



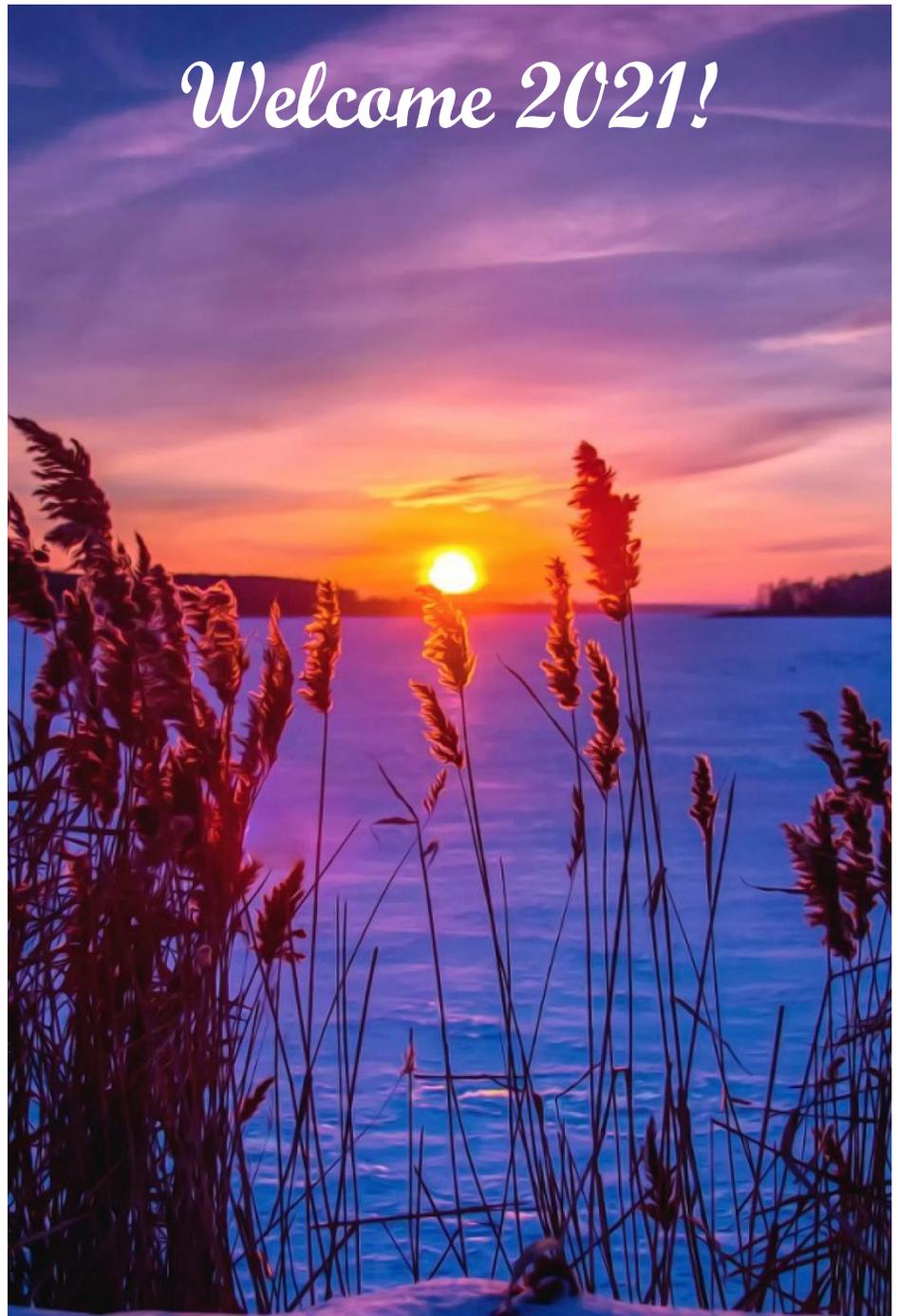
ALL FAITHS
UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

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 December 16, 2020 Board of Directors meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom with all members present.

We continue to have many topics/issues to discuss as we strive to keep everything moving in a positive direction. We look forward to 2021 bringing lots of changes and a return to more “normal” times.

