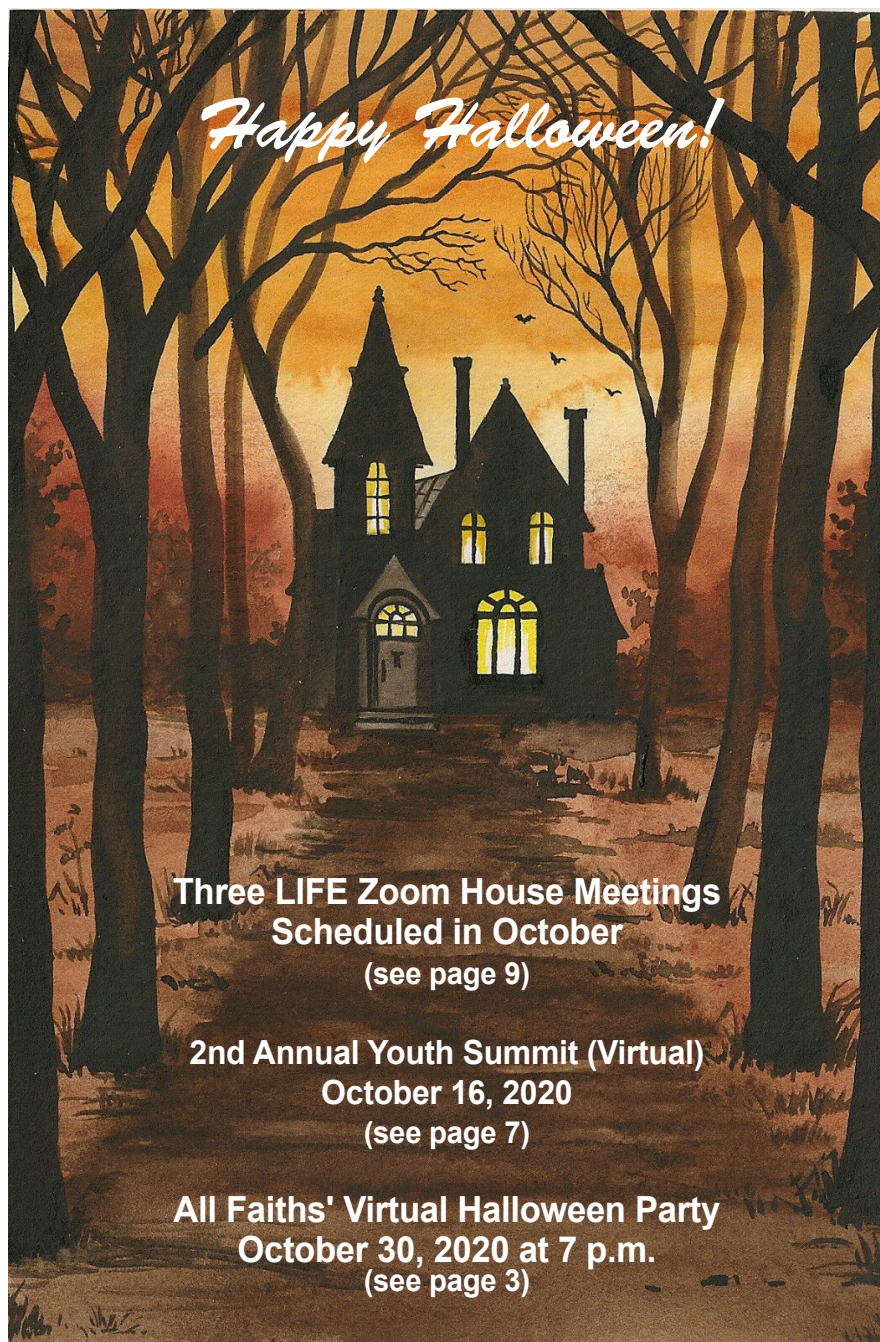


Inside

Board Notes.....	2
Sunday Collection Schedule.....	2
From McGregor Boulevard.....	3
<i>by Rev. CJ McGregor</i>	
All Faiths' Virtual Halloween Party.....	3
Virtual Happenings at All Faiths.....	4
October 2020 Calendar.....	5
October Sunday Service Schedule.....	6
Joys and Sorrows.....	6
Climate Action Team News.....	7
2nd Annual Youth Summit.....	7
Treasurer's Report.....	8
Board of Directors' Wish List.....	8
Solos Luncheon.....	8
Heart for the Homeless News.....	9
LIFE House Meetings.....	9
ACMA October Concerts.....	9
LGBTQ+ Be in the Know.....	10
Youth Religious Education.....	11



