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Season's Greetings

The Southwest Florida Gay & Lesbian Chorus

presents

"The Songs of Christmas Around the World"

Sunday, December 16, 2018

7:00 p.m. - Tickets \$15

VP of The Humane League to

Speak at All Faiths

December 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 6:30 p.m.

*Peace on
Earth*

The Board of Directors meeting was held on November 14, 2018, at 3:45 p.m.

By the time you read this message, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. I hope you had the joy of gathering with family and/or friends and had time to reflect on all your blessings. The merchants are trying to get us in the Christmas mood earlier than ever and want us to think about gift giving. As we buy presents for our loved ones, we also need to remember those in need, as well as those who support us. Please consider making an extra offering to our Congregation and also contribute to the special offering for our minister and staff on December 2.

Your Board has appointed Jeanne Ezell to fill the position of Vice Chair. The position became vacant upon my

appointment to fill the Chairperson's position. We are very happy she has agreed to take this role. Her past experience includes previously serving as the Board Secretary.

We hope to purchase a portable speaker that can be used for outdoor events such as services in the memorial garden. Because the speaker was not in the budget, the Board has placed it on the wish list (see the bulletin board in the Community Room). The wish list was created to let the Congregation know about items that are needed but have no funding. Individuals can make separate donations to purchase the wish list items. Each month, the board reviews and approves items for the list. During the past year items acquired from the wish list included a new floor for the kitchen, a conference

speaker phone, and several other things. See Regina to donate to the list in general or to make a contribution towards purchase of a specific wish list item.

The Finance Committee reviews the financial status of our Congregation every month and reports to the Board. The good news is that expenditures for the past six months are slightly below budget. However income is below budget and we have had to move money from the operating reserve to cover expenses. The six-month pledge reports were mailed to all pledging units, stating the amount given and remaining pledge commitments. Please meet commitments and consider giving a little extra to bring us back on budget and to offset revenues that were expected but didn't materialize.

The Board approved a proposed goal budget for next year that will be used by the Stewardship Committee as they plan All Faiths' 2019 pledge campaign that starts in January. The final budget is developed after we know the results of the pledge campaign.

A charitable giving forum/workshop was planned for Sunday, November 25. The workshop reviewed how to make contributions in ways that may reduce your taxes, and provided information about our Legacy Fund and donating stocks.

The killings in Pittsburgh and the increase in hate crimes are deplorable and frightening. All Faiths has security procedures in place, but the board will be evaluating whether additional security measures are necessary over the

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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 2018

Share-the-Plate Outreach Funds

December 16 - Lee County Homeless Coalition

Food, Clothing, and Other Collections

McGregor Clinic - December 16

Pet Shelter - December 30

Mano a Mano - December 9 - Handmade Bolivian Crafts for Sale

Second Collections

Employee Bonuses - December 2

The November Share-the-Plate resulted in \$380 to Operation Joy Christmas!

Thank you all for your generous contributions to All Faiths and our local community outreach organizations! You make the world a better place!



I remember that, while living in New England, from the time the first frost arrived through the holiday, I returned to one song again and again. It always deeply moved me. Now I listen to the song when the temperature dips to 67 degrees, our winter in Florida. It moves me still. The song is “Harvest Home” by Maddy Prior from her album called Year.

A dear friend introduced me to Maddy Prior years ago. I’ve been mesmerized since. If you don’t own this song, I suggest you get it. You can preview it at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQ1shjXflm>. Though this is a song about the transition from autumn to winter and the relief of bringing in the harvest, it reminds me what this season can mean for each of us.

Oh, yes, the lyrics: *When the marigold no longer blooms, when the summer sun is turned to gloom. See the forecast winter snow; see the evergreen that lonely grows. Move closer to the fire place, neglect the garden, see the ground harden, at a ghostly pace. The golden summer sun is silver now. The fruit has fallen from the bough. The season moves to chestnut time. Toffee apples, treacle and mulled wine. Quilts and furs and woolens gay. You wrap around you. But the cold confounds you. On an autumn day. Stout and strong the walls of home and hearth. Curtains drawn against the draft. The rake has reaped,*

the blade has mown. Nights draw in to call the harvest home. The quiet of a heart at rest. In peace abounded. By love surrounded. Here the home is blessed.

Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the song of harvest home. All be safely gathered in. Ere the winter storms begin. God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied. Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the song of harvest home. Raise the song of harvest home.

Beyond the shopping, the overscheduling of parties, to-do lists, and the demands that we place on this season, there is peace, quiet, rest, and simplicity. Raising the song of harvest home means rejoicing in the fact that we have safely gathered, the harvest is in, our work is done. Let us now find peace and joy with one another and relax. And let us steep ourselves in the wonder of this magical season.

We don’t need to be harried and hurried, succumb to the pressure to buy, to accomplish, and to be what somebody else wants us to be.

The blessings are before us. We need not go anywhere or do anything other than move closer to the fire, snuggle in, and quietly observe the love, peace, and rest that surround us.

Come, ye thankful people, come. Observe and discover the harmony and stillness that awaits us. May each of us experience the comforts and joy that lie before us this season.

– Blessings, CJ

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Doug Cartwright had vein surgery on his leg, but he bounced back quickly and was in the pulpit on November 25th expressing his gratitude. We are grateful to have his leadership and wit.

Ernie Fierro, who was on dialysis and then had a kidney transplant a few years back, has been struggling with some health issues. We hope he recovers well.

Kendra Maroon had shoulder surgery. She is recovering but tempted to try to do too much too soon. We hope that she pampers herself more.

Rev. CJ McGregor and Richard Keelan bought a house in Cape Coral, and have moved there. They have burrowing owls for neighbors. We wish them many happy years in their new home.

BOARD NOTES

continued from page 2

coming months; it is a sad statement about our times. Individually, we all must do our part to spread love and help reverse the atmosphere that creates the need for increased security.

I wish all of you wonderful times during this holiday season and safe travels if you’re going away. I am looking forward to spending Thanksgiving and Christmas with family in Colorado and Ohio, although returning to the cold sounds terrible. May the spirit of the season encourage you to spread and receive love.

Our next board meeting is December 19 at 3:45 pm. Members are welcome to sit in.

Ongoing Events at All Faiths

Happy December Birthday to you!



December 6 Sharon Gray
December 14 Jeff Moran
December 14 Carol Siferd
December 15 Rev. Emily Palmer
December 16 Maggie Mullins
December 18 Nancy McGlasson
December 21 Mary Ellen Fritz
December 31 Nova Spiller

And Coming Up...

Jan 1 Shea Fierro
Jan 5 Colleen North

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



Solos Group Events

Contact: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the solos for outings and lunch w/wo a movie date. The potlucks, however, are reserved for "single" solos.

Saturday, December 8, 1pm
SOLOS' CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!
All are welcome - Please RSVP to
Annely at annelyblue@hotmail.com
BLU AGAVE RESTAURANT
4805 S. CLEVELAND AVE

Book Club & Brown Bag - December 10 - Noon

Meeting on the 2nd Monday of the Month

Contacts: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net and
Annely Hudanick, annelyblue@hotmail.com

Be prepared to give a brief talk about a book you're reading or you have read.

New Pathways Loss Support Group

Meeting weekly on Tuesdays at Noon

Contact: Fran Way, franwayrn@aol.com

Grief is a difficult journey, but you do not have to travel it alone. If you have experienced a loss in your life, you are invited to join this group where you can share, listen, make friends, and find support. Open to the general public.

Worldview - Wed., December 5 - 1:00pm

Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the Month

Contact: Lewis Robinson, lewrob@comcast.net

Discussion: **"Building Bridges Across the Generational Divide"** from the 11/1/18 WALL STREET JOURNAL. Go to www.allfaiths-uc.org. Click on "Building Bridges..."

Meditation - Wed. at 7pm & Friday at 10:30am

Wednesday Contact: Lisa Leonhardt, kindreds@aol.com

Friday Contact: Jeanne Ezell, jeannezell@gmail.com

Join friends to develop your mindfulness, compassion, and sense of serenity.

Free Inquiry Group (FIG) - No Dec. Meeting

For meeting information contact:

<https://www.facebook.com/FIGSWFL/>,

<http://www.freeinquirygroup.com>, or email johnbord@yahoo.com

McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, Dec. 16

Special Thanksgiving Collection this Month

Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

This month the clinic is in need of warm clothing, high protein and non-perishable foods for the Christmas holidays. The clinic has dropped a box off at All Faiths, and they appreciate your generosity.

