



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 January 20, 2021, Board of Directors met at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Board members were excited to be into 2021, inspired by the inauguration, and looking towards a return to more “normal” times.

The Board agreed to a partial reopening of services starting February 7. Initially the service will be limited to 20 members and friends during the live streamed service.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 9:30 am. A March 21st workshop will be held at 9:30 am to discuss the budget, Bylaw revisions, and the Nominating Committee’s nominees. The format of the meetings has not been set although we anticipate they will be virtual.

The *Buildings* portion of the Buildings and Grounds Committee needs new members. Several people will be asked to serve on this Committee, which helps with maintenance

and management of the building. They plan and perform needed work with the help of other volunteers and contractors. They will also contribute to updating the Immediate and Long-Range Plan for Building and Grounds developed in 2015. The plan identifies a schedule for actions needed in facilities maintenance. Peter Erickson will be the board member leading a team making the updated plan. If you are interested in joining this important team please contact me, Peter or Regina.

The Pledge Drive has started with a mailing of information and pledge cards. The weekly videos that are being shown prior to services are available through our web page link. The Stewardship Committee deserves a lot of thanks for their innovative approach and creativity. Because of our reduced sources of traditional income from rentals and fundraising, significant increases in pledges are critical. This year’s

proposed budget is bare bones because of concern about reduced revenues. For example, there are no pay increases for staff in the new fiscal year and the additional part-time office help originally budgeted last year continues to be delayed. We will probably close the current fiscal year with a loss despite having received a forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. That loss will be covered by our Operating Reserve; we don’t want to have to draw from that account next year. We need the total pledged amount to be more than 10 percent greater than last year’s total.

The engineering for the deck replacement has started. The replacement cost for deck construction is a Wish List item. There is not enough money in the capital fund to cover all of the anticipated costs.

The new COVID-19 relief legislation that was recently passed includes a new forgivable PPP loan, but because of

new restrictions, we do not qualify. The last PPP provided critical help this past year and meant we didn’t have to cut staff salaries.

The Finance Committee reports that the pledge and cash contributions for December were significantly below last year. Normally we see a large increase in collections by now but have not seen it yet this year. We hope some members and friends will contribute part of their new stimulus checks to All Faiths as an extra donation like several did during the past stimulus program.

If you have comments or suggestions for your Board of Directors, please email All Faiths, or contact me directly at (239) 770-0795 or gcstotler@gmail.com. You may also contact other Board members.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021, via Zoom starting at 1:00 p.m.

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.)

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



Happy Founders' Day!



Our Unitarian roots stretch from Eastern Europe, to Britain, to America. Centuries ago, our Unitarian ancestors worshipped underground and in the dark to avoid persecution, our leaders were martyred, our texts were burned, and the people of our faith were imprisoned and tortured until the end of their lives. All of this endured for a free faith.

Fleeing to the colonies to escape persecution, New England Unitarians evolved from the Pilgrim Fathers' Congregational Christianity, which was originally based on a literal reading of the Holy Bible. Unitarians rejected the Trinitarian belief in the tri-personal godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost/Spirit. Instead, they asserted a unitary notion of God. In addition, they rejected the doctrine of original sin, moving away from the Calvinism of the Congregationalists. Our Unitarian ancestors suffered here, in America, too. Yet, they gathered, building congregations believing in diversity of faith, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought.

And so, understanding our history, celebrating those who stood and stand by this faith,

we find it particularly poignant as we mark the twentieth anniversary of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation this month. The founding and building of this congregation was born out of divergence and a call for Unitarians in SWFL to form a new congregation. This new congregation would be formed by Unitarians who had fallen away dissatisfied with leadership, hurt and heartbroken by polity, and left without an embracing congregation.

The founding and building of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation was also born out of love, a love for our faith and tradition, a love for inclusion and diversity, and a love for its first minister, The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson. That same resolve of Pilgrims separating from a congregation not serving their conscience and reason is the same resolve our founding members and minister embodied. They experienced doubt of their denomination, the weight of organizing, criticism, and the task of sustainability. They experienced the strength of its members, the commitment to the service of others, dedication to being welcoming and inclusive, and devotion to truth, trust and love.

We celebrants, inheritors, commit ourselves to these same ideals twenty years later. We are stronger, bolder, faithful, and grounded by the resoluteness and persistence of our founders. We continue to create the congregation they dreamed of. We continue to be a leader of equity, compassion, and justice in our community.

