



# CONNECTIONS

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

## Inside

|                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| Board Notes.....                        | 2  |
| Sunday Collection Schedule.....         | 2  |
| A Word from Rev. Ron.....               | 3  |
| <i>by Rev. Dr. Ron Archer, Minister</i> |    |
| Joys & Sorrows.....                     | 3  |
| Happening at All Faiths.....            | 4  |
| July 2026 Calendar.....                 | 5  |
| August 2026 Calendar .....              | 6  |
| July/Aug. Sunday Service Schedule.....  | 7  |
| Armchair Philosophy.....                | 8  |
| All Faiths' Women's Group Recap.....    | 8  |
| Treasurer's Report.....                 | 9  |
| Rainbow Connection News.....            | 10 |
| Climate Action Team News.....           | 10 |
| Hunger Team News.....                   | 11 |
| Chair Yoga.....                         | 11 |
| Men's Group Karaoke.....                | 11 |
| ACMA Concert Lineup.....                | 11 |
| New Immigration Team.....               | 12 |

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL MET!



Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, we are delighted to announce that we have officially met our \$75,000 Capital Campaign goal for building renovations.

Your investment in All Faiths' future reflects the deep love and commitment you hold for this spiritual home. We are profoundly grateful.

Construction is expected to begin near the end of August. We will keep you informed about the timeline and the temporary location for our services during the renovation period.

The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

Dear Friends,

With summer upon us, I first want to wish each of you a healthy, joyful, and restorative season. I also want to share a few reflections that have shaped our life at All Faiths in recent weeks.

Pride as a Season of Courage and Connection - Gay Pride Month offered us more than celebration — it offered clarity about who we are and who we aspire to be and strengthened our identity as a congregation that is committed to radical welcome, public witness, and spiritual courage. Our presence at SWFL Pride, right in the heart of downtown Ft Myers, was full of energy and visibility in our community/

On another Pride note, July is designated as Disability Pride Month. It reminds us that disability is not a deficit — it is a powerful expression of human diversity. This month is dedicated to pride, inclusion, and the ongoing fight for full rights and respect for people with disabilities, where we celebrate identity, challenge stigma, and recommit ourselves to a world where every body and every mind is valued.

Growing Congregation - I am so proud to see All Faiths members becoming more engaged in activities within the congregation – especially those who are stepping up to volunteer and take leadership positions. I want to recognize the following new outreach and social activities emerging. They are being very well received.

- Hunger Team
- Immigration Resource Support Team
- Women’s Social Group
- Men’s Social Group
- Chair Yoga - We had 15 participants at the 1st event

Late Spring Clean Up: Gratitude for a Beautiful Day of Service - Our clean up brought a burst of energy and care to the All Faiths facility, and we are so grateful to everyone who showed up with gloves, tools, laughter, and a spirit of community. Thanks to your hard work, our grounds are refreshed, our gardens are thriving, and our entryway is ready to welcome members, newcomers, and summer visitors with beauty and pride.

Building Renovation Campaign: A Milestone Reached Together - I want to

acknowledge, with deep gratitude, that in a remarkably short time our congregation met—and even exceeded—our goal for the Building Renovation Campaign.

The renovation team is now preparing to begin work with the contractor as early as August 17, with completion expected no later than October. In addition to enlarging the entryway and creating a more spacious presence, we will be creating a meeting room to hold our Children’s Education classes, as well as replacing the carpeting throughout the building. During the 6–8 weeks of construction, the team is exploring temporary locations for Sunday services. If that is not possible, we may have to resort to virtual services. We will share details as soon as plans are finalized.

Social Media Outreach - Expanding Our Digital Welcome - I want to give a huge shout out to our new Social Media Outreach initiative, launching in the near future. Sydney Burns is stepping in to help expand our online presence by establishing All Faiths on TikTok and Instagram. Sydney shares more about this exciting project in her article in this

(continued on page 9)

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.)

- June** - Cape Coral Pride (Rainbow Connection)
- July** - St. Martin de Porres (Immigration Resource Support)
- August** - Quality Life Center Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

*June Share the Plate raised \$355 for Cape Coral Pride*

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



## A WORD FROM REV. RON

by Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer, Minister



### Only love is spoken here.

What makes All Faiths a special and beautiful place is all of you. It's a place where we learn to love, forgive and support each other as a beloved community.

Let this be an Oasis in the desert of despair, politics, judgment, and condemnation. There is one solemn vow we make to one another: Only love is spoken here on Sunday mornings.