All Voices Choir Practice - Mondays at 4:45pm

Contact: Joseph Brauer, jodabrauer@gmail.com

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Happy Holidays</i></p> <p>See the calendar on-line: http://www.allfaiths-uc.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in Red Print.</p>						<p>1</p> <p>7pm AMCA Concert Mare Wakefield and Nomad w. Karen Cohen opening</p>
<p>2 9:30am Adult Ed.</p> <p>10:30am Service</p> <p>Hanukkah Begins</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4:45 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12 pm New Pathways Loss Support Group</p> <p>6pm Climate Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1pm World View w. Lewis Robinson</p> <p>7 pm Meditation</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am Elves Decorating All Faiths</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:30am Meditation</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1pm Solos Christmas Extravaganza!</p> <p>7pm AMCA Concert Members' Holiday Party & Open Mic</p>
<p>9 9:30am Adult Ed.</p> <p>10:30am Service</p>	<p>10 10am Sun. Srv. Mtg.</p> <p>12pm Book Club</p> <p>6 pm AF Holiday Sing-Along!</p>	<p>11 10 am Membership Cmmt. Mtg.</p> <p>12 pm New Pathways Loss Support Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 pm Meditation</p>	<p>13 10 am Finance Comm. Mtg</p> <p>12pm Exec. Cmmt. Mtg.</p>	<p>14 10:30am Meditation</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:30am Adult Ed.</p> <p>10:30am Service Share-the-Plate</p> <p>McGregor Clinic</p>	<p>17</p> <p>4:45 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12 pm New Pathways Loss Support Group</p> <p>6-7:30pm PFLAG Mtg.</p>	<p>19 10am Racial Justice Team Mtg.</p> <p>3:45pm Board Mtg.</p> <p>7 pm Meditation</p>	<p>20 Heart for the Homeless Team No Dec. Mtg.</p>	<p>21 10:30am Meditation</p> <p>6pm Visuality Youth Holiday Party</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 No Adult Ed.</p> <p>10:30am Service</p>	<p>24 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10:30am Meditation</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 No Adult Ed.</p> <p>10:30am Service</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Pet Shelter Collection Sunday</p>					

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



With the November election behind us, the Climate Action Team is focused on the challenges that lie ahead. Although we are disappointed in the outcome of the Florida races, nationally there is much reason for renewed hope. Not only did the Democratic Party regain control of the House of Representatives, but at the state level they flipped seven governorships previously held by Republicans. That means that the majority of Americans will now be led by a governor who supports the Paris Climate Agreement. The climate change movement is growing in strength and raising the awareness of the American people. We are moving in the right direction.

Be sure to attend the December 2nd, 2018 Adult Educational Forum at 9:30 a.m. to meet Crystal Johnson, the leader of the Community Forum Foundation located at the STARS Complex in the Dunbar area. We are partnering with them in the development of a program to train a group of Dunbar teenagers in the skills they will need to help their community deal with natural disasters. It's called the Resilience Youth Volunteer Corp and is being funded by grants from the Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida organization. As you may recall, last year the Climate Action Team partnered with them in conducting a survey program of environmental impacts on their neighborhood called Rising Together. The current effort is a highly collaborative one involving not only the All Faiths' CAT, but also members of the Pachamama Alliance based at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers and members of the UU of Greater Naples.

We are currently formulating plans for a retreat to be held in early 2019 to plan the future direction of our congregations' climate change efforts. We'll get more information about this to you as soon as possible so you can set aside the time to join us and contribute your hopes and ideas for how we can best contribute to the movement to protect and preserve our planet from the ravages of climate change.

NEW TIME FOR DECEMBER CAT MEETING: Our monthly CAT meeting has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4th in order to participate in the conclusion of a Climate Reality 24 hour internet program taking place in locations around the world. The entire congregation is invited to join us in this celebration of the global effort to learn to live sustainably on the earth.



♥ 4 THE HOMELESS LINENS COLLECTION

All Faiths' Heart for the Homeless Team, co-chaired by Judy Alberda and Barbara Gaiser, is having a linen drive. We are collecting gently used sheets, pillow slips, light weight blankets, towels and washcloths. We, with you, are looking through our closets and drawers for those items we no longer use but are in good condition. They may be the wrong size or color for the beds you now have. Everything should be freshly laundered and in good condition – something you would feel comfortable using for your guests. The date to bring your items is Sunday, January 27th. They will be donated to non-profits that house homeless individuals and families.