We continue the work of our ancestors centuries ago. To sustain the free church, a home for seekers of free faith and thought, means to be witnesses to the pain of a troubled world, and sowers of love and justice for people and our planet.

Brandoch Lovely once wrote, "Let there be an offering to sustain this place which is sacred to many of us, a community of memory and hope, for we are now keepers of the dream." We are the keepers of the dream. I am proud and privileged to serve this congregation at this time of its anniversary in the life of our congregation. It is with our shared ministry that we honor our beginnings, our challenging present, and strong and bright future. Let us admire our founders and one another that we continue to build and sustain such a loving and essential presence. Happy Anniversary All Faiths!

- Blessings, CJ

AFRAID TO ZOOM?

Don't be! Since the COVID shutdown last March, All Faiths has had to innovate the way we connect, conduct business, and socialize. Zoom meetings have become a way of life at All Faiths, for now, and most likely well into the future.

Zoom is an easy way to video conference - and see people! We want everyone to be able to connect with us, not just the tech savvy.

To view a very short video on how to join a Zoom meeting for the first time, please follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kh50kValdAY>

And if you're *really* not tech savvy, "follow this link" means click anywhere in the blue box and you will be re-directed to the video.

Then give it a try. We really want to see you!

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Nathalie Hahn had hip replacement surgery. Please hold her in your healing thoughts and prayers.

Ed Kleinow's granddaughter gave birth to **Rhett Hunter Davis**. Mary and Ed take great joy in moving on to this next generation.

Quillen McDaigle, child of **Nicole and Jennifer McDaigle**, was hospitalized for EEG evaluation. We hope that the tests will be beneficial in treating her.

Joseph Brauer's young friend **Erin** passed away in MN. We extend our sympathy to him and his family.

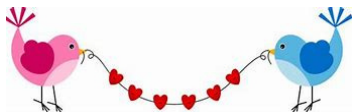
*Happy February
Birthday to you!*



Feb 3 Midge Magstadt
Feb 7 Kendra Maroon
Feb 14 Jolene Jeranson
Feb 15 Linda Arthur
Feb 15 Nicole McDaigle
Feb 17 Carol Sommer
Feb 18 Howard Silverman
Feb 24 Ed Elrod
Feb 25 Richard Keelan
Feb 25 John Davidson
Feb 28 Cameron Anholt

And Coming Up...

March 1 Eileen Moran
March 2 Robert Way
March 3 Charlotte Blitt
March 3 Maria Menendez
March 4 Frankie Jennings
March 5 Debbie Kopp



Solos Group Events

Saturday, February 20, 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: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

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

Happening at All Faiths



Teaching Tuesdays is Now
TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Same Zoom Link

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

Beginning this month Teaching Tuesdays will be replaced by a program called the *Ten O'Clock Scholar*. This new program will be offered at 10 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. Join us to engage history, art, theology, environmentalism, literature, influential people, and MORE. This will be a ZOOM program and our office will send a link each week.

February 3 The Poetry of Amanda Gorman
February 10 The Historical Jesus
February 17 Understanding the Buddha
February 24 The Story of God: The Mystery of Genesis

ZOOM MEETINGS

Monday Schedule a one-on-one meeting with the Minister
via Zoom, or in person

Wednesday Ten O'clock Scholar 10 a.m.
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."

FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday


Thursday

Friday

Saturday



HAPPY 20TH FOUNDERS' DAY!

	1	2 1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg. Ground Hog Day!	3 10am Ten O'clock Scholar on Zoom <i>Poetry of Amanda Gorman</i>	4 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	5	6
7 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	8 10am-Zoom Sun. Service Team Mtg. 12pm -Zoom Book Club 7pm Odyssey w. Fran Way	9 10am Racial Justice Mtg. 1pm Final Teaching Tuesday: Lee Co. Homeless Outreach	10 10am Ten O'clock Scholar on Zoom <i>Historical Jesus</i> 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	11 10 am Zoom Finance Mtg. 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	12	13
14 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Founders' Day 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	15 Presidents' Day Office Closed  Valentine's Day	16	17 10am Ten O'clock Scholar on Zoom <i>Understanding the Buddha</i> 1pm - Zoom Board Meeting	18 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 2pm Zoom Heart for the Homeless Team	19	20 1pm Zoom Solos Lunch
21 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	22	23	24 10am Ten O'clock Scholar on Zoom <i>Genesis</i> 7 pm- Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering with Mary Corrigan	25 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour	26	27
28 9:00am Zoom News Talk w. Richard Keelan 10:30am Service Livestreamed 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	29 ACMA@the Alliance (see pg. 10)	30	See the calendar on-line: http://www.allfaiths-uc.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in Red Print.			

