



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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September 2023

All Faiths is pleased to welcome *Alberita Johnson* as our new Commissioned Lay Minister. "Albie" will be in the pulpit on September 3. Don't miss her sermon, *Room of Mirrors*, followed by a Celebration Cookout and Potluck!

BOARD NOTES *by Marge DiGalbo, Board Chair*

The Board did not have its usual monthly meeting in August, however, we have been very busy doing the important work of the Congregation.

The interior repairs on the walls and ceilings have been completed. Everything looks clean and fresh. Please take a moment to check out the new countertops and backsplash in the kitchen. The big new sink, faucet and disposal makes clean up so much easier. We are still awaiting the permit from the city so we may begin resurfacing the parking lot. Hopefully when the cooler weather comes this will happen. When completed we will have two handicap parking spaces.

There's new furniture on the front patio. Thank you to Becky Ross for doing the research and finding a good deal, and to Chris Stotler and

John Conrad for assembling it. And a big thank you to all who made WISHLIST donations enabling us to purchase it. It looks so nice.

How wonderful to have Rev. CJ in our pulpit again on August 27. Now we will be welcoming Alberita (Albie) Johnson as our Interim Lay Minister. Albie brings new energy and enthusiasm to our Congregation. We are so happy she is with us. We are very excited about the new church year and its possibilities.

There are many events being planned. A Junk-in-the-Trunk sale will return this fall. Doug and Diane Cartwright have written a play entitled "Oreos" and will be performing it as a fundraising event in November. We would like to have more fundraising events. If you would like to present an event please let us know. We

need your assistance in our ongoing programs, committees and teams. Please join a committee, volunteer to help on the events, participate in any way you can.

I look forward to the upcoming year and to seeing everyone back from summer vacations and travel.

Remember "Love is the spirit of this church and service its law. This is our great covenant, to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love and to help one another."

May it be so.

The next Board of Directors meeting is September 20, 2023.



IT'S A CELEBRATION COOKOUT!

September 3, 2023
(after service)

What better way to welcome our new Interim Lay Minister, Albie Johnson, than with a good ol' traditional All Faiths Cookout!

\$10 per person
(kids eat free)
Tickets will be available at the door.

Burgers, Veggie Burgers, Hot Dogs, Side Dishes and Beverages. CAKE TOO!

See you there!

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.)

September - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

October - All Souls Episcopal Outreach (Heart for the Homeless Team)

November - St. Martin de Porres (Operation Joy)

July Share the Plate raised \$310 for Quality Life Center!

August Share the Plate raised \$300 for Visuality!

Your generosity directly benefits our community!

We are grateful!





Yesterday is dependent on the day one is referring to, sometimes it may mean yester-year. It seems like yesterday that I walked into All Faiths and met our Administrator, Regina who was nothing but kind and gracious. At the time I was the President of the Gay and Lesbian Chorus in Fort Myers. We were looking for places to offer a concert and thought

All Faiths would welcome us. And indeed we were welcomed with open arms. That was yester-year.

The warm welcome, kindness and graciousness we received were never forgotten. It is one of the reasons I am honored and pleased to be your Commissioned/Contract/Interim-Lay Minister.

Gracious, what a wonderful word indicating a hospitable person. I recall a time when being kind was an attribute that was admired and thought of as mature and considerate.

Unfortunately, there has been a backslide and meanness has become acceptable even admired by some.

What has happened to morality, to propriety and honor in our America? When did we become accustomed to immorality? These are questions I ponder when I observe the violence and unrest in our nation.

Joseph Le Conte, a physician, geologist, and professor at the University of California, Berkeley, once said, "The essential thing is not knowledge, but character." He said that, yester-year, but it is still relevant today.

Building character does not come from a book or lecture; instead we must endeavor to model good character, because of the dangers of an immoral society. A society whose moral codes have slipped so the schools emphasize the values of the standardized test scores, over character education at the cost of personal integrity. This is evident in our culture as we have witnessed the replacement of ethics of good behavior with accumulation of money, and power and as a result many are spiraling into degeneracy.

But I consider our Beloved community, here at All Faiths, as a place of hope, compassion, peace and joy.