### THIS IS OUR OASIS

What is an oasis? An oasis is a life-giving place of water and growth in the middle of a dry, barren environment—literally or figuratively. This is our healing place, our safe place, our place of restoration... Before you speak to someone here in our Oasis on Sunday, ask these questions:

Is it loving?

Is it affirming?

Is it healing?

Is it kind?

Is it unifying?

If not, table it for another time, space and place.

Only love is spoken here. All Faiths is "A loving, safe place where people can be fully seen, fully known, and still fully accepted."

"When love is present and judgment is absent, hearts open, healing begins, and a safe place is born."

"We create sacred space when we lead with love, listen with compassion, and welcome without condition"

Safety is not built by rules alone, but by love, respect, and the courage to make people feel they truly belong. Love builds the walls of safety, and acceptance opens the door.

There are four words for love in Greek

Agape = I will sacrifice for you.

Philia = We will be united in friendship and purpose.

Storge = You are family and I will be tender and kind to you.

Eros = I am romantically attracted to you. You feel me with  
Passion



## JOYS & SORROWS

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

**Judy Alberda** fell and fractured her wrist. We hope that she has a complete and good recovery.

**Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer's** mother was in an auto accident. The car that she was in went over a cliff into Lake Erie. Fortunately, she was not seriously injured and EMT people were able to rescue her.

**Sydney Burns'** mother had serious infections after surgery, that required additional surgeries and treatments. We hope that she heals well.

**Brad and Becky Davidson** celebrated their 40th anniversary. We share their joy.

**David Donovan's** dog, Lourdes, died at the age of 14. We extend our sympathy to him for this loss.

**Joe Gayton's** nephew who was a tank engineer in the military died from the effects of Agent Orange.

**Vanessa Gilyard** shared her sorrow after learning of the deaths of two old friends from drug overdoses. We extend our sympathy to her.

**Carolyn Lucas's** cousin died. We extend our sympathy to her and her family.

**Ken Malkin's** brother-in-law died. We extend our sympathy to him and his family.

**Joan Marshall** shared the joy that in her travels she met her 30-day old great grand niece.

**Dottie Mayol** shared her joy that after a year of debilitating pain she is feeling great again.

**Lewis Robinson's** nephew died. We extend our sympathy to him and his family.

**Our LGBTQ members** expressed appreciation for the Fort Myers Pride celebration, and also for the friendly fellowship at All Faiths.

We appreciate all the people who showed up for our Annual Spring Cleaning of our building and lawns.

### We Are Each Other's Keepers

*Joyce Ramay,  
Care & Support Coordinator*

## Happy July

### Birthday to you!



July 3 Becky Ross  
July 5 Jan Guardiano  
July 7 Regina Kilmartin  
July 7 Cindy Thompson  
July 12 John Conrad  
July 19 Joe Gayton  
July 22 David Donovan  
July 25 Richard Scudder  
July 27 Barb McFarlane  
July 27 Carlos Garcia  
July 30 Doug Cartwright  
July 31 Bob DiGalbo

## Happy August

### Birthday to you!



August 12 Joan Marshall  
August 15 Jackie Wendorf

## And Coming Up...

September 07 Brad Davidson  
September 07 Amanda Mejias

## Solos Luncheon!

Saturday, July 4, 2026  
1:00 p.m.

No luncheon in July  
Check emails for August.

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](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

## Happening at All Faiths

### 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](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.

*\*Not meeting in June or July - will resume in the fall*

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)

### Sunday News Talk

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

News Talk will resume for August. This is an informal forum for current event discussions. Please drop in.

### Mexican Train Dominoes

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

*\*Not meeting in June or July - will resume in the fall*

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](mailto: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.





