



Where you *belong!*

CONNECTIONS

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

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Happy Holidays!

**Fort Myers Camera Club
Photography Show & Sale
Friday, December 8, 2023
5:00 to 8:00pm**

**Holiday Concert
with Joseph Brauer
Saturday, December 16, 2023
7:30pm - Tickets \$ 20**

**Christmas Services
Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**10:30am
The Mystery of the Christ Child**

**6:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

BOARD NOTES *by Marge DiGalbo, Board Chair*

The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

Hopefully you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are now ready to gear up for the Christmas holidays. Regina and her team of Merry Elves decorated the Sanctuary and Community Room on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We hope they had fun making our All Faiths home beautiful.

Our Racial Equity Team is meeting regularly and discussing the book *Me and White Supremacy*. It is highly recommended that we all take time to read this important book. The team has agreed that the work of racial equity begins internally with all of us at All Faiths. In the future, Frank Geltner will present the 8th Principle to the Congregation for a vote.

Alberita Johnson has restarted the Wednesday 10 O'clock Scholar study group, which is reading and discuss-

ing *On Repentance and Repair*; the UU Common Read, based upon the writings of the 12th century Jewish physician Maimonides. We are all invited to attend

Good news! We've made a deposit on the new front doors. It is now up to the city to grant a permit so they can be installed. We are still waiting for the permit for the parking lot resurfacing. We are keeping our fingers crossed that these projects will be completed within the next month or two.

The Board voted to approve the 2024/25 Goal Budget as presented by the Finance Committee. The Stewardship Committee is forming under the wonderful leadership of Marsha Bates. Lewis Robinson has agreed to represent the Board on the committee. The pledge drive kicks off in January. We hope to make the budget this year with increased pledges from all of us. Our recent fundraisers

provided All Faiths with additional income: Junk In The Trunk \$890 before expenses and Oreos \$585. Thanks to the Cartwrights for presenting their delightful play and to everyone who participated in the Junk-In-The-Trunk sale.

There will be many events available for you to participate in for the upcoming holidays. The Fort Myers Camera Club, will hold an exhibition and sale on December 8 from 5-8 p.m. The event is free, but with your purchase of a picture you will be making a donation to All Faiths. Please join us to experience their beautiful art.

Joseph Brauer will be returning to All Faiths to present his Christmas Concert on December 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and 20% is a donation to All Faiths. Please come and enjoy Joseph's wonderful music.

Our new Directory is in process. On December 3 we will begin making appointments for photos. We really want everyone to be in

the Directory, so no camera shyness is allowed. Sign up soon. Photos will be taken on January 22 and 23.

Albie has proposed that All Faiths present the play *The Vagina Monologues* in February. We encourage your participation with either a scripted part or presentation of your own story. This should be lots of fun. So, watch for upcoming information.

Now that the Bylaws are updated, the Board will be updating our Policy Manual.

It promises to be a busy and exciting time for us at All Faiths. The Board looks forward to seeing everyone here for these special holiday events.

As always: Love is the spirit of this church and service its law, to live together in peace and to help one another. May it be so.

The next Board of Directors meeting is December 20, 2023 at 1 p.m.

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.)

December - Employee Year-End Bonuses

January - Quality Life Center - Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

November Share the Plate raised \$850 for Operation Joy!

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



HAPPY
KWANZAA



The last time Christmas Eve was on a Sunday was the year 2017, or six years ago. That was not long, and yet I find it difficult to remember that particular day...Dec. 24, 2017.

Although it was not long ago, so much has occurred since then that it seems like eons instead of a few years.

There were major events in those years that caused a marked shift in our politics and country, and that was the election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States six years ago. What appeared to be a ripple in our politics has grown into a raging storm of what I consider weird.

Here is a brief rundown of events that occurred during the last six years through April 2023.

2023-

- March, April 2023 – Former president Donald Trump is indicted and arraigned. He pleads not guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records.

