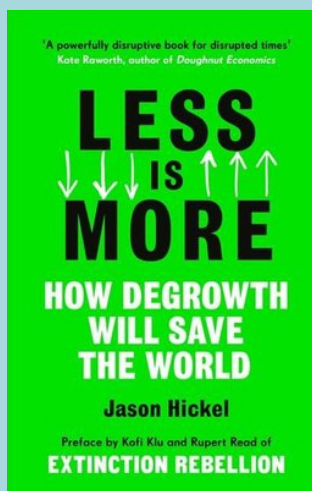


The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, *where diversity is treasured.*
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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All Faiths' Summer Read: *Less Is More*

by Jason Hickel

Discussion Group to follow
August 25, 2021 at 10 a.m.

(details on page 11)

**All Faiths will Celebrate Local Musicians
and Vocalists this Summer**
Enjoy our Sunday Services with a
Variety of Instruments and Genres
(August 8 through September 5)



Your Board of Directors met on June 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The Board agreed that we should remove limitations on the size of service attendance starting immediately. Chairs are being set up with more spacing than pre-COVID but closer than the past couple months of partial opening. Attendees who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks. Anyone who is not vaccinated is required to wear a mask and not sing. This also removes the burden of RSVPs and Regina notifying selected attendees.

The selection process for a music director is progressing. The search and interview process is continuing. ACMA has agreed to provide musicians to fill in during early August if we do not have a music director selected.

We learned that the long-delayed replacement of pan-

els on our sign out front will be completed. It will show the correct web address and time of our service. The Board also approved a small additional sign stating that the ACMA performs here; that sign will be done at ACMA's expense.

The new All Faiths website was unveiled on June 16. It is a nice improvement and should be more functional and easier to use than our previous website, especially for smart phone users. We hope more people will use the website to access information rather than all information flowing through Regina. A big thank you goes to Becky Ross for her efforts in making this website revision happen. We also thank Becky and husband, Brad Davidson, for donating a new subscription to Microsoft 365, making the office software up to date.

Building and Grounds reported that they have straight-

ened four of the posts on the fence and have three more to do to complete the fence -straightening project. It will then be power washed. Have you noticed the pavers in the memorial garden and in back of the church or the sidewalks? They were power washed and look so much better. The plant sale was a success and will provide funds for improving the gardens. Some non-native plants are being removed and replaced with low-maintenance native plants. The plant changes follow goals of our Green Sanctuary program. Many thanks to Bob DiGalbo and Judy Alberda, the B&G team leaders, and the volunteers helping them.

A question was raised about solar panels for our building. The Board looked into this a couple years ago and it looked feasible for the future. Our intent is to reevaluate so-

lar panels as part of a future building expansion or modification.

Members are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors with comments or suggestions. You may contact me directly at 239-770-0795, or gcstotler@gmail.com. You may also contact any of our Board members with questions or concerns.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2021, at the church, starting at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBER & FRIEND DIRECTORY

We realize that our last directory from 2018 is outdated. Our Communications Committee is currently working on a new online directory that everyone will have access to. We appreciate your patience as we gather new photos and updated contact information. Stay tuned.

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).

July 11 - Operation Joy (Back to School – Part II)

August 8 - Angel Wings (Homeless Team)

Sept. 12 - One Tree (Climate Action Team)

October 10 - Meals of Hope (Thanksgiving Meals)

Special Collections

December 12 - Employee Bonuses

✓ ***The June Share-the-Plate raised \$178 for The Change Program***



FROM MCGREGOR BOULEVARD

by Rev. CJ McGregor



Summer has arrived. The Rev. Dr. Barbara Merrit, my first Unitarian Minister, always said that we spend so much time stepping up all year long that when summer comes, it's a chance for us to step back. And so, I shall. This unprecedented past year and a half has been quite busy at All Faiths despite shutdowns and quarantines, and other requirements of the pandemic. It's time to step back. I will be on study leave and vacation during July and August. I'll be in the pulpit some Sundays as well. Let me share my schedule with you:

From **June 28–July 18**, I will be away from the congregation. I will be in the Adirondacks visiting family and I'm taking a summer course at St. Lawrence University titled *Critical Whiteness Studies*. Here is the description of the course: The course examines the role of education in perpetuating white supremacy. Although whiteness is most typically associated with white people, this class will differentiate between individual notions of

white racial identity and systems of ideological whiteness within a nation built around white supremacy. Given that Critical Whiteness Studies, as a discipline, came out of Critical Race Theory, this course will also examine the tenets of CRT. Thus, while race will be the central focus of this course, this class will draw on an intersectional approach by simultaneously examining other identity constructs, such as ethnicity, class, language, citizenship, gender.

