



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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**Dust off your platform shoes - it's a party!**  
**Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.**  
**Buy your tickets in advance!**

**And other good stuff...**

**Happy Easter!**

**All Faiths says Goodbye to the Mortgage!**

**Climate Action Team Symposium - April 2**

*Your Board of Directors held its regular meeting on March 16 at All Faiths. It was good to meet sitting around a table.*

The Board approved the revised proposed budget for next year (2022-2023) at \$245,093 which will be presented at the Annual Meeting for approval. This budget was reduced by \$5,000 because the mortgage will be paid off this month. This is a great accomplishment for All Faiths. A big thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to the "Burn-the-Mortgage" campaign and those who gave extra so it would be paid this year, not a couple years from now.

You also came through with the stewardship pledge drive. We achieved almost 90% of the pledge goal. This is the highest percentage that I remember. The Stewardship Committee did a great job with the Pledge Drive and the follow-up process.

The Board approved refurbishing our sign near the sidewalk in front. The color of the central panel is fading and needs replacement. We also approved a small change to the logo. The words "Where You Belong" will be added. The cost will fall within the general maintenance budget.

The Board approved expenditures up to \$5,500 from the Legacy Fund for installing pavers or a cement pad in the area that was formerly the deck. The Board received one bid and expect to receive another around March 28. Previously we received two gifts totaling over \$3,000 towards deck demolition and replacement. The Legacy Fund received a gift of \$10,000 from the Ed Fulker Estate; a portion of that will go towards the patio.

The Board discussed the need for several individuals to work with the Stewardship Committee as a subgroup to encourage gifts to the Legacy Fund. The subgroup can as-

sist individuals who wish to contribute to the fund with the process, although they cannot give the donor legal advice. All of us should think about how important All Faiths is to our lives and whether we want to leave part of our estate or give a living gift to the All Faiths Legacy Fund.

A retreat for the new board is planned for April 15. There will be no costs to All Faiths associated with the retreat.

The Board approved modifying the Robinson Room to be a combination classroom and conference room equipped with a large screen TV, camera and laptop. This will enable its use for hybrid meetings and classes.

A fund raiser for April 30 was approved. It will be a Disco Night, an inspiration from Rev. CJ's message of several weeks ago. It should be a lot of fun with food, drinks, music, and hopefully some dancing. You do not need to be a disco dancer to come and contribute to the fun.

Rachel reported on the activities of the Child and Youth Program (CYP) Committee. They are organizing a class on Buddhism for home schoolers. They are looking into other options. The Board will ask Kathy Fanny to periodically report to the Board on CYP activities to keep the Board more connected to the CYP.

Eileen Moran and Ernie Reid and will be leaving the Board the end of March. Diane Cartwright has served as the Past President ex-officio position for the past four years. I will move from Chair of the Board to her position as a non-voting member of the Board. Comments or suggestions for your Board of Directors can be emailed to All Faiths or you can contact a board member.

*Our next board meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2022, starting at 1:00PM. at All Faiths.*

## 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

*(Please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check.)*

**April** - One Tree (Climate Action Team)

**May** - Angel Wings (Heart for the Homeless Team)

**June** - Showing Up for Racial Justice (Racial Equity Team)

**July** - Visuality (LGBTQ+ Team)

**August** - Operation Joy (Back to School Part I)

March Share-the-Plate brought in \$420 for Angel Wings!



by Rev. CJ McGregor



I envy Christian ministers this time of year. When the April newsletter deadline rolls around they can turn to the liturgical calendar and hit upon dozens of messages and images related to Jesus' resurrection to use for newsletter and Easter Sunday sermon material. Then there is the Unitarian Universalist minister. Our tradition doesn't have a liturgical calendar to consult and how does one reach such a theologically diverse congregation with a single message? What about a resurrection message? After all it is Easter – a memorial of the resurrection since ancient times.

I find the variety of stories and interpretations of Jesus' resurrection intriguing and sometimes comical. Take, for example, the story of one young Unitarian Universalist. His Sunday school teacher was teaching a lesson about Easter and asked her class: "Who knows the story of Easter?" The boy jumped up and down waving his hand as he knew he had the answer. The teacher

called on him and he replied: "Easter is the holiday where Jesus comes out of his cave and if he sees his shadow we will have six more weeks of winter."

