



ALL FAITHS
UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

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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The Board of Directors meeting was held on November 18, 2020 via Zoom, with all members present.

The Board approved the goal budget that the Finance Committee recommended for the church's 2021-2022 fiscal year (\$235,023). The goal budget is larger than the revised budget (\$228,808) recently approved by the Board for this year (2020-21), but smaller than the one approved last year (pre-COVID) by the Congregation (\$237,980). The current budget was reduced at our last meeting because revenues for the year are projected to be less than planned.

The Stewardship Committee has started organizing for the pledge drive that will start in January. They will use the goal budget as they develop pledge-related materials. The final budget for next year will be developed after we know the level of pledges received. It will be presented to the congregation for approval at the An-

nual Meeting. Pledges need to increase significantly to offset COVID-related lost revenues.

All Faiths received a \$10,000 gift from the Louis and Barbara Pizzini Charitable Fund through the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. Similar to the previous bequest from the Pizzini estate, the funds are stipulated to be used for a "Poor and Needy" Fund. Following discussions about the best approach to handle the funds, we agreed that it should be deposited into the Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF). The procedures in place for the MDF ensure that the funds will be used per the Pizzinis' intentions.

In December the congregation has a special collection for bonuses for our staff, Rev. CJ McGregor, Regina Kilmartin, Joseph Brauer, and Joe Gayton. This collection is December 6th, but since we cannot meet, you should mail your donation to the church. The Board approved the distribution per-

centages that will be used to split the donation among staff. A generous donation is encouraged.

The February special collection usually goes to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, but because the MDF is amply funded at this time, the Board approved taking the collection to fund All Faiths' donation to the UUA Annual Program Fund, which will not be included in the upcoming fiscal year budget.

We need cameras to live-stream and record our services. Currently Regina is using her phone as the camera, but that approach will be impractical once we resume in-person services. After a thorough review of options, it has been determined we need two cameras that will be controlled from the soundboard area. The equipment will cost about \$2,000. We are putting this on the Wish List. We have some commitments to support buying the equipment but need more. If

you appreciate having the recorded services, please consider making a special gift to the Wish List.

All Faiths received a proposal from a farmer's market to use our grassy area to erect two 12' by 12' stands to sell their produce. They would not use our electricity or facilities, would pay a daily rental fee, and have pledged to donate a portion of their sales receipts. It sounds like a win-win situation so the Board approved proceeding with further discussions to answer the Board's questions.

The Congregational Manual, a compilation of all policies and procedures, has been completed and the Board approved its adoption. New policies or revisions to policies or procedures in the future, will need board approval before being included in the manual. The document will be available to the congregation through our website.

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Mission Statement

"All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community, seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth. "We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world."

All Faiths Collection Schedule

Share-the-Plate (please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check.)

January 10- The Change Program, Alliance for the Arts (Racial Justice Team)

February 14 - UUA - One-Time Collection for Annual Program Fund

March 14 - Angel Wings (Heart for the Homeless Team)

Special Collections

December 6 - Employee Bonuses

Food, Clothing, and Other Collections

McGregor Clinic - T/B/D

The November Share-the-Plate resulted in \$1,125 for "Operation Joy"





Author Tracy Springberry writes, "In the 1800s, the Unitarians were trendsetters. Christmas, the Unitarians believed, could be a holiday to promote their values of generosity and charity and social good, and would be a wonderful way to build these values, particularly in children. It was Unitarians who wove together Santa Claus, Christmas trees, gift giving around the tree, a focus on charity and peace and goodwill toward all to create the Christmas that the majority of Americans celebrate today. Then there is Charles Follen, the Unitarian who introduced the Christmas tree in America. Follen was a German immigrant, Harvard professor, an ardent abolitionist and eventually the minister of our church in Lexington, Massachusetts (now known as the "Follen Church"). One Christmas he invited several colleagues to his home where he had put up a tree lit with candles and covered with ornaments as he remembered from his childhood. One of the guests later wrote, "It really looked beautiful. The room seemed in a blaze, and the ornaments were so well hung on, that no accident happened, except that one doll's petticoat caught fire."

