



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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***Improve your Leg Strength, Flexibility
Range of Motion, and Reflexes***

Starting June 23, 2023 - Fridays at 10 a.m.
with Linda M. Finlan, Accredited Instructor
(details on page 7)

You're Invited...

ALL FAITHS' NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION
Hosted by the Membership Committee
Saturday, June 3, 2023 - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

All are welcome to attend this informative workshop,
whether you are new to All Faiths
or have been coming for years, you will surely
learn something new about
All Faiths and Unitarian Universalism
(details on page 6)

The Board of Directors met on May 17, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

The congregation is forming a Program Support Team to provide a pool of members to help with planning, setup, break down, and cleanup for events. Michelle Gemma and Barb McFarlane have stepped forward to coordinate this group. Please see them to join the team or sign up on the bulletin board. If anyone is interested in organizing a 4th of July cookout, please contact Michelle or Barb.

We need to form a Fundraising Team. We particularly need people to organize and plan ahead for our annual auction to raise money for our operating budget.

The UUA General Assembly will be held June 21-25 in Pittsburgh. The Finance Committee recommended, and the board ap-

proved, \$250 scholarships to each of our four attendees. The funds came from a \$600 special collection taken last year, but not used, \$300 that was budgeted for scholarships, and a \$100 personal donation for a total of \$1,000. Marsha Bates, Chris Stotler, Sharon Gray and Albie Johnson will be the recipients. Albie will attend remotely, and Marsha, Chris and Sharon will attend in person as delegates. We are grateful for their participation.

The Board voted that All Faiths should recognize that we are situated on Calusa land with the following Land Acknowledgment: *“We honor and greet the ancestors and descendants of the Calusa people whose land we are grateful to call our home. We honor your legacy.”* The statement will be included in the Order of

Service and recited during services at the Worship Associates’ discretion.

Once Susan Anthony, our CPA consultant, closes the books for the last fiscal year, the annual financial review will take place. John Conrad will contact Ed Kleinow and one or two other volunteers to perform the review.

It is essential that we find a new minister soon. The Board recommended that the Search Team advertise outside of the UUA job boards. This option was presented to the Search Committee and advertising will be placed in additional formats.

Work to resurface and stripe the parking lot should begin in June, as will some interior repairs to the ceilings and walls. The board also approved replacing the kitchen countertops at the same time.

The Board will receive CPR training (uncertified) at All Faiths on October 14, 2023, from 9am to 12pm. We will have some space available for interested members. Check your emails or newsletter for details.

An updated "progressive" flag will replace the rainbow flag on our pole. The new flag represents LGBTQ, trans and trans people of color.

I will be unavailable for the next several weeks. If you have issues that you need to bring to the Board of Directors, please contact Michelle Gemma.

The next Board of Directors meeting is June 21, 2023. We will not meet in July.



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 - Quality Life Center Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

July - Visuality (The Rainbow Connection)

May Share-the-Plate raised \$250 for ALL SOULS OUTREACH!

Your generosity directly benefits our community!

We are grateful!



MINISTERIAL SEARCH UPDATE

by Marsha Bates, Chair

Your Search Team recognizes how anxious our congregation is to find a new minister. We also look forward to having a minister serve our congregation sooner rather than later. In addition to relying on UUA's traditional ministerial process, we have been running an ad in the UUA's on-line classified section ... but no results have been received thus far. Therefore, we are taking additional steps to get the word out and we would like the whole congregation to help. Here are some of our next steps:

We are expanding the visibility of our search by placing ads on job board sites (Indeed, ZipRecruiter, etc). If you've had a successful experience with a particular employment website, share that information with Marsha Bates (740.278.2357 or gscmkb@gmail.com) or with another member of the Search team.

- We would also like your help reaching out to your personal networks. We will place our 'Minister Wanted' advertisement on All Faiths' webpage. You can help spread the word by forwarding that advertisement to friends and family and by posting the ad on your Facebook page. If you have a relationship with other UU ministers from other locations, you could ask them to spread the word in their networks.