I like this story. It's a bit misguided but downright funny! It reminds me that each of us has our own resurrection story. You may share the Christian belief that Jesus died and was resurrected, or you may simply see this as one of many stories. No matter what we believe, the proof of victory over death is visible and unavoidable. This season of "rising again" allows us to witness the miracles that are around us. Perhaps we miss seeing these miracles because they are so ordinary and familiar. Let us be witness to the miracle of resurrection and create our own Easter stories.

– Blessings, Rev. CJ



## JOYS & SORROWS

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

**Dick Ashton** passed away on March 14, 2022 after a long illness. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Mildred Smith.

**Ainsleigh Babcock** performed in a local dance competition. We are happy that she is continuing to use her talents.

**Donalie Benyak** suffered a small stroke and was hospitalized for treatment. We hope that she has a steady and full recovery.

**Carol Elrod** has been making steady progress in recovering her ability to walk and speak. We hope that she continues to improve.

**Janet Falk** was treated in the hospital for a bleeding ulcer. We hope that she has a complete recovery.

**Peggy JSingh's** brother died in Trinidad, after suffering a long illness. We send our sympathy to her at this time of loss.

**Quillen McDaigle** was diagnosed with pneumonia. Her health is fragile. We keep her in our healing thoughts and prayers.

**Michael Pierre** had cardiac problems and was hospitalized to have a pacemaker installed. We hope that his health improves.

Stay Well and Share the Love

Joyce Ramay

Care and Support Coordinator

## READERS SOUGHT FOR DOROTHY PARKER REVUE

In 2014, All Faiths presented a 40-minute revue of Dorothy Parker's works, written and compiled by Diane and Doug Cartwright. We are reprising this show, with some added works, on May 12 at 6:30. It is called "A Little Lady Writing Verses," and it will be presented using six readers from the All Faiths family. If you are interested in being one of the six readers, please contact Doug or Diane Cartwright at doordi@comcast.net or give your name to Regina, CJ, or Doug and Diane in person. We will have one rehearsal TBA, and you must be able to clear your schedule for the rehearsal and the performance dates.

## Happening at All Faiths

*Happy April  
Birthday to you!*



April 1 Carol Heilsberg  
April 2 Cindy Crean  
April 3 Bill Snider  
April 4 Barbara Goolsby  
April 10 Diana Camp  
April 14 Jack Kennedy  
April 19 Diane Cartwright  
April 20 Joy Reinhart  
April 24 Ann Batal  
April 24 Louise "Weezie" Close  
April 27 Kathleen Weber  
April 30 Ray Ellis

*And Coming Up...*

May 7 Ed Kleinow

### TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR

Via Zoom - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/7787257501>

Facilitated by Rev. CJ McGregor



April 6 - No Program

April 13 - Wellspring Access the reading here [www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/courage-requires-vulnerability](http://www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/courage-requires-vulnerability)

April 20 - Wellspring Access the reading here [www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/endearaments](http://www.uua.org/worship/words/reflection/endearaments)

April 27 - Wellspring Access the reading here [www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/281512.shtml](http://www.uua.org/worship/words/reading/281512.shtml)

### McGregor Clinic Collection

Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month

Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

This month the clinic is in need of towels, sheets, men's and women's new underwear.

### All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Saturday at 2:00 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](mailto:ceegeefm@gmail.com).