One of his Unitarian guests, Harriet Martineau, wrote about the experience and in a short time, middle-class Americans were celebrating Christmas by putting up Christmas trees.

"Jingle Bells", published in 1857, was written by James Pierpont, organist and choir director of the Unitarian Church in Savannah, GA where his brother John, was the minister. Their father John, minister of the Medford, MA Unitarian Church was a strong abolitionist and temperance advocate. The story is told that James was not a teetotaler and when he was a young man, stored liquor in the basement of his father's church! Apparently others did so as well - in fact, they were some of the elder Pierpont's church parishioners, much to the minister's dismay. One Sunday, upon arriving at church, the church-goers found a little note tacked on to the church door that read:

There's a spirit above, and a spirit below, A spirit of love and a spirit of woe. The spirit above is the spirit divine, The spirit below is the spirit of wine.

Most believe that James wrote this humorous note. Now known as a Christmas classic, and one of the all-time best selling musical compositions, "Jingle Bells" was written for a Thanksgiving church service at the Unitarian Church in Savannah, GA. It was so well received that the children of the church sang it for the Christmas service. A number of popular Christmas carols were written by Unitarians including "I

Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; "Watchman Tell Us of the Night," by John Bowring; and "Do You Hear What I Hear?" by Noel Regney. In 1849, a Unitarian minister, Edmund Hamilton Sears, wrote the words to "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."

We also owe our stories and images of Santa Claus to Unitarians. In 1823, Clement Moore, a Unitarian professor of Oriental and Greek literature at Columbia University, wrote a poem to give parents a vision of what he believed Christmas should look like. The result was "The Night Before Christmas." Moore wrote the poem for his own children, basing his image of St. Nicholas in the poem on the jolly old Dutch handyman who used to work on his family's estate. By chance, the poem was published in a New York newspaper (in Troy, NY), and circulated widely in the popular press for many years, spreading the image of a red-coated Santa Claus driving a flying sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. Thomas Nast, a popular political cartoonist and Unitarian, helped developed and promote Santa's image, drawing a picture of him for Harper's Weekly every year from 1863 to 1886. He was the one who showed Santa keeping records of good and bad children, and was the first to locate Santa's workshop at the North Pole, poking fun at the British, Russian and Scandinavian explorers who all were competing to be the first to reach the pole. Locating Santa

at the North Pole also sent a message that he existed for all the children of the world.

The revival of Christmas reflects a larger 19th century Unitarian concern with social conditions. Like their counterparts in Europe, our Unitarian ancestors sought to return Christianity to its roots as a religion that followed the teachings of Jesus, rather than being a religion about Jesus. They believed in salvation through the life well lived rather than through a personal piety that was often indifferent to the suffering and struggles of others. This theology is very evident in the work of Charles Dickens. Michael Timko writes that: "All Dickens's novels reflect the central ideas of nineteenth-century Unitarianism: the belief that Jesus was a human being who exemplified a truly religious life; the rejection of materialism and the doctrine of necessity; the rejection of a God of stern judgment; a disdain of theological controversy; the rejection of dogma; an inclusive rather than an exclusive religion; and an emphasis on doing good works. In A Christmas Carol, without once mentioning Jesus, Dickens shows it is possible to experience a conversion--not necessarily based on a specific religious experience--but a personal regeneration that leads one to help others. With Scrooge's transformative change of heart, Dickens illustrates that his readers, too, can be converted from a harsh, complacent, selfish worldview to one of love,

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Happening at All Faiths

*Happy December
Birthday to you!*



- December 6 Sharon Gray
- December 9 Scott Kilhefner
- December 12 Elaine Dorais
- December 14 Jeff Moran
- December 14 Carol Siferd
- December 15 Emily Morse Palmer
- December 16 Maggie Mullins
- December 18 Nancy McGlasson
- December 21 Mary Ellen Fritz
- December 23 Chris Stotler
- December 30 Linda Bigelow
- December 31 Nova Spiller

And Coming Up...