MANO A MANO CRAFT SALE

Sunday, December 9, 2018



Brightly colored, beautifully woven potholders, small purses, glasses cases and other handmade items will be sold at All Faiths on Sunday, December 9. These articles make lovely gifts. They also help support the work of Mano a Mano in Bolivia and the artisans who sew them.

Charlotte Blitt has sold these items for years and can answer questions about them.

Mano a Mano International was founded in 1994 by All Faiths members *Segundo and Joan Velasquez* to improve the daily lives and health of subsistence farmers throughout Bolivia's marginalized rural communities. As we prepare to celebrate its 25th anniversary, we pause to reflect on what this mostly volunteer organization has accomplished. It has shipped more than 3,500,000 pounds of medical and school supplies to Bolivia; its network of 172 rural inpatient clinics uses supplies with more than 1,000,000 patient visits yearly. To address climate change as the Andes experience more frequent drought, it has built water projects that provide water for more than 50,000. It has constructed more than 60 schools and operates a demonstration farm to teach techniques that protect the area's soil and water resource. Community residents are involved in all aspects of their projects and own the project when it's finished.

All Faiths has been central to this social justice mission. If you wish to learn more, check the website: manoamano.org.

CALLING ALL FAITHS' ARTISTS



Calling All Faiths' creative members and friends to submit art that you have made to be displayed on the walls of All Faiths' Community Room. We are looking for paintings, quilts, sculptures, photographs, and more. Submitted pieces will be exhibited throughout 2019, with each artist allowed 1.5 months and up to 4 or 5 pieces depending on their sizes. If you would like to participate please get in touch with coordinators: Dottie Mayol and/or Twink (J. Markytan). See All Faiths' member directory for their contact info.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED



And Literacy for All is looking for gently used or new children's books to stock their Little Free Libraries. You've heard the saying "If you build it they will come." Well, that's how it goes for the Little Free Libraries! Mary Corrigan and Ed Kleinow are having a heck of a time keeping their libraries filled with children's books. If you would like to donate books, please contact Mary at andliteracy4all@gmail.com, or drop them off at the All Faiths' office. *Bringing family and community together one book at a time!*



AUDIO/VISUAL TECH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All Faiths is in need of audio/visual technician volunteers to help with setting up the projector when needed and operating the sound system during Sunday services and special events.

No education required! Ed Elrod is an excellent teacher and you'll be a pro before you know it.

If interested, please contact the office at 239-226-0900 so we can schedule a class in the near future. It really does take a village!

VP OF THE HUMANE LEAGUE TO SPEAK AT ALL FAITHS

Monday, December 17, 2018 at 6 pm



Jon Camp is the Vice President of Grassroots for The Humane League. Throughout 2004-2014, Jon traveled throughout North America, doing outreach on college campuses for Vegan Outreach. In this time, he personally reached over a million individuals at over 500 colleges and universities with information about factory farming. In 2014, Jon was recognized for his contributions to grassroots animal advocacy by being inducted into the National Animal Rights Hall of Fame. Jon is the son of our members, Diana and Glenn Camp.

Jon will discuss the importance of advocating for farm animals, the exciting election results for pro-animal initiatives in last month's election, and how each of us can play a role in pushing the ball forward for animals.

The Humane League is an international animal protection nonprofit working to end the abuse of animals raised for food through institutional and individual change. They run hard-hitting corporate campaigns and wide-ranging outreach and education programs, supported by an extensive and growing network of organizations, activists, and supporters around the world.

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

December 2018 Concert Line-Up

Concerts Start at 7pm

\$15 General Public/\$10 ACMA Members

www.AmericanACMA.com

Saturday - December 1

Mare Wakefield and Nomad
w. Karen Cohen opening

Saturday - December 8

Holiday Party
& Open Mic



That's a wrap for 2018!

Happy Holidays!

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

by Fran Way and Marsha Bates, Member Services

Each month the newsletter will profile an All Faiths veteran and/or new member. This month we feature Ernie Reid.

Ernie Reid Member Since April 2018



Ernie Reid's spiritual journey has been a life-long evolution. Raised in Kittanning, PA, he attended a small, non-denominational "Methodist-like" country church. As he moved through different life stages, his religious affiliation changed; for a while he was a Southern Baptist, then he attended the Church of Christ, then had a phase when he considered himself an agnostic. Now he describes himself as a spiritualist and has found that the Buddhist practice fits him best.