### Book Club

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.  
Arts & Eats - on Alliance for the Arts Grounds

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](mailto:dianecher@comcast.net)



### Solos Group Events

Saturday, April 2, **12:30 p.m.**

Nomiki's Plakka Greek Restaurant  
12901 McGregor Blvd., Ste. 3  
Fort Myers, FL 33919

*Check your email for details.*

Contact: Annely Hudanick,  
[annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

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



# April 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<div>1</div> <div>2pm Dominoes in the Community Room</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9-1pm CAT Symposium (see pg. )  2pm Choir Practice  7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 11)</div>
<div>3</div> <div>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan  10:30am Service and Child &amp; Youth Program</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg.</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>2pm Dominoes in the Community Room</div>	<div>9</div> <div>2pm Choir Practice</div>
<div>10</div> <div>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan  10:30am Service (No CYP)</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10am Sunday Service Team Mtg.</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10am Zoom Racial Equity Meeting</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 4)  12pm Book Club (see pg. 4)</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10 am Zoom Finance Mtg.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>2pm Dominoes in the Community Room</div>	<div>16</div> <div>2pm Choir Practice</div>
<div>17</div> <div>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan  10:30am Service and Child &amp; Youth Program  Easter</div>	<div>18</div> <div>7pm - Zoom Odyssey with Rev. CJ McGregor  McGregor Clinic Collection</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 4)  1pm Board Meeting</div>	<div>21</div> <div>2pm Heart for the Homeless Team Mtg.</div>	<div>22</div> <div>2pm Dominoes in the Community Room</div>	<div>23</div> <div>2pm Choir Practice</div>
<div>24</div> <div>9:15am News Talk w. Richard Keelan  10:30am Service and Child &amp; Youth Program</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10am Ten O'clock Scholar (see pg. 4)</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>No Dominoes Today</div>	<div>30</div> <div>2pm Choir Practice  4pm DISCO NIGHT FUN-RAISER! (see pg. 11)</div>
<div>Check the online calendar at: <a href="http://www.allfaiths-uc.org">http://www.allfaiths-uc.org</a> for post-printing updates</div>						

## APRIL 2022 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES "INTENTION"

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

Recorded services can be viewed at [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)  
or on our YouTube channel.

### April 3

#### ***Intention, Attention, Mindful Action***

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

*Celebration of April Birthdays*

### April 10

#### ***Good Intentions Are Not Enough***

by Annely Hudanick

Music by Carlos Garcia

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

*Share the Plate with One Tree (CAT)*

### April 17

#### ***Awake, Arise, Rejoice***

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Carlos Garcia and The All Voices Choir

Worship Associate - Susan Meissner

*McGregor Clinic Collection*

### April 24

#### ***We Are Not Separate from, but Part of Nature,***

by Betty Osceola, Miccosukee Leader

Music by Carlos Garcia and Joan Marshall

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

*Life of Congregation Report*

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

### **News Talk with Richard Keelan**

9:15 a.m. - at All Faiths in the Sanctuary  
(No program on 3/20 and 3/27)

### **Child & Youth Program**

10:30 a.m. in the Robinson Room  
(Confirm Dates on Calendar)

## CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES FOR APRIL 2022

### **In House & on Zoom**

**April 3 -What are we?** We will investigate the words "religion," "faith," and "spirituality" and learn how each relates to Unitarian Universalism.

### **April 10 - No Program**

**April 17 - Where are we going?** We will introduce the idea that Unitarian Universalism is a humanistic religion: We believe humans have the potential to greatly shape our mutual destiny.

**April 24 - The Question of God.** We leave the question of God to individual consideration. Yet our faith offers much guidance to support youth and adults as they seek their own understandings.

## LEADING CHANGE IN YOUR CONGREGATION

May 4,11,18,25 10am – 12pm, All Faiths Community Room, led by Rev. CJ McGregor

A 4-session workshop for leaders, committee chairs, members and friends. We need strong, inspiring and courageous leadership in our congregations more than ever. This workshop will equip you with the skills to lead change in your congregation so that you can help support the spiritual, emotional, and organizational needs of our congregation and community. Based on Gilbert Rendle's classic book *Leading Change in the Congregation*, you will be guided through the hurdles, challenges and exciting possibilities involved in leadership.