- Jan 1 Shea Fierro
- Jan 5 Colleen North



Solos Group Events

Saturday, December 12, 1:00 p.m.
Holiday Virtual Zoom Luncheon

*Don't lose track of your Solo friends.
Wear something festive!
We'll sing holiday songs and be merry!*



Contact: Annelly Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

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

TEACHING TUESDAYS

Zoom Link

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

December 8 - Join us to learn more about the Lee County LGBTQ Democratic Caucus. This organization united to strengthen and further the ideals and principles of the Democratic party. They promote diversity, good will, and respect for all members of the community.

December 15 - Join us to view the documentary Brave Blue World. From reuse to energy generation, new innovations across five continents are explored in this documentary about building a future for sustainable water. Discussion to follow.

December 22 - Join us to learn more about Housing First Lee County. This organization serves as a platform for SWFL advocates and activists in an effort to address our growing housing and homelessness crisis.

December 29 - Join us to view the documentary National Parks Adventure. This documentary tours the awe inspiring landscapes, historic and untamed wilderness of America's great parks. Discussion to follow.

ZOOM MEETINGS

- Monday** Schedule a one-on-one meeting with the Minister via Zoom, or in person
- Tuesdays** Zoom Teaching Tuesdays - 1 p.m.
- Wednesday** Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering 7-9 p.m.
- Thursdays** Zoom Coffee Hour - 11:30 a.m.
- Sunday** Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan - 9 a.m.
Zoom Youth Religious Education - 10:45 a.m.
Zoom Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday service is streamed *live* at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, on our public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/allfaithsuc

View the services anytime on our website: www.allfaithsuo.org by clicking on the You Tube button, or go to YouTube.com and search "All Faiths."

DECEMBER 2020 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
|  | | | | | | |
| | | 1 1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg. | 2 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan | 3 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 7pm ACMA Concert Lipbone Redding | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff | 7 6:30pm Zoom Odyssey with Vanessa Gilyard | 8 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. Lee County LGBTQ Democratic Caucus | 9 | 10 10 am Zoom Finance Mtg. 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour Hanukkah Begins | 11 | 12  1pm Solos Zoom Extravaganza Holiday Lunch |
| 13 9:00am Zoom 24 Hours of Climate Reality with Ariel Hoover 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff | 14 10am Zoom Sun. Service Team Mtg. 12pm Zoom Book Club | 15 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. "Brave Blue World" | 16 10am Racial Justice Mtg. 1pm - Zoom Board Meeting 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan | 17 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour No Homeless Team | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff | 21 | 22 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. Housing First Lee County | 23 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan | 24 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m Livestreamed Service | 25 Christmas Day  | 26 |
| 27 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff | 28 | 29 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. "National Parks Adventure" | 30 | 31 11:30am Coffee Hour New Year's Eve Goodbye 2020! |  | |

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

DECEMBER - "CELEBRATIONS" 2020 WORSHIP SERVICES

Livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Recorded and available at www.allfaithsuu.org

Sunday, December 6

Message: Diaries of a Macy's Elf

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Carol Elrod

Special Collection for Employee Bonuses

Sunday, December 13

Message: Celebrating Hanukkah

by Rabbi Bruce Diamond

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Rev. CJ McGregor

Youth Religious Education – Mary Corrigan

Sunday, December 20

Message: Winter Solstice, by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

Youth Religious Education – Mary Corrigan

Thursday, December 24 – 6:30 p.m.

Message: A Winter Evening, by Rev. CJ McGregor

Special Music Program

Sunday, December 27

Message: Scram 2020, by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk with Richard Keelan

9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Youth RE with Mary Corrigan

10:40 a.m. on Zoom

Coffee Talk with Staff

11:30 a.m. on Zoom

FROM MCGREGOR BOULEVARD

(cont'd from page 3)

hope, and charity and, like Scrooge, can again become part of the human community. For Dickens, that was the true meaning of Christmas."

This story is steeped in the Unitarian theology that how we treat each other deeply matters. At Christmas we make sure that all children receive gifts, that the food banks are full of food, and that at least for these few weeks people everywhere are cared for." This is the meaning of Christmas for us as Unitarian Universalists. But it is a meaning that isn't limited to a few weeks of the year. Ours is a faith that believes in the potential of humankind to redeem itself and that like Scrooge, as long as we're alive, it is not too late. At any point in our lives, even in the midst of our own suffering, loss or struggle, we can take our rightful place as generous, compassionate, loving human beings who can ease the suffering of others and are willing to commit ourselves to caring for all of life and working for peace and justice in our world. We can choose at any point, as a transformed Scrooge says, to honor Christmas in our hearts and to try to keep it all year. "And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!"

