



Where you *belong!*

# CONNECTIONS

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

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The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for.

– Norman Vincent Peale

Happy  
Thanksgiving



The Board meeting was held on October 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

The board approved the preliminary budget which will be used by the Stewardship Committee to prepare for our upcoming 2024-2025 Stewardship Pledge Drive. The Pledge Drive begins in January and wraps up in February. This is a goal budget which will be adjusted accordingly once the pledge drive wraps up. Thank you to the Finance Committee for their proposal which reflects a modest increase of less than 2 percent over last year's budget.

After a plea from the UUA Disaster Relief Fund for donations to help UU congregations affected by the recent hurricanes, Helene and Milton, the board approved a second collection during services at the last two Sundays in October. In addition to monies collected at service, the board

agreed to donate an additional \$5,000 to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund. All Faiths was the beneficiary of a \$16,500 grant to cover the cost of our insurance premium after Hurricane Ian in 2022.

The board discussed the idea of addressing the Israeli Palestinian (1880) question without being too controversial. We agreed to seek out a means to do this.

A need has arisen for the congregation to have some way of coordinating internal communications between its social justice teams and external outreach to the community. More on this in December.

Each month the board reviews the organizational chart to make sure we have the names of all who are actively involved in the life of the congregation.

The board is involved in a year-long review of the Congregational Manual.

It has become clear that the congregation is in need of more volunteers. Efforts are underway to make this known to the congregation.

Congregants are encouraged to reach out to your board members with any comments, concerns, or suggestions you may have.

The next Board Meeting will be held on November 20, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

All Faiths will hold a small memorial service and bricklaying ceremony for Carol and Ed Elrod after service on Sunday, November 17, 2024.

The Elrods were founding members of All Faiths. We are grateful for their many contributions and dedication to our loving congregation.

**INTERFAITH EVENING OF PRAYER FOR THE NATION**

Join us in praying together for fair elections, democracy, and peace for our nation

**Monday, Nov 4th at 7:00 PM**

St. John the Apostle MCC  
3049 McGregor Blvd  
Ft Myers, FL 33901



**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.)*

**November** - Operation Joy - Holiday Happiness

**December** - Special Collection - Employee Bonuses

**January** - Quality Life Center - Scholarships

**October Share the Plate raised \$691 for St. Matthew's Women's & Children's Shelter!**

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





We have turned the page on the Autumnal Equinox and are moving quickly towards the Winter Solstice and the return of the sun. I recall living in the northeast, settling and snuggling down for the cold dark nights of winter. Here in Southwest Florida, we do not concern ourselves much with the changing weather.

Hot season lasts for 4.8 months, from May 9 to October 2, with an average daily high temperature above 87°F. The hottest month of the year in Fort Myers is August, with an average high of 91°F and low of 75°F. The cool season lasts for 2.7 months, from December 6 to February 26, with an average daily high temperature below 77°F. The coldest month of the year in Fort Myers is January, with an average low of 55°F and high of 74°F.

We continue to welcome back our snowbirds and are grateful to have them return safe and sound. During the month of November, we will participate in our democratic right as citizens of the United States and vote. By now I am sure most of us have a good idea of whom we are voting for. Due to our status as a religious organization, we do not instruct nor tell people whom to vote for. However, as one of the most important civic duties that we can participate in, voting rises to the top. Please make your voice heard. I understand that emotions may be elevated with such an important race before us as the Presidential race, but let us not forget the down ballot. And there is still time to speak with neighbors and friends about the importance of who gets elected and if those whom you vote for are good for the country, not only for one's personal interest.

Because of the tense situation regarding election day and the great divide in this country, I have decided not to offer a watch night party here at All Faiths, also because we may be here all night. However, we have been invited by the SWFL Interfaith Alliance to join them in an evening of prayer, meditation and contemplation the day before the election at 7 p.m. at St. John the Apostle MCC on McGregor Blvd. I am a member of the Alliance and will be participating in the service. I hope to see you there.