# 2026 JULY



| SUNDAY                                                                                                       | MONDAY                              | TUESDAY                                                                                   | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                | THURSDAY                                                                                                        | FRIDAY                                                                                      | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                             |                                     | 10am<br>Care & Support                                                                    | 1                                                                                                        | 2                                                                                                               | 3                                                                                           | 4<br><br><b>Independence Day</b><br>1pm<br>Solos Lunch<br>(See Pg. 4) |
|                                                                                                              |                                     |                                                                                           |                                                                                                          | No<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal                                                                                        | <b>OFFICE<br/>CLOSED</b>                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5<br>9:15am<br>Workshop<br>10:30am<br>Service<br><br>2-5pm<br>ACMA Circle                                    | 6<br>10am<br>Sunday<br>Service Team | 7<br>1:30<br>Climate Action<br>Team Zoom                                                  | 8<br>11:30am<br>Chair Yoga<br>with Carolyn<br>Lucas<br><br>6pm<br>Men's Group<br>Karaoke<br>(see pg. 11) | 9<br>10 am<br>Finance Mtg.<br><br>No<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal                                                      | 10                                                                                          | 11                                                                                                                                                       |
| 12<br>9:15am<br>News Talk<br>10:30am<br>Service<br><br>12pm<br>Rainbow<br>Connection<br>2-5pm ACMA           | 13<br>NO<br>Book Club               | 14                                                                                        | 15<br>1pm<br>Board Meeting                                                                               | 16<br>1:30<br>Women's<br>Group<br>Crafting t/b/a<br><br>No Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>7pm<br>Tamiami<br>Tale Tellers | 17<br> | 18                                                                                                                                                       |
| 19<br>9:15am<br>News Talk<br>10:30am<br>Service<br><br>2-5pm<br>ACMA Circle<br>McGregor Clinic<br>Collection | 20                                  | 21<br> | 22<br>2pm<br>Armchair<br>Philosophy                                                                      | 23<br>No<br>Choir<br>Rehearsal                                                                                  | 24                                                                                          | 25                                                                                                                                                       |
| 26<br>9:15am<br>News Talk<br>10:30am<br>Service<br><br>2-5pm<br>ACMA Circle                                  | 27                                  | 28                                                                                        | 29                                                                                                       | 30                                                                                                              | 31                                                                                          |                                                                     |

Visit our website for information on events and programs [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)



# August 2026



| Sunday                                                                                  | Monday | Tuesday                                                                                      | Wednesday                                                                           | Thursday                                                                             | Friday                                                                                       | Saturday                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Check your email for calendar changes due to constuction.                               |        |                                                                                              |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                              | 1<br><br>1pm<br>Solos Lunch<br>(See Pg. 4)                                            |
| 2<br><br>9:15am<br>Workshop<br>10:30am<br>Service                                       | 3      | 4                                                                                            | 5                                                                                   | 6                                                                                    | 7<br><br> | 8                                                                                     |
| 9<br><br>9:15am<br>Workshop<br>10:30am<br>Service<br><br>12pm<br>Rainbow<br>Connection  | 10     | 11<br><br> | 12<br><br>11:30am<br>Chair Yoga<br>with Carolyn<br>Lucas                            | 13<br><br>10 am<br>Finance Mtg.                                                      | 14                                                                                           | 15                                                                                    |
| 16<br><br>9:15am<br>Workshop<br>10:30am<br>Service<br><br>McGregor Clinic<br>Collection | 17     | 18                                                                                           | 19<br><br>NO<br>Board Meeting                                                       | 20                                                                                   | 21                                                                                           | 22                                                                                    |
| 23                                                                                      | 24     | 25                                                                                           | 26                                                                                  | 27                                                                                   | 28                                                                                           | 29                                                                                    |
| 30                                                                                      | 31     |           |  |  |         |  |

**BUILDING RENOVATIONS  
MAY COMMENCE AUGUST 17**

**JULY 2026**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**THEME: FLOURISHING TOGETHER**

**AUGUST 2026**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**THEME: SHARING ABUNDANCE**

**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.

**July 5 – Freedom from Shame of Oppression**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer  
Worship Associate – Dottie Mayol  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**July 12 – Freedom from Religion to  
Dream of Beloved Community**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer  
Worship Associate – Annely Hudanick  
Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

**July 19 – Freedom from Racism to  
Joy of Relationship**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer  
Worship Associate – Sydney Burns  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
McGregor Clinic Collection

**July 26 – Enabling Abilities of the Disabled**

Speaker – Joyce Ramay  
Worship Associate – Nicole Racine-Geltner  
Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

---

**The Rainbow Connection**  
**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at Noon**

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

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

**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.

**August 2 – What are you Harvesting?**  
**The Seeds We Plant, the Lives We Grow**  
**and the Legacy We Leave**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer  
Worship Associate – Dottie Mayol  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**August 9 – Ancient Wisdom**  
**for a Modern World**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer  
Worship Associate – Annely Hudanick  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**August 16 – Ordinary People,**  
**Extraordinary Impact**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer  
Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
McGregor Clinic Collection

**August 23 – The Good Samaritan Story:**  
**Loving the One We Were Raised to Hate**

Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ronaldo Archer  
Worship Associate – Nicole Racine-Geltner  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**August 30 – 19th Amendment:**  
**Sharing the Vote with Women**

Speaker – Vanessa Gilyard  
Worship Associate – Sydney Burns  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
Pet Shelter Collection

---

**CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM**

*by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director*

The Child and Youth program will be on hiatus during  
the months of July and August. It will resume once the  
renovation construction has been completed. Keep an eye  
on your emails for updates.