The Board of Directors meeting was held on September 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

Your Board of Directors, as well as most of you, are tired of COVID restrictions that we must live under to protect our own health and the health of others. We reviewed the Florida and Lee County COVID data to determine whether we can change our status from a modified Phase 1 of our Re-opening Plan. Although the data are looking better, they are not good enough to safely move to Phase 2. Because the COVID data are improving, we will review the situation again in early October rather than waiting until the board meeting which is scheduled later in October. The Board is continuing to look at options to improve livestreamed and recorded services.

The great job done by all the speakers during the time Rev. CJ was on vacation and

in study is greatly appreciated. We are fortunate to have so many capable people to step forward whenever Rev. CJ is not in the pulpit.

The plant sale that Judy Alberda organized was successful, raising \$261. As of this writing, there are still potted plants available. Just leave a donation on the porch for plants you take. Judy still needs volunteers to help with weeding and other garden work. If you can help, show up early on Monday or Thursday mornings or give Judy a call.

The Board acted on recommendations of the Finance Committee to change some line items in the budget. Because we are not having in-person services, some expenses are lower than planned while others are higher or were not anticipated. These changes do not affect the total budget approved by the Congregation. One of the new costs is the \$600

fee charged by the IRS to process our application for a letter stating that we are a non-profit meeting 501(c)3 requirements. We have not needed this letter in the past because we meet the IRS requirements to be categorized as a nonprofit by being a religious organization. However, recently some companies and organizations are requiring an actual letter from the IRS. Therefore, we will develop the application in October.

As reported last month, our deck is in serious need of major repair. The Board approved moving forward with repairing or replacing the deck. We will not know the actual costs until the existing flooring is removed so the condition of the support beams can be assessed. Approval was granted to spend up to \$3,500 for materials and disposal costs; however, it is anticipated that the actual cost will be considerably less. The construction will be completed using volunteer help. We are

requesting "wish list" donations to cover part or all of the expense. The costs not covered by donations will come from the Capital Fund. If you wish to make a donation towards the deck repair costs, please send a check to All Faiths with a notation that it is for the deck repair. Call me if you can help with the repairs.

We approved purchasing a new over-the-ear microphone and transmitter. Three members/couples stepped forward and offered to pay the \$500 costs, thus preventing an extra strain to our budget. Thank you for the special donations.

The Board started discussions about creating a Director of Youth Religious Education (DYRE) staff position. There is no question about the need for this part-time position and its benefits. Most younger people seeking a church home

(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. See article on page 12)

October - Meals of Hope (Hunger)
November - Operation Joy (Christmas for children)

Food, Clothing, and Other Collections
McGregor Clinic - T/B/D

Second Collections
December 6 - Employee Bonuses

The August Share-the-Plate resulted in \$280 for "One Tree"





V O T E

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

expect churches to have such a position. The Board's concerns focus on the timing of creating the DYRE position and its associated costs at this time of budget uncertainty. The Finance Committee will evaluate a proposal from Rev. CJ regarding the position and advise the Board by its October meeting.

The annual financial review was completed by Ernie Reid, Ed Kleinow, and John Conrad; they had lots of help from Regina, who pulled together the documents they requested. The reviewers did not find any problems with the procedures being followed. They did recommend some changes to policy or procedures that are being reviewed by the Finance Committee. We greatly appreciate the time and thought that went into their review.