**Session 1: Getting There from Here:** Leadership and Change and A Place in the Story: The Spiritual Assumptions of Leaders

**Session 2: Beyond the Trees:** Systems Theory as a Way to Look at Your Congregation and Welcome to the Wilderness: The Spiritual Journey of Congregational Change

**Session 3: Riding the Roller Coaster:** The Emotional Cycle of Congregations in Change and Spinning Wheels Gather No Traction: Congregational Preferences in Change

**Session 4: A Postscript for the Faith Community:** Behavior Appropriate to a Congregation and Wrap Up

## CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Carol Heilsberg, Co-Chair



Your Climate Action Team sponsored two very informative activities in March. The first was a guided tour on March 4 of the Lee County Waste Management Recycling Center. We had the opportunity to learn just what goes on in the facility when the stuff we have thrown away arrives there,

and to ask questions about what does and does not belong in our recycle bins. One of the most welcome things we learned was that we do not have to ruin our fingernails trying to remove those pesky glued-on paper labels from recyclable containers. We observed conveyor belts in constant motion, lined by dedicated, hard-working staff members plucking ineligible items and setting them aside as the stream of material delivered by garbage trucks whizzed by. Prior to our departure the facility gifted us with sturdy tote bags decorated with pictures and information stating plainly the five categories of recyclable materials, and what items qualify in each category. After our tour we treated ourselves to a delicious lunch at Buckingham Farms restaurant just up the road. This event was both educational and enjoyable, and we are thinking of repeating it in the near future for those who didn't have a chance to participate this time.

Then on March 22 we presented a screening of the Interfaith Power & Light film "Kiss the Ground" in our sanctuary, followed by a wide-ranging discussion. The topic was regenerative agriculture, and the film makes a convincing case for this "old is new again" farming technique that has life-saving potential for our planet and its inhabitants. We were joined by Gary Robbins of the SWFL RESET Center, one of our partner organizations, who filled us in on the various activities that group is involved in and invited us to join them. If you couldn't make it to this screening, the film is available on Netflix and is very well-worth watching. Look for an announcement of the next CAT-sponsored film screening and discussion which will take place later this month.

There is another exciting event happening at All Faiths this coming Saturday, April 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with lunch provided. The Pachamama Alliance has invited our congregation to a symposium entitled "Awakening the Dreamer". We will learn new ways of thinking about our culture and how it impacts the environment and our rela-

tionships with one another, and our future as inhabitants of this planet. To register for this event, click on this link: [Awakening the Dreamer Symposium](#)

April 22nd is when people around the world celebrate Earth Day. We'll keep you informed about Earth Day events happening here in southwest Florida. Here at All Faiths we will hold a special Earth Day service on Sunday, April 24th with a sermon by Betty Osceola of the Miccosukee tribe. We hope you will be able to join us for this celebratory service.

The Climate Action Team Meets on 1st Tuesday of the Month at 1:30 p.m.

CAT ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/7787257501>

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## ♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

As we wrap up this fiscal year, once again All Faiths' members generously donated money, household items, hygiene products, bikes, socks and food to support those without housing. We also advocated for affordable housing and homeless people with elected officials.

Since last April, members donated \$445 to this team. This money was spent on school uniforms as well as donations to organizations serving people without housing. Angel Wings was the recipient of the team's Share-the-Plate collection this year.

In June All Faiths members donated 224 hygiene products. These were brought to the Salvation Army's Day Resource Center and Triage shelter.

The bike ministry resulted in members and neighbors providing 80 bikes since last April. Bikes were given to the All Souls church's homeless outreach program, the Salvation Army Triage shelter, the Sheriff's Department and Robert Hippierts Bicycle Ministry.

There was a huge response to the request for household items in March. St. Vincent de Paul used most of them in "gift bags" for their event celebrating those who found housing this year. Other items were given to Grace Church Thrift store. St. Vincent de Paul partners with Grace Thrift by giving clients vouchers to use there.

We continue to seek the congregation's ideas and involvement around the issue of homelessness. Contact Judy Alberda ([judyalberda@yahoo.com](mailto:judyalberda@yahoo.com)) or Barb McFarlane with any questions ([mcfarlanebar@gmail.com](mailto:mcfarlanebar@gmail.com)).

## 2022 Annual Meeting

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation's Annual Meeting was held Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 9:30 am. Chris Stotler, Chair of the Board of Directors, presided over the meeting. Rev. CJ McGregor read words of wisdom as the chalice was lit.