FEBRUARY 2021 SUNDAY SERVICES "MERCY"

Livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

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

*February 7, 21 and 28 Sunday Services will be open
to 20 attendees by prior reservation chosen by lottery.*

Contact Regina Kilmartin, Administrator

February 7 – UU Black History

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Youth RE with Mary Corrigan

February 14 – Celebrating 20th Anniversary of

All Faiths Founders' Day

Service will be pre-recorded and livestreamed

Messages by Rev. CJ McGregor,

Rev. Wayne Robinson, and Congregants

Music by Joseph Brauer

Special Collection for UUA Fair Share

No Youth RE

February 21 – Mercy for a Prodigal Planet

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate Greg Monk

Youth RE with Mary Corrigan

February 28 – Mercy Me

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate Joyce Ramay

Youth RE with Mary Corrigan

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

"BREEZE" IS A BREEZE

"Breeze" is the name of All Faiths' Church Management Software!

You can create a member account that will allow you to access your own contact and giving information.

To create your account simply follow this link to the Breeze webpage: <https://allfaiths.breezechms.com/login/create>.

On the Breeze webpage, you'll enter your name and email - if it matches a record in the database, you will receive an email to create an account.

You may also occasionally receive an email directly from All Faiths to set up an account. If that is the case, you won't need to enter your name or email.

Either way, once you receive the email to "Create An Account," click on the link and from there you'll set up a username and password. That's it! You're all set.

Contact Regina with questions about what you have access to, or how to edit your information.

WHO IS TENDING THE GARDENS?

by Judy Alberda, Grounds Committee



The grounds are being consistently maintained. There are 9 volunteers who see to it that bushes are trimmed, weeds are pulled, grounds are picked up before mowing, bromeliads are divided, extra plants are potted and all are kept hydrated and fertilized. Butterflies, bees and birds are present daily with the occasional caterpillar, toad, and snake. I even found a dead rat, the best kind. Here's a list of plants in the garden and border, not including trees : Porterweed, Pentas, Thryallis, Mist Flower, Scarlet Sage, Wild Coffee Bushes, Scorpion Tail, Maypop Passion Vine, Yellow Top, Bahama, Cassia, Milkweed, Starry Rosinweed, Lantana, Sunshine Mimosa, Fiddlewood Bush, Fakahatchee Grass, Oyster Plants, Split-leaf Philodendron, Bromeliads, Ferns, Orchids, and Coontie.

Six pots are being nurtured to add to the butterfly garden in February or March: Black-eyed Susans, Tickseed and Salvia. There are about 50 potted plants adjusting to their pots in preparation for the annual plant sale, possibly in April. Stop by and enjoy the greenery at your leisure - socially distant, of course.

The work is going well. The support and encouragement we receive is appreciated.

Volunteers are: *Judy Alberda, Cameron Anholt, Linda Bigelow, Debbie Kopp, Marsha Bates, Greg Monk, Joyce Schaffer, Betsy Showalter, and Chris Stotler.*

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



As promised, on the day of his inauguration, President Biden signed an executive order for the United States to rejoin the Paris Agreement. We will officially regain participation in this historic pact during this month of February. Naturally, your Climate Action Team is celebrating this essential government action as well as the many other steps already being taken by the Biden administration to address climate change. Federal leadership is imperative if we are to halt the continuing rise in global warming.

However, the challenges we face as a Climate Action Team are not only national but local. We live in one of the most conservative areas of a state that has so far failed to realistically address the threat climate change poses to the well-being of its people and the viability of its future economy. The good news is that there is a growing, influential grassroots movement taking shape here in Southwest Florida that includes not only numerous environmental organizations but universities, neighborhood organizations, churches and faith groups, as well as businesses.

Despite the pandemic, new efforts have gotten underway in just the past year to help foster the growth and effectiveness of this movement for a more resilient and sustainable community in which to live. These include the recent establishment of the SWFL RESET CENTER which will be located on the campus of our sister congregation, UUCFM. All Faiths congregant and CAT member, Ensign Cowell, is one of the founders of this new endeavor to provide a hub where collaborative efforts can form and flourish. Other founders include CAT participants Holley Rauen and Gary Robbins. To learn more, visit their website at: <https://www.swflreset.org/>.