Please stay safe and healthy. If you have comments or suggestions for your Board of Directors, please email All Faiths or contact me (239) 770-0795 or gcostotler@gmail.com, or other Board members. We like hearing from you.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2020 at 1 p.m. and will be conducted via Zoom teleconference.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

**Please join us for All Faiths'
1st Virtual Halloween Party,
Friday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Scary Story by Lisa Leonhardt
Prizes for Best *Above-the-Neck* Costume
Prizes for Best Background**

Bring your favorite Kookie Kocktail!

Happy October Birthday to you!



October 4	Michael Pierre
October 9	Lynda Thompson
October 11	Susan Anthony
October 11	Joan Velasquez
October 11	Jeff Lazar
October 13	Lillian Pierce
October 14	Bob Nuding
October 16	Linda Forcey
October 16	Darwin Hany
October 17	Debbie Thompson
October 18	Anita Battaglia
October 24	Joan Keller
October 27	Donalie Benyak

And Coming Up...

November 1	Edith Rood
November 5	Linda Runkle

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



Solos Group Events

Friday, October 16 - 11 a.m.

MASKED LUNCH!

Outside Patio @ Bahama Breeze.

Contact: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the solos for outings and lunch w/wo a movie date.

Happening at All Faiths

TEACHING TUESDAYS

Zoom Link

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

October 13 - 1pm on ZOOM

Response to Homelessness, by Jennifer Nielson

Our Hearts for the Homeless Team has invited Cape Coral District Four Council member Jennifer Nielson to offer an overview of initiatives for ending homelessness. She will answer questions about homelessness in SWFL.

October 20 - 1pm on ZOOM

Climate Reality with Ariel Hoover

The Climate Reality Project is focused on climate change education and countering climate change denial campaigns worldwide. Ariel Hoover will make a presentation related to the 24 Hours of Reality Campaign.

October 27 - 1pm on ZOOM

Soul Practices with Rev. CJ McGregor

"Soul practices" are those spiritual practices that engage our creative selves. Our creative souls need nurturing and understanding. How do we remain creatively open? Where does our inspiration come from? How can we embrace our negative selves? What can we say to our internal judges and critics? How can we best share our creativity?

ZOOM MEETINGS

Monday	Schedule your one-on-one with Minister Zoom, or in person
Tuesdays	Teaching Tuesdays - 1 p.m. - Zoom
Thursdays	Coffee Hour - 11:30 a.m. - Zoom
Sunday	News Talk w. Richard Keelan - 9 a.m. - Zoom Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. - Zoom address

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."

OCTOBER 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1

11:30am
Zoom
Coffee Hour

2

3

7pm
ACMA Concert
Live on
Facebook
Member
Musician
David Hintz

4

9:00am
Zoom News Talk
w. Richard Keelan

10:30am
Service
Livestreamed

11:30 Zoom
Coffee w. Staff

5

6

1:30pm
Zoom
Climate Action
Team Mtg.

7

8

11:30am
Zoom
Coffee Hour

9

10



11

9:00am
Zoom 24 Hours
of Climate Reality
with Ariel Hoover

10:30am
Service
Livestreamed

11:30 Zoom
Coffee w. Staff

12

12pm
Zoom
Book Club

13

1pm
Zoom
Teaching Tues.
with Jennifer
Nielson-Cape
Coral Dist. 4
Council person

14

6pm
LIFE Zoom
House Meeting
Hosted by
Lana Cowell

15

10 am
Zoom Finance
Mtg.

11:30am
Zoom
Coffee Hour

2pm - Zoom
Homeless Team

16

11am
Solos Lunch

6-8pm
2nd Annual
Youth Summit
(Virtual)

17



18

9:00am
Zoom News Talk
w. Richard Keelan

10:30am
Service
Livestreamed

11:30 Zoom
Coffee w. Staff

19

10am
Zoom
Sun. Service
Team Mtg.