- In addition, the three All Faiths congregants attending the UUA General Assembly in person will strategize on ways to network while there and potentially get leads that will help in our search.

- We hope these additional actions will bring results. We will keep you posted.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Judy Alberda had eyelid surgery. We are glad that it went well.

Marge DiGalbo will be having surgery on four cervical discs. We hope that she has good results.

Carol Elrod was hospitalized with an infection. We hope that she has a good recovery.

Barbara Goolsby had hip surgery and has been going between the hospital and hospice as she continues to struggle. We hold her in our thoughts and prayers.

Darwin Hany died on May 21st. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Jean.

Marsha Bates, Chris Stotler and Sharon Gray will be our delegates at the UUA General Assembly in June. We are happy that they will represent us.

Albie Johnson is leading our Child and Youth Program, and we have new children joining the classes.

Joyce Ramay,

Care & Support Coordinator

WORKER BEES & HELPERS NEEDED

by Chris Stotler, Worker Bee



Every time we have a function at All Faiths we need volunteers to help set up, re-arrange furniture, clean-up, and complete other tasks required to ensure a successful fundraiser, dinner, or other event. Rather than having the same people show up every time to help and/or making extra work for Regina, we want to create rotating crews of helpers who would be part of a Programs Support Team.

If you are willing to do any of the activities needed for events...such as planning, publicity, selling tickets at the door, cleaning up, or other tasks, we would like you to become part of this team. We want a long list of volunteers (hopefully a large portion of the congregation) who would occasionally be called upon to help. If you are not here to sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board, drop an email to Regina indicating the types of support you could provide. An event coordinator will use the list to contact members and friends for the help needed.

Thank you for committing to contribute your time and talents to our beloved community.

Happening at All Faiths

*Happy June
Birthday to you!*



- June 5 Vanessa Gilyard
- June 6 Joyce Davison
- June 6 Arlene Han
- June 8 Segundo Velasquez
- June 9 Twink Markytan
- June 10 Michelle Gemma
- June 11 Peggy JSingh
- June 13 Rebecca Peets
- June 15 Joyce Ramay
- June 15 Tina Noel
- June 23 Carol Elrod
- June 24 Judy Alberda
- June 25 Alice Schaefer
- June 27 Joseph Batal

And Coming Up...

- July 3 Becky Ross
- July 5 Jan Guardiano

The Epicureous Group

*New Social Dinner Group - All Are Welcome!
Saturday, June 24 - 5:00 p.m.*

Dinner & Conversation at **5pm, Saturday, June 24, 2023, at TWO MEATBALLS IN THE KITCHEN - 8880 Salrose Ln., Fort Myers, FL (half mile east of Shire Ln. on Daniels)**

Please text, call or email John E Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566 or SilverFischStudios@Gmail.Com with your name, contact information and the number in your party by Sunday, June 18th. 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, June 19th.

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 Tuesday of the Month at 10 a.m.

The Racial Equity Team is regrouping. As we seek to live into the 8th Principle, we look forward to ideas and engagement with the congregation. All are welcome.

All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Thursday at 2 p.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



Solos Monthly Lunch!

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

Cafe You
1423 10th Street
Cape Coral

check your email for details.

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

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

JUNE 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

 <p><i>Have a Safe & Happy Summer!</i></p>  			1 2pm Choir Practice	2 2pm Dominoes	3 10am Newcomer Orientation	
4 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP	5	6 1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg. via Zoom	7	8 2pm Choir Practice	9 2pm Dominoes	10
<i>Regina on Vacation - Office Closed</i>			<i>Regina on Vacation - Office Closed</i>		<i>Regina on Vacation - Office Closed</i>	
11 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service & CYP 12am Rainbow Connection	12 10am Sun. Service Mtg.	13 10am Racial Equity Team Mtg.	14	15 10 am Finance Mtg. 2pm Choir Practice 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	16 2pm Dominoes	17
18 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service (No CYP) Happy Father's Day McGregor Clinic Collection	19 12pm Book Club 	20	21 1pm Board Meeting  Summer Begins	22 1pm Homeless Team @ All Faiths	23 10am Tai Chi Chih 2pm Dominoes	24
			<i>UUA General Assembly</i>		<i>UUA General Assembly</i>	
25 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service (No CYP) Ice Cream Social	26	27	28 Eid Begins at Sundown	29	30 10am Tai Chi Chih 2pm Dominoes	