Building and grounds was the subject of several discussions. John Conrad presented the concept of performing a reserve study to better quantify when major repairs and replacements will be needed and to develop a schedule for the amount needed annually to meet these large ticket expenses. The Board agreed that this is a good idea but our budget can't afford the cost at this time. We will reassess our ability to do the study later in 2021. In 2015 an All Faiths Building and Grounds Immediate and Long Range Plan was developed that identified a schedule

for many actions needed in facilities maintenance. Most of the actions identified have been performed. However, this plan needs to be updated. Peter Erickson will be the board member leading a team making the updated revision. Existing members of the Building and Grounds Committee are being asked to contribute. The Building and Grounds Committee needs additional members to replace members who have left during the past couple years.

During the past eight months, COVID-19 has eliminated our fundraisers, thus hurting our income. The Board discussed potential options for conducting fundraisers while maintaining social distancing. These included an on-line auction and a livestreamed concert by our talented musicians.

The Bylaws Committee is being requested to meet to review changes that may be needed for presentation at the next annual meeting. Mem-

bership on this and other committees is being reviewed and revised/expanded as needed. If you are willing to serve on one of our committees, please let me know.

The Stewardship Committee is making good progress towards the pledge drive that will start in January. The drive will have some surprises this year. With several traditional sources of income being reduced because of COVID-19 the success of this pledge drive in replacing lost income is extremely important. We do not want to be forced into further budget cutting.

The purchase of cameras, cables, and controls for recording/streaming services is moving forward and should be installed in January. The need for this equipment was put on the Wish List last month; we received some contributions but could use more.

The farmer's market that will set up in our grassy area

(mentioned in the last *Connections*) will be starting once they get all their permits. They plan to operate Tuesday through Friday of each week.

If the new COVID-19 relief legislation being negotiated includes a new forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, the Board voted to apply again. If it is considered a potentially forgivable loan like the last one, we will conduct an email vote to obtain the Congregation's approval as we did before applying the last time it was offered. The last PPP loan meant we didn't have to cut staff salaries.

The Finance Committee reports that the pledge and cash contributions for November and early December is significantly below last year. Normally we see a large increase in collections during these months but have not seen it yet.

Enjoy these holidays and the loving spirit of Christmas.

(continued on page 3)

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)

Food, Clothing, and Other Collections

- McGregor Clinic - T/B/D
- Community Food Box on the Porch - Daily





Many of us are feeling hopeful with the approval and distribution of a vaccine. I've heard many around the world say that they feel liberated and they are letting their guard down in terms of breaking their many months of isolation. This is likely dangerous. We know so much more now about COVID-19 and its transmission than we did last spring. Still, we need to be cautious and listen to the doctors and scientists. And so, I have.

I've listened to you too. Living in isolation and not being able to gather as a congregation has drained your reserves of patience, attacked your emotional health, and has broken your hearts. For months now your Board of Directors, your Sunday Services Committee, your staff, and your Minister have recognized the needs of the congregation, but couldn't make any changes in how we have been forced not to gather as your safety is incredibly important.

By listening to doctors, scientists, and the CDC we have been able to reach a decision that will allow us to gather. Well, gather a little at one time. We feel it's safe to make some

slow and small changes given we work within some safe and reasonable parameters.

Beginning on February 7, 2021, we will open our 10:30 a.m. Sunday services to 20 members and known friends of the congregation. The public is not invited at this time. We will livestream with 20 people in the seats. The gathering will be like your first school dance. There will be no huggy wugsy, kissy wissy, handshakes or singing. Chaperones will remind you to leave room between you and the other person.

- If you'd like to be one of the 20 people attending the service on a Sunday, you will need to register with Regina Kilmartin in the office. You will receive an RSVP email prior to the service, and Regina will fairly schedule people.

- If you have serious medical conditions or identify as high risk we encourage you to stay home.

- If you are feeling ill or have recently been ill, please stay home.

- You will be screened upon arrival, you must wear a mask properly, and remain socially distanced.

- Seating will be arranged prior to your arrival.

- To avoid contact, people will enter and exit as directed by staff. We need to avoid people "bottlenecking" and gathering. Those in attendance must remain socially distanced from our staff and service volunteers.

- Please arrive at least 15

minutes early so you can be seated by 10:30 am when the service goes live.

- Microphones will not be shared. Joys and Sorrows will be presented by the minister.

- We will continue to use overhead fans and open windows for ventilation. Be prepared for a tiny bit of traffic noise.

- Proper cleaning procedures will continue.

If you have questions or would like to clarify the details please call or text me at 508-736-3361, email me at revcjmgregor@gmail.com.