2022-

- **Hurricane Ian** was a deadly and extremely destructive Category 5 Atlantic hurricane, which was the third-costliest weather disaster on record, the deadliest hurricane to strike the state of Florida since the 1935 Labor Day hurricane, and the strongest hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Michael in 2018. It peaked as a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 160 mph (260 km/h) early on September 28, while progressing towards the west coast of Florida, and made landfall just below peak intensity in Southwest Florida on Cayo Costa Island. In doing so, Ian tied with several other storms to become the 5th-strongest hurricane on record to make landfall in the contiguous U.S.

- June 24, 2022 – Roe v. Wade is overturned by the Supreme Court.

2021-

- June 17, 2021 – Juneteenth National Independence Day Act is passed, making Juneteenth a federal holiday

- January 20, 2021 – Kamala Harris becomes the 49th vice president and the first woman to hold her office

January 13, 2021 – Trump becomes the only president to be impeached for a second time. Ten Republicans join all Senate Democrats in voting to impeach Trump

January 6, 2021 – Trump-supporting rioters storm the United States Capitol, forcing Congress to evacuate and interrupting the Electoral College vote count that certified Joe Biden's victory.

2020-

- December 14, 2020 – The first doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are given out in the United States.

- September 18, 2020 – Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies

- May 25, 2020 – George Floyd, an African-American man living in Minneapolis, is murdered by Derek Chauvin, who kneeled on his neck during an arrest. Subsequently, nationwide protests ensued

- April 27, 2020 – The US Pentagon releases three UFO videos

- April 11, 2020 – The U.S. becomes the country with the highest number of reported COVID-19 deaths: over 20,000, overtaking Italy

- March 16, 2020 – The Dow Jones falls by -2,997.10, the single largest point drop in history and the second largest percentage drop ever at -12.93%, a larger crash than the Wall Street Crash of 1929. Most schools are also closed by this date.

- January 21, 2020 – The first patient in the United States is diagnosed with coronavirus.

2019-

- December 18, 2019 – The U.S. House of Representatives impeaches President Trump for high crimes and misdemeanors

- April 2019 – The first image of a black hole is taken

- April 4, 2019 – The 1973 War Powers Act Resolution is invoked for the first time when the House of Representatives votes 247-175 to end U.S. military assistance in Saudi Arabia in its intervention in the Yemeni Civil War.

- 2019 –The Supreme Court case Bucklew v. Precythe rules 5 to 4 that inmates on death row are not guaranteed "painless executions" under the Constitution.

- 2019 – All the works published in 1923 except for sound recordings (2022 scheduled events) enter the public domain in the United States

2018-

- 2018 – The entire West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals is impeached

2017-

- 2017 – Film producer Harvey Weinstein is accused of sexual harassment in a New York Times expose, marking the beginning of the Me Too movement.

(Cont'd on page 7)

Happening at All Faiths

*Happy December
Birthday to you!*



December 6 Sharon Gray
December 14 Jeff Moran
December 14 Carol Siferd
December 20 Greg Kopp
December 21 Mary Ellen Fritz
December 23 Chris Stotler
December 30 Linda Bigelow

And Coming Up...

January 1 Shea Fierro

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

 **HAPPY
HANUKKAH**

Solos Monthly Lunch!

**Saturday, December 2, 2023
1:00 p.m.**

**HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!
(Tacky, Cheap Gift Exchange)**

Whiskey Creek Station
11481 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL
check your email for details.

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

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

The Epicureous Group

*Strictly Social Dinner Group - All Are Welcome!
Sunday, December 24, 2023 - 8:00 p.m.*

Dinner & Conversation at **8pm, Sunday, December 24, 2023, at
Origami Korean/Japanese Restaurant - 8911 Daniels Pkwy. #5**

Please text, call or email John Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566
or silverfischstudios@gmail.com with your name, contact informa-
tion and the number in your party. The restaurant needs exact num-
bers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from
ALL FAITHS when you arrive.

The Rainbow Connection

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

The Rainbow Connection is an inclusive group that supports the
LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.
Contact: Frank Stephens at fdinfla99@gmail.com

Racial Equity Team Meeting

Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10 a.m.