At All Faiths let us continue to do our best to model good character, because we know the value of... "doing unto others as we would have others do unto us," this bible verse, is a short, but an extremely influential way of Being and is priceless.

As we begin this journey together let us be mindful of each other's Being. This includes the good, the bad and the ugly as the spaghetti westerns of yester-year reminds us. It is a new season, a new day here at All Faiths Unitarian Congregation.

Thank You, All Faiths for your commitment to me. I promise to do my very best with love and trust in my heart.

May all our destinations be filled with joy,

~ Albie

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Robert Bennett fell, suffered a concussion, and required serious eye surgery. He had favorable results and is doing well.

Marge DiGalbo had major cervical spine surgery on neck vertebrae. She is recovering well and continues to actively lead our Board.

Alberita Johnson is joining All Faiths as our Interim Lay Minister. We are happy to welcome her and look forward to her inspiring sermons and compassionate pastoral care.

Roy Kennix (1939-2023) passed away after a struggle with cancer. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Frankie Jennings, his family and friends.

Joan Marshall was hospitalized with a serious leg infection and heart issues. She is at home regaining her strength. We hope that she recovers soon.

Rev. CJ McGregor returned to our pulpit on August 27. It was such a delight to have him back with us from London for a short reunion.

Michael Pierre had partial knee replacement surgery. We hope that he recovers well and has improved mobility.

Bill Snider's son had brain surgery. We hope that he has a good recovery.

Joyce Ramay,

Care & Support Coordinator

Happening at All Faiths

Happy September
Birthday to you!



- Sept. 07 Brad Davidson
- Sept. 08 Wayne Dean
- Sept. 11 James Kersey
- Sept. 14 Edith (Edi) Griffiths
- Sept. 16 Ainsleigh Babcock
- Sept. 23 Jo-Ann Hilliard
- Sept. 23 Ken Malkin
- Sept. 23 Randy Russo (15!)
- Sept. 25 Dottie Mayol
- Sept. 30 Harold Philpot

And Coming Up...

October 4 Michael Pierre

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



Solos Monthly Lunch!

Saturday, September 3, 2023
1:00 p.m.

PF Chang

Gulf Coast Town Center
10081 Gulf Center Dr., Ft. Myers
check your email for details.

RSVP to: Annelly 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!
Saturday, September 23, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner & Conversation at **5pm, Saturday, September 23, 2023,**
at **MYTHOS AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE - 15271**
McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL

Please text, call or email John Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566 or silverfischstudios@gmail.com with your name, contact information and the number in your party by Sunday, September 18. The restaurant needs exact numbers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from ALL FAITHS when you arrive. PLEASE, if you must cancel, contact John by Monday, September 19.

The Rainbow Connection

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

The Rainbow Connection is a new addition to All Faiths' social justice teams. This group will support the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.

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 through Dec. 12 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

SEPTEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



*Have a Plan
Be Prepared*

1
10am
Tai Chi Chih

2pm
Dominoes

2
11am
Choir Practice

1pm
Solos Lunch
(Pg. 4)

3
9:15am
News Talk

10:30am
Service

4


Labor Day
Office Closed

5
1:30pm
Zoom
Climate Action
Team Mtg.

6


7


8
10am
Tai Chi Chih

2pm
Dominoes

9
11am
Choir Practice

7pm
ACMA Concert
(see pg. 10)

10
9:15am
News Talk

10:30am
Service & CYP

12pm
Rainbow
Connection

11
10am
Sunday Service
Team Mtg.

12
10am
Racial Equity
Meeting

1:30pm
LIFE House
Meeting

13



14
10 am
Finance Mtg.

7pm
LIFE House
Meeting via
ZOOM

15
10am
Tai Chi Chih

2pm
Dominoes

16
11am
Choir Practice



17
9:15am
News Talk
10:30am
Service & CYP

McGregor Clinic
Collection

12pm
LIFE House Mtg.

18
12pm
Book Club

19


20
1pm
Board Mtg.