I will return to the congregation on **July 19** and will lead the service on **July 25, August 1, 8, 15, and 22**. I will be away from the congregation from **August 30 - September 5** beginning my doctoral program in residency in Pasadena, California. I return to the congregation and will lead the service on **September 12**.

The next couple of months are a mix of work and play for me. Please know that although I'm away from the congregation, I am still available to you if you need me, and as always, I will return to the congregation if a need arises. Please do stay in touch. I like to know what is going on in your lives. I hope you have an opportunity to step back this summer. It is our spiritual practice to do so.

– Blessings, CJ

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Doug and Diane Cartwright lost their dear and long-time friend, Steve. We extend our sympathy to them.

Diane Chernow lost her beloved dog, Barnie. We extend our sympathy to her.

Jeanne Ezell continues to have health issues. We keep her in our healing thoughts and prayers.

Ed Kleinow's brother Bill had a serious heart attack, followed by open-heart bypass surgery. We hope that he has a good recovery.

Dawna Lieber retired after 42 years of teaching. We hope she enjoys her retirement.

Nicole McDaigle's mother passed away. We extend our sympathy to Nicole, her stepfather Craig, and her siblings.

The Spiller family welcomed a niece, McKinley Rose, into the family. We share in their joy.

We have shared the joy of being able to get together with friends and family after the long months of separation. Stay well, stay safe, and stay connected.

Joyce Ramay

Care and Support Coordinator

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY... UPDATE YOUR INFO NOW

Our membership documents and church management software has evolved over the past several years. New members have an option to provide emergency contact information when they fill out their intent-to-join form. This wasn't an option for members joining before 2019. If you joined All Faiths before 2019, please contact the office with your emergency contact information. We would like to be able to reach out to someone in the event of an emergency. Just email Regina or call the office so she can update our records.



Happening at All Faiths



July 3 Rebecca (Becky) Ross
 July 5 Jan Guardiano
 July 6 Nita Veber
 July 7 Regina Kilmartin
 July 8 Janet Goen
 July 9 Jennifer McDaigle
 July 10 Jean Hany
 July 12 John Conrad
 July 13 Nathalie Hahn
 July 19 Joe Gayton
 July 19 Vivian Sawaya
 July 22 Terri Lazar
 July 22 David Donovan
 July 24 Robert Bennett
 July 27 Barb McFarlane
 July 29 Mary Corrigan
 July 30 Doug Cartwright
 July 31 Dawna Lieber
 July 31 Bob DiGalbo

August 7 Joyce Reischuck
 August 8 Kay Riegler
 August 12 Joan Marshall
 August 13 Wayne Robinson
 August 16 Glenn Camp
 August 17 Patricia (Pat) Fish
 August 18 Mahilena Dianz
 August 19 Marsha Bates
 August 21 Marilyn Webber

And Coming Up...

September 08 Wayne Dean
 September 11 James Kersey



Our Whole Lives (OWL) - July
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

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

July 7 - We will discuss sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and the ways we are in relationship to others.

July 14 - This workshop provides facts about age-related changes and helps older adults accept and appreciate their changing bodies

July 21 - We will explore our expectations regarding love and consider new ways to enjoy intimacy, regardless of our partnership status.

July 28 - We will discuss some of the challenges that can come up among the generations where sexuality is concerned. It offers ways to improve communication, establish boundaries, understand expectations, and work as an intergenerational team to promote healthy sexuality and family dynamics.

See August Schedule on Page 9

ZOOM MEETINGS

Wednesdays: Our Whole Lives (OWL) 10 a.m.
 with Donalie Benyak

Ten O'clock Scholar (on hiatus from July 7 through Aug. 31 - resumes on September 8)

Thursdays: Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering - 7 p.m.