Many of you are aware that for several years I have participated in Singfest, offering Poetry Workshops, Sunday morning messages and acting as chaplain during our retreat. Singfest is a women's **Weekend Retreat** for singing, drumming, poetry, self-care, healing, community building...and so much more! Singfest will be held Friday, November 1st, to Sunday, November 3rd - a full Weekend Retreat! **New Location: Dayspring Conference Center, Parrish, Florida.** Near: Sarasota/Bradenton, St. Pete, Tampa Bay, Gulfport. You can find more information on our Facebook page, Singfest 2024, and on the bulletin board in the Community Room.

*Love ~ Minister Albie*

## JOYS & SORROWS

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

*"Joy unspeakable is a symphony of incongruities, of faces aglow and hearts on fire, and the wonder of surviving together." – Dr. Barbara Holmes*

**Judy Alberda's** granddaughter Trasia was in a serious car accident that required extensive surgeries. She is now in a rehab. We hope she recovers soon.

**Marge DiGalbo**, who recently had surgery on her elbow, injured her hand. We hope that she has a quick recovery.

**David Donovan** was attacked by ants in the yard at the All Faiths, and had an allergic reaction. We are glad that he has recovered well.

**Janet Goen** has been in assisted living for some time. She is now receiving hospice care. We hope she has a pain-free and peaceful transition.

**Sharon Gray's** son Rick continues to have many medical issues and requires a lot of care. We hope that he makes beneficial decisions for his wellbeing.

**Pam Pfalzer** fell and broke her elbow, and was hospitalized. Her partner Beth was also in the hospital. Both went home, but Beth will be going for hospice care. We send our blessings to them.

**Michael Pierre** had a procedure for esophageal cancer treatment. We hope that he has good results and recovers soon.

**Nicole Racine** had hip replacement surgery. We hope she heals well and has good results.

**Bill Snider's** son Jon fell and was hospitalized with broken ribs and a punctured lung. Bill has cared for him for over a year after Jon had a traumatic brain injury. Jon is now receiving care at a rehab facility.

We are grateful to those who hosted our people during the hurricane. Also, for those who helped with the cleanup at All Faiths after the storm.

*Joyce Ramay,  
Care & Support Coordinator*



# Happening at All Faiths

*Happy November  
Birthday to you!*



November 5 Linda Runkle  
November 14 Ariel Hoover  
November 15 Doug Deininger  
November 21 David Hauenstein  
November 30 Brian Bigelow

*And Coming Up...*

December 6 Sharon Gray

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

## **Veteran's Day Parade**

Cape Coral Parkway (south side, heading  
west from Cape Coral St. to Chester St.)  
**Saturday, November 9, 2024**  
**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Join us as the community honors our  
American Heroes and pays tribute to those  
who lost their lives, those who served hon-  
orably, and those still proudly serving our  
country. The Veteran's Day Celebration is a  
cooperative effort of the City of Cape Coral  
Parks and Recreation and local community  
volunteers.

## **Solos Monthly Lunch!**

**Saturday, November 2, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Cantina Laredo**  
**5200 Big Pine Way, Fort Myers**  
*check your email for details.*

**RSVP to: Annely Hudanick,**  
**[annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)**

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

## **The All Voices Choir Practice**

**Meeting on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.**

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

## **Tuesday Discussion Group**

**Meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

Join the discussion. Facilitated by Frank Stephens, the group will discuss different aspects from the book, *A Course in Miracles*. All are welcome. Contact Frank Stephens at [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com).

## **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 Regina at [office@allfaithsuo.org](mailto:office@allfaithsuo.org) 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.

# NOVEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>  <b>11pm - 3pm</b> Building Unavailable	<b>2 11am</b> Choir Practice  <b>1pm</b> Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
<b>3 9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP  <b>2-5pm</b> ACMA Circle	<b>4</b>  <b>7pm</b> Prayers for the Nation @ St. John the Apostle (Pg.2)	  <b>6:30pm</b> Miracles Discussion Grp.	<b>6</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Fort Myers Camera Club	<b>7</b>  	<b>8</b>  <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	<b>9 11am</b> Choir Practice  <b>11am</b> Cape Coral Veteran's Day Parade (Pg. 4)
<b>10 9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP  <b>12pm</b> Rainbow Connection  <b>2-5pm</b> ACMA Circle	<b>11 10am</b> Sunday Service Team Mtg.  	<b>12 10am</b> Racial Equity Mtg.  <b>1:30pm</b> Climate Action Team Mtg.  <b>6:30pm</b> Miracles Discussion Grp.	<b>13</b>  	<b>14 10 am</b> Finance Mtg.	<b>15</b>  	<b>16 11am</b> Choir Practice  <b>2pm</b> Sunshine Cluster Webinar  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
<b>17 9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP  McGregor Clinic Collection  <b>2-5pm</b> ACMA Circle	<b>18 12pm</b> Book Club  <b>6:30pm</b> Common Read (Pg. 8)	<b>19 6:30pm</b> Miracles Discussion Grp.	<b>20 1pm</b> Board Mtg.  <b>6:30pm</b> Fort Myers Camera Club	<b>21 1pm</b> Heart for the Homeless Team  <b>7pm</b> Tamiami Tale Tellers	<b>22 2pm</b> Dominoes	<b>23 11am</b> Choir Practice
<b>24 9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP  <b>2-5pm</b> ACMA Circle	<b>25 6:30pm</b> Common Read (Pg. 8)	<b>26 6:30pm</b> Miracles Discussion Grp.	<b>27</b>  		<b>29</b>  	<b>30 11am</b> Choir Practice  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
Visit our website for information on events and programs <a href="http://www.allfaithsuu.org">www.allfaithsuu.org</a>						

## NOVEMBER 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES THEME: THE PRACTICE OF REPAIR

**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.

### November 3

Title – **All Souls: *Dia delos Muertos***

Speaker – Joyce Ramay

Worship Associate – Annely Hudanick

Music by Carlos Garcia

### November 10

Title – **Whys of War**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Helen Dixon

Music by Carlos Garcia

### November 17

Title – **The Ultimate Journey**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

### November 24

Title – **Making Up is Hard to Do**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia

*Life of Congregation Report – Frank Geltner*

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

**News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary**

News Talk is a facilitated group that offers a time and space for you to discuss profound questions.

**Child & Youth Program - 10:30am  
in the Robinson Room**  
with Sharon Heinrich

**The Rainbow Connection - 12:30pm  
in the Sanctuary**

Your connection to LGBTQ allies and friends.  
All are welcome.

## NOVEMBER SHARES THE PLATE WITH OPERATION JOY!

The most wonderful time of the year is just around the corner, just go to any big box store and you will be greeted by twinkling lights and a plethora of make believe festive plastic!

However, not everyone is looking forward to these times filled with joy and laughter. Too many families are struggling to put food on the table and meet basic needs.

Operation Joy, with your generous donations, hopes to be able to help again this year. Please help us to make 2024 another wonderful year!

During the month of November you can make a Share-the-Plate donation with Operation Joy. Make checks payable to All Faiths, with “Op Joy” in the memo line.

## CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

*by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director*

This month “Repairing” is the faith practice that we will explore. What does repairing mean? How does “repairing” help us embody love in our daily lives? With an array of fun and meaningful activities, each session lifts up a different way that “repairing” is important in our lives as we connect to ourselves, each other and the world. We will have a chance to encourage each other to live the best version of ourselves. The theme of repair and the metaphor of tools of repair suggest the idea of construction, especially the idea that we human beings are constantly “under construction,” growing more and more into the best versions of ourselves.

**November 3:** Democracy (The Tool to Repair Not Having a Say) Games and stories to help understand voting.

**November 10:** Memory (The Tool to Repair Loss). Stories about memories. Sharing memories of love ones who are not with us. Memory tree

**November 17:** Kindness (The Tool to Repair Meanness) Games and stories about kindness. Kindness bracelets

**November 24:** Honesty (The Tool to Repair Lies). “The Boy Who Cried Wolf”. Games, stories and songs to explore this topic.

I would like to encourage our congregation to share talent, skill 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.