6pm
LIFE Zoom
House Meeting
Hosted by
Marsha Bates

20

1pm
Zoom
Teaching Tues.
with Ariel
Hoover-The
Climate Reality
Project

21

10am
Racial Justice Mtg

1pm - Zoom
Board Meeting

6pm
LIFE Zoom
House Meeting
Hosted by
Donalie Benyak

22

11:30am
Coffee Hour

23

24

25

9:00am
Zoom News Talk
w. Richard Keelan

10:30am
Service
Livestreamed

11:30 Zoom
Coffee w. Staff

26

27

1pm
Zoom
Teaching Tues.
Soul Practices
with Rev. CJ
McGregor

28

29

11:30am
Coffee Hour

30

7pm
All Faiths'
Virtual
Halloween
Party
"Fun & Games"

31



Halloween!

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

OCTOBER 2020 SUNDAY SERVICES

Livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Recorded and available on our website
www.allfaithsuu.org

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

October's Theme: LGBTQ+

October 4 Delusions of Gender

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor
Worship Associate – Susan Meissner
Music by Joseph Brauer

October 11 Stances of Faith

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor
Worship Associate – Greg Monk
Music by Joseph Brauer
Share the Plate with *Meals of Hope*

October 18 Why Should I Care About LGBTQ+ Rights?

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor
Worship Associate - Carol Elrod
Music by Joseph Brauer

October 25 On the Journey

Message by Rev. CJ McGregor with
Members and Friends of All Faiths
Music by Joseph Brauer & Nancy Frasca Cabazares

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Judy Alberda's close neighbor Maddie has cancer. We extend our healing thoughts and prayers to her.

Nancy Frasca-Cabazares lost her father, who died in hospice care. We extend our sympathy to her and her family.

Edith Griffiths is heartbroken over the death of her beloved dog Mimi. We extend our sympathy to her.

David Hauenstein has returned to his own apartment after many weeks at the Pavilion for nursing care. We are happy to know that he has improved and is home again.

Peggy JSingh learned that her beloved cousin Latiff died in Trinidad. We extend our sympathy to her and her family.

Olivia Kilhefner, daughter of Scott Kilhefner, was hospitalized with kidney issues. We hope she has a speedy recovery.

Donna Lieber and Kendra Maroon lost their longtime friend Ron. We extend our sympathy to them.

Kay Riegler shared the sad news that her oldest, most loved and dearest friend, Went Ford, died. We extend our sympathy to her.

Hank Shapiro celebrated his 100th birthday. He frequently played piano for us and was part of the All Faiths jazz group. He is living near his family in NJ.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg



March 15, 1933 - September 18, 2020

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



During the pandemic, while in-person gatherings remain problematic, your Climate Action Team has been focused on building and strengthening its ties to numerous environmental organizations here in Southwest Florida to help lay the groundwork for a broad-based

climate change movement in our area. Our online meetings have included presentations by:

Dr. Ana Puszkina-Chevlin, regional director of Growing Climate Solutions Path to Positive Southwest Florida, an organization dedicated to empowering community members and leaders to initiate change, ensure a prosperous and healthy community and build climate literacy and resilience. The All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is partnering with this organization.

Joe Bonasia, climate activist and Rights of Nature spokesperson, who updated us on the Rights of Nature charter amendment in Orange County, which will be on the November ballot. Passage of this amendment will profoundly impact our efforts to protect Florida's waterways.

Will Revehl, the founder and executive director of OneTree.org, the non-profit with whom All Faiths will be partnering next spring in a tree-planting event in Dunbar.

In addition to our collaboration-building efforts, we are encouraging everyone to do what they can to help turn out the vote in November. Here are two websites where you can sign up to get involved:

- uuthevote.org/phone-bank-Florida
- environmentalvoter.org/get-involved

We know many of you are already volunteering for these and other GOTV projects. Thank you for all you are doing to help make a difference.

Our CAT meetings will continue to be held online for the foreseeable future. We welcome your participation and engagement. Hope you can join us for our next CAT meeting at 1:30 p.m. on October 6, 2020.

"All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth, befalls the children of the Earth."

— Chief Seattle

2ND ANNUAL TEEN RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

October 16, 2020
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

by Emmie Spiller

On Friday, October 16, from 6pm - 8pm we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Teen Racial Justice Summit.

This year, we will be focusing our youth-led conversation on safe, peaceful, and effective protesting. Due to COVID-19, the summit is being held completely virtually through Zoom.