Sundays: News Talk (In-House) - will resume on August 1

Child & Youth Program (In-House) - will resume on August 8

Solos Group Events

Saturday, July 10, 1:00 pm
 DaRuMa Japanese Steakhouse
 Bell Tower Shops
 13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers

Saturday, August 14, 1:00 pm
 Cafe You
 1423 SE 10th St., Ste. 1A
 Cape Coral, FL 33990

Contact: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

July 2021 Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday





Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



4 News Talk Resumes in Aug. 10:30am Service 	5 Office Closed	6 1:30pm Via Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.	7 10am Via Zoom Our Whole Lives (OWL)	8	9	10 1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)
11 News Talk Resumes in Aug. 10:30am Service	12	13 10am Via Zoom Racial Equity Team Mtg.	14 10am Via Zoom Our Whole Lives (OWL)	15 10 am Via Zoom Finance Mtg.		
18 News Talk Resumes in Aug. 10:30am Service			21 10am Via Zoom Our Whole Lives (OWL) 4:30 pm Board Meeting	22		
25 News Talk Resumes in Aug. 10:30am Service	26	27	28 10am Via Zoom Our Whole Lives (OWL)	29	30	31

Many meetings have returned to in-house, some meetings remain on Zoom.
If you are not sure, check with the chairperson or call the office.

AUGUST 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service In-Person & Livestreamed 10:30am Child/Youth Program	2	3 1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.	4 10am Via Zoom Our Whole Lives (OWL)	5	6	7 
8 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service In-Person & Livestreamed 10:30am Child/Youth Program	9 10am Via Zoom Sun. Service Team Mtg. 12pm Book Club	10 10am Via Zoom Racial Equity Mtg.	11 10am Via Zoom Our Whole Lives (OWL)	12 10 am Via Zoom Finance Mtg. 7pm - Via Zoom Child/Youth Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	13	14 1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)
15 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service In-Person & Livestreamed 10:30am Child/Youth Program	16 	17	18 10am Via Zoom Our Whole Lives (OWL) 4:30 pm Board Meeting	19 2pm Heart for the Homeless Team 7pm - Via Zoom Child/Youth Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	20	21
22 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service In-Person & Livestreamed 10:30am Child/Youth Program	23 	24	25 10am Via Zoom Summer Read Group Discussion w. Joan Marshall & Ensign Cowell	26 7pm - Via Zoom Child/Youth Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	27	28
29 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service In-Person & Livestreamed 10:30am Child/Youth Program	30 					

Many meetings have returned to in-house, some meetings remain on Zoom.
If you are not sure, check with the chairperson or call the office.

JULY 2021 SUNDAY SERVICES "JOURNEY"

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

Recorded and available at www.allfaithsuo.org
or on our YouTube channel

July 4 – Celebrating Inter-dependence Day
by Doug Cartwright
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate – Donalie Benyak

July 11 – One Stick at a Time
by Carol Elrod
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate Joyce Ramay

July 18 - Journey Toward Wholeness
by Richard Keelan
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate Regina Kilmartin

July 25 – Summer Camp
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

**News Talk & Child & Youth Programs
on Hiatus in July**
(News Talk resumes August 1)
(CYP resumes August 8)

AUGUST 2021 SUNDAY SERVICES "COMMUNION"

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

Recorded and available at www.allfaithsuo.org
or on our YouTube channel

August 1 – Flower Communion
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer
Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

August 8 – Spiritual Exchange
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music
Worship Associate – Carol Elrod

August 15 – Gluten Free Communion
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music
Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

August 22 – An Open Table
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music
Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

August 29 – Communing with Nature
by Joan Marshall
Music
Worship Associate – Greg Monk

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS RESUME AUGUST 8

We will use the curriculum Riddle and Mystery which will assist our children and youth in their own search for understanding. Each session introduces and processes a question or statement.

August 8: Being religious means asking passionately the question of the meaning of our existence and being willing to receive answers.

August 15: This is my living faith, an active faith, a faith of verbs: to question, explore, experiment, experience, walk, run, dance, play, eat, love, learn, dare...

August 22: I am always more interested in what I am about to do than what I have already done.

August 29: Tell the truth, have you ever found God in a church?

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



Hopes are high for all of us that life will begin to return to normal this summer.

How wonderful to once again be able to attend Sunday services in person. However, the Climate Action Team will meet via Zoom for the July 6th meeting. Several of our members are either up north for the summer or are joining us from partner organizations and Zoom allows for wider participation. Also, of course, it saves on car travel with attendant fossil fuel use. At the July meeting, CAT members will be discussing the question of live or virtual meetings in the future.

We hope you will register to attend this important event taking place on July 3rd.