There are so many ways you can personally make a difference in the impact of climate change on our lives and those of future generations. We urge you to explore online the many organizations providing guidance and offering opportunities to become a part of this life-changing endeavor. And, of course, we invite you to join us at the Climate Action Team. Our next Zoom meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2nd.

To help you stay informed about local environmental events and activities add your name to the CAT mailing list. Just send your name, phone number and email address to Joan Marshall at jfmdbm@yahoo.com.

LIFE

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

Lee Interfaith For Empowerment (LIFE) has continued to work on Affordable Housing (AH) and Criminal Justice/Mental Health (CJ/MH) issues. The AH Action Team met with Community Redevelopment Agency lead, Michelle Hylton-Terry.

The CJ/MH Action team interviewed various officials to gather background information about criminal justice/mental health issues. Interviewees have included a local representative of the National Association on Mental Illness; the Lee County Clerk of Courts; Judge Swett of the Mental Health Court; a representative of the Sheriff's Department to learn about programs and services offered in the jails; and another Sheriff's representative who leads their Community Response Unit/Homeless Outreach Team.

Through these interviews, LIFE learns what specific problems exist, identifies concrete actions that could be taken to remedy the situation, and determines which officials are likely to support the remedies that LIFE advocates.

Also, a Caring for Creation Committee is being formed to identify climate change issues that impact our community. At its initial January 28th meeting (via Zoom), participants heard testimonials from individuals focused on climate issues.

You can contact Marsha Bates, Donalie Benyak, or Lana Cowell for more information about LIFE's activities.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month, which is celebrated each year during February, is a chance for Americans to learn details of our nation's history that, unfortunately, are far too often neglected and pushed to the wayside. As the saying goes, black history is American history — and it's a varied and rich history.

A wise nation honors and learns from its past. It refuses to let the most important facts about our shared and collective memory disappear into the depths of forgotten history. What happened in the past shapes and informs where we are heading in the future, and it's of paramount importance to set aside a month for learning as much as we can about black history.

The Founding Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

On February 19, 2001, at a 4 p.m. meeting at Gulf Harbour Golf and Country Club, All Faiths Unitarian Congregation was conceived. On that date, our founding minister, The Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson, flew in from Michigan and met with 100 people or more to discuss the question: “*Should we or should we not, start an alternative liberal religious congregation?*” They voted overwhelmingly that they should. Twenty years later, here we are, continuing All Faiths' legacy. It all started with a dream and the courage of our founding members, to whom we are ever so grateful.

June Antolino
Irv Barkan
Clarence Barnes
Jean Barnes
Susan Beard
Donalie Benyak
Bill Benyak
Wilfred Berman

Alma Bips
Herman Bips
Charlotte Blitt
Doris Carroll
Margaret Chevalier
Margaret Hires
Barbara Durkee
Douglas Durkee

Carol Elrod
Ed Elrod
Ann Estlund
Janet Falk
Ernie Fierro
Shea Fierro
Lloyd Fish
Pat Fish

Leona Fliss
Ed Fulker
Jeanette Fulker
Gina Gaudette
Jim Goodman
Peggy Goodman
Jan Guardiano
Joe Guardiano
Louise Gutman

Nathalie Hahn
Tom Hahn
Bob Hartz
Linda Jacobs
Frankie Jennings
Peggy JSingh
James Kaser

Edie Kaser
Robert Kasten
Leonard Kauffman
Rose Kauffman
Roy Kennix
Anne Kracmer
Jane Kuckel

Wayne Leaver
Dorothy Lee
Nancy McGlasson
Donna McVety
Jon McVety
Harold Miller
Marie Miller

Maggie Mullins
Steve Mullins
Jim Nathan
Karen Nathan
Michele Ninacs
Rev. Emily Palmer

Bill Peed
Barb Pizzini
Lou Pizzini
Tom Poe
Steve Pollard

Haneef Ramay
Joyce Ramay
Fearn Richards
William Richards
Kay Riegler
Rev. Wayne Robinson
Joy Ellen Ryan

Barbara Salzberger
Emil Salzberger
Phebe Scott
Dorothy Shoop
Lewis Shoop
Carol Siferd
Willis Siferd
Howard Silverman
Norma Silverman

Beverly Simpson
Wray Simpson
Carol Sommer
Bernard Southgate
Mary Louise Stewart
Deanna (Tusack) Evans

Alice Vandewalker
Robert Vandewalker
Frances Way
Robert Way
Walter Weck
Bruce Wendorf
Jackie Wendorf
Marjorie Wright
William Wright
Donna Zubert
Peter Zubert