- Blessings, CJ



BOARD NOTES

(cont'd from page 2)

There are many positive signs that 2021 will be a much better year than the past one. If you have comments or suggestions for your Board of Directors, please e-mail All Faiths or contact me (239.770.0795 or gcstotler@gmail.com) or other Board members.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for January 20 2021, via Zoom teleconference, starting at 3:00 p.m.

JOYS & SORROWS

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



Susan Anthony had surgery for removal of a growth on her throat, and is having follow-up tests. Please keep her in your healing thoughts and prayers.

Jan Guardiano was diagnosed with Covid 19, but has few symptoms. She is being cared for in the skilled nursing facility at her residence.

Jennifer McDaigle had rotator cuff surgery. We hope she has a good and speedy recovery.

Chris Stotler's mother, who is 101, was admitted to the ICU in Ohio. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Lynda Thompson's 94-year-old mother is receiving hospice care at her home in California. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Jeannine Martin passed away in hospice care. She had moved recently to be closer to her daughter. Jeannine was an active volunteer who worked to beautify our landscaping and gardens. We extend our sympathy to her friends and family, including Sarah Hanna who was our Office Manager before Regina.

Happening at All Faiths

Happy January
Birthday to you!



Jan 1 Shea Fierro
Jan 5 Colleen North
Jan 12 Emmie Spiller
Jan 13 Joyce Schaffer
Jan 22 Susan Meissner
Jan 23 Judy Whitcomb
Jan 27 Lewis Robinson
Jan 27 Deborah Rohde
Jan 28 Fran Way

And Coming Up...

Feb 3 Midge Magstadt
Feb 7 Kendra Maroon

TEACHING TUESDAYS

Zoom Link

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

January 5, 1:30 p.m. – Climate Action Team will hold its regular monthly meeting.

January 12, 1:00 p.m. – We will watch and discuss one part of The Story of God. This part the mystery of Genesis. It takes us from Jerusalem to Turkey in search for the Garden of Eden and examines the origins of the belief in God.

January 19, 1:00 p.m. – We will spend time with Housing First Lee County and discuss the current issue of Lee County sitting on money while people suffered during the pandemic.

January 26, 1:00 p.m. – We will watch and discuss the documentary Women at War. We'll trace the overlapping journeys of exceptional women swept up in World War I and hear their tales of bravery on history's front lines.



Solos Group Events

Saturday, January 16, 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Luncheon

*Don't lose track of your Solo friends.
Can't stay for lunch? Just pop in and
say hello. We miss you all.*

Contact: Annelly Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

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

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.allfaithsuu.org by clicking on the You Tube button, or go to YouTube.com and search "All Faiths."

JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2
3 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	4	5 1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.	6 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	7 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	8	9
10 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	11 10am Zoom Sun. Srv. Team 12pm-Zoom Book Club 7pm Odyssey w. Nicole McDaigle	12 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. "The Story of God"	13 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	14 10 am Zoom Finance Mtg. 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	15	16 1pm Zoom Solos Lunch 7pm ACMA Concert Livestream: Reckless Saints w. Ray Cerbone opening
17 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed	19 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. "Housing First Lee County"	20 10am Racial Justice Mtg. 3pm - Zoom Board Meeting 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	21 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 2pm Heart for the Homeless Mtg.	22	23
24 (Service schedule same as above)	25 ← Sun. 1/24 7pm ACMA Concert at Alliance for the Arts: Patchulli	26 1pm Zoom Teaching Tues. "Women at War"	27 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	28 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	29	30
31 (Service schedule same as above) Animal Shelter Collection						

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

JANUARY - "CELEBRATIONS" 2020 WORSHIP SERVICES

Livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Recorded and available at www.allfaithsuu.org

January 3 – New Beginnings

Message and Service led by Joyce Ramay

Music by Joseph Brauer

January 10 – Profound Gift: Consolation

Message and Service led by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Youth Religious Education – Mary Corrigan

January 17 – Capacity to Destroy: Desolation

Message and Service led by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

January 24 – MLK Legacy

Guest Speaker: Martin Byrd

Service led by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer and Darlene Mitchell

Youth Religious Education – Mary Corrigan

January 31 – Significant Consequences

Message and Service led by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

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

THANK YOU FROM YOUR STAFF

Dear Members, Friends & Board of Directors ~

We are all so grateful for this year's Holiday bonuses. Our staff positions are not just jobs to us; it is through our inherent nature to serve others that we have been called to serve All Faiths. We love All Faiths as much as you do, and we will continue working hard to bring quality services and music to you and your families, much needed outreach and awareness to our community, and a spiritual home to all who seek a beloved community where they can be who they are.