The following actions were taken:

- Approval of the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- Approval of the \$245,093 budget for fiscal year 2022-23.
- Acceptance of the slate of nominees for Directors and Treasurer as proposed by the Nominating Committee. No additional nominations were received from the floor.
- Election of John Conrad (2<sup>nd</sup> term) as Treasurer and the following Directors for two-year terms: Marge DiGalbo (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Linda Runkle (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Michelle Gemma (1<sup>st</sup> term), and Lewis Robinson (1<sup>st</sup> term). Judy Alberda was elected to a one-year term.
- Approval and election of the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee. Members elected Lisa Leonhardt (2<sup>nd</sup> term) and Carol Heilsberg (1<sup>st</sup> term) to serve on that Committee.
- Approval of the new Mission Statement: "All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is committed to Justice, Equity, and Compassion."
- Approval of the following Vision Statement after discussion and modification of the proposed 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."

Rev. CJ McGregor read the names of members who died during the past year as the Rites of Passage. Those remembered included Dick Ashton, Ed Fulker, Elaine Leventhal, Edith Rood, and Vivian Sawaya.

After the chalice was extinguished, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:10 am.

*Submitted by Chris Stotler.*

## APRIL ODYSSEY REV. CJ MCGREGOR

Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.



Rev. CJ McGregor will be the subject of our next Odyssey. Hosted by Joyce Ramay, we will explore the life and times of our minister, who will celebrate five years at All Faiths in May. You won't want to miss this one. Q&A session to follow. Link sent via email prior to program.

## WON'T YOU HELP?

I'm looking for a volunteer who will co-lead our Racial Equity Team. It's one meeting per month and assists the congregation to increase its witness to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism work. Contact Rev. CJ at [revcjmcgregor@gmail.com](mailto:revcjmcgregor@gmail.com) or 508-736-3361.

## LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT

*by Marsha Bates*

Thank you to all who attended LIFE's March 15th Nehemiah Action whether in person or online.

At the Nehemiah Action, four council members (Johnny Streets, Teresa Watkins-Brown, Darla Bonk, and Mayor Anderson) indicated willingness to modify the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Ordinance to address some of LIFE's concerns with the ordinance that was passed at the end of January.

Three of the council members said they will support immediately placing the promised \$1.5 million into the trust fund immediately. All four indicated willingness to work toward identifying viable on-going funding sources for the affordable housing trust fund. They are also willing to modify the ordinance to ensure a larger portion of the funds will go to persons earning 80 percent or less of the area's average median income. LIFE also asked that council modify the voucher portion of the affordable housing ordinance to eliminate the \$400 per month cap. Instead, LIFE asked that council consider using a sliding scale based on a person's income so those most in need would receive more assistance each month.

Although we left the Nehemiah Action with promises of support, continued vigilance is needed to ensure the promises become a reality. Be prepared to support LIFE future actions ... attending council meetings, writing letters, etc., as we endeavor to make affordable housing a reality.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

### Balance Sheet: Cash Assets – February 2022

First Horizon Checking	\$28,323
First Horizon Op. Reserve	21,040
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,852
Raymond James Legacy	46,978
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Fund	<u>1,213</u>
Total	\$118,442
Prior Month	<u>90,457</u>
Net Gain	\$ 27,984

### February 2022 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 36,973
Operating Expense	<u>26,079</u>
Net Gain	\$ 10,894

- Revenue/Operating Income **increased** in February compared to January.
  - We have received 97.5% of the pledge goal for the first 11 months of the year (\$186,792 in pledge contributions, while our anticipated pledge goal through February was \$191,583). Thank you for all of your continued and sustained support!!
  - Some of the increase in Revenue is from early **Where You Belong** Pledge giving 2022-2023.
- The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of February was \$9,807. This reflects significant progress because on April 1, 2021 the mortgage principal balance was \$86,896 (**a decrease of \$77,089 in just 11 months**)! The response to the Burn the Mortgage campaign has been incredible. It is with increasing hope that we can achieve our goal of being debt free by the end of our fiscal year. Thank you to all that have been so generous. **And as of March 14 2022, the Mortgage balance has dropped further to approximately \$1,815** (taking into account promised checks that we will be receiving)! **Can we cross the finish line and Burn the Mortgage by March 31?**
- The Capital Reserve Study, approved by the Board earlier this year, has been completed. The Finance Committee and the Board are now hoping to incorporate the funding of the reserves into the budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. The reserves, once implemented, will be used for future anticipated capital expenses, such as replacement of A/C units, roofs, carpeting, et cetera.
- In February \$2,627 was collected for the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Marsha Bates