The Racial Equity Team will meet twice a month until further
notice to accommodate a book read. The team is currently reading
Layla F. Saad's "*me and white supremacy.*" All are welcome.

All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Saturday at 11 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.

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. Contacts: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net

McGregor Clinic Collection

Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month

This month the clinic is in need of new socks. Coordinator: Joyce
Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p>		<p>Climate Action Team Mtg. Rescheduled to 12/12/23</p>	<p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar</p> <p>6:30pm Fort Myers Camea Club</p>	 HANUKKAH BEGINS	<p>5-8pm Fort Myers Camera Club "Celebrate the Season" Photo Exhibit & Sale</p>	<p>11am Choir Practice</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>12pm Rainbow Connection</p>	<p>10am Sunday Service Team Mtg.</p> <p>3-5pm Building Unavailable</p>	<p>10am Racial Equity Meeting</p> <p>1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar</p>	<p>10 am Finance Mtg.</p> <p>1-5pm Carpet Cleaning</p>	<p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>11am Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm Holiday Concert with Joseph Brauer</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>McGregor Clinic Collection</p>	<p>12pm Book Club</p>		<p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar</p> <p>1pm Board Mtg.</p> <p>6:30pm Fort Myers Camea Club</p>	<p>1pm Heart for the- Homeless Team</p> <p>7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers</p>	<p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>11am Choir Practice</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>6:00pm Candlelight Service</p> <p>8pm Epiceous Dinner Group (Pg. 4)</p>	 CHRISTMAS Office Closed	<p>Racial Equity Team resumes 1/9</p> <p>KWANZAA BEGINS</p>			<p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>11am Choir Practice</p>
31						
Same as Above						
<p>Check the online calendar at: http://www.allfaithsuu.org for post-printing updates</p>						

DECEMBER 2023
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
THEME: MYSTERY

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

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

December 3

Title: *Advent: A Time of Waiting*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

Music by Carlos Garcia

Mano a Mano Crafts Sale

December 10

Title: *Hanukkah: A Festival of Lights*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Bob Moore

Music by Carlos Garcia

Mano a Mano Crafts Sale

December 17

Title: *Winter Solstice: A Time of Celebration and Preparation*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

December 24

Title: *The Mystery of the Christ Child*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia

6 p.m. *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*
Caroling and Stories of Christmas

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia

December 31

Title: *Kwanzaa: The Meaning of Being African*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

Music by Carlos Garcia

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Annely Hudanick had an eye infection and suffered complications after eye surgery. She is regaining some sight in the eye. We hope that her vision is restored.

Bessie Jones, Alberita Johnson's mother, was in the hospital with anemia, suffering from internal bleeding. We hope that she continues to improve with proper treatment.

Pam Pfalzer had prolonged pain following shoulder replacement. We hope that she recovers well.

Bob Way is having greater difficulty with mobility, and Fran has had to lift him. We hope that he and Fran can get some home healthcare assistance.

Reunions – After 3 years of Covid and then Hurricane Ian displacements, many people had not seen family and friends for a long time. This year, people are traveling and they are having the great joy of gathering together again for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Holiday Season can be a sad time for those who live alone and those who are home-bound. Be sure to reach out to them, visit, send cards, and make phone calls so that they know they are remembered and loved.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary

News talk is a facilitated group that will offer a time and space for you to discuss the weekly headlines.

Child & Youth Program

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

SHARE THE PLATE

December Share the Plate:

Employee Year-End Bonuses - for our dedicated staff!

Write "Bonuses" in the memo line.

● 2017 – Hurricane Harvey makes landfall in the United States, flooding broad swaths of Texas and Louisiana and causing tens of billions of dollars of damage, making it one of the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history.

● 2017 – Hurricane Irma makes landfall in Florida and causes tens of billions of dollars of damage. Irma also wrecks the Caribbean Islands.

● 2017 – Hurricane Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico as a Category 5 hurricane, killing hundreds and knocking out the island's power.

● 2017 – A white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia leads to three deaths and to the discussion about racism in modern American society. The term alt-right receives renewed popular consciousness.