With great appreciation and thanks for your generosity ~

Rev. CJ McGregor, Minister

Regina Kilmartin, Congregational Administrator

Joseph Brauer, Music Director

Joe Gayton, Sexton

Open to Joy

by Elea Kemler

You can prepare
but still
it will come to you
by surprise

crossing through your doorway
calling your name in greeting...

it will astonish you
how wide your heart
will open
in welcome

for the joy
that finds you
**so ready
and still so
unprepared.**

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



Your Climate Action Team is gearing up to meet the challenges of the new year with renewed determination and commitment. We are encouraged by the impressive team President-Elect Biden is assembling to address the challenges

of climate change at the federal level. However, our Florida State government remains in the hands of those whose overriding priority is economic development. This is also true of many in our local governments. Last month, CAT began what will be an ongoing campaign to reach out to our elected officials with our intensifying concerns about the impact of climate change on our well-being both now and into the future. Our campaign began with this congratulatory letter from the All Faiths Climate Action Team to each of the recent election winners in Lee County local, state and federal elections:

"Congratulations on your win in the November election. Our sincere thanks to you for having the courage and commitment it will take to serve the public interest in such a difficult and uncertain time.

"Recovering from the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will be challenging and will no doubt require considerable bi-partisan effort and painful trade-offs. Hopefully we can learn from this essential and unavoidable effort lessons that will prepare us to deal with the much greater threats we face from the ever-increasing impact of climate change. We are running out of time to be able to make a difference. What we do (or fail to do) today will determine the tomorrows we leave for our children.

"We are counting on you to find ways to help unite your fellow elected officials in the true spirit of public service and representative democracy so that, together, we are strong and ready to meet the enormous challenges that lie ahead."

We encourage all of you to speak out to your representatives about the growing threat of climate change. You can get their names and addresses at this website: <https://lee.vote/Elected-Officials>. We hope you will join us by Zoom for our next CAT meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5th. Look for announcements about a special guest speaker.

LIFE

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

Several All Faiths' Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE) network members have participated in Zoom meetings held in the past few weeks.

The Affordable Housing Action Team (AHAT) met with Michael Anderson, the director of the Center for Community Change's Housing Trust Fund Project. Mr. Anderson will speak at a late February meeting LIFE is planning with Fort Myers officials. AHAT also interviewed two local developers interested in building affordable housing. They brought to light the criticality of incentivizing the erection of affordable housing. Upcoming AHAT Zoom meetings:

■ **January 12, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, interview the head of the Community Redevelopment Agency, Michelle Hilton Terry;**

■ **Team meeting on January 26 at 5:00 pm**

The Criminal Justice Action Team (CJAT) met with Linda Doggett, Lee County Clerk of Courts; they learned that the \$12 million collected annually in fines and fees are used to fund the Clerk of Courts' budget. A meeting with Vacharee Howard, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), revealed that there are only 140 mental health beds in Lee County. CJAT also met with a statewide criminal justice collaborative that is working to expand the use of adult civil citations in lieu of arrests for minor offenses. At a meeting with Kathleen Smith, head of the Lee County Public Defenders Office, CJAT was encouraged by her mutual interest in reforming the fees/fine imposed on offenders and encouraging Lee County law enforcement departments to use adult civil citations. Upcoming meetings:

■ **Webinar regarding behavioral health and community issues, Saturday, January 9th, 9:30 to 11**

■ **January 20, 8:30 to 10:30 am with Operations Director of Salus Care, a mental health and substance abuse care facility**

If you want to attend any of these meetings, let your Team Leader know, or if you haven't yet joined All Faiths' LIFE network, contact either Donalie Benyak (239) 482-3545, Lana Cowell (216) 701-1378, or Marsha Bates (740) 278-2357.

LIFE for justice! Justice for life!

We NEED you.
Can you HELP?



Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for these animals until they can find a forever home. To help them in their mission, they would appreciate donations of pet food and treats, and any of the items listed below.