21
1pm
Heart for the-
Homeless
Team

7pm
Tamiami Tale
Tellers

22
10am
Tai Chi Chih

2pm
Dominoes

23
11am
Choir Practice

5pm
Epicureous
Dinner Group
(Pg. 4)

24
9:15am
News Talk

10:30am
Service & CYP

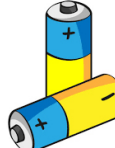
Ice Cream
Social

25
10am
Membership
Mtg.



26
10am
Racial Equity
Meeting

27


28


29
10am
Tai Chi Chih

2pm
Dominoes

30
11am
Choir Practice



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

SEPTEMBER 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "JOURNEYS"

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

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

September 3 – Labor Day Weekend

Title: *Room of Mirrors*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia and Choir

Welcome Party

Cookout and Potluck

September 10

Title: *Faith in a Bowl of Soup*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Greg Monk

Music by Carlos Garcia

September 17

Title: *UU Arc Benders*

Speaker – Marsha Bates

Worship Associate – Diane Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

September 24

Title: *A Thin Line*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

Music by Carlos Garcia and Choir

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

September 10, 17, 24

SHARE THE PLATE

September's Share the Plate:

SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

Write "RESET" in the memo line.

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by Albie Johnson, Child & Youth Program Director

Summer will end soon as our Children and Youth return to school. They are in transition and so are we here at All Faiths. We are in need of a Children and Youth Program Director, is it you?

Until we have a viable candidate let us participate and volunteer, please see Albie, if interested.

September 2023 Kicks off our Fall/Winter Child and Youth Programming, the theme: "Finding Your Voice"

September 3 - No Program

September 10 - Power of Words

Exploration: Words are Powerful, some say the world was created by spoken words. We will investigate how powerful spoken communication is.

September 17 - Words can Bless and Curse

Explorations: Power of the Tongue, it is said that the tongue has two sides, which one do you prefer and why.

September 24 - Rhythm and Rhymes

Exploration: Finding Your Voice, Poetry and Lyrics having fun with words and sound, writing and listening.

For more information contact: Albie, albiestalk@gmail.com.

CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

by Carlos Garcia, Music Director

Our first rehearsal was held on Thursday, August 24 at 2:00 p.m. at All Faiths, where it was decided to hold future rehearsals on **Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.**

New members interested in helping our music ministry by lending your voices, we invite you to come by and become a part of a learning and rewarding musical adventure. We proudly welcome you - no audition required!

The All Voices Choir will perform on the first Sunday in September for a special recognition service. and, of course, we will always perform on the last Sunday of every month.

I look forward to seeing you all again, and welcoming some new voices. If you can play, or know someone that can play musical instruments (guitar, flute, violin, etc.) please have them contact me at ceegeefm@gmail.com.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



Good news! For the past several years, a non-profit organization called Our Children's Trust has provided legal representation to groups of children and adolescents who have gone to court to protect their future well-being from the failure of state and federal governments to address climate change. This August they won their first case. A court in Montana held the state government liable for disregarding the harmful effects of climate change and thereby violating the children's constitutional rights to a clean and healthy environment. This is the first such ruling in our nation's history.

In September and October, your Climate Action Team will be focusing on ways to build support for a petition drive to place a Florida constitutional amendment on the 2024 ballot which guarantees the citizens of Florida a legal right to clean and healthy water. No such right currently exists in the Florida constitution. The Florida legislature enacts rules and regulations regarding water pollution but then fails to enforce them. The constitutional amendment would provide Floridians the legal means to demand the state take action to protect our waterways. We will be reaching out to the congregation to assist us in gathering petitions. Together, we can make a difference.

READ & RETURN LIBRARY

Judy Alberda has created a Read-and-Return Library in the community room (folding door near the kitchen - follow the signs). It is composed mostly from Rev. Wayne Robinson's collection, the founding minister of All Faiths. No need to sign books out. Just read and return. Great food for thought and discussion.



Seeking Part-Time Child & Youth Program Director

Do you know a student or retiree who might be looking for an exciting part-time job? All Faiths is seeking a part-time Director of Child & Youth Programs. Candidate should have experience/education related to child/youth programs. Four hours per week, including one hour on Sundays. Background check required. Contact the office at 239-226-0900.

HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW?

by Judy Alberta, Building & Grounds Co-Chair

There are two gardens at All Faiths. The Butterfly Garden that greets you as you enter the building. And there is the Memorial Garden, to the right of the entry door. There are more plantings on the south side of the building, including large ferns, Coontie, Wild Coffee bushes, Beauty Berry bush and some trees. There is Sunshine Mimosa over all the ground around the building. This has naturalized into the grass and is unique in that it has pink pompom-like blossoms that are very pretty and the children like to pick them.

The garden team includes myself, Nicole Racine, Chris Stotler, who prunes, and Dan DeShon, who provides professional guidance from his experience as the main horticulturist at the Memphis Zoo before retirement. He also does heavy work such as spreading mulch and procuring native plants from the Edison Gardens, where he now works, and planting them. Bob DiGalbo is the head of grounds and we cooperate with weed killing and annual clean up. Joe Gayton helps dig holes to plant new native plants. So it takes many hands to keep the grounds looking nice and keeping it healthy.

Nicole and I tend the garden early in the morning to try to beat the heat. Usually around 7 to 8:30 a.m. or so. In the winter, 7:30 until 9:00. We could use more help. Needed are weeders, bush trimmers, someone to pot plants, someone to pick up the grounds and various tasks that arise. If you would like to join us, contact me, Judy Alberda - judy-alberda@yahoo.com. Love to have ya!

P.S. See the beautiful Orchid on page 11!

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Frank Geltner and Nicole Racine, Co-Chairs

All Faiths congregants are invited to join the Racial Equity Team on Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. The team is currently reading Layla F. Saad's "*me and white supremacy*." The subtitle of her book reads: "Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor." This book is a one-of-a-kind antiracism tool structured to help people with white privilege understand and take ownership of their participation in the oppressive system of white supremacy. In her closing words, the author writes: "To dismantle this system of oppression and marginalization that has hurt so many for so many generations, we need all of us. In creating a new world, everyone's contribution matters. And as someone who holds white privilege, your contribution to this work is of the utmost importance."

The team has adopted The Circle Way as its format for meetings. The Circle Way (the circleway.net), a structure for deep conversation, gathers people into a circular shape with participants at the rim and the purpose in the center. Social agreements and practices help facilitate respectful conversation. Circle supports the concept of a leader in every chair. The team has been shown the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Consequently, we especially like the third principle: "Collective Work and Responsibility — To build and maintain our [beloved] community together and make our community's problems our problems — to solve them together." The team will explore numerous concepts outlined in this book. Our current work is focused 'inward,' before we attempt the 'outward' aspects of antiracism. When we are ready, we will develop a strategy for the 'outward' work to be done to help dismantle systemic racism in our modest way.

TEAM LEADER(S) NEEDED

The Rainbow Connection Needs You!

The *Rainbow Connection* needs one or two people to facilitate a monthly meeting. This group supports the LGBTQ+ community and allies as one of All Faiths social justice teams. If you can help facilitate a monthly meeting, please contact the office at 239-226-0900. Currently, the group meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month, but is flexible.

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane, Co-Chair

The lack of affordable housing and homelessness in Lee County continues to disrupt the lives of families and individuals, as well as neighborhoods and local businesses. After a two month break, our Heart for Homeless Team will resume monthly meetings Thursday, September 21, 1:00 p.m. at All Faiths. Meetings are small and casual. All are welcome. Come to listen, ask questions, or give input as we discuss ways to address the needs of those without stable housing.

Tina Noel, Pam Pfalzer, Judy Alberda, and Joan Marshall attended a two-day workshop in August sponsored by the Hunger and Homeless Coalition. We look forward to hearing what they learned and how our team might be involved.

Watch for details about a collection Sunday November 5 of items to include with sleeping bags that will be distributed to those living on the street.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY

by Chris Stotler

August is National Make-a-Will Month. It's a reminder of how important it is to create your will and to update it as your circumstances change, or as you reach major milestones in your life. Do not forget All Faiths when creating or updating your will or trust documents. If All Faiths has been important in your life, please consider a gift to your beloved community. Most of our Congregants make annual pledges and many provide additional funds to our Congregation as needs arise during the year. You can provide continuing support by leaving a gift as part of your estate. If you have intended to add All Faiths to your estate documents but have not yet done it, at least put a note in your documents for your estate administrator and family so they know about your intent to make a gift to All Faiths.