**REGISTER AT: [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)**

## RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Nicole Racine, Co-Chair

The Racial Equity Team continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. We spent the past year working through Layla F. Saad's *me and white supremacy* a book written to combat racism, change the world, and help its readers become good ancestors. To quote the author:

*White supremacy is arguably the most complex social **system** of the last several hundred years. If only the answer was to be nice and keep smiling! But, of course, there are no easy answers for ending white supremacy.*

The authors final note reads as follows:

*I began this book by telling you about my purpose, which is to become a good ancestor. To leave this world in a better place than I found it, for my children and for everyone else who is and who will be impacted by my being here on the planet today.*

*To dismantle this system of oppression and marginalization that has hurt so many for so many generations, we need all of us. You can continue to unconsciously allow white supremacy to use you as it used your ancestors, to cause an impact of harm and marginalization to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color). Or you can intentionally choose to disrupt and dismantle white supremacy within yourself and your communities so that BIPOC can live free of racism and oppression. The choice is yours. The moment is now. Help change the world. Become a good ancestor.*

The Racial Equity Team is currently working on deciding what would be the best way to tackle antiracism in our community.

## NEW BUILDING/GROUNDS CREW

Good news! We have a new B&G Crew! *Frank Gelter* and *Brian Bigelow* will co-chair Buildings & Grounds. Frank will focus on buildings, and Brian will focus on grounds, but together they will work on beautification of our property, planning and planting native species, and recruiting volunteers. *It's important to be the prettiest church on McGregor Boulevard!*

We are grateful to Bob DiGalbo (Buildings) and Judy Alberda (Grounds) for their many years of volunteerism in these important roles. We appreciate their knowledge, participation and dedication.

If you would like to volunteer with B&G, please contact Frank or Brian. They will certainly appreciate the help.

## LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT UPDATES

by Robert Bennett, Team Leader

Affordable housing is very much on the front burner, as well as the injustice being done to those of low income and the homeless. Many are caught in a catch-22 scenario. Some make "too much money" to qualify for affordable housing but too little to afford market rate housing. As for the homeless, not only is there almost no shelters available, but the State of Florida, makes it illegal for people struggling with homelessness to sleep outside on public land, such as parks or park benches. How a community treats their less fortunate is among the truest test to show what kind of people live in that community.

LIFE was able to get the city to change requirements for the Housing Trust Fund that will benefit more residents in need. This follow-up and advocacy around housing will continue as well as work around mental health.

Because LIFE currently has these irons in the fire, there is no plan at this time to have a Nehemiah Action in 2025. Instead, early in the year there will be a LIFE Family Gathering & meet and greet. More details will be forthcoming.

With love and appreciation from All Faiths' LIFE Leaders, *Barb McFarlane, JoAnn Hilliard and Team Chair, Robert Bennett.*

## GROWING CONGREGATIONS

with Peter Bowden

**Promoting Connection, Meaning, and Membership**  
**Sunshine Cluster Annual Meeting**  
**Sat., Nov. 16, 2024, 2:00 pm**

To Register and receive a Zoom link please send your name & congregation to [sunshinecluster2023@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinecluster2023@gmail.com)

Whether you're looking to strengthen small groups, host more engaging community events, or build relationships that grow your congregation, this session will offer practical insights for congregational leaders of all experience levels.

Peter Bowden is known for his work helping Unitarian Universalist congregations grow by promoting connection, meaning, and membership, both online and onsite. He specializes in integrating a wide range of connecting strategies—including digital tools, in-person groups, social media, and small group ministries.

*Watch at home, or join a group watching at All Faiths.*

# Social Action & Outreach

*Live Life with Purpose*

## **RAINBOW CONNECTIONS TEAM**

**Meeting on 2nd Sunday of the Month at 12 p.m.**

The Rainbow Connections is an inclusive group that supports the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome. **Contact: Frank Stephens:** [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com).