Ernie found All Faiths when he and a friend began church-hopping, looking for a spiritual home. He feels All Faiths most aligns with his beliefs and conviction that each person's search and spiritual evolution while moving through life's stages is important. Ernie feels he has found a place where, rather than being tied to one dogma, he can continue to evolve spiritually as he explores new ideas and grows.

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Ernie's career choices reflect his Buddhist belief that it is important to do work that benefits others. In his current position as Director of Business Systems and Information Technology at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Ernie makes certain their systems operate smoothly. He is a Project Manager and is part of the Strategic Planning Group which ensures the organization fulfills its mission to protect Florida's land, water, and wildlife. In that capacity, he works with developers to encourage smart planning.

Ernie enjoyed his upbringing on a small hobby farm where his family raised chickens, cows, pigs, and lots of vegetables. After attending Penn State for a year, Ernie transferred to Arizona to finish his degree in Psychology and earn a second degree in Sociology. He moved to Southwest Florida in 1990 to help his mother who had relocated here. He met his husband, James Bigelow, in Florida; they have been together for nearly 30 years. He has one brother who lives in St. Petersburg, FL.

Ernie enjoys singing; for a while, he was part of a local men's group, Tropical Storm. He has composed and produced two Buddhist contemporary albums, taking Buddhist chants and pairing them with contemporary words. He has also produced two additional contemporary music albums.

When time permits, Ernie enjoys hiking and biking. Twice a year, Ernie hikes the Smokey Mountains – once when the trees are changing color and again in spring when wildflowers start to bloom. He listens to audio books during his daily three-hour round trip commute from LeHigh Acres to the Conservancy's Naples offices.

Although Ernie's demanding schedule limits his ability to participate in many church activities, we are fortunate that he found All Faiths. We look forward to partnering with him as we continue our own spiritual journeys.

Light the Festive Candles

by Aileen Lucia Fisher

(FOR HANUKKAH)

Light the first of eight tonight—
the farthest candle to the right.

Light the first and second, too,
when tomorrow's day is through.

Then light three, and then light four—
every dusk one candle more

Till all eight burn bright and high,
honoring a day gone by

When the Temple was restored,
rescued from the Syrian lord,

And an eight-day feast proclaimed—
The Festival of Lights—well named

To celebrate the joyous day
when we regained the right to pray
to our one God in our own way.



DECEMBER MESSAGES

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 2 - *Bearers of Light*, by Rev. CJ McGregor
Worship Associate – Greg Monk
Music by Joseph Brauer
Special Collection for Employee Bonuses

Dec. 9 - *A Hanukkah Message*,
by Rabbi Bruce Diamond
Worship Associate – Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joan Marshall and Joseph Brauer

Dec. 16 - *A Winter Solstice Ritual*
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Worship Associate – Susan Meissner
Music by Kat Epple and Joseph Brauer

Dec. 23 - *A Unitarian Christmas*,
by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer and
The All Voices Choir

Dec. 24 - *6 p.m. The Small Camel that Followed
a Star*, by Rev. CJ McGregor
Music by Joseph Brauer and Soloist
*Special Collection for Minister's
Discretionary Fund*

Dec. 30 - *Starting Our Lives Over Again*,
by Joyce Ramay
Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin
Music by Donalie Benyak & Joseph Brauer

DECEMBER ADULT ED. FORUMS

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 2 - *Climate Action Forum* led by Joan Marshall

Dec. 9 - *Judaism and Others*

Dec. 16 - *Christianity Among World Religions*
New Series led by Joyce Ramay

Dec. 23 - No Forum (Choir practice)

Dec. 30 - No Forum

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

Adult Education Forums

Discussions led by Joyce Ramay

Great World Religions: Christianity

New 12-Part Series on Christianity begins

Sunday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Lectures by Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson, Ph.D.

Christianity is one of religion's great success stories. Beginning as a sect of Judaism in an obscure province of the Roman Empire in the 1st century C.E., it now counts more than two billion adherents throughout the world. Christianity is also one of the most paradoxical of religions. While bearing a message of peace and unity, it has often been a source of conflict and division. The course provides a sense of Christianity as a whole in its most essential features.