Saturday, July 3rd, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers
13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers 33901

SWFL RESET Center is hosting a live presentation about the Right to Clean Water and the Rights of Nature. Learn about the current efforts to amend the Florida State Constitution to make these rights the law of the land. This event is not only educational, it is a call to action. **Speakers: John Cassani**, Calusa Waterkeeper; **Gary Robbins**, Vice-President, SWFL RESET Center;; **Karl Deigert** and **Joseph Bonasia**, Regional Directors of the Florida Rights of Nature Network. Part of the presentation will feature the work of Naples artist **Paul Arsenault**.

Learn WHAT YOU CAN DO now to help.

Seating is limited to 100 people in the UUCFM Sanctuary. Register here. This event is free, and your donations will help us cover the cost of this event and future work.

[Read more and register on Eventbrite by clicking here.](#)

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

Thanks to everyone for the donation of hygiene products in June. These items were given to the Salvation Army's Triage shelter. It is a temporary place for people to get off the street, have a bed, three meals, and work toward stable housing. There is frequent turnover of residents so personal hygiene items are always needed.

Our sign in the All Faiths parking lot resulted in the donation of five bikes from the neighborhood. They were brought to the All Souls homeless outreach program in North Fort Myers for distribution to people they serve. We continue to collect and distribute donated bikes to the Salvation Army and All Souls as we receive them. If you have or know of a bike no longer being used, please contact Barb McFarlane or Judy Alberda for pick up. (bmcfarlane@gmail.com....651-808-8271; judyalberda@yahoo.com....239-800-5335).

We are happy to see the Lee County Commissioners approved accepting over \$3 million dollars in grants to address and prevent homelessness. This will be spent providing housing and services to people experiencing or at risk of being homeless. Although it is a less visible problem since the county outlawed panhandling and cleared the most obvious encampments, too many people continue to live in places unfit for habitation. We are hopeful that this new money will help many people find safe housing.

There will not be a team meeting in July. Happy 4th of July!

WHERE'S THE COFFEE AND COOKIES?

We've had several inquiries about when coffee and cookies will return after our Sunday service. Now that the building is open for services, we will resume a hospitality hour, but we need a few volunteers to help stock the kitchen with supplies and maintain an inventory.

Joe Gayton did extra cleaning of the bathrooms and building when we were closed. Joe will be tending to hospitality as part of his paid duties, but that means we will need volunteers again for cleaning the bathrooms and common areas.

If you would like to volunteer (or maybe not even like to, but are willing to), please contact the office: 239-226-0900. Remember, it takes a village.

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

by Chantel Rhodes, CYPD

April – May

It has been an absolute joy getting to know the youth of All Faiths over the past couple of months. Oftentimes, we enter into the lives of children as instructors, but then we quickly begin to realize that we're actually the students. I've learned so much in just a short amount of time from these thoughtful and engaged young people. Throughout the months of April and May, we were guided into conversations about God's love for the poor, having the courage to stand up for those who cannot advocate for themselves and challenging traditions that seem to serve only those with power and wealth. The curriculum, Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints, has provided us with the perfect blend of inspiration and thought-provoking messages that keep our youth engaged and empowered. We've explored the work of several trailblazers who've challenged the status quo including Glennon Doyle, Cindy Wang Brant, Rabbi Regina Jonas and Peruvian Philosopher, Gustavo Gutiérrez.

In addition to our curriculum, we've recognized and discussed Mental Health Awareness month as well as current affairs with the Lee County School Board's LGBTQ+ policies.

On Mother's Day, we acknowledged Malawi's Chief Theresa Kachindamoto who has broken up approximately 900 child marriages in her country and has sent those girls back to school.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2N_2O2Xq18o

June

Thich Nhat Hanh, Bayard Rustin and Harriet Tubman were the topics of exploration during the month of June. We explored the concepts of compassion, bravery and leadership in what can oftentimes seem like a cruel and completely unjust world. I asked the students if they had heard the news about 'Juneteenth' becoming a Federal Holiday and each & every one of them expressed excitement as they exclaimed "Yes!"

The Thursday evening gatherings with youth will be on hiatus for the month of July and will resume in August.

Our efforts for the month of June included recruiting like-minded youth to join our Children & Youth programs and making plans to reconnect safely in person. Although Zoom meetings have their advantages, the youth, like most of us

are experiencing Zoom fatigue. We've had two new youth join our Zoom meetings within the last month. Tru and Jordan have really enjoyed the vibrant conversations held by the youth of All Faiths UU.