– Blessings, CJ

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

Other business completed:

Approved issuing a request for proposals for lawncare services that includes some of the activities that we have relied on volunteers to perform;

Reviewed a proposal from a structural engineer to design the much-needed deck replacement;

Reviewed the status of the application to obtain an IRS determination letter; and

Approved the installation of new hardware on our front doors, a cost of \$1,085. The old door hardware can no longer be repaired and wind has been causing the security alarm to go off.

Please stay safe and healthy over Thanksgiving and during your preparations for the holiday season. COVID numbers are increasing again so please take extra steps to protect yourselves and others. If you have comments or suggestions for the Board, please e-mail All Faiths or contact me (239-770-0795 or gestotler@gmail.com) or other Board members. We like hearing from you.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for December 16, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



Our Climate Action Team member, Gerald Goen, is leading a CAT effort to promote the installation of rooftop solar by our local big box stores, such as Walmart, Target and Costco. We will be calling on the managers of these stores to enlist

their support in this essential transition to clean renewable energy.

In its 2018 report, the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that in order to achieve the Paris Accord goal of holding global warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade it will be necessary to cut our use of fossil fuels in half by 2030. Sounds impossible... right? However, in September of this year, the President and CEO of Walmart, Doug McMillon, stepped up to the challenge in this remarkable 2020 Regeneration Speech. I urge you to watch this short video and be amazed and inspired.

2020 Regeneration Doug McMillon Speech

Here is a brief excerpt from his speech:

“Today, I am committing Walmart to become a regenerative company, one dedicated to placing nature and humanity at the center of our business practices. Regenerating means restoring, renewing and replenishing in addition to conserving. It means decarbonizing operations and eliminating waste along the product chain. It means adopting regenerative practices in agriculture, forest management and fisheries – while advancing prosperity and equity for customers, associates and people who participate in our product supply chains. And working with our suppliers, customers, NGO’s and others, we hope to play a part in transforming the world’s supply chains to be regenerative. As part of our new commitments we are raising our ambition to achieve zero emissions in our global operations by 2040. We’re going to pull a number of levers to do this, including harvesting enough wind, solar and other renewable energy sources to power our global operations by 2035.”

We are living in an age of profound historic significance. What we do or fail to do, in this decade of the 2020’s, will determine the quality of life on this planet for literally centuries to come. We hope you will do everything in your power to help make a difference for future generations.

LIFE

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

Thank you to 32 All Faiths’ congregants who attended virtual house meetings to support All Faiths’ involvement in Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE). On November 9th, 22 of our network members attended LIFE’s Annual Assembly, the gathering of network members from 19 Lee County congregations, which was held via Zoom.

The majority of Annual Assembly attendees voted for LIFE to concentrate on criminal justice as the new issue the organization will initiate in 2020-2021. LIFE will also continue to concentrate on the affordable housing issue in the upcoming year.

LIFE is one of 23 grass roots organizations located in nine states that exist under the umbrella of the Direct Action and Research Training (DART) Center. All 23 organizations are comprised of congregations whose missions are to pursue justice on a local level. On November 12 and 13, Donalie Benyak and Lana Cowell, two of All Faiths’ Team Leads, participated (virtually) in an Advanced Leadership Training Institute course, sponsored by DART, to teach team leaders how to encourage network members to take action to remedy an issue.

On December 1st, there will be a LIFE meeting to further refine the criminal justice issue that will be tackled and brainstorm potential approaches. An Action Team will be formed to gather facts to further hone the approach that will be taken. Network members and congregants who are passionate about criminal justice issues are welcome to participate. Please say ‘yes’ when contacted by one of All Faiths’ Team Leads.