All teens between the ages of 13-19 are invited to join. Specific information about speakers will be coming soon.

If you have any questions or would like the link to sign up, contact Emarie Spiller at: EmarieWS@gmail.com



A Service Worth Watching

Chantel Rhodes (standing), the bright and articulate daughter of Darlene Mitchell (seated), spoke about black lives at our September 20 service. If you missed it, it's worth watching. Visit our website www.all-faithuu.org, or YouTube, click on 9/20 service.



Rev. CJ, Darlene, Joseph Brauer, and Chantel.



Our deck is in serious need of major repair. The Board approved moving forward with repairing or replacing the deck. We will not know the actual costs until the existing flooring is removed so the condition of the support beams can be assessed. Approval was granted to spend up to \$3,500 for materials and disposal costs; however, it is anticipated that the actual cost will be considerably less. The construction will be completed using volunteer help. We are requesting "wish list" donations to cover part or all of the expense. The costs not covered by donations will come from the Capital Fund. If you wish to make a donation towards the deck repair costs, please send a check to All Faiths with a notation that it is for the deck repair.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

With loving care.



Judy Alberda, our chief gardener, comes to All Faiths every Monday and Thursday morning. She could really use some extra hands to keep our gardens beautiful. Please contact Judy at judyalberda@yahoo.com, or just show up around 7am. *Be part of the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part!*

SOLOS OUTDOOR LUNCH

Friday, October 16, 2020 at 11 a.m.

The Solos Group will venture out into the world for the first time since February. We will meet on the patio at Bahama Breeze at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 16, before the lunch crowd. Please wear a mask.

Newcomers are encouraged to join us. To get on the Solos email list, please contact Annely Hudanick at annelyblue@hotmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets - Aug. 31, 2020

Iberiabank Checking	\$16,812
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	29,981
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,599
Raymond James Legacy	37,023
Pay Pal	145
Iberiabank Capital Fund	<u>3,893</u>
Total	\$108,453
Prior Month	<u>118,357</u>
Net Loss	\$ (-9,904)

August 2020 P&L

Operating Income	\$ 11,835
Operating Expense	<u>20,575</u>
Net Loss	(-8,740)

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

Most of our expenses have remained lower than budgeted because of the fiscal restraints that the Board approved at earlier Board meetings. The \$5,000 gift to the UUA, that was budgeted, was sent to the UUA in August.

The Burn the Mortgage program continues with donations of \$5,250.00 received in August. The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of August was \$99,738.70. This is significant progress because on April 1, 2019 (less than 1.5 years ago) 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 August, \$645 was collected for Operation Joy (Back to School).

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barbara McFarlane

It's hard to believe we've been meeting via Zoom (an unknown platform to us in March) for six months! Although we'd prefer to meet in person, there are upsides to continuing this ministry virtually. Those out of town or with health concerns are able to participate fully. And during several months we were pleasantly surprised to welcome All Faiths members who chose to Zoom with us for the first time. Please check us out Thursday, October 15 at 2pm.

This month Cape Coral Council woman Jennifer Nelson will speak at the October 13th Teaching Tuesday with CJ. She will describe Cape Coral's interesting plans for their homeless population.

We continue our association with Colonial Elementary by providing uniforms for students in unstable living situations. Last year, All Faiths' members generously donated used uniforms and \$258! We will start to spend that money on uniforms this fall. Uniforms are khaki or navy shorts/slacks, and solid color polo shirts without logos. If you would like to shop and donate, these items can be found at area thrift shops.

Thank you all again for supporting our Heart for the Homeless Team.

"It takes a society to combat homelessness, and a strong nation to fight poverty."

— Wayne Chirisa

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION OCTOBER CONCERTS

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

October 3, 7pm - David Hintz
Free Facebook Livestream

The ACMA welcomes member musician *David Hintz* to our virtual stage as we stay together while apart!

LIFE

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Regina Kilmartin

Three virtual House Meetings have been planned for October. Keep an eye out for your invitation. At these house meetings, congregants will be asked to discuss personal issues that affect them, or someone they know, that they feel LIFE should be addressing in this next LIFE cycle.