● 2017 – Donald Trump becomes the 45th president, Mike Pence becomes the 48th vice president. Trump is the first person without prior military or government service to hold the office.

Clearly much has occurred within the last six years in this country that are notable. What I did not include in my list are the numerous shootings particularly mass shootings that happened in that same period of time. It was too much to bear.

As we draw closer to the new year, I am optimistic and reminded to take comfort in nature as she is a testament to the power and fortitude of life. Nature does not remain dormant, instead changes often as we all do, even our institutions. No one knows what we will encounter in the future; however, I encourage you, as we near 2024, to remember these relevant words from the Rev. TD Jakes, "Never make a permanent decision based on a temporary storm. No matter how raging the billows are today, remind yourself." "this too shall pass." These four words are a Persian adage that has been translated and used in several languages. It reflects on the temporary nature, or ephemerality, of the human condition — that neither the bad, nor good, moments in life ever indefinitely last.

May it be so,

~ Albie



NOVEMBER CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

We are celebrating this joyful time of the year as we explore the gift of mystery all around us and the origin stories of our seasonal holidays through songs, poems, stories, games, and creative activities.

December 3: The mystery of light and stars - Story of Channakuh

December 10: The story of Christmas - Prepare for the holiday pageant.

December 17: Christmas pageant - Celebrating Kwanzaa, Holiday decorations

December 24: No children's program

December 31: No children's program

If you have any questions, ideas or something to share please contact me.

Welcome to our New Members

All Faiths is happy to welcome into our community six new members who have chosen to make a commitment to our congregation. We are honored to be a part of your spiritual journey.

Sharon Heinrich

Ruth Iyengar

Carole Latino

Linda "Nonnie" Ramsey

Frank Stephens

Melissa Schramme

New members will be recognized at our December 3, 2023, Sunday Service.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair

All eyes will be on Dubai, United Arab Emirates this December as the nations of the world gather at COP 28 to seek solutions to the climate crisis threatening life on our planet. Beginning on November 30 and running until December 12th, the conference will cover a broad range of topics. In a letter to parties dated July 2023, the Incoming Presidency announced that COP 28 will focus on four paradigm shifts:

- Fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030;
- Transforming climate finance, by delivering on old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance;
- Putting nature, people, lives, and livelihoods at the heart of climate action; and
- Mobilizing for the most inclusive COP ever.

Much has been written about the choice of Sultan Al-Jabar, head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, as the leader of COP 28. Is this a case of the fox guarding the hen house? Or will he prove to be more effective because of his insider knowledge and perspective? Your Climate Action Team will obviously be watching carefully to understand what is (and isn't) being accomplished at this vital event.

Closer to home, we encourage you to mark your calendars to attend the RESET Seed and Plant Festival at UUCFM on Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Those of you who attended last year's Festival know what a delightful way this is to enjoy a beautiful December day in Fort Myers, FL.

The December Climate Action Team meeting has been scheduled for December 12th at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. We invite you to join us to learn more about our activities and our engagement with other environmental groups here in Southwest Florida. Wishing you all a happy holiday season.

SENIOR HOMELESSNESS

by Lewis Robinson



Homelessness in seniors is a very complex issue. There is a real danger for unhoused seniors living on the street. Accidents or crime can happen frequently, and their ability to get services or adequate help is often unavailable.

When you view unhoused seniors, first consider their safety. Medical health issues are often present, because they may be without healthcare and essential medicines. Financial problems are often prominent, caused by decreased, unavailable or unaffordable healthcare.

Florida did not accept Medicaid expansion, while the Federal Government did enroll more Medicaid patients. Now that many states are trimming their Medicaid rosters, we can expect to see this problem for seniors increase. Poverty is a major factor, caused by low income while working, and inadequate retirement savings. There is a high correlation between household income and life expectancy. The population of seniors over the age of 80 is rising, while overall life expectancy is decreasing.

The gold standard for senior care is (CCRC) Community Care Retirement Community. However, most seniors are not able to afford this. The cost is rising rapidly, and the cost of long-term care insurance is becoming unaffordable. All of these factors combine to accentuate the long-term care problem.