June reminded us of the lack of Pride events that are represented throughout Southwest Florida. I challenged the youth to think of ways that we can raise awareness of Pride and celebrate the contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals locally and globally.

So far, we've had one visitor from the congregation join us for the first 30 minutes of our Thursday evening meeting. We'd love for more of you to join us. Please contact me at chantelrhodes1908@gmail.com for the link.

With great gratitude, joy and expectation, we press forward.

(August Program Schedule on Page 7)

Our Whole Lives (OWL) - August Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

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



August 4 - We will delve into the many types of loss and grief that can be experienced. The goal is to help participants find ways to accept their feelings and focus on remaining joys and pleasures in life.

August 11 - We will discuss the idea that more positive body image empowers older adults to make decisions in their best interests rather than to please others. The workshop helps improve body image through a series of reflective activities that encourage honest, yet compassionate views of the body as it has been sculpted by age and life experiences.

August 18 - Wrap up discussion

NO JOB COULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL

by Regina Kilmartin, Congregational Administrator



I've had a long and varied work history. I started working part-time as a junior in high school for a company called Troy Bilt. They made rototillers, and I assembled bolo-tines, the little blades that dig up the ground, in the parts department. That was in 1976; since then, I have never been unemployed.

My next job was for the Rensselaer County Council for the Arts. I was a secretary there for a couple of years. Then I moved on to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where I would work my way up from an admissions clerk, to a secretary in the Nuclear Engineering Department, to a senior secretary in the School of Management.

From there, marriage and a move to Poughkeepsie set me on a new course. I worked as a temp at IBM's Large Systems Support Center. When my gig was up at IBM, I ventured into typesetting with a company that manufactured typesetting equipment. It was owned and operated by Jehovah's Witnesses – my first exposure to an "unconventional" religion. There I worked my way up to customer service

representative and eventually supervisor of the font department. My discovery of some deceptive practices led me to quit this job, and soon after, they were out of business.

My next ten-year stint would be as a legal secretary and administrator for two law firms. During the last three years of my tenure at Russell & Ferenz I put myself through court reporting school. While working full-time, I drove from Poughkeepsie to Albany, NY – 100 miles each way – every Monday, Wednesday and Friday night until I graduated from the Machine Shorthand Institute of Albany in 1990.

After graduating, I began my career as a free-lance court reporter, and then the owner/operator of American Legal Transcription, a NYS and federally approved legal transcription agency which I ran for 13 years before moving to Florida. Had I known at the time the emotional chaos that came with the job, I would have probably chosen another career path.

Working as a scribe in a busy state-wide court system for so many years was not easy. It takes a toll on your psyche. It, by necessity, disassociates you from horrible and heinous acts perpetrated by other human beings. It shatters your belief that there is justice for the innocent and wrongly accused, and it corrodes your trust in what you would like to think is an un-

corrupt judicial system. Taking the testimony of criminals, murderers, child abusers, and sexual predators, taints your view of humanity. The only gratification in this type of work, for me, was knowing that those ugly words I put on paper to make a record, helped a lot of people get justice.

My next move would be to All Faiths. Little did I know when I was hired in 2009, that this job would change my life so significantly. I will forever be grateful to Joyce Ramay and Rev. Wayne Robinson for giving me the opportunity to find my faith, my calling to serve others, and most importantly, to know you, the people who make All Faiths what it is. It was like the sun rising over the horizon in slow motion; the warmth and the light slowly illuminating the goodness, compassion and humanity in people that I had lost sight of so many years earlier. I am happy and appreciative every day to be among you, my All Faiths family, my community. We are seekers of what is good and what is right, and we make a difference in the world. The world is a better place because of All Faiths. Hope and change and love live right here on McGregor Boulevard. July 23 is the anniversary of my employment at All Faiths, and after 12 years, I still can't think of a job that could possibly be more meaningful than mine. Thank you for that.

IT'S FINAL CURTAIN CALL FOR JOSEPH

August 1, 2021, will be Joseph Brauer's last service with us. Joseph has served All Faiths as our Music Director since September of 2017.

Since then, he has brought life to our music program, assembled a choir, and encouraged us to sing and share our talents. Joseph also played an important role in bringing new equipment to our sanctuary to livestream our services, and produced our Stewardship videos for our most recent pledge campaign.