After an opening presentation that places Christianity among the other world religions, the second and third lectures cover the birth and first expansion. The next five lectures are synthetic in character, providing first an overview of the Christian story, the Christian creed, and a sense of Christian practice. The final four lectures deal with internal and external conflicts. The final lecture takes up the tensions in Christianity today, especially the struggle in the First World between fundamentalism and modernity ... and the possibilities for the ancient yet lively religion's future among developing nations.

**Adult Education Forums – 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. before
Single Service**

12-16 Christianity #1 –Christianity Among World
Religions

**Adult Education Forums – 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. –
between Services ***

1-13 Christianity #2 –Birth and Expansion

2-10 Christianity #3 –Second Century and Self
Definition

2-28 Christianity #4 –The Christian Story

3-10 Christianity #5 –What Christians Believe

3-31 Christianity #6 –The Church and Sacraments

4-21 Christianity #7 –Moral Teaching

*Starting in January 2019, schedule will include Short Stories with Doug Cartwright on some Sundays. There will also be forums conducted by our Social Action and Outreach Teams, e.g. LIFE, CAT, Racial Justice, Hunger and Homeless Teams.

The Southwest Florida
Gay and Lesbian Chorus presents

*"The Songs of Christmas
Around the World"*

Sunday, December 16, 2018
7:00 P.M.



All Faiths' Sanctuary



To purchase tickets online go to:
www.gaychorus.org

\$15 (partial proceeds benefit All Faiths)

Paper tickets will be available at All Faiths

ALL FAITHS ROLLS OUT LAY PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM

The Lay Pastoral Care Program is...

a ministerial program to provide a confidential, caring presence to congregants undergoing stressful life challenges.

- An extension of the Minister's own pastoral care presence
- A group of Lay Pastoral Care Associates (LPCA) recruited by, and communicating directly to, the minister – a unique ministry independent of the staff and committee structure of the congregation.
- A program visible to, and accessible by the congregation
- Maintains presence at worship services
- Inducts and recognizes LPCA's at Sunday services
- Mentored by the minister
- Stresses strict confidentiality, practiced throughout the program
- Provides initial, basic training
- Discusses questions arising from congregant contacts
- A means for maintaining a sustained connection between the congregants and the congregation, especially when service attendance becomes impractical or impossible
- A program that provides a structure for responding to emergencies that affect the congregation

The Lay Pastoral Care Program is not...

- A program providing practical, logistical service -- the function of a Care Committee
- A "support group" for congregants
- A source of specific (especially professional) advice: Legal, Medical, Financial, Psychological

The Lay Pastoral Care Associate is...

- The LPCA is an extension of the Minister.
- Distinct from other caring members of the congregation
- Is responsible only to the Minister
- Is an addition to, not a substitute for, the Minister

An LPCA provides care that is:

- Trained. Knows how to listen, recognize needs, be sensitive and empathetic, guide or prompt spiritual thinking, and support needs for spiritual practices.
- Confidential. Accepts secrets, admissions, or other nonpublic thoughts.
- Non-judgmental
- A listener for thoughtful discussions, perhaps biased toward bringing forward the values of our faith.
- Actively focused on the needs of the congregant rather than their personal dilemmas/situation.

**Singers Salute
The Singers**

Saturday, January 19, 2019
5:30 p.m.
\$25 pp

at The All Faiths Theatre

Presented by the FUNRaising Committee of
Annely, Joyce and Kendra

Produced and Directed by Joan Marshall
with a cast of extraordinary singers

Dinner will be a Symphony of Flavors

Vegetarian White Bean Soup
Herbed Chicken or Vegetarian Chicken with Creamy Mushroom Sauce
Ancients Grains ♦ Vegetable Melody ♦ Rolls with Butter
Dessert

Tickets on Sale December 1, 2018

(continued on page 11)

The Lay Pastoral Care Associate is Not...