The final amount of pledges made for this 2022-23 Fiscal Year is nearly 90 percent of the pledge campaign's goal. This demonstrates how much our congregation is valued by its members and friends. Thank you to all who donate funds (whether in the form of a pledge or otherwise) to support our spiritual home.

Stewardship is not limited to the once-a-year pledge drive. There are three components to stewardship:

- Time – dedicating part of one's time (our most valuable possession) to support a cause that is meaningful to the individual;
- Talent – sharing one's talents to benefit others; and
- Treasure – sharing a portion of one's financial resources.

Those of us who are capable of sharing more than our Treasure should think about other ways in which we can contribute to our beloved community.

### ACMA LIVE MUSIC!

The Americana Community Music Association's Facebook page is updated every Saturday with YouTube or music links from our scheduled artist for that date. Also check out new concerts outdoors at the Alliance for the Arts.



**April 2**

Annie Wenz & Rod MacDonald

**April 16**

George Worthmore & the Divebombers  
with Pete Bensen & Glen Sabatka opening

**April 23**

2PM Band with Bill Nedela opening

**The Listening Room at All Faiths**

2756 McGregor Blvd.  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

General public \$18/Member discount \$12  
Donations at the Door

*Check ACMA Facebook or website:  
[www.americanacma.org](http://www.americanacma.org) for more info.*

## SUPPORTING THOSE IMPACTED BY THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

As the situation in Ukraine has unfolded over the last several days, there has been an outpouring of prayers and concern from Unitarian Universalists expressing heartfelt unity around this growing human rights tragedy. We want to share the most up-to-date information on how UUs in this country and around the world are responding and amplify the ways that we can all help.

As Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), said, “we continue to join in solidarity with so many around the world and pray for the people of Ukraine. Our hearts go out to those who are enduring devastating loss of life, violence, instability, and upheaval due to Russia’s unprovoked invasion. Our UU faith calls us to remain committed to justice and we believe we have a moral responsibility to support the creation of peace and the equal rights of all people.”

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is a stark reminder that human rights are fundamentally linked to our interdependence. Over the last few weeks, while we have seen tremendous acts of courage and generosity by and towards the people of Ukraine, we have also seen the worst of human behavior. We continue to be mindful that an authoritarian, imperialistic ideology that seeks to deny Ukrainians their rights to live free and independently, under the false, anti-Semitic guise of “denazification,” is directly tied to colonialist ideologies globally and here in the U.S. that endanger the health, well-being, and lives of BIPOC individuals, members of the LG-BTQIA+ community, and other marginalized populations.

And as millions of people living in Ukraine flee to safety, we know that, on top of an already dangerous situation, there are life-threatening experiences of anti-Blackness, racism, and xenophobia that are blocking escape from the deadly conflict.

[DONATE NOW](#)

The scope of this humanitarian crisis is staggering. To help address the scale of the crisis, the UUA has been working closely with our partners at the UU Service Committee, which is dedicated to advancing human rights and social justice, together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. They have created an Emergency Relief Fund to support Ukraine and we are committed to amplifying their voice and humanitarian work.

The international implications of Russia’s war in Ukraine are profound. The UUA’s International office has additional resources for supporting Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes and communities, including information on supporting the Hungarian Unitarian Church and the International Women’s Convocation’s Faithify Campaign.

As more information becomes available, we will make sure to provide updates on our efforts, including on our Facebook page. We ask that you continue to hold in your hearts the people of Ukraine and all of those around the world who are suffering because of war and injustice. And we ask that you pray for peace as we all hold each other in mutual care.