We can add the inability to find adequate staffing of people to care for the elderly. Nursing homes (Oreos) are primary beneficiaries of the Medicaid program, but they compete for staffing, even though they have less ability to pay.

Seniors often depend on family and close friends for care. When facing financial difficulties, the seniors' homes (primary residences) become sacrificed. This creates a major burden for families.

Our Heart for the Homeless Team hopes to function to make lives better, but we realize that this is a major institutional problem. The State and Federal Governments should be major providers. We must actively solicit these institutions to do their jobs.



Ice Cream Social
After Service
Sunday, December 31, 2023
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

With Heartfelt Thanks...

There are times in life that we are filled with gratitude. That time is now for me. A huge thank you to All Faiths for being absolutely fantastic. I hope you know how wonderful you all are. I thank you, for accepting me as your Commissioned Lay Minister and for the wonderful Commissioning Ceremony.

Thank you, Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson, Rev. CJ McGregor, Regina Kilmartin, Joyce Ramay, Marge DiGalbo and the entire Board, Marsha Bates and the Search Committee, Carlos Garcia and the Choir. And to all of you who prayed, meditated, deeply hoped for and waited patiently for a minister.

May we make our Beloved Community, the beacon of peace and hope, shine throughout Southwest Florida and beyond.

In Love and Trust, your CLM - Albie

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – October 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 51,467
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,275
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,663
Raymond James Legacy	4,495
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	4,300
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,485
Live Oak Capital Reserve	31,753
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,360
Live Oak Legacy CD	20,449

Total	\$183,282
Prior Month	<u>177,527</u>
Net Gain	\$ 5,755

October 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 24,795
Operating Expense	<u>15,813</u>
Net Gain	\$ 8,981

Comments:

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
- No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good in October.
- In October, \$565.00 was collected for All Souls (Homeless Team).

Mano a Mano Bolivian Craft Sale Sunday, December 3 and December 10 before and after Service.



The always popular Bolivian crafts sale will be back this year. These handcrafted goods make great gifts for the holidays. Thank you to Charlotte Blitt and Dottie Mayol for their help with the sales!

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, December 2 - 7:00pm

Hank Woji & Friends in Concert,
Chakulla opens



Saturday, December 9 - 1-4pm

ACMA Members Holiday Party!
at Lakes Park, Fort Myers

The Listening Room at All Faiths

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

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Nicole Racine, Co-Chair

August 8, 2023 - November 14, 2023, already three months since the Racial Equity Team has been on its journey to explore, discuss and reflect on white supremacy, white privilege, white superiority, and white fragility -- an important step in engaging in anti-racism and building a stronger antiracist beloved community. So far it has been an amazing and emotional journey: examination of white racial conditioning, introspection and personal discomfort. This work is a bit scary, it takes guts, honesty and perseverance; it also takes time. In reality, it may take the rest of one's life as one unlearns racist notions that have been ingrained since the womb. It is, as Robin Di Angelo states in her introduction to LAYLA F. SAAD's *me and white supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*, extremely important to build the racial stamina required to challenge the racist status quo.

No better book could help the team build its racial stamina. As All Faiths Congregants and members of the Racial Equity Team, we were in a hurry to get out into the community to help and to leave our mark. Both Robin Di Angela and Layla F. Saad, have helped us realize that bypassing the necessary personal "inside" work and reflection, distances us from understanding what we need for our work "outside" the Congregation.

The Racial Equity Team is very intent on doing the necessary work to achieve the knowledge needed to do the "outside" work. We are trying hard to change our mindset in order to create change in our beloved community. We have made significant progress. One day soon we hope to share with the Congregation. Will the Congregation be interested? Ready?

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

After the congregation's generous response to October's Share-the-Plate and personal hygiene collections, the team had a quiet November.

The bike collections continue. We always are in need of volunteers to bring a couple bikes at a time to All Souls in No. Fort Myers. Please let Judy Alberda or Barb McFarlane know if you can do this once a month at your convenience.