## **CLIMATE ACTION TEAM (CAT)**

**Meeting on 1st Tuesday of the Month at 1:30 a.m.**

**Via Zoom (Link Emailed Prior to Meeting)**

Join the regularly scheduled meeting of the Climate Action Team, where we work together to learn to live sustainably and protect our planet for ourselves and future generations. All are welcome. **Contact: Joan Marshall:** [jfmdbm@yahoo.com](mailto:jfmdbm@yahoo.com)

## **RACIAL EQUITY TEAM**

**Meeting on 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 10 a.m.**

The Racial Equity Team meets once a month. You are invited to join them as they work towards becoming proactive anti-racists. **Contacts: Nicole Racine** [nracine\\_1948@yahoo.com](mailto:nracine_1948@yahoo.com) and **Frank Geltner** [frank@newportnet.com](mailto:frank@newportnet.com)

## **HEART FOR THE HOMELESS TEAM**

**Meeting on 3rd Thursday of the Month at 1 p.m.**

All are welcome to attend the regularly scheduled meeting. Come learn what All Faiths is doing to help our local in-need community. **Contacts: Barb McFarlane** [mcfarlanebar@gmail.com](mailto:mcfarlanebar@gmail.com), or **Judy Alberda** [judyalberda@yahoo.com](mailto:judyalberda@yahoo.com)

## **McGREGOR CLINIC COLLECTION**

**Donations Accepted on 3rd Sunday of the Month**

Donate men's and women's clothing and non-perishable foods to Florida's number one AIDS/HIV Clinic.

**Contact: Joyce Schaffer:** [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

## **ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION**

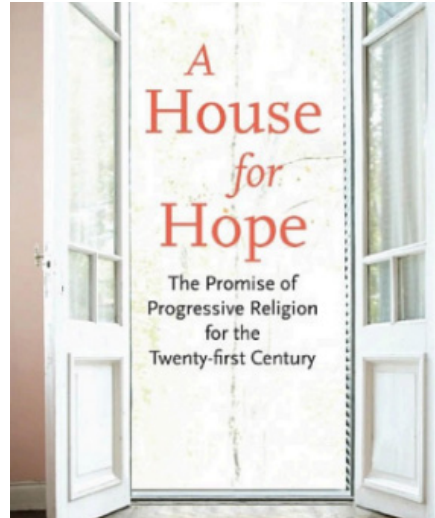
**Donations Accepted on 5th Sunday of the Month**

Donate dog and cat food, cleaning supplies and bedding materials to area animal shelters. **Contact: Sharon Gray:**

[geemal@yahoo.com](mailto:geemal@yahoo.com)

# ALL FAITHS COMMON READ

7 Weeks - Starting Monday, November 18 - 6:30 p.m.



Our minister, Alberita, will facilitate a Common Book Read this fall. The book is entitled "*A House for Hope - The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century.*" by John Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker. Booklist calls it "*A thoughtful meditation on religion, duty, and the common good.*"

**Monday evenings at 6:30 pm.** If you are interested in participating, ***please sign up on the bulletin board.*** Book are \$18 and available through Albie.

## **FOR THE HOMELESS TEAM**

*by Barb McFarlane, Co Chair*

A big thank you to everyone who donated to October's Share the Plate for St. Matthew's House Women's shelter.

A tour of the new women's shelter will take place Thursday, November 7. This will start with a 4:00 p.m. screening of the documentary "Americans with no Address" at the Next Level Church (next door to the shelter), followed by a tour of the shelter with light refreshments about 6:00 p.m. If St. Matthew's idea of "light" refreshments matches what was provided at the tour when construction started this spring, it will be well worth showing up to learn how this shelter will provide for women and children.

An RSVP is required. Please let me know if you would like to carpool or can drive others to this event at 3737 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., or have any questions. It's an exciting opportunity to learn more about this new Fort Myers resource for homeless women of all ages and children.

All are welcome to stop by this team's monthly meeting Thursday, November 21, at 1:00 p.m. We are especially eager to hear your thoughts on the tour and movie.

## CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



The All Faiths Climate Action Team was formed nearly ten years ago, in 2015. Since its inception it has reached out to other organizations concerned with climate and the preservation of our environment. We've participated in the formation and activities of local chapters of national groups, such

as Al Gore's Climate Reality and the Citizens Climate Lobby. We deeply appreciate the support which the All Faiths congregation has given to our efforts. Now we are asking you to engage more directly in an exciting new effort to bring multiple local environmental groups and concerned individuals together in a shared effort to protect and preserve the precious natural world we call home. We have formed a collaborative group known as the Southwest Florida EcoAlliance. You'll find us on Facebook (SWFL EcoAlliance.). This is what you'll discover:

**About this group: SWFL EcoAlliance is the newly formed group of individuals and members of environmental, sustainability and climate groups in SW Florida that work together on a regional level to coordinate & share efforts to enhance sustainable, pragmatic practices & actions, education, promote effective change, influence decision makers and foster conversations.**

**Public** Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post.

**Visible** Anyone can find this group.

**History:** Group created on July 30, 2024.

We encourage you to sign on and become a part of this online effort to expand our reach and engage the wider community in our environmental efforts. If we are indeed to protect our world for our children and grandchildren, the time to act is now. Please join us on Facebook as we reach out to the Southwest Florida community. Your support will help make a difference.

*"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything"*

– Albert Einstein

## RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

by David Donovan & Frank Stephens, Co-Chairs



Dear All Faith's members!! Hopefully everyone has recovered from last month's double dose of Helene and Milton! We anxiously await the end of hurricane season and look forward to the return of our beloved Snowbirds. We also send out positive thoughts to the Rainbow Connection members that are in need of healing and we hope to see you soon.

I would like to personally invite anyone interested in getting involved with LGBTQ+ interests in the community and congregation at large. Come see us individually or show up at our next regularly scheduled meeting to see what we are all about. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 12:00pm after service.

It's official!! The city of Fort Myers will be holding a Pride Event this year!! It is scheduled for Saturday November 16th 2024, at the Alliance for the Arts from 2:00pm to 7:00pm. We will hopefully have a booth or at least a presence at the event.

The next SWFL Harmony Chamber mixer will be hosted by The McGregor Clinic on Thursday, November 21, 2024 5:30 PM to 7:30pm. If anyone is interested in attending, please let one of us know. This is a good opportunity to learn more about the SWFL Harmony Chamber and The McGregor Clinic.

Our final steps towards renewing our "Welcoming Congregation" status for All Faiths are almost complete. We have one last Day of Observance, which is Trans Day of Remembrance, to be held on Nov 17th, along with a final Worship Service for National Coming Out Day on Oct 20th. Final paperwork to renew can be submitted in December.

Also, we plan on honoring World AIDS Day at All Faith's on Dec 1st with our partner, the McGregor Clinic, who is invited to talk about their outreach work and the status of the epidemic and the stigma that still exists in our community.

The Rainbow Connection will be sponsoring a Lasagna Luncheon (with salad and dessert) on December 8th right after Sunday Service for \$5.00 a plate. Proceeds to benefit Cape Coral Pride.

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help, please contact one of us below:

Frank Stephens: [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com)

David Donovan: [ddonovan722@gmail.com](mailto:ddonovan722@gmail.com)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

## Cash Assets – September 2024

First Horizon Checking	\$ 27,701
Raymond James Legacy	5,230
Pay Pal	35
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	22,627
First Horizon Capital Reserve	8,784
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	23,859
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	42,169
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	21,385

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$151,790</b>
Prior Month	153,910
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>(-\$ 2,120)</b>

## September 2024 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 13,577
Operating Expense	15,798
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>(-\$ 2,221)</b>

## Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

As we entered the new 2024-2025 fiscal year on April 1, All Faiths budgeted \$200,200 for pledge giving; to date, actual pledges have totaled \$185,160 (92.5%).

Our Pledge Goal for the months of April to September was \$100,102; and \$83,637 was received (83.6%). However, before April 1, 2024, \$24,757 was received in paid pledges towards the new year. Taking this into account, we have received a total of \$108,394 towards the current year total pledge drive goal of \$200,200 (54.1%).

No unusual expenses incurred in the General Fund Operating Account during September.