Visit our website for information on events and programs
www.allfaithsua.org

JUNE 2023 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "FAMILY"

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

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

June 4 – Global Environment Day

The Path to Sustainability is Guided by Love

*Living in right relations with each other
and the natural world.*

Speaker, Bob Moore

Worship Associate - Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia

June 11 – National Children's Day

Dreams and other Magical Things

*Let us take a stroll through dreams, wipe away the
dust and discover that we are the wizard
or maybe a witch.*

Speaker, Albie Johnson, CYP Director

Worship Associates - Emmie Spiller

Participants CYP youth

Music by Carlos Garcia

(Share the Plate with Quality Life Center)

June 18 – Father's Day

The Five Pillars of Fatherhood

Guest Speaker, Rev. Ron Archer

Worship Associate - Doug Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia & The All Voices Choir
(McGregor Clinic Collection)

June 25 – Eid al Adha

Abraham from the Quran

The family of Abraham

Guest Speaker, Mohamed al Darsani

Worship Associate - Joyce Ramay

Music by Carlos Garcia & Kat Epple

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

On hiatus June 18 through July 30

ALL FAITHS' NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION

Hosted by the Membership Committee

Saturday, June 3, 2022

10 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m.

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers

How much do you know about our All Faiths congregation? How much do you know about Unitarian Universalism? Did you know that UU congregations are self-governing, and that authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of the congregation?

If you are considering becoming a member, if you are a relatively new member, or if you're just curious, we invite you to come on Saturday, June 3 at 10:00 a.m. for snacks and an informative workshop that will bring you up to speed on our faith community. Visitors are welcome, too!

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Community Room, or RSVP to Fran Way at franwayrn@aol.com.

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by Alberita Johnson, CYP Director

June 4: The Miracles of Self-transformation, we will explore inner, human transformations—changes of heart. We will identify inner changes so deep, complete, and meaningful to the self and to others that they can seem miraculous. And explore how such changes happen: What moves a person from greed to generosity? Indifference to caring?

***Sunday June 11, 2023, Flower Communion: Miracles and Transformation Children and Youth Service - *please bring a flower if you can)**

June 11: The Miracles of Social Change, those miraculous shifts from fear to openness, injustice to fairness, and isolation to collaboration that a group can experience when passionate individuals focus their love, faith, and determination to transform the community. We will share and imagine transformations that would help the communities to which we belong, including the entire global community. And as the ripple effect in water, we will then consider how individuals can fuel a community's miraculous change.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



In March of this year the Climate Action Team resumed its series of monthly film screenings which had been postponed due to the pandemic. These documentaries about various aspects of the climate crisis are made available through the on-line organization Interfaith Power

& Light. The film we screened in May, *Kiss the Ground*, is a compelling documentary about regenerative agriculture. Produced in 2020, the farming practices explored in the film remain powerfully relevant to the future health and sustainability of our planet and, indeed, to our own survival. *Kiss the Ground* shows how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key in rehabilitating the planet, while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration for the future. The film is currently available on Netflix. We urge you to view it if possible.

Joining us for this screening was Graham Scott, a Board member of our partner organization, the SWFL RESET Center and a volunteer at the ECHO Global Farm in North Fort Myers where he leads tours of visitors and FGCU students. ECHO introduces sustainable plants, techniques, and technologies to farmers around the world who are struggling to feed their families. Graham suggested that our Climate Action Team tour the facility sometime in the future. Look for more information about an ECHO tour later in the year.

In the discussion following the film screening a question arose about how we can support regenerative farming in our community. Is organic farming the same as regenerative agriculture? The answer is "not necessarily." Produce labeled "organic" must meet federal standards which do not include soil regeneration. However, farms growing organic produce may also be using regenerative agriculture. There may be a new "regenerative organic" label in the future. For now, spreading the word about the importance of restoring the health of our soils is paramount. CAT will be looking for ways to help accomplish that.