We are discussing future Share-the-Plate recipients, a speaker for a March service, and a possible t-shirt collection.

Thank you for your generous support of our team.

BIG SHOUT OUT

Thank you *And Literacy for All*, Ed Kleinow and Mary Corrigan for replacing our Little Free Library after years of weathering. Mary and Ed donated the first LFL several years ago. And many thanks to *Diane Chernow* for her creative painting! Stop by and take a look. It will make you smile.



APPRECIATING OUR DEDICATED STAFF

All Faiths is fortunate to have dedicated employees who provide excellent services throughout the year. If you would like to contribute something to express your appreciation, we will be Sharing the Plate for Employee Bonuses during the month of December. Make checks payable to All Faiths, write Bonuses in the memo line.

Alberita Johnson, Commissioned Lay Minister
Regina Kilmartin, Congregational Administrator,
Carlos Garcia, Music Director
Sharon Heinrich, Child & Youth Program Director
Joe Gayton, Sexton

The money collected will be distributed on a percentage basis as determined by the Board of Directors.



New **CHURCH**
DIRECTORY
Take Your Picture

SCHEDULE NOW!

*Photography will take place at All Faiths
for two days only
Monday, January 22 & Tuesday, January 23*

- Make online appointments at www.ucdir.com
CHURCH CODE: FL876
PASSWORD: photos
- Or schedule your appointment on Sundays at the sign-up table.

Can't make either date? See Regina Kilmartin or Becky Ross to alternative arrangements.

Fort Myers Camera Club Photography Show & Sale

Celebrate the Season

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation
2756 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Friday, December 8, 2023
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.




“Celebrate the Season” will highlight the photography talents of the Fort Myers Camera Club members. Wine and holiday cookies will be available along with Christmas music to make the evening more festive for everyone young or old. The photographs are modestly priced and would make a perfect gift for a loved one, or perhaps yourself! Most importantly, come and join us for an evening of fun to celebrate the holiday season. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**JOSEPH
BRAUER**
PRESENTS
**SONGS
OF THE
SEASON**



7:30PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
**ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN
CONGREGATION**
2756 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers, FL

\$10 STUDENTS/\$20 ADULTS
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT DOOR OR ONLINE AT
WWW.JOSEPHBRAUER.COM

TWO NEW PROGRAMS COMING IN FEBRUARY

RISE UP AND CALL HER NAME

A Woman-honoring Journey into Global Earth-based Spiritualities **by Elizabeth Fisher**

Originally published by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Fellowship (UUWF) in 1995, and revised in 2007, this multicultural and multimedia course has been experienced by thousands around the world. Many have been profoundly moved by its exciting exploration of sacred narratives that honor the cross cultural female divine, as well as the many diverse and creative activities included. This re-release contains all the original content but is more flexible.

RiseUp website has many more resources!

Sign up on the bulletin board.

CAN WE TALK?

Exercises in Civil Discourse

- Did God create the universe or did it naturally occur?
- Is civil disobedience morally justified in a democracy?
- Should health care be universal?

All good questions, but who has the right answers?

Join this new discussion/debate group to see if you can sway someone to your side. Facilitators will choose specific topics of interest and lay out any ground rules.

The topics can range from spirituality to politics, fatherhood to grandfatherhood, new beginnings to advancements of death cafes, etc.

All are welcome to participate. It's a great way to get to know your fellow congregants and maybe see things from a different point of view.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Executive Board: Marge DiGalbo, Chair; Michelle Gemma, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Diane Chernow, Secretary; Chris Stotler, Past Chair.

Directors: Rosalie Kuehn, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle, Richard "Dick" Scudder.

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

Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson



Communications

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Weezie Close

Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin,

Becky Ross

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Marsha Bates

Nominating Committee

Sharon Gray

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Livestreaming

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

Brad Davidson

Building and Grounds

Bob DiGalbo

Judy Alberda

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

Heart for the Homeless

Barb McFarlane

Racial Equity Team

Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine

L.I.F.E.

Marsha Bates, Michelle Gemma,

Barb McFarlane

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

Frank Stephens

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



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