## "ARMCHAIR PHILOSOPHY"

Wednesday, June 22 & August 26, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.

discussion facilitated by Frank Geltner



The question before us is not whether religion belongs in American life. It plainly does. The question is whether government belongs in the business of favoring, funding, or enforcing religion. One of the most misunderstood phrases in American public life is "the separation of church and state." It does not mean that religious people must leave their faith behind when they enter public life. Nor does it mean that government should be hostile to religion. Rather, it means that government must not establish, sponsor, privilege, or coerce religious belief. The principle protects both the state from religious domination and religion from government control.

Among the founders, Thomas Jefferson gave the principle its most famous image — a "wall of separation" — while James Madison gave it much of its constitutional force. Madison understood that liberty of conscience is not a gift from government, but a right government must respect. That insight remains essential in a religiously diverse democracy.

A useful test is this: Do we defend religious liberty only when our own beliefs are protected, or also when the beliefs of others are protected? Do we oppose government favoritism only when another religion benefits, or also when our own might benefit? The real meaning of church-state separation is measured by whether we are willing to protect freedom of conscience for everyone.

This principle also resonates deeply with our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Our tradition affirms freedom of belief, the right of conscience, and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A non-creedal faith is not a faith without conviction; it is a faith that refuses to make coercion the price of belonging.

Contemporary America is again being tested on the meaning of church-state separation. The danger is not simply that citizens bring religious convictions into public life; they have every right to do so. The danger arises when public authority begins to favor one religious tradition, fund religious instruction, or treat religious identity as a qualification for full civic belonging.

The test for us is not whether religion may speak in public. It may, and it should. The test is whether the state itself speaks religiously, funds religious doctrine, or pressures citizens — especially children — to conform. Church-state separation protects believers, nonbelievers, minority faiths, and democracy itself. It is not a wall against religion; it is a safeguard against religious coercion by government.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW IMMIGRATION TEAM

by Sydney Burns, Chair

We are excited to introduce our church's new Immigration Team, a ministry created to support families affected by deportations and ICE operations. Our goal is to help connect families in need with essential goods, resources, and compassionate support during difficult and uncertain times.

This effort has already begun with a strong and encouraging response from our church community. On May 24, we held a successful diaper drive, collecting much needed supplies for families. We also held our first Immigration Team meeting on June 6, where there was incredible interest and energy around finding meaningful ways to serve.

We invite anyone who feels called to help to join us at our next team meeting on Thursday, July 11th at 10:30am. Whether you are able to donate supplies, help connect families with resources, assist with outreach, or simply learn more, your presence and support are welcome.

In addition, July's Share the Plate offering will go to St. Martin De Porres, helping further support this important work in our wider community.

Together, we can respond with compassion, dignity, and care for families who need support. We hope you will join us.

## ALL FAITHS' WOMEN'S GROUP OFF TO A GOOD START



Thanks to *Cindy Thompson* for organizing monthly activities for All Faiths' Women's Group. From the left - the Picassos of All Faiths - *Barb McFarlane, Becky Ross, Jamie Kafei, Cindy, Joanne Boyle, Michelle Gemma* and *Donalie Benyak* (sitting).



## BOARD NOTES *(cont'd from page 2)*

month's newsletter.

UUA General Assembly: "Together Everywhere" - This year's General Assembly was titled "Together Everywhere," and took place June 14–21. Delegates debated and voted on Actions of Immediate Witness, Responsive Resolutions, and several key governance items, including environmental protections, youth leadership, and immigrant justice. I was honored to serve as the delegate for All Faiths, participating in many meaningful presentations and discussions on behalf of our congregation.

Congregational Survey Highlights: A Community Ready for Renewal - I have finally completed a summary of all the comments and suggestions from the Congregational Survey, and will be holding a Life of the Congregation session in the near future to review the results together. In the meantime, here is a brief reflection on what you shared. Members expressed deep appreciation for the welcome, pastoral care, and meaningful worship that anchor our shared life. Many also named a growing desire for more families, children, and youth, along with a renewed commitment to multigenerational connection. Respondents lifted up the importance of clearer communication, continued healing and trust building, and a strong call to justice centered ministry. Across the board, there is a shared sense that All Faiths is poised for its next chapter—one rooted in covenant, spiritual depth, and bold community engagement.

