it offers something powerful: a quick, comforting, kid friendly treat that families can make together, even with limited time or kitchen resources. The pantry has shared that baking mixes—especially muffins—are among the items that bring the most joy to households with children and elders alike.

Throughout May, we invite you to bring boxes or pouches of any variety of muffin or brownie mix to the collection box in the sanctuary lobby. Blueberry, chocolate chip, banana nut, gluten free (even brownies)—every flavor helps create a moment of sweetness for a neighbor who could use one.

By focusing on one item each month, we're helping the pantry keep its shelves reliably stocked while making it simple for everyone in our congregation to participate. Together, we're building a steady rhythm of compassion—one month, one item, one act of care at a time.

Let's make Muffin Mix May rise to the occasion.

CONVERSATIONS AFTER SERVICE

with Frank Stephens and Ed Turpin

Sundays following service unless there is a conflicting event.

You are invited to join us after service outside on the porch for conversations. This is an opportunity for congregants to sit and share thoughts and feelings in an open and transparent environment. The participants will be able to offer any subject they wish. Feel free to come and go as you see fit; it is Sunday afternoon and you may not want to be there at the beginning or stay til the end. We will end promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or questions:

Frank Stephens	Ed Turpin
fdinfla99@gmail.com	letfire1000@gmail.com
239-747-4976	773-715-3926



Ice Cream Social

Next one on May 31, 2026
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Ken Malkin, Treasurer

Cash Assets – March 2026

First Horizon Checking	\$ 3,655
Raymond James Legacy	5,281
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	24,184
First Horizon Capital Reserve	1,519
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	35,883
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	27,792
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	22,836
Live Oak Legacy Savings	18,839

Total	\$139,989
Prior Month	<u>147,533</u>
Net Gain/Loss	(\$ -7,544)

March 2026 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 19,799
Operating Expense	<u>18,750</u>
Net Gain/Loss	\$ 1,049

Comments: More extensive comments will be made in the future as I learn how to navigate our accounts online.

We paid GC the \$5,000 deposit for the upcoming renovations from the Legacy funds at Live Oaks

We will not be renewing the Live Oak Legacy CD so that those funds will also be available for the Capital Campaign.

March interest income was \$372.

We collected \$464 in our March Share the Plate for the Community Soup Kitchen.

Our CD interest rate at Live Oaks is 4.1% and the Live Oaks Savings account interest is 2.85%.

We kicked off our 2026 Capital Campaign for renovations on April 12. At the time of this publication we have raised \$30,908 towards our goal of \$75,000. Thank you for your investment in All Faiths' future.

A Garden Called Mother

By ChatGPT (Public Domain)

In the garden where love first grew,
Blooms a rose kissed by morning dew.
Soft hands, strong heart, eyes so bright,
She tucks us in with stars each night.

No treasure richer, no jewel so rare,
As the warmth of her endless care.
A whisper, a hug, a word so wise—
She lifts the moon into our skies.



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RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

David Donovan, Chair

“Yep, I’m Gay.”

– Ellen DeGeneres in 1997

Important events in Gay History for April



April 27, 1953 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450 banning gay and lesbian individuals from working for the Federal Government, citing them as a security risk.

April 7, 1966 The first gay community center in the history

of the LGBTQ+ community opened in the United States in San Francisco.

April 8, 1974 The American Psychiatric Association removes its sickness definition of HOMOSEXUALITY.

April 11, 1978 San Francisco mayor George Moscone signs sweeping gay rights law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations in the private sector.

April 24, 1980 San Francisco resident Ken Horne is the first person in the US to be officially recognized to have a disease later known as AIDS

April 1, 1998 Coretta Scott King, MLK's widow, calls on the civil rights movement to support LGBT rights.

April 15, 2015 The Florida Senate repeals 1977 ban on homosexual adoption

April 26, 2000 Vermont becomes the first state to legalize civil unions for same sex couples

As I looked back over this past month, I felt called to lift up key moments in LGBTQ+ history for April — reminders that progress, though often painfully slow, is real and hard won. Even now, as our country takes troubling steps backward, especially in the rights and dignity of our Trans siblings, we cannot lose sight of the long arc of justice. These are the moments when we must stand tall, stand proud, and stand together. Visibility matters. Solidarity matters. Courage matters. And every time we show up — in celebration, in protest, in community, in love — we help write the next chapter of that long, unfinished story.

Upcoming Pride Events

I’m deeply grateful to everyone who showed up for Naples Pride last month. Your presence was a testament to the truth that we do not back down in the face of political winds. We remain vigilant. We remain united. And we

refuse to let fear or division define our future. United we stand, divided we fall — and our community continues to rise.

In truly exciting news, Fort Myers has announced a full Pride celebration in downtown Fort Myers, right in front of the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center**, on Saturday, June 13th from 2–10 PM. This is huge — not tucked away, not hidden, but centered, visible, and celebrated.