At our October 11, 2020, Sunday Service, Rev. CJ will recognize our three new LIFE Team Leaders: Marsha Bates, Donalie Benyak, and Lana Cowell. We appreciate their commitment to justice work in our local community on behalf of All Faiths' Justice Ministry Network. Let's support them by becoming a Justice Ministry Network member; the commitment is small, the results are huge!



LIFE

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment October House Meetings

Wednesday, October 14 - 6:00pm
via Zoom

Hosted by Lana Cowell

Monday, October 19 - 6:00pm
via Zoom

Hosted by Marsha Bates

Wednesday, October 21 - 6:00pm
via Zoom

Hosted by Donalie Benyak

*You will receive an invitation from
one of the Team Leaders*

OCTOBER'S SERVICE THEME IS LGBTQ+ - BE IN THE KNOW

Many Americans refrain from talking about sexual orientation and gender identity or expression because it feels taboo, or because they're afraid of saying the wrong thing. This glossary was written to help give people the words and meanings to help make conversations easier and more comfortable.

Ally | A person who is not LGBTQ but shows support for LGBTQ people and promotes equality in a variety of ways.

Androgynous | Identifying and/or presenting as neither distinguishably masculine nor feminine.

Asexual | The lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other people.

Biphobia | Prejudice, fear or hatred directed toward bisexual people.

Bisexual | A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

Cisgender | A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.

Closeted | Describes an LGBTQ person who has not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Coming out | The process in which a person first acknowledges, accepts and appreciates their sexual orientation or gender identity and begins to share that with others.

Gay | A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.

Gender dysphoria | Clinically significant distress caused when a person's assigned birth gender is not the same as the one with which they identify. According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the term - which replaces Gender Identity Disorder - "is intended to better characterize the experiences of affected children, adolescents, and adults."

Gender-expansive | Conveys a wider, more flexible range of gender identity and/or expression than typically associated with the binary gender system.

Gender expression | External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

Gender-fluid | According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a person who does not identify with a single fixed gender; of or relating to a person having or expressing a fluid or unfixed gender identity.

Gender identity | One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither - how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

Gender non-conforming | A broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category.

Genderqueer | Genderqueer people typically reject notions of static categories of gender and embrace a fluidity of gender identity and often, though not always, sexual orientation. People who identify as "genderqueer" may see themselves as being both male and female, neither male nor female or as falling completely outside these categories.

Gender transition | The process by which some people strive to more closely align their internal knowledge of gender with its outward appearance. Some people socially transition,

whereby they might begin dressing, using names and pronouns and/or be socially recognized as another gender. Others undergo physical transitions in which they modify their bodies through medical interventions.

Homophobia | The fear and hatred of or discomfort with people who are attracted to members of the same sex.

Intersex | An umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations. In some cases, these traits are visible at birth, and in others, they are not apparent until puberty. Some chromosomal variations of this type may not be physically apparent at all.

Lesbian | A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women.

LGBTQ | An acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer."

Living openly | A state in which LGBTQ people are comfortably out about their sexual orientation or gender identity - where and when it feels appropriate to them.

Non-binary | An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling com-

(continued on page 11)

pletely outside these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do.

Outing | Exposing someone's lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity to others without their permission. Outing someone can have serious repercussions on employment, economic stability, personal safety or religious or family situations.

Pansexual | Describes someone who has the potential for emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to people of any gender though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

Queer | A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Often used interchangeably with "LG-BTQ."

Questioning | A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Same-gender loving | A term some prefer to use instead of lesbian, gay or bisexual to express attraction to and love of people of the same gender.

Sex assigned at birth | The sex (male or female) given to a child at birth, most often based on the child's external anatomy. This is also referred to as "assigned sex at birth."

Sexual orientation | An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.

Transgender | An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

Transphobia | The fear and hatred of, or discomfort with, transgender people.



The Book Club will start holding Zoom meetings on its regularly scheduled meeting day and time 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.