The Board approved the consolidation of several accounts to streamline accounting and to further increase interest income. These changes were made before the end of March 2024 and are reflected in the figures listed above. September's Interest Income was \$390.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, several new accounts were created at Live Oak to generate increased interest income. The 1 Year CD rate is 5.0%. And the Savings rate is currently at 4.0%.

The September monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,530 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. In September, the new toilets were paid for at a total cost of 1,125, and funding was from Capital Reserves.

In September, \$401 was collected for the SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team).

# NOVEMBER SUNDAY QUESTIONS

by Alberita Johnson, CL Minister



These questions are part of *Soul Matters Sharing Circle* that we subscribe to, they are designed to enhance our service by seeking to impact us not only as a congregation but individually as well. Listening is a crucial part of our ability to communicate and be understood clearly.

Hopefully "Sunday Questions" will stimulate us to go deeper into our themes every month. Enjoy!

## 1st Sunday-Sunday Question to Consider

*Who first repaired you by not trying to fix you?*

## 2nd Sunday-Sunday Question to Consider

*Has your body ever known, more clearly than your mind, what you needed to heal?*

## 3rd Sunday-Sunday Question to Consider

*How would your life change if you committed to giving yourself a dose of joy once-a-week?*

## 4th Sunday-Sunday Question to Consider

*Have you ever swallowed your grief because others were uncomfortable with it or unwilling to make room for it? What would you say or do now that you weren't safe to say or do at that time?*



## Saturday, November 2 - 7:00pm

Jefferson Ross in Concert  
Matt Hannam opening

## Saturday, November 16 - 7:00pm

David G. Smith in Concert  
Ray Boone opening

## Saturday, November 23 - 7:00pm

Blue Cactus in Concert  
Pete Bensen opening

## The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida  
General public \$18/Member discount \$12  
Donations at the Door

# ANOTHER HURRICANE - ANOTHER GREAT TEAM EFFORT!

Thank you to everyone who helped pick up the pieces, again, after Hurricane Milton came through. Our congregants never hesitate to help, not only after hurricanes, but anytime we need a team of people who are not afraid to get dirty. There are too many of you to name (many not in the photo below), but know that All Faiths is extremely grateful for your help. You all turn tedious tasks into fun and camaraderie! We appreciate you all.



Save the Date!  
 Invite your family!  
 Bring a potluck dish!  
 Sign up on the  
 bulletin board.



**All Faiths Friends & Family  
 Appreciation Day**

**Saturday, January 11, 2025  
 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

**Lakes Regional Park  
 Pavilion B-2  
 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers**

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

**Because we appreciate you!**

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

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

**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:** Frank Geltner, Chair; Dick Scudder, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Diane Chernow, Secretary; Marge DiGalbo, Past Chair, Ex-Officio, Non-Voting.

**Directors:** David Donovan, Rosalie Kuehn, Ken Malkin, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson.

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

**Commissioned Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson**

**Communications**

*Newsletter*  
 Regina Kilmartin  
*Proofreaders*  
 Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay  
*Social Media & Website*  
 Regina Kilmartin/Becky Ross

**Sunday Service Team**

Joyce Ramay

**Hospitality**

Nicole Racine/Frank Stephens

**Program Support**

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

**Member Services**

Dottie Mayol/Carole Latino

*Greeters*

Dick Scudder

*Care and Support*

Joyce Ramay

**Finance**

Joyce Ramay

**Stewardship Committee**

t/b/d

**Nominating Committee**

Sharon Gray

**Sound Technician**

Brad Davidson

**Livestreaming**

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray  
 Brad Davidson

**Building and Grounds**

Frank Geltner/Brian Bigelow

**Social Action & Outreach**

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

*Heart for the Homeless*

Barb McFarlane

*Racial Equity Team*

Nicole Racine/Frank Geltner

*L.I.F.E.*

Robert Bennett,  
 Barb McFarlane  
 JoAnn Hilliard

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

*Operation Joy & Solos Group*

Annelly Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

Sharon Gray

*Rainbow Connection*

Frank Stephens  
 David Donovan

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



Deadline for the **December** Issue of *Connections* is **November 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