HOW TO ENROLL YOUTH IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Youth Religious Education program is thriving and growing. If you would like your children to participate in our Youth RE Program, please contact our Youth RE Director, Mary Corrigan, mary837@gmail.com to enroll. We would like to know the youth and their families prior to participating and answer any questions you may have.

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Cameron Anholt had Covid 19, but he had only mild symptoms and has recovered.

Robert Bennett was hospitalized with severe pain and swelling in his legs and feet. We hope that he gets successful treatment and rehabilitation.

Joseph Brauer contracted the COVID-19 virus and suffered some severe symptoms. He continued to provide wonderful music for our services by remote recording from his home. His husband **Kody Jones** also got the virus. We hope they both have a complete recovery.

Doug Cartwright had prolonged treatment and slow recovery after his ankle surgery. We hope that he will soon be able to resume more activities.

Cynthia Edgington received news that the young man she tutored was killed in an automobile accident. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Carrie Feind reported that she has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's with short-term memory loss. She misses seeing everyone at All Faiths.

Greg Monk was at the VA Hospital in St. Petersburg where he was treated for COVID-19. He has returned home. We hope that he has a speedy recovery.

Linda Runkle had eye surgery for cataracts in both eyes. We hope that her vision improves.

Howard Silverman had two heart valves replaced during surgery. His daughter came to look after him. We hope that he has a good recovery.

Lynda Thompson's mother is receiving home hospice care at her home in California. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Bob and Fran Way, and their son and daughter-in-law, all tested positive for COVID-19. Fran suffered from fatigue, but they both report that they are doing quite well.

IN MEMORIAM

With our heartfelt sympathies to the families of our beloved Founding Members

Jim Goodman (1932-2020) died at hospice. He and his late wife Peggy were founding members of All Faiths. We will miss his gentle humor.

Robert Vandewalker, (1922-2020) died. He and his late wife Alice were founding members of All Faiths. We extend our sympathy to his family.

FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barbara McFarlane

As I write this article, it is the middle of Homeless and Hunger Awareness month (November).

All Faiths members continue to surprise us with donations, demonstrating that YOU don't need a special month to be aware of the need in our community. This month Jim Kersey donated 20 baseball caps! Thank you!

The issues of people living on the street, facing eviction, or being unable to find affordable housing have been brought to each City Council and County Commissioner meeting for the past few months. A small grassroots group called Housing First Lee County has been pushing elected officials to do more to get people off the streets. Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE) continues work on affordable housing.

We hope more All Faiths members will participate in LIFE meetings around housing now that they are virtual -- (a plus, no night driving, participate in PJs, drink wine.)

We welcome your ideas and suggestions on how we can help those experiencing homelessness. Feel free to contact any team member or join the monthly team meetings on Zoom. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 2:00 p.m.

As this unusual year draws to a close, we thank our All Faiths' community for your generosity and willingness to work on this issue. We hope the season's goodwill and peace give us all the energy we need to work toward solutions to homelessness.

Judy Alberda, Lewis Robinson, Barbara Gaiser, Eileen Moran, Barb McFarlane

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets - October 31, 2020

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Iberiabank Checking | \$16,117 |
| Iberiabank Op. Reserve | 30,007 |
| Live Oak Op. Res. CD | 20,633 |
| Raymond James Legacy | 37,024 |
| Pay Pal | 35 |
| Iberiabank Capital Fund | <u>6,135</u> |
| Total | \$109,950 |
| Prior Month | <u>10,340</u> |
| Net Gain | \$ 5,610 |

October 2020 P&L

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Operating Income | \$ 22,959 |
| Operating Expense | <u>16,445</u> |
| Net Gain | 6,514 |

Revenue/Operating Income increased in October, compared to September. This will hopefully continue over the coming months as many of our congregants return to south-west Florida. The generosity of our congregants is very much appreciated especially during these times of being unable to attend All Faiths in person.

Most of our expenses have remained lower than budgeted because of the fiscal restraints that the Board approved at earlier Board meetings.

The Burn the Mortgage program continues with donations of \$250 received in October. The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of October was \$96,493. This is significant progress because on April 1, 2019 (less than 1.5 years ago) the mortgage principal balance was \$151,234!!