- Practical solver of everyday problems, a “fixer”
- Chat partner, unless it opens routes to deeper discussions; sometimes, chat may be the only communication possible
- Decision-maker
- Judge, approver
- Professional counselor (though trained to recognize when such services are needed)
- Searcher for own spiritual beliefs

Parish Nursing

When members and friends are discharged from surgery, hospitalization, and procedures the Minister will collaborate with the parish nurse to provide assessment in the home. The nurse does not provide care but will assess needs and advocate accordingly. The nurse is someone who “checks in” to make sure our members are home comfortably, safely and have what they need. The Minister decides when the parish nurse will meet with members.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM NOTES
FOR DECEMBER**

**Children's R.E. is held in the Robinson Room
during the 10:30 a.m. Service**

December 2 - In this session, children learn the power of working together cooperatively to make a difference by hearing about the Green Sanctuary Program of the Unitarian Universalist Association. They hear how the First Unitarian Church in St. Louis engaged people of all ages to make a difference in their congregation and in the community.

December 9 - In this session children will engage their senses of wonder and awe, be inspired and encouraged to protect and care for the interdependent web of all existence, and understand the 7th Principle as a statement of faith and a call to action.

December 16 - Our multigenerational Winter Solstice is today. Children and adults will celebrate together in the Sanctuary.

December 23 - Our service, A Unitarian Christmas, is multigenerational this morning. We will all gather in the sanctuary.

December 30 - Our Minister will lead RE this morning. We will explore New Year traditions from around the world, both cultural and religious.

We have been utilizing our new Breeze membership database software since last April. It has been a great improvement in tracking and organizing our members and friends information and donation records. We are missing a lot of birth dates (day and month), and we now have the ability to keep emergency contact information at our fingertips.

If you would like All Faiths to have your emergency contact information, you can email it to Regina at office@allfaiths-uc.org, or call the office at 239-226-0900. And be sure we have your birth date too -- we don't want anyone to be left off our monthly birthday list!

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Sharon Gray, Treasurer

The following is the accounting of our finances through October 31, 2018. November's details were not yet finalized.

October 2018

INCOME	\$ 15,959
EXPENSES	18,199
NET LOSS	(\$ 2,240)

OCTOBER CASH ASSETS (after payroll deducted)

General Operating Funds	\$ 3,978
Operating Reserves	49,581
Legacy Account	31,908
Paypal	603
Capital Fund 2017	5,454
Total cash assets	\$91,524

Fiscal Year 2018 to Date (7 Months)

INCOME	\$123,118
EXPENSES	\$129,614
NET LOSS	(\$ 6,496)

Members of the Finance Committee held a charitable giving workshop on November 25. If you missed it, you can still obtain important tax and giving information from Sharon Gray or Joyce Ramay, or if you just have a question, they will be happy to answer it for you. There are lots of ways to support All Faiths and take advantage of tax benefits at the same time.

The Finance Committee has begun working on the 2019/20 budget and will be collaborating with the Stewardship Committee to kick off All Faiths' Pledge Drive in January.

We appreciate your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

THEY'RE BACK...



We're happy to see our snowbirds arriving from the cold and blustery north. We look forward to getting the extra chairs out of storage to make room for our extended family.

Many thanks to *Doug Deininger* (above) and *Michael Pierre* for doing the heavy lifting! We appreciate all you do.

"THE IMMIGRANTS"



Diane Chernow's artwork is on display in the Community Room. The above piece entitled "The Immigrants" was recently part of a juried show themed "Identity" at the Alliance for the Arts. Be sure to stop by and see Diane's beautiful and eclectic collection of folk art paintings.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Email: office@allfaiths-uc.org Website: www.allfaiths-uc.org

Board of Directors: Chris Stotler, Acting President;

Jeanne Ezell, Acting Vice President; Sharon Gray, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Diane Cartwright, Past Chair;

Directors: Doug Cartwright, Barbara Gaiser, Annely Hudanick, Lisa Leonhardt, Eileen Moran.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joseph Brauer, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton; Robert Bennett, Hospitality

Communications

Regina Kilmartin

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Carol Elrod,

Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin,

Kendra Maroon, Sharon Gray

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Member Services

Greeters

Fran Way

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

Nominating Committee

Carol Elrod

Sunday Services

Joyce Ramay

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Building and Grounds

Michael Pierre

Social Action & Outreach

t/b/d

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall

Heart for the Homeless

Judy Alberda & Barbara Gaiser

Racial Justice Team

Rachel Spiller

Hunger Team

Diane Hand & Jane Broadstone

L.I.F.E.

Bill Snider, Regina Kilmartin,

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy

Annely Hudanick

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

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Deadline for the **January** Issue of *Connections*
December 20

(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