Cat Food (Dry and Canned)
Dog Food (Dry and Canned)
Cat Litter (Clay & Scoopable)
Contractor Grade Trash Bags
Towels, large & small
Blankets, Comforters
Pillow Cases, Sheets
Clorox Wipes
Tissues
Paper Towels
Bleach

**Gift cards from Petsmart, PetCo or Pet Supermarket
(or other local pet stores)**

**Sharon Gray will deliver the donations
to a local shelter**

♥ **FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS**

by Barbara McFarlane

In 2020, our All Faiths congregation was generously engaged around the issues and obstacles faced by those without housing. Members donated items, money, and their time. **The following are some of the year's donations:**

123 baseball caps
98 pieces of school uniforms
Personal hygiene products
\$200 monetary donation
\$297 donation received from Share the Plate
\$1,000 towards a car for a woman living at Angel Wings
Masks, quilt, linens, mats

With these donations, we were able to support the efforts of local organizations:

City Gate Ministries
Angel Wings
All Souls Episcopal Church
Colonial Elem. and Edgewood Academy
Gladiolus Food Pantry
Little White Church, Pine Island
Triage Center

Members gave their time to:

Habitat for Humanity
Annual stand down and resource event through the Homeless Coalition

Advocating for affordable housing and services for people without housing through LIFE, letters to city and county officials, and letters to the editor.

In 2020, as we strive to find ways to continue our congregation's involvement around this issue in meaningful ways, we hope you'll join the January team meeting on **Thursday January 21 at 2:00pm.** (Be a mouse in the corner, ask questions, or share your ideas.)

To a Happy, healthy New Year!

"As you grow older, you will discover you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

~ Audrey Hepburn

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets - November 2020

Iberiabank Checking	\$13,875
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	25,014
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,650
Raymond James Legacy	37,024
Pay Pal	664.44
Iberiabank Capital Fund	<u>6,136</u>
Total	\$103,363
Prior Month	<u>109,950</u>
Net Loss	(-6,587)

November 2020 P&L

Operating Income	\$ 9,479
Operating Expense	<u>17,472</u>
Net Loss	(-\$7,993)

Revenue/Operating Income **decreased** significantly in November, compared to October. Recently, congregants received a notice as to where their actual pledge contributions are compared to their pledge itself (from April 1 through November 30). It is our hope that the last 4 months of the fiscal year see a significant **increase** in giving so that our goal budget is achieved. These are critical and difficult times for all of us; your generosity is appreciated!

The Burn the Mortgage program continues with donations of \$600.00 received in November (these funds will be used to pay down the mortgage principal in December). The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of November was \$95,266.64. This is significant progress because on April 1, 2019 the mortgage principal balance was \$151,234.48!!

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 November, over \$1,125 was collected for Operation Joy (Christmas for children).

BURN THE WHAT....?

Back in April of 2019, Howard Silverman came up with an idea. Howard serves on the Finance Committee, and at the April finance meeting, he blurted out:

"Hey, we only owe \$151,234 on the mortgage. If 20 people donated an extra \$100 a month, and the rest of us donated what we could towards the principal, we could burn this mortgage in less than four years!"

Well, guess what? At the end of 2020, our mortgage balance is at an amazing **\$93,073!** All Faiths, Howard, and the Finance Committee would like to thank each and every person who has been making extra payments towards the mortgage principal. Many of you send extra payments on a regular basis, and many of you donate here and there, but all of you have made a huge difference, for which we are extremely grateful. When our mortgage balloon comes due in 2024, we just might have to tell the bank... *it was nice doing business with you, but we're done now!*



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.



CALL FOR BOOK DONATIONS

Happy New Year! Are you in the midst of clearing out the old to make space for the new? If your bookshelves are included

in that process, *And Literacy For All* would appreciate any books you would like to gift to a new home. During quarantine, our Free Book Boxes have been busier than ever! While recent grants have enabled us to provide children's books, adult books have gained unexpected popularity during the pandemic. We are distributing between 300 and 350 books every week!

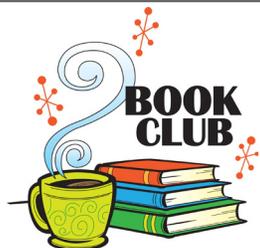
Please contact Mary Corrigan at mary837@gmail.com or Ed Kleinow at ed@comcast.net if you have any donations. We are happy to come and pick up the books in a safe way.

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION JANUARY CONCERTS

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

January 16 at 7pm - ACMA Facebook livestream: The Reckless Saints with Ray Cerbone opening

January 24 at 7pm ACMA @ The Alliance for The Arts: Featuring Patchouli. Ticket link at www.artsinlee.org



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.