For more information contact [info@uua.org](mailto:info@uua.org).



Several All Faithers gathered with the League of Women Voters at the corner of Winkler and Cypress Lake Drive to show support for the Ukrainian people. *[Photos courtesy of Elinor and Rick Gentilman]*





# DISCO NIGHT

**BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!**

**Do you have a longing to visit or revisit the 1970's? Then join us as we take a journey back to a time of discotheques, disco music and polyester. Join us for an evening of fun with our friends at All Faiths. The night is devoted to the music, the looks and that atmosphere of the 70's era. Dress in your best 1970's outfit and get ready for 1970's karaoke! We will provide Hors d'oeuvres, and non-alcohol beverages. Beer and wine will be available for a donation. Come join us for the funkiest night of the season! Win a contest for best costume—or best designed table! Be sure to get your tickets before they sell out!**

**When: Saturday, April 30, 4:00 P.M.**

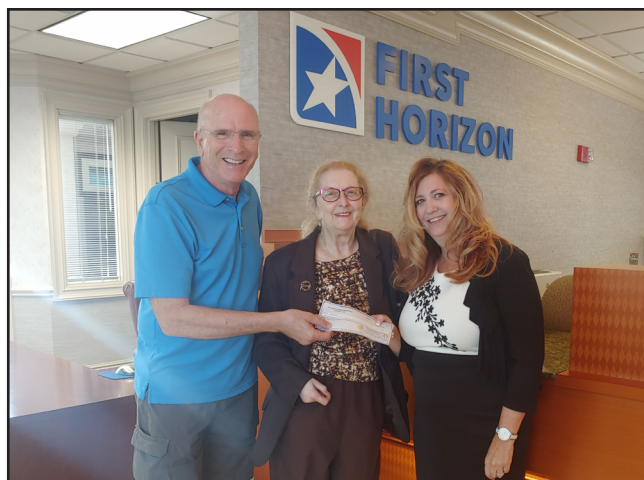
**Where: All Faiths Congregation  
2756 McGregor Blvd,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901**

**Advance Tickets Only: \$20 per person.**

**Free admission for children under 16 who are accompanied by an adult.**



# Congratulations All Faiths – Mortgage Paid in Full!



John Conrad, our Treasurer, and Joyce Ramay, Finance Chair, hand All Faiths' last mortgage payment to Fiona Natanni, Branch Manager and Vice President of First Horizon Bank, meeting our 3/31/22 payoff goal.



Howard Silverman and Regina Kilmartin burn the mortgage on March 27 as Rev. CJ and Greg Monk look on. Howard initiated a Burn-the-Mortgage Campaign in January of 2019, and you made it happen! Thank you!

## All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

**Executive Board:** Chair t/b/d; Rachel Spiller, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Chris Stotler, Past Chair.

**Directors:** Judy Alberda, Marge DiGalbo, Peter Erickson, Michelle Gemma, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle.

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

**Minister Emeritus:** The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

### Communications

*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

*Proofreaders*

Carol Elrod

Joyce Ramay

*Social Media & Website*

Regina Kilmartin,

Sharon Gray, Becky Ross

### Adult Education Forums

#### Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Richard Keelan

### Member Services

Fran Way

*Greeters*

Marsha Bates

*Care and Support*

Joyce Ramay

#### Finance

Joyce Ramay

### Stewardship Committee

Marsha Bates

### Nominating Committee

Lisa Leonhardt

### Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

### Building and Grounds

Bob DiGalbo

Judy Alberda

### Social Action & Outreach

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall

*Community Events*

Richard Keelan

*Heart for the Homeless*

Barb McFarlane

### Racial Equity Team

t/b/d

*L.I.F.E.*

Marsha Bates, Lana Cowell,

Barb McFarlane

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

*Operation Joy & Solos Group*

Annely Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

Sharon Gray

### Child & Youth Program

**Committee**

Rachel Spiller

**Minister: Rev. CJ McGregor - Cell: 508-736-3361**



Deadline for the **May** Issue of *Connections* is **April 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