If you have included a legacy gift to All Faiths in your estate documents, we need to know about it. The Legacy Giving brochures located near the legacy tree in the community room include a form that you can use to document your legacy gift. I know many of us, including Marsha and me, have not submitted this form, although All Faiths is in our will. Please complete it and turn it into the office. If you have questions about legacy giving, please contact the office or Chris Stotler at 239-770-0795 or gcstotler@gmail.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – July 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 46,816
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,231
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,408
Raymond James Legacy	4,567
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	14,651
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,627
Live Oak Capital Reserve	27,708
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,160
Live Oak Legacy CD	20,199

Total	\$184,403
Prior Month	<u>174,798</u>
Net Gain	\$ 9,606

July 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 20,809
Operating Expense	<u>10,662</u>
Net Gain	\$ 10,147

Comments:

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

- No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good in July. There were no minister related expenses.

- Our Pledge Goal from April to July was \$67,837; and \$65,618 was received (96.7%). However, some congregants pledge was received at the end of the last fiscal year (during the pledge drive); that amounted to \$22,600. Factoring in those funds, we have received a total of \$88,218 towards the Pledge Goal. Thank you for your generosity!

- Since Hurricane Ian, with available funds from the UUA and our insurance carrier, the roof and gutters have been replaced. Interior renovations have been recently completed in July for ceiling repairs and new kitchen countertops.

- 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%.

- The monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,250 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. A contract has been issued to repave the parking lot and we are waiting for the work to be scheduled. In July, a new laptop was purchased and is reflected in the July Financial Reports.

- In July, \$300 was collected for the Visuality (Rainbow Connection Team).



Ice Cream Social

After Service

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Sponsored by Dottie Mayol

Back by popular demand!

All Faiths'

Junk-in-the-Trunk Sale

coming in October.

Stay tuned for details, but start

gathering your goods for the sale!



ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, September 9 - 7:00pm

Bob Sima in Concert

Shannon Plummer Opening



The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
33901

General public \$18/Member discount \$12

Donations at the Door

LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT UPDATES

Three House Meetings Scheduled in September

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

Each September, LIFE launches its activities for the following year by encouraging its member congregations to hold "House Meetings." These gatherings are small meetings attended by congregants who have supported LIFE's social justice work in the past or who are interested in working on social justice issues in the future.

All Faiths' Team Leads will host three such gatherings. Two will be held at the church and one will be held via Zoom:

Tuesday, September 12 at 1:30 pm at All Faiths

Thursday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Sunday, September 17 at 12:00 p.m. at All Faiths

To facilitate the ability to hear from all participants, the Zoom meeting on September 14 will be limited to ten attendees. If necessary, an additional Zoom meeting will be scheduled to accommodate all who want to participate. ***There will be sign-up sheets posted on the Community Room bulletin board.***

Our House Meetings will give attendees an opportunity to get better acquainted with other All Faiths justice seekers, to listen to others' stories, and to share social justice concerns. Input from House Meetings held by all 15 LIFE congregations will be reviewed and compiled into a list of social justice concerns commonly held by LIFE's supporters.

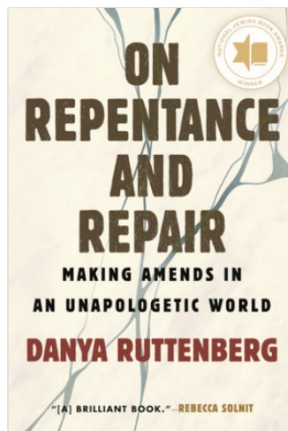
The top five concerns identified at the House Meetings will be presented to network members and congregants who attend LIFE's October 24 Community Problems Assembly (aka Annual Assembly). At that time, attendees will select the justice issue that LIFE will focus on in the upcoming year.

If you care about social justice issues, signing up to attend an All Faiths House Meeting gives you the opportunity to actively work toward making Lee County a more just place for all its residents. Hope to see you there!