Our next CAT meeting will take place on ZOOM at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6th. Everyone is welcome to participate. We hope you will join us.

ENJOY TAI CHI CHIH

Joy Through Movement

At All Faiths – Starting June 23

Fridays at 10 a.m.

Instructor Linda M. Finlan

Accredited Teacher

Tai Chi Chih is a series of 19 movements and one-closing pose that together make up a meditative form of exercise to which practitioners ascribe physical, personal and spiritual health benefits. Clinical studies show that this gentle form of exercise can reduce falls in seniors by up to 45%.

What's the secret?

Tai Chi is an integrative approach that helps improve balance because it targets all the physical components needed to stay upright:

Leg Strength

Flexibility

Range of Motion

Reflexes

Come to Enhance Your Life!



CHOIR WINDS DOWN FOR SUMMER

by Carlos Garcia, Music Director

The choir is currently working on their final performance for Father's Day (Sunday, June 18th).

They will then take a summer break until we resume rehearsals again in August.

The 2023-24 rehearsal day and time will soon be announced, as the choir votes on new rehearsal dates at the start of every choir season.

We thank all of our singers for all their efforts and involvement, and continue welcoming new members.

Interested in singing in the choir? Contact Carlos at Cee-GeeFM@gmail.com - Happy Summer!

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Lewis Robinson, Chair

The Racial Equity Team had an interesting May meeting. We took a look at the situation of renters in New York City from an article in The Nation. and followed legislation in our state legislature, which governs renters in Florida, both short-term and long-term. We discovered that renters are not getting the support of local or state governments. In fact, the Florida legislature removed local rental protection. By striking down a “Tenants Bill of Rights”, and giving themselves sole authority to approve such legislation in the future, they have made it very difficult for renters in our state. Renters are those in our community who are not able to buy and are forced to rent - often at a great disadvantage. I am wondering how this will affect tenants who will be renting with funds from the newly activated “Housing Trust Fund”.

We discussed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and its impact on local communities, including our congregation. We discovered that there is much to be gained from the act, including provisions that can help projects we are currently working on. The list would include clean air, clean water and clean energy. There is help to obtain rooftop solar energy, to buy a used electric vehicle, to secure green spaces, and possibly to remove lead pipes in homes, and much more.

We discussed the Infrastructure ACT (IA) which should be of real interest to Floridians. One of the main concerns of the IA is removal of Lead Service Lines. Funding is handled through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and Florida will receive major funding for this. The intent is to remove or replace all the nation’s lead pipe service lines over the next decade.

Florida has emerged as the state with the most lead service lines in the nation, according to the survey recently released by the EPA. In 2021, the state told the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) that it doesn’t track lead service lines. The usual thinking is that these lead service lines would be in older communities, but from the previous statements they could be anywhere.

I have noticed an increase in infrastructure activity in the city of Fort Myers, as well as in Lee county, with regard to ground water, drainage, and sewage drainage. There are many areas in need of infrastructure services. This will be of much help to our goal of obtaining clean water.

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane, Co-Chair

The team continues to seek ways to support those living on the street or without stable housing.

The Homeless Coalition states there is always a need for socks, washcloths, tubes of small toothpaste, and deodorant. SO, we will have a collection for those items in October!

Dan Deshon has been transporting the bikes left at All Faiths to the All Souls ministry each month.

Susan Meissner continues to knit hats for women living outside. These will be paired with small hygiene items and provided to the county's outreach team to distribute this fall.

Pam Pfalzer and Susan have had a lot of fun and success negotiating for sleeping bags at thrift stores. These will also be given to the county's outreach team that Matt Wallace leads. (Matt spoke at All Faiths earlier this year). Let them know if you'd like to accompany them on a "thrifting" trip.

Judy Alberda seems to make connections with people and agencies serving those without housing wherever she goes. As a result, we have someone in mind to speak in the future, know what items people need the most, and have contacts with a few agencies.