Visibility has taken the lead in making this happen, and their persistence has paid off. The event will include street closures, indoor and rooftop spaces, and a vibrant, public celebration of LGBTQ+ life. And yes — **All Faiths will have a booth**. This is our chance to show Fort Myers that we are here, we are joyful, and we are Out, Loud & Proud. Sometimes, progress really does break through — even in Florida.

Welcoming Congregation: Days of Observance

We’ve now completed 2 of the 6 Days of Observance for our Welcoming Congregation renewal:

- **International Transgender Day of Visibility – March 29**
- **Lesbian Visibility Day – April 26**

Our first full worship service for this cycle will be in June for Pride Month. If you have ideas, creative sparks, or a desire to help shape that service, please reach out soon. We’re working hard toward our third annual renewal, and every voice matters.

The Rainbow Connection team meets on the **second Sunday of every month at noon**. If you’re curious, passionate, or simply seeking community, you are warmly invited. This is how we build the future — together, one gathering at a time.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



the Climate Action Team May meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2nd. Look for link in your email.

Thanks for your patience.

Planting the Tree for Our Future

Capital Fundraising Campaign – Goal – Approximately \$75,000

Campaign will run through July 5, 2026 - **Raised at time of publication: \$30,908!**

Last Sundays of Each Month

May 31- Second Collection for Capital Fundraising Campaign

June 28 - Second Collection for Capital Fundraising Campaign

July 5 - Noon - Cookout after service and report on Campaign results

Highlights of Contract for Renovation

Contractor – Black Sand Construction

(They did repairs to our building after Hurricane Ian and also our Street Sign on McGregor)

Total Bid to Date - \$118,876 (including a 10% contingency).

Approximately \$20,000 for Wall & Two 4' Doors with hurricane windows to divide Social Hall

Balance \$98,876 for expanding the Front Doors and Foyer out 10 feet

Adding a layer of plywood to strengthen the stage floor.

Construction to be done in September and/or October

Downpayment – \$5,000 down to cover upfront cost of the custom doors in Social Hall.

About 50% (minus \$5,000) at start of construction – probably September. And final 50% payment after completion and passing city inspection.

Note: If we have to cancel before start of construction our only cost would be \$5,000 and the contractor would deliver the doors to us for future use.

Carpeting Tiles

Mixed color tight-weave commercial carpet tiles have been chosen for easy replacement of individual tiles if stains cannot be removed. *Cost would likely be covered out of Capital Reserves*

This renovation has been part of All Faiths' long-term strategic plan for approximately six years. *The goal is to create a better space for Religious Education of our youth (currently in the minister's office) and to enlarge the foyer which is too small and congestive feeling when people are arriving for services.* Over the past two years, the architectural plans have been produced and all City Permits have been obtained. Now that we've *Grown Our Spiritual Garden*, it's time to finally *Plant the Tree to All Faiths Future!* Please be part of this exciting new journey with your generous donations.

Ways to Contribute:

Check - You can make contributions by check, and write Capital in lower left corner.

Cash - You can contribute cash during second collections on the last Sundays of April, May and June.

Stocks – You can instruct your stock broker to transfer designated stocks to the All Faiths Unitarian Congregation account at Raymond James. (You can get the account number from Regina Kilmartin). Upon instruction, they will sell the stocks and send a check from the proceeds to All Faiths. By making the direct transfer of stocks, you can avoid income taxes on capital gains on the stocks.

IRA Qualified Charitable Contributions – You can send instructions to make a charitable distribution from your IRA accounts payable to All Faiths Unitarian Congregation. They will make the check payable All Faiths, c/o you and your address. When you receive the check, you can deliver it to All Faiths. By making the distribution directly to All Faiths, you avoid income taxes on your minimal required distributions.

NO KINGS PROTEST



All Faiths represented at the last No Kings Protest. Michelle Gemma, Regina Kilmartin, Barb McFarlane, and Carlos Garcia (above) were among 30 or more All Faithers who showed up at the rally!

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

Executive Board: David Donovan, Chair; Dick Scudder, Vice Chair; Ken Malkin, Treasurer; Barb McFarlane, Secretary.

Directors: Brian Bigelow, Marge DiGalbo, Frank Geltner, Carol Heilsberg, Susan Snow

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

Minister: Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer

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Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

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Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin/Becky Ross

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Rev. Ron Archer/Joyce Ramay

Hospitality

Frank Stephens

Program Support

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

Member Services

Dick Scudder

Greeters

Dick Scudder

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Frank Geltner

Nominating Committee

Sharon Gray

Sound Technicians

David Donovan/Brad Davidson

Livestreaming

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

Brad Davidson

Building and Grounds

Brian Bigelow/Jay Peters

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

Racial Equity Team

t/b/d

L.I.F.E.

Ken Malkin

Barb McFarlane

JoAnn Hilliard

Cindy Thompson

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

David Donovan



Deadline for the **June** Issue of *Connections* is **May 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