JANUARY'S ODYSSEY NICOLE McDAIGLE

Monday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Live on Facebook
(www.facebook.com/allfaithsuc)



Nicole McDaigle and her family, wife Jennifer and daughter Quillen, started attending All Faiths in early 2019. Nicole and Jennifer were married in 2013, and moved to Florida in 2015. Please join us to learn more about Nicole and the journey that brought her to All Faiths.



Coming Soon to a Congregation you Love!

Exciting news! *Your Neighborhood Farmers* will be leasing our lawn for the winter. The market will run from January through May. You can stop by and purchase fresh produce right here at All Faiths Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Mary Corrigan, Director of Youth RE

Greetings!

To provide an update, ten youth representing eight families now participate in Youth RE, and this month has been a busy one! On Sundays, in alignment with service messages, we have explored aspects of different faiths such as Judaism and Paganism, seeking understanding of their respective customs and beliefs. For example, on the 13th, we created a Wordle representing youth's answers to the question, "What is your source of light in the darkness?" Reflecting upon how they intend to bring light to the darkness in the days to come, responses included: not leaving things unsaid, being the first to reach out, and sharing joy with others through laughter. We approach our exploration of various faiths with an inclusive attitude, understanding that Unitarian Universalism is an expansive ideology that welcomes diversity.

Wednesday evenings have continued to be enthusiastic, interactive, and high-spirited get-togethers. This month, we had the opportunity to welcome and get to know a few of you who chose to spend some time with us during a portion of these meetings. Thank you to Rev. C.J. McGregor, Marsha Bates, and Chris Stotler. If you would like to participate in any of our Wednesday evening meetings, please email me at mary837@gmail.com. During one of these gatherings, an extended, thoughtful deliberation ensued regarding how to most responsibly use a \$350 donation sponsored by a congregant to the World Vision charity in the most beneficial manner. I am proud of the remarkable empathy, wisdom, and critical thinking they exhibited as they collaborated on their decision.

We also had our first Parent/Guardian of Youth in RE meeting this month. Although some time was spent reviewing logistics, the main portion focused on participants getting to know each other. Because we can no longer meet over a cup of coffee after the service, the primary purpose of these meetings is for parents/guardians to connect and get to know each other in community.

Youth RE is looking forward to continuing communication with our Literacy Buddies, seeking avenues for advocacy, and creating new ways to connect and communicate with the congregation in the upcoming year.

We wish everyone a healthy, happy, and hopeful New Year!

Peace to all.



Sources of Light (Wordle)



Collaboration for a Cause

AN OPEN 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.

"ALL IN FOR ALL FAITHS!"

2021/2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN JANUARY

The Stewardship Committee has been preparing for the upcoming stewardship campaign, which kicks off on Sunday, January 10th.

We, on the Stewardship Committee, are asking each member and friend to help us secure All Faiths' exciting future.

Besides completing and returning your own pledge card, remind your fellow congregants to complete and return their pledge cards as well, hopefully with a 10% increase. The pledged donations determine whether the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors can fund the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year (April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022) or whether they will have to reduce budget line items, which could include staff salaries.



The proposed budget will be included in the materials mailed with the pledge cards on January 7th. If you are having a good year, which is what we all hope for, please increase your donation to All Faiths. If the year is not so good and you can't donate what you expected, you need not feel guilty. The love we have for each other has quotation marks, *not* dollar signs. We don't want you to give until it hurts... we want you to give until it feels good.

Please return your pledge cards by Founders' Day, February 14th. This year, we need everyone to be **All In for All Faiths!**

Thank you, from the Stewardship Committee:

Marsha Bates, Janet Falk, Howard Silverman, Mary Ellen Fritz, Ernie Reid, Ariel Hoover, and Emmie Spiller.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

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

Directors: Marge DiGalbo, Peter Erickson, Annely Hudanick, Eileen Moran, Linda Runkle.

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

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Communications

Newsletter

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Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin,

Kendra Maroon, Sharon Gray

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Youth Religious Education

Mary Corrigan

Hospitality Coordinator

Nicole McDaigle

Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

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

Nominating Committee

Kathleen Weber

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Building and Grounds

Michael Pierre

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall

Community Events

Richard Keelan

Heart for the Homeless

Barb McFarlane

Racial Justice Team

Rachel Spiller

L.I.F.E.

Marsha Bates, Donalie Benyak,

Lana Cowell

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick



Deadline for the **February** Issue of *Connections* is **January 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