The Small Business Administration PPP loan was approved on May 1, 2020; and the \$27,300 loan was deposited on May 5. We anticipate that the loan will be forgiven and treated as a grant by the SBA once proper documentation is submitted. Susan Anthony of the Finance Committee is taking the lead on the necessary paperwork to help ensure that the documentation is sufficient and completed on a timely basis.

In October, \$323 was collected for Meals of Hope.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy Holiday Season.



All Faiths Responds to Food Insecurity in Fort Myers

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Food insecurity has become a big issue during the pandemic. Food

banks in our community are concerned about no or dwindling supplies. Nearly 100,000 people experience food insecurity in our county and 28,000 of those are children. Those who typically use food banks are finding that they are even more food insecure during the pandemic and we've learned that over 40% of people accessing food banks right now are first time users. All Faiths will bear witness to this crisis and respond. We will be working with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on Palm Avenue in Fort Myers to offer donations of non-perishable food items to their food bank. This will not be a one-time offering. All Faiths plans to collect donations on an ongoing basis. For now, simply drop off your donations in the designated box on the porch and Friendship will pick up these donations every Friday. Again, this box will remain for the collection of food items into the future. You may make a donation anytime. Please consider this one of your personal ministries. People are struggling greatly to feed themselves and their families. This crisis deserves our attention and response.

TIME TO SHOW APPRECIATION!



In December, we will have a separate collection for our congregational staff. It is an opportunity to show your appreciation to Rev. CJ, Regina Kilmartin, Joseph Brauer, and Joe Gayton. Although there are many reasons to be extra generous with their bonuses this year, here are two.

This year the Board had to delay their pay increases until October as a result of cost cutting driven by COVID-19. The closing of our building and the need to record services created extra work and stress for everyone. Therefore, please be generous. The special collection is December 6. Please send your donation to the church as soon as possible with a notation that it is for bonuses.

— Chris Stotler

Chairperson, Board of Directors

All Faiths' *Wish List*

We need equipment to continue livestreaming and recording our Sunday services and other events. The cost is approximately \$2,000, which is not in our current budget. If you would like to make a contribution towards recording equipment, please write "Cameras" in the memo line. Here's what we need:

♥ Roland V-02HD - HD Video Mixer - Portable Video Switcher with 2 HDMI Inputs, 2 HDMI Outputs, 14 Built-in Visual Effects, and Onboard 3-band EQ and Dynamics Control

♥ AIDA Imaging Full HD HDMI Camera with TRS Stereo Audio Input

♥ AVIPAS HD PTZ Camera with 10x Zoom for IP Live Streaming and 3D Joystick Controller Kit (HDMI)

♥ Behringer U-PHORIA UM2 Desktop 2x2 USB 1.1 Audio Interface

DECEMBER'S ODYSSEY VANESSA GILYARD

Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Live on Facebook
(www.facebook.com/allfaithsuc)

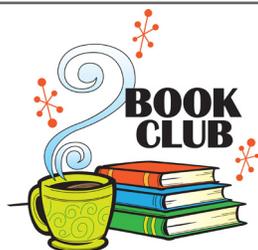


Vanessa started attending All Faiths in April of 2019. She recently became part of our LIFE Justice Ministry Network. Vanessa has been a UU for 12 years, and follows All Faiths regularly. Please join us as we learn more about her journey.

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION WRAPS UP THE YEAR

The ACMA Facebook page is updated every Saturday with YouTube or music links from our scheduled artist for that date.

Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.
Lipbone Redding. Visit the ACMA Facebook Page, or americanacma.org for more information.



The Book Club is meeting via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of the month at 12:00 p.m. If you are on the Book Club email list, you will receive a Zoom link prior to the meeting. If you would like to join the Book Club or check to see if you are on the list, please contact Diane Chernow at dianecher@comcast.net.

Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates

amazonsmile



Did you know that by shopping at AmazonSmile, a portion of the sales price benefits All Faiths? It's true. It's a painless way to contribute. Anything you can buy on Amazon, you can buy on AmazonSmile. In November we received \$28! It doesn't seem like a lot, but it will pay for our 2021 calendars! Thank you for supporting All Faiths by shopping AmazonSmile!