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Mary Corrigan

Based on feedback and questions I have recently received, perhaps a brief background of Youth Religious Education (YRE) at All Faiths may be helpful. While I am aware that a robust YRE existed on and off prior to my becoming a member, because I have no personal knowledge of it, I will speak to my experiences by referencing the minister's term.

Rev. Wayne Robinson – I taught YRE on the porch outside during service. I created lessons and materials based on the service's topic for the week/world religion holidays/current events. Weekly attendance varied greatly; the weather was often oppressive; and noise distracted some members. It was discontinued due to lack of attendance.

Rev. Margaret Beard – no YRE

Rev. C.J. McGregor – First two years

YRE was held in the Robinson Room during service. I coordinated lessons and teachers and taught two or three Sundays a month. (Thank you to Dawna Lieber, Sheila Donovan, and Rosalie Kuehn for all of your help and support!). All lessons were taken from the Tapestry of Faith UU curriculum (Check it out: <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children>). Each curriculum includes comprehensive plans and detailed instructions. Information was shared regarding what the youth were learning via All Faiths' newsletter, *Connections*. As youth gained background knowledge and developed close relationships with each other, they began to take ownership and direction of what they wanted to explore.

Since COVID

From March through mid-July, I taught YRE via Zoom every Sunday afternoon. Lessons were based on current events and/or youth-generated topics. We followed a fluid plan, meaning that it could be changed upon group agreement. The template for our agenda included and continues to include: Lighting of our Chalice, Mindfulness Exercise, Joys & Concerns, and more.

September 2020

We are trying new things! Our Sunday afternoon meetings often extended over two hours, indicating to me that the youth needed more time for connection. Therefore, we are now meeting twice a week.

Sunday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. In order to feel more connected to the congregation, YRE will meet during service via Zoom. I will be physically present at the church with the youth on Zoom. We will move to the Robinson Room after Joseph (and you at home) sing us out. Our lessons will align with the sermon's theme so that families (and the congregation in the future) can converse about a common topic.

(continued on page 12)

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION *(cont'd from page 11)*

Wednesday 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. This is an informal Zoom meeting I facilitate from my home (for now). There is a theme agreed upon by the youth the prior week and discussion is youth directed. The purpose of this meeting is building community and fellowship within a UU environment.

In other words, on Sundays we will explore principles and aspects of what it means to be UU. On Wednesdays, we will be growing and journeying in relationship within a safe, loving, accepting space.

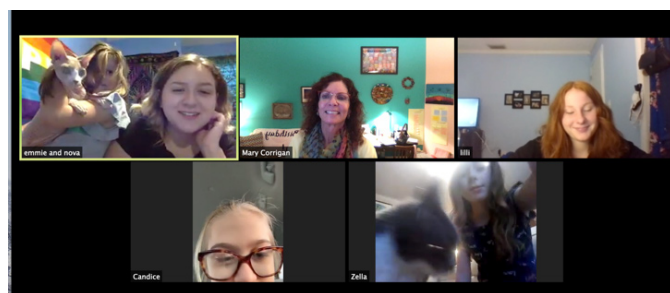
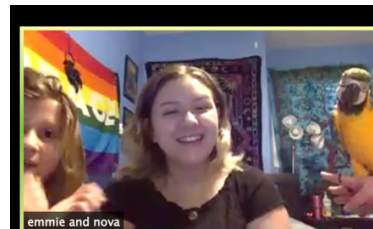
If you know someone who would like to join us on Sundays and/or Wednesdays, please have them contact me via email: mary837@gmail.com. Perhaps you have/know children, grandchildren, friends, or neighbors who would benefit from connecting with other youth, especially during these times. I will be happy to introduce myself, describe our programming and principles, and share the weekly links to the meetings.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Namaste,

Mary

For an example of our Wednesday evening gathering, the 9/23 theme was “Pets.” This graphic indicates all of the topics discussed. A new friend joined us; and of course, we showed off our pets.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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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

Regina Kilmartin

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

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Hospitality Coordinator

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Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

Nominating Committee

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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, Donaliece Benyak,

Lana Cowell

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

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Deadline for the **November** Issue of *Connection* is **October 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