Tina Noel is waiting to hear from other LIFE Congregations about their outreach or ministries to people without housing.

If you have ideas on ways to support this vulnerable population, please join us.

This team will meet at 1pm. June 15. The team will not meet in July or August.

START STOCKING UP ON YOUR HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR THE HOMELESS TEAM COLLECTION IN OCTOBER!



**Socks
Washcloths
Deodorant
Toothpaste
(small tubes)**

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – April 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 16,871
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,827
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,245
Raymond James Legacy	24,565
Pay Pal	165
First Horizon Capital Checking	39,348
First Horizon Capital Reserve	27,794
Total	\$155,815
Prior Month	<u>157,370</u>
Net Loss	(\$ -1,555)

April 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 11,656
Operating Expense	<u>11,799</u>
Net Gain	(\$ -143)

Comments:

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
- No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good in April. There were no minister related expenses.
- Our Pledge Goal in April was \$16,959.00; and \$7,849.00 was received.
- Since Hurricane Ian, with available funds from the UUA and our insurance carrier, the roof and gutters have been replaced. Interior renovations will be done when contractors are available and acceptable quotes are received. Funds for this work are deposited in the Capital Checking Fund. This is why there is such a large balance in the Capital Checking Fund.
- The monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,250.00 to the Capital Reserve account was made. The security/alarm system was replaced at a cost of \$1,200.00.
- In April, \$175.00 was collected for SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team).



Ice Cream Social

After Service
Sunday, June 25, 2023
Sponsored by Diane Chernow

THANK YOU ACMA!

The Summer of Love Fundraiser held on May 27 raised \$685 for All Faiths!



Thank you to everyone who showed up and participated in the *Summer of Love Open Mic*. All Faiths is grateful to the ACMA for all they do!

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, June 17 - 7:00pm

Rebekeh Pully in Concert

Boz Opening

Saturday, June 24

2:00pm - Workshop (check availability)

7:00pm Jason Wilbur in Concert

Bruce Gallant Opening

The Listening Room at All Faiths

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida
33901

General public \$18/Member discount \$12

Donations at the Door

ALL FAITHS DELEGATES HEADED TO GA!

All Faiths will be represented at this year's UUA General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA. This year, due to a drop in membership, we are only allowed three delegates. We are very fortunate to have three seasoned representatives this year. *Chris Stotler, Marsha Bates* and *Sharon Gray* all have experience as past delegates and GA attendees. This year we are equally fortunate to have our Director of Child & Youth Programs, *Albie Johnson*, also attend remotely.

It is always to our advantage to have representatives at the annual General Assembly. It's a great opportunity to learn, connect, collaborate, and network with other UUs -- maybe even find a minister!

This year a new UUA President will be elected, as well as the UUA's Chief Executive Officer. They are tasked with helping to lead our Association on a path to Beloved Community, in which people of diverse backgrounds, identities and theological beliefs can thrive.

One candidate for election was announced by the Presidential Search Committee (PSC) on November 15, 2022: the *Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt*. You can read the PSC announcement and the UUA Board of Trustees' statement on the nomination by visiting the UUA.org website.

No additional candidates were nominated by petition. Rev. Dr. Betancourt was nominated by the UUA Presidential Search Committee on November 15, 2022. Rev. Betancourt accepted the nomination. As previously announced, a second candidate identified by the Presidential Search Committee did not accept the nomination.

No additional candidates for UUA President qualified to run by petition. Individuals were able to become a candidate for UUA President by receiving petition signatures from fifty congregations in three regions of the Association between December 1, 2022 and February 1, 2023. No petitions were submitted by the February 1, 2023 deadline.

As the UUA Secretary announced that a referendum election on Rev. Dr. Betancourt's nomination would be held this year. This will ensure delegates can participate in our democratic process on behalf of their congregation. For this election, the ballot will open starting June 1, 2023, and will conclude at a posted time on Saturday, June 24, 2023 during General Assembly. Delegates will have the opportunity to express their support for or against Rev. Dr. Betancourt's candidacy. This is consistent with the UUA Board of Trustees' November statement about assuring that an election oc-



curs.