Names in ***bold/italics*** are founders who remain active or in good standing.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets - December 2020

Iberiabank Checking	\$ 5,676
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	25,018
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,668
Raymond James Legacy	36,924
Pay Pal	35
Iberiabank Capital Fund	<u>6,136</u>
Total	\$ 94,457
Prior Month	<u>103,363</u>
Net Loss	(-6,587)

December 2020 P&L

Operating Income	\$ 15,437
Operating Expense	<u>19,847</u>
Net Loss	(-4,410)

Revenue/Operating Income did increase in December, compared to November; but it was over \$6,000 less than what was received in December of 2019. Year-to-date, \$5,000 of our Operating Reserves have been had to be "borrowed" in order to meet our monthly expenses. The months of January, February and March (the last quarter of our fiscal year) are typically the months when we receive the highest level of pledge giving. These are critical and difficult times for all of us; your generosity is appreciated!

The Burn the Mortgage program continues with donations of \$400.00 received in December. The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of December was \$93,073.43. 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 in a timely fashion.

In December, \$7,450 was collected for Staff Bonuses. The generosity of our congregation reflects the appreciation we all have for Rev. CJ, Joseph, Regina and Joe. Job well done!!

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barbara McFarlane

The need for affordable housing and temporary shelter, for people without housing, remains a problem the city and county have not solved.

Our Heart for Homeless Team will continue advocacy with officials, education for the congregation, and support to local organizations that serve people without stable housing.

A recent focus is BIKES, BIKES, BIKES. All Souls, in North Fort Myers, is in need of someone who can do light repairs on bicycles they receive and provide to their clients. If you are handy and interested in helping, contact Judy Alberda at 616-301-5340.

All Souls, and the Fort Myers Triage Center that provides short-term transitional housing, accept donated bikes for their clients. Bikes are needed to get to work, appointments, and take care of their basic needs.

If you have a bike to donate, call or text Barb McFarlane 651-808-8271, or Judy Alberda 239-800-5335. We will pick them up and deliver them to these organizations.

Sometimes a notice in your community newsletter or Facebook page will result in several donations. If you frequent rummage sales, occasionally bikes can be found for \$5.

Save the date for the final Teaching Tuesday on February 9th. Matt Wallace from Lee County's Homeless Outreach team will present. He's an energetic speaker with hands on experience working with those living on the street. Learn how Lee County is helping people get off the street.

And as always, please feel free to join our monthly team meeting on Tuesday February 18th at 2 p.m.



Don't forget to drop off your non-perishable food items at All Faiths. The food is picked up every Friday by Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on Palm Avenue in Fort Myers. All Faiths plans to collect donations on an ongoing basis. For now, simply drop off your donations in the designated box on the porch. Again, this box will remain for the collection of food items into the future. You may make a donation anytime.

UUA ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND

Special Collection

February 14, 2021, we will have a Special Collection for our annual gift to the Unitarian Universalist Association. We are inspired by our Seven Principles and the many Sources of our faith. Together we are working to promote justice and compassion in our world today.

While each congregation is legally autonomous in administration and decision making, we all benefit from the many resources made available to us by our active engagement with the UUA.

Once a year, congregations are invited to send their gifts to the UUA Annual Program Fund. This year, as a result of our very tight budget, we are asking for a special donation for UUA, instead of including it as a budget item that would have come out of pledge donations.

Let's all show our deep appreciation by giving generously. Make your checks out to All Faiths, and write UUA on the lower left corner of the check.

Joyce Ramay, Chair, Finance Committee

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY CONCERTS

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

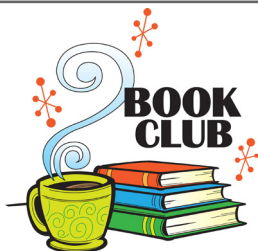
February 28 - 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

ACMA@The Alliance

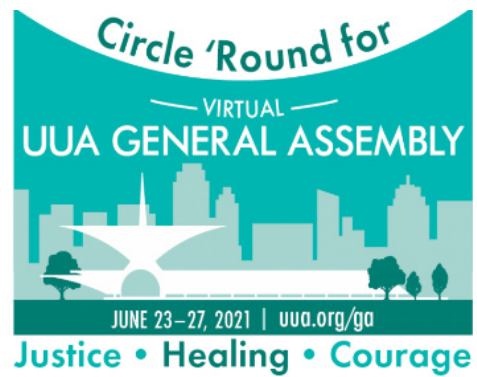
presents Bill Metts and Bruce Gallant Duo

10091 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33919

239-939-2787



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.



Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021.

General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association and in our congregations. We study ways to implement and live into our mission.

UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes. Through programs and workshops, professional and lay leaders will learn and develop skills to equip them with tools to continue the mission of our faith. Featured speakers will delve into theological analysis, work around organizing for liberation, and the ways we tend our spiritual resilience. Honoring the myriad of communities within Unitarian Universalism, there will be more time for networking, meetups and caucusing over the span of our 5-days together.

Finally, during GA, we will preserve our connection to Milwaukee and the MidAmerica Region through special programming and activities. Get ready to Circle 'Round...

VISIT YOUTH RE GATHERINGS



Youth Religious Education would like to invite members and friends 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 (report on page 11) for more information.

Check calendar for scheduled Wednesday gatherings.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Mary Corrigan, Director of Youth RE

Greetings from Youth RE!

Over the winter holidays, we learned about the Winter Solstice and thank Emmie and Nova for contributing to our lesson and sharing their knowledge about this tradition. How youth spent their holiday season is represented in a Wordle below. On January 10th, we discussed The Necessity of Compassion, how compassion is empathy plus action, and ways in which we can demonstrate compassion in our daily lives. If you have a chance, the video "Josh Opening Doors" provides a teen's perspective of how small acts of compassion changed his life. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIHtuKc3Gjg>

During our Wednesday evening meetings, we shared some of the projects we are currently working on, reflected on 2020 and 2021, and wrote letters and sent books to our Literacy Buddies. (See below.) In January, we only had the opportunity to meet a few times. This lack of consistency in our schedule has resulted in a lower level of participation; this past month our largest meeting had seven participants. We encourage members to answer the call you recently received from the Stewardship Campaign to increase your level of support so that we can provide our youth with more regular programming.

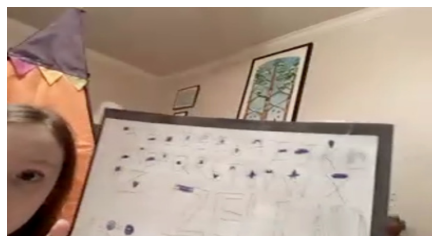
Until next month, peace to you and your loved ones from Youth RE.



Leading Meditation



Creating



Making a New Language!



Holiday Wordle

WE WANT MORE OF THIS IN 2021

WE COULD DO WITHOUT THIS IN 2021

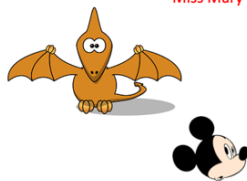


Dear Jaxon,

That was a beautiful drawing of Mickey Mouse; we loved it! We hope you like all of the different dinosaurs in this book. Are you brave enough to touch the tongue on the last page?

Your Literacy Buddies,

Olivia, Nova, Abby, and Miss Mary



Dear Cheyenne,

Thank you for your colorful picture!

We hope you like the sparkly pages in this book as much as we did. We think that you are a princess, too.

Your Literacy Buddies,
Nova, Olivia, Abby, and Miss Mary



Dear Caleb,

Thank you for the picture of Raphael.

Here is a Superman book for you. We used to love sensory books, so we hope you like the way some pages feel.

Your Literacy Buddies,
Abbey, Nova, Olivia, and Miss Mary



"ALL IN FOR ALL FAITHS!"

by Marsha Bates, Stewardship Committee

Our annual Stewardship Campaign is well underway. You should have received a packet containing a letter, brochure, pledge card, and a mask embossed with "All In for All Faiths," the theme of this year's campaign. If you have not received one, please contact the Office. And as indicated on the blue pledge card, please return it to the office by February 14th.

If we are to fund all the items included in the budget proposed by the Finance Committee, the amount of pledge income received must increase by at least 10 percent. It is understood that not all Members and Friends are able to increase by that amount; however, it is hoped that others will increase their pledge by more than 10 percent.

Remember that Stewardship is made up of three things: Time, Talent, and Treasure. We are grateful that All Faiths' Members and Friends give generously of all three.



FEBRUARY'S ODYSSEY FRAN WAY

Monday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.
(Check your emails for the Zoom link.)



Fran Way is a founding member of All Faiths and has worn many hats over the years. Most recently, Fran is the Chairperson of our Membership Committee. Please join us to learn more about Fran and what's behind her tireless dedication to All Faiths. Q&A to follow.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

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Youth Religious Education

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Nicole McDaigle

Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

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Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

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

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Sound Technician

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Lana Cowell

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

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