LIFE for justice - justice for life!



JOIN THIS YEAR'S UUA COMMON READ



Making mistakes is human and most of us can name a harm we have directly caused another person. Yet, even as people of faith, we can struggle to accept our responsibility. It can be hard! Even when we wish to make amends, we can get stuck on how to make things right.

At a time when Unitarian Universalists are striving to widen our circles, to improve our relationships across the interconnected web of life, and to become better builders of Beloved Community, *On Repentance and Repair* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022) is a powerful choice for the next UU Common Read.

On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World taps 12th century writings from the Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides, for a fresh perspective on how we make ourselves accountable to others. Rabbi Ruttenberg applies Maimonides' five-step process to a variety of modern circumstances. As a UU Common Read selection, this book gives a glimpse into Judaism, one of Unitarian Universalism's foundational sources, and invites us to follow our own faith into practices of transformative atonement.

Find inspiration for planning your UU Common Read gathering by checking out the resources available online. Explore Workshop 1, "Repentance and Repair in Our Lives and Relationships" which provides two 75-minute sessions. It is recommended as a two-part, online series, though groups are welcome to use the sessions together for a half-day workshop, online or in person.

Coming this fall, Workshop 2 applies *On Repentance and Repair* to harm within a covenanted community. Lay leadership groups, such as congregational boards or Right Relations teams, may wish to do this one together. A final workshop will focus on accountability for harm in our wider communities and systems. UU Common Read gatherings are designed to take place online with a UU religious professional or lay leader facilitating. They are easily adapted to in-person gatherings, as well.

This fall, please join me in delving into this book!

<https://www.uua.org/read>



The beautiful Vanda orchid blooming in the Memorial Garden.



Nicole Racine and her beautiful mom, Marie-Therese Racine, 103 years young! Nicole's mom is visiting her children in the U.S. from Haiti.



Our administrator, Regina Kilmartin, was honored to receive the Joyce Ramay Flamekeeper Award for her 14 years of service to All Faiths on July 2.



Rev. CJ McGregor, Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson, and Albie Johnson! A legacy of leadership continues at All Faiths. From the beginning, to the past, to the future!



(From left) Carlos Garcia, Joyce Ramay, Nancy Frasca-Cabazares, and Rev. CJ McGregor after the 8/27 Service. Rev. CJ was visiting from London.



Our Butterfly Garden has never looked better! We are so grateful to Judy Alberda and her team of Garden Gems for their diligence – and green thumbs!



It's official! Board Chair, Marge DiGalbo, and our new Lay Minister, Albie Johnson, put the ink to the paper on her one-year contract! Welcome aboard, Albie!

Former News-Press Building to be Replaced with Affordable Housing

More than 45 people from LIFE and the community showed up to the Fort Myers City Council Monday, September 21, to urge the council to vote in favor of affordable housing. When we come together, our collective power can make real changes in the community! The old News-Press site on MLK and Fowler will become...

- 100+ units for families making less than 60% AMI
- 100+ units for families making 80% - 100% AMI
- Approx. 400 units to be rent controlled for 15+ years
- A grocery store, restaurant, and community park

The City of Fort Myers will now enter into negotiations with Tre-Bel Procidia to finalize the sale. We will stay on top of them to make sure Affordable Housing is built!

You Can be Part of the Process Attend a LIFE House Meeting

Our LIFE Team Leaders, Marsha Bates, Barb McFarlane and Michelle Gemma will be hosting three house meetings in September. This is your opportunity to voice your immediate concerns about our community. It's the start of the process that leads to the next issue LIFE will work on. LIFE has been very successful in bringing justice to our community, and you can be part of the process. Please attend if you can:

Tuesday, September 12 at 1:30 pm at All Faiths

Thursday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Sunday, September 17 at 12:00 p.m. at All Faiths

Once an issue is decided, you will also have an opportunity to work on the research/action teams. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Marsha at gcsmbk@gmail.com.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

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.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; t/b/d Child & Youth Program 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,

Sharon Gray, 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

t/b/d

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

t/b/d

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



Deadline for the **October** Issue of *Connections* is **September 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