And, of course, the big issue at stake this year is the 2023 Proposed Revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

The UUA Bylaws were adopted when the Universalist Church in America and the American Unitarian Association merged in 1961. Article II established vital characteristics of the new UUA and outlined the original 6 Principles that reflected its fundamental beliefs and aspirations. There were significant disagreements over content that nearly derailed the merger process. Article II must be reviewed at least every 15 years.

In 1967, Section 4 was added to Article II, opposing discrimination and affirming inclusivity.

Efforts to update the 6 Principles began in the 1970s, focusing initially on eliminating sexist language. The revised 7 Principles and original 5 Sources were adopted at General Assembly (GA) in 1985 with wide popular support.

A 6th Source, Earth-centered spirituality, was added in 1995 at GA.

An Article II Study Commission formed in 2006 but delegates rejected its revisions at GA in 2009.

In 2013, at GA, the Article II section on "Non-Discrimination" became "Inclusion."

Separately in 2013, an 8th Principle was drafted centering anti-racism in the UUA. In 2017 a Responsive Resolution passed at GA calling for a Study Commission to consider adding the 8th Principle to Article II.

The current Article II Study Commission started in 2019 and the Commission was launched in 2020, just as COVID hit. Its work period was extended with the final report due in 2023, rather than in 2022.

The proposed Article II revision will be considered at General Assembly in Pittsburgh in June, 2023 and voted on by delegated representing UU congregations from across the country.

If the Article II revisions are approved by a majority of delegates voting on it in 2023, it will stand for a final approval at General Assembly in 2024.

If approved at the 2024 General Assembly by a majority of delegates, the proposed Article II revision would replace the current Article II in the UUA Bylaws.

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH!

June 19, 2023



On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States.

Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.

Publishers throughout the North responded to a demand for copies of Lincoln's proclamation and produced numerous decorative versions, including this engraving by R. A. Dimmick in 1864.

Publishers throughout the North responded to a demand for copies of Lincoln's proclamation and produced numerous decorative versions, including this engraving by R. A. Dimmick in 1864.

The post-emancipation period known as Re-construction (1865 - 1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such

changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

FORT MYERS JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION IS JUNE 17

The Lee County Black History Society, Dunbar Festival Committee and the African Coalition of Southwest Florida are partnering to host the 11th Annual Juneteenth Community Celebration.

The free event will be held 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, at Roberto Clemente Park, 1936 Henderson Ave. in Fort Myers.

This year's Juneteenth Celebration will be filled with a variety of entertainment for the entire family, including stage performances, music, arts and crafts, food and refreshments. Event attendees will also have a chance to receive free information from community businesses in wealth, health, education, job training, employment, housing, corporate and governmental services and more.

A special historical exhibit about Florida's Emancipation Day (May 20) and Juneteenth will be available at Williams Academy Black History Museum at Clemente Park at the festival and through the end of June

HELP WANTED

Ministerial Position. All Faiths Unitarian Congregation of Fort Myers, FL is seeking an experienced full-time Minister for a one-year contract with the potential to grow into a settled position. *Candidates must be in good standing with the UUA.* All Faiths Congregation, which is located in a beautiful tropical setting, offers a liberal refuge in conservative SW Florida. Our radically-welcoming community provides loving support to its congregants and our social justice teams work to improve our community and environment. You can learn more about our congregation at www.allfaithsuu.org. If interested, email Marsha Bates at afsearchteam@gmail.com.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

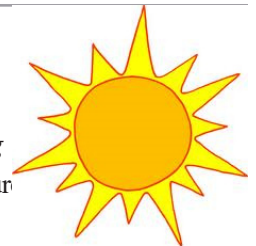
Phone: (239) 226-0900 – Email: office@allfaithsuu.org – Website: www.allfaithsuu.org

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

Directors: Rosalie Kuehn, Barb McFarlane, Greg Monk, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle.

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

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



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

Dottie Mayol

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

Lewis Robinson

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

Greg Monk

Minister: In Search



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