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Mary Corrigan, Director of Youth RE

Thank you to Eileen Moran and Ed Kleinow for taking us up on our invitation in November and joining us during the first half hour of our Wednesday evening social gatherings to say “hi.” This month, we will be meeting on Wednesday, December 2 and 16; please contact me at mary837@gmail.com for the link if you would like to join us.

While Sunday Youth RE continues to align with the service’s topics, Wednesday Youth RE is a social gathering. It is a place for our youth to get to know each other, share triumphs and struggles, socialize, and choose which issues they want to explore. It is a space for them to be in fellowship and in touch during a time when these opportunities are scarce. One of their most recent interests is developing a way to interact and create in real time, combining play writing and computer programming to communicate their perception of interdependence based upon a recent Sunday reading, All of Us Need All of Us to Make It. And they continue to work on their Literacy Buddy project and birthday outreach.

Communication continues to be challenging during this time of COVID-induced isolation. For example, to prepare for each Sunday’s lesson, youth receive materials, information, craft supplies, books, meditation cards, etc. every week in the mail so that when we gather, everyone can participate. Therefore, if you know a youth who is interested in joining us, please contact me via email so that I can provide materials.

Until next month, Youth RE extends holiday greetings, warm wishes, and healthy, happy thoughts to you and your families.

Namaste,
Mary

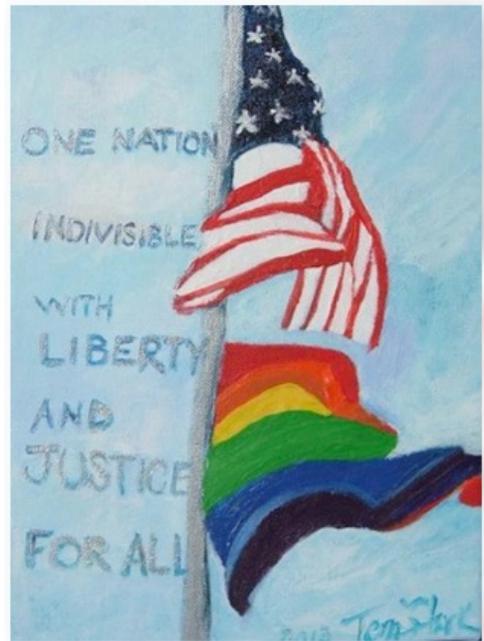


Pets are a BIG part of our lives! Student materials for Sunday.



Sharing our creativity.

LOOK FAMILIAR?



Our friend, *Terri Stark*, painted these flags after All Faiths raised its rainbow flag in 2013, thinking more people have to be strengthened to disempower the grips of fear of hatemongers and bigots used to threaten, control, and silence others with abuses or power.

Terri's painting, ONE NATION, has been chosen for inclusion in the Minneapolis Institute of Art's "Foot in the Door" exhibit!

Here is the link to visit the show, which will run from November 1 through January 10:

<https://collections.artsmia.org/exhibitions/2760/foot-in-the-door/art/1165>

AN INVITATION FROM YOUTH RE



Youth Religious Education would like to invite YOU to "stop by and say hi" any Wednesday evening during the first half hour of our Social Zoom gathering, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Please contact Mary Corrigan at mary837@gmail.com for the link. See this month's Youth Religious Education (adjacent column) for more information.

Happy



Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. It is also known as the Festival of Lights.

Hanukkah begins on the evening of December 10 and ends on the evening of December 18. Be sure to wish our Jewish members and friends a Happy Hanukkah! What is the proper greeting for Hanukkah? To wish someone a **Happy Hanukkah**, say "Hanukkah Sameach!" (**Happy Hanukkah**) or simply "**Chag Sameach!**" (**Happy** Holiday). Or if you want to show off your Hebrew skills, say "Chag Urim Sameach!" (urim means "lights"). Our chalice lighting on December 13 will be lighting the Menorah.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Executive Board: Chris Stotler, Chair; Rachel Spiller, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Diane Cartwright, Past Chair.

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Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joseph Brauer, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

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McGregor Clinic

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Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annelly Hudanick



Deadline for the **January** Issue of *Connections* is **December 18**

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



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