Joseph played a vital role during the pandemic. He produced our online services at a time when we were pre-recording them and offering them on Sunday mornings. He spent hours editing videos and his music. Joseph showed up and stepped up to many things so All Faiths was successful. His talent and his wonderful presence blessed us. We will miss him, and wish him well in his next chapter.

Please join us for a reception in the Community Room after the August 1 service to say farewell and good luck.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets – May 2021

Iberiabank Checking	\$24,140
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	25,033
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,751
Raymond James Legacy	37,026
Pay Pal	35
Iberiabank Capital Fund	6,437
Total	\$113,422
Prior Month	117,248
Net Loss	(\$ 3,825)

May 2021 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 15,043
Operating Expense	16,769
Net Loss	(\$ 1,726)

Revenue/Operating Income decreased in May, compared to April. This normally occurs as our snow birds head north.

The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of May was \$77,840.17. Special thanks to all the congregants who continue to make additional donations to "Burn the Mortgage."

The Small Business Administration PPP loan was approved on May 1, 2020; and the \$27,300 loan was deposited on May 5, 2020. On May 26, 2021, the SBA issued to All Faiths a "Notice of Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness Payment"!!! This included not only the amount of the loan, but also accumulated interest. This federal program helped All Faiths immensely to weather the storm over the past year during the pandemic.

In May, \$325.00 was collected for Operation Joy.

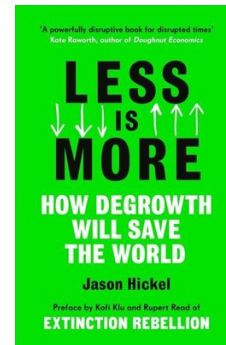


FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ALL FAITHS SUMMER READ

Our common read this summer is *Less Is More* by Jason Hickel. We should all read this book no matter where our social justice and action passions lie as we will learn how they intersect.

There will be a group discussion of our common read on August 25, 2021, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Please plan to attend. You can order the book from the InSpirit UU Book & Gift Shop bookstore@uua.org. Let us know if you have trouble getting the book so we can help.



About the InSpirit UU Book & Gift Shop

The word "Inspirit" is rich in meaning. It can mean to fill with spirit, to encourage, to exhilarate, or to bestow with strength or purpose. We offer books to support people of all faiths and seekers alike to engage with spiritual questions. Unitarian Universalists will find items that will help to nurture their faith, to connect with our history, and to ground and enhance our work for social justice. We also offer cards, a wide range of fair trade gifts, as well as accessories proudly bearing the Unitarian Universalist Association and Side with Love logos. Thank you for visiting us. Please contact us at 800-215-9076 or at bookstore@uua.org if you have any questions.

ACMA AUGUST CONCERTS

The ACMA returns to live concerts.
Visit www.americanacma.org for calendar.



August 7 at 7 P.M.

Brian Smalley
w. Matt Hannam opening

August 14 at 7 P.M.

Ellen Bukstel
w. Jim Visone opening.

SAVING OUR DEMOCRACY

As Unitarian Universalists, our values hold that all people should have a voice and a vote in choosing their leaders and determining what is best for ourselves and our communities. Our principles compel us to protect the broadest use of the democratic process and remind us that the oppression of any community is a moral injury to us all. As we witness the intentional undermining of the electoral process, our faith beckons us to resist these attacks on democracy and protect voting rights everywhere.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) offers our support and solidarity to the powerful organizing happening in Georgia, especially from faith communities and Black-led organizations such as New Georgia Project, Black Voters Matter, and Fair Fight. We applaud leaders like Representative Cannon who have engaged in direct action and shown up with moral courage to condemn state repression. We encourage Unitarian Universalists across the country to organize to defeat voter suppression in their own states. We urge support for the For the

People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. These are crucial national measures to ensure that restrictive state bills like SB202 do not threaten the rights of the most marginalized communities.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

- **Work to pass national voting rights legislation.** Join Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
- **Organize for voting rights in your state.** Know what voting-related measures are on your state's legislative agenda this year, and work with your UU State Action Network to organize UUs in your state in support of a pro-democracy agenda.
- **Join other UUs to learn and organize for democracy together.** Follow Side With Love on Facebook and Twitter as we connect UUs with opportunities for education and action in support of democracy. Join our UU the Vote Facebook community to connect with others working to combat voter suppression and ensure all people have a voice and a vote.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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