Closing - Serving as your Board Chair continues to be a profound honor. This community has shown resilience, imagination, and a willingness to grow even in challenging seasons. We are a different congregation than we were just 3 months ago. When honesty and integrity are part of the equation, and a dedicated community is invested, anything is possible. Together — with Ron's leadership, with our shared values, and with the spirit of Pride still alive in us — we are building a future rooted in compassion, clarity, and possibility.

*Next month's Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 1:00pm.*

*There will be no Board Meeting in August.*

With hope and purpose,

*David J Donovan*

Board Chair, All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*by Ken Malkin, Treasurer*

### Cash Assets – May 2026

|                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| First Horizon Checking          | \$ 39,117 |
| Raymond James Legacy            | 5,286     |
| Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD) | 24,347    |
| First Horizon Capital Reserve   | 979       |
| Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)    | 39,340    |
| Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)  | 27,923    |
| Live Oak Legacy (CD)*           | --        |
| Live Oak Legacy Savings         | 83,496    |

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$220,487</b> |
| Prior Month          | <u>173,984</u>   |
| <b>Net Gain/Loss</b> | <b>\$ 46,503</b> |

\* Live Oak Legacy CD matured on 6/6. Funds moved to Live Oak Legacy Savings

### May 2026 Profit & Loss

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Operating Income     | \$ 17,148       |
| Operating Expense    | <u>15,301</u>   |
| <b>Net Gain/Loss</b> | <b>\$ 1,847</b> |

### **Comments:**

We collected \$325 in June for Share the Plate for Cape Coral Pride.

Interest Income for May was \$359.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** donations have exceeded our goal: **\$77,418!** The excess will help fund additional costs for carpeting and miscellaneous expenses associated with the renovation.



Next one on July 26, 2026  
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

# RAINBOW CONNECTION NEWS

David Donovan, Chair

## Pride Month Summary

June at All Faiths was a month of color, courage, and community — a season when our congregation lived boldly into our Unitarian Universalist promise that every identity is sacred and every person deserves to belong. Pride Month didn't just decorate our calendar; it deepened our covenant.

We began by grounding ourselves in ritual lighting a candle to honor those who came before us and to reaffirm our commitment to continue to widen the circle. Through story, reflection, and shared intention, we remembered that Pride was born from resistance, from queer and trans people refusing to disappear. Their courage shaped the spiritual container we held all month long.



One of the brightest highlights of the season was SWFL Pride. Our All Faiths booth became a living expression of radical welcome — a place where people stopped to talk, laugh, share stories, and feel seen. Members and newcomers alike told us how meaningful it was to encounter a faith community that shows up with open arms and open hearts. The energy of SWFL Pride reminded us that public witness is not an accessory to our faith; it is one of its most vibrant expressions.

And yes, despite the few haters who felt compelled to offer hurtful comments, we march on. We are strong. We are resilient. There is no stopping this movement toward dignity, safety and liberation and All Faiths is helping to pave the way.

We closed the month out in honor of the Stonewall Riots with a deeply emotional message entitled **Love at the Center, Courage in Every Color**. FIFTY-SIX years ago, the legacy of the Stonewall uprising ignited a movement for LGBTQ+ dignity and clarity, reminding us that the struggle for justice is both sacred and ongoing.

## Our Welcoming Congregation Commitment

This Pride Month also reaffirmed our ongoing work as a Welcoming Congregation — a commitment we renew each year through learning, advocacy, and visible acts of inclusion.

We are halfway through our calendar and are looking forward to closing it out with:

1. National Coming Out Day, and Transgender Day of Remembrance, our two remaining Days of Observance
2. A full worship service honoring Intersex Awareness Day
3. An educational presentation on Transgender and Intersex Issues

These offerings continue our commitment to learning, advocacy, and the widening of our collective heart.

As the month closes, we carry forward a simple truth: Pride is not a season we pack away. It is a spiritual discipline. A way of living our values with intention, tenderness, and courage. The Rainbow Connection will continue nurturing that work in the months ahead, widening the circle of belonging and ensuring that every person who walks through our doors knows they are cherished. May the spirit of Pride — bold, joyful, justice seeking — continue to guide All Faiths as we grow, heal, and shine our light into the world.

## CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



The next meeting will be on Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7.

Look for link in your email.

Thanks for your patience.

*“Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you.”*

— Walt Whitman



# HUNGER TEAM NEWS

by David Donovan

## Grill & Give July

- “Fire up the grill, fill up a neighbor’s plate.”

### Feeding Neighbors with Summer Spirit

As summer settles over Southwest Florida, the All Faiths Hunger Team is turning up the heat on compassion with our next monthly food drive: **Grill & Give July**. This month, we’re collecting **grilling essentials** to support families served by the **Gladiolus Food Pantry**—items like ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, baked beans, pickles, and other cookout favorites.

Grilling is about more than food. It’s about gathering, celebrating, and sharing moments of joy. By donating these simple summer staples, we help ensure that every family—no matter their circumstances—can savor a taste of the season.

Throughout July, please bring your contributions to the collection box in the sanctuary lobby. Whether it’s a bottle of sauce or a bag of buns, every item helps fill a neighbor’s table with dignity and delight.

Together, we’re building a steady rhythm of generosity—month by month, item by item, meal by meal. Let’s make **Grill & Give July** sizzle with kindness.

# CHAIR Yoga

MOVE. BREATHE. THRIVE.

A gentle, accessible yoga class done mostly seated or using a chair for support. Perfect for all fitness levels!

- Improves Flexibility
- Reduces Stress & Tension
- Builds Strength & Balance
- Supports Joint Health

*Breathe Deep.*  
Feel Good. Live Well.

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 8, 2026  
**TIME:** 11:00 A.M.  
**LOCATION:** All Faiths  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Carolyn  
**FREQUENCY:** Once a month

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
Bring a smile, wear comfortable clothes, and let’s move together.

**JOIN US!**  
For questions, call (555) 123-4567



ALL FAITHS MEN FELLOWSHIP  
INVITE YOU TO  
**KARAOKE NIGHT!**  
ALL ARE WELCOME



★  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2026**  
**6:00 PM**  
★

**MANGO RITA'S RHYTHM HOUSE**  
16440 S TAMIAMI TRAIL  
#11, FORT MYERS, FL 33908



Let's SING!

## SUNDAY SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE

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

**\*\* The Circle will meet at St. John the Apostle while construction takes place \*\***

## ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

**Saturday, July 25 - 7:00pm**

Fran Snyder in Concert

Robert Bidney opens

Visit ACMA website: [americanacma.org](http://americanacma.org)

**The Listening Room at All Faiths**

General public \$20/Member discount \$15

*Donations at the Door*

***IMPORTANT NOTICE:*** *The ACMA concerts and the Songwriters' Circle will be held at St. John the Apostle, 3049 McGregor Blvd. during the months of September and October while renovations are taking place at All Faiths*

# ALL FAITHS IS LAUNCHING NEW SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

by Sydney Burns

All Faiths is excited to announce the launch of a new social media outreach effort. In the coming months, we will be starting an Instagram and TikTok account, while also expanding the way we use Facebook. Our hope is to reach more people in meaningful ways, including younger individuals and families who may be looking for a welcoming spiritual community.

This new outreach will help us share the life, message, and spirit of All Faiths beyond our church walls. We plan to film certain parts of services, highlight special events, and create scripted videos with members who would like to be involved. These videos may include reflections, announcements, invitations, educational messages, and other fun content that helps people learn more about who we are and what we value as a community.

We also want to be clear that participation in photos and videos is completely optional. We respect the privacy of

every member and visitor. Anyone who does not want to appear in pictures or videos posted on social media will be able to write their name on an opt out sheet. Once your name is on the sheet, we will make sure you are not included in any posts.

The opt out sheet will be located on the back table after services throughout the month of July. We encourage anyone with concerns or preferences about being photographed or filmed to add their name.

We are excited for this opportunity to share the warmth, compassion, and mission of All Faiths with a wider community. Whether you would like to help create videos, appear in content, share posts, or simply support this effort, we are grateful for your encouragement and ideas as we begin this new chapter of outreach.



## All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

### Communications

*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

*Proofreaders*

Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay

*Social Media & Website*

Regina Kilmartin/Becky Ross

### Sunday Service Team

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

*Immigration Resource Support*

Sydney Burns

*Hunger 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 **July/August** Issue of *Connections* is **June 18**

(Brief announcements may be accepted later, and will be included *if* space and time permit.)



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday–Thurs;  
9am to 12pm, Friday & Sunday.  
Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin