

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

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All Faiths Welcomes New Music Director

Joseph Brauer has been selected as All Faiths' Music Director. Joseph is a performing artist specializing in musical theatre.
(see article on page 7)

Immokalee Needs Our Help

Irma has devastated one of Southwest Florida's most vulnerable communities and they are in desperate need of help.

All Faiths will host a Special Donation Collection for Displaced Immokalee Children & Families on October 22, 2017.
(See details on page 3)



Newcomers Orientation

Saturday, October 21, 2017 - 10 am
*hosted by Rev. CJ McGregor
and the Membership Committee*

How much do you know about All Faiths?
How much do you know about Unitarian Universalism?
You might be surprised by what you learn. Whether you're new to the congregation or have been coming for a long time, we hope you will join us for this informative get together.

The board meeting was held on September 27, 2017

Hurricane Irma impacted the lives of almost everyone at All Faiths. Usual activities and meetings were suspended while we lived moment to moment dealing with personal and All Faiths' needs. As a result the September 27th meeting of the AF Board of Governors was atypical.

Present at the meeting were President Diane Cartwright, Vice-President Bill Snider, and Governors Lisa Leonhardt, Annely Hudanick, Robert Bennett, and Dave Slocum (via conference call). The Reverend CJ McGregor and Office Administrator Regina Kilmartin also attended.

Most of the discussion focused on Hurricane Irma

and the lessons learned as All Faiths prepares for future hurricanes. Rev. CJ and Regina were at the center of the action before, during, and after the storm. They coordinated efforts to attempt to contact every member and friend to see how they were coping with the storm and its aftermath. Many others stepped up to assist making sure our people and our building were safe.

Some of the ideas expressed for future storms included updating our hurricane plan and making sure it is readily available, clarifying staff and leadership roles, securing and supplying the building in advance for use as a shelter and for its protection, and creating a phone

committee to contact all our members and friends.

Related to the hurricane discussion, the board approved having a special collection of goods for hurricane relief to devastated victims in Immokalee, a suggestion made by Beth Nightingale and daughter Sophia. Efforts will be coordinated with the Sister of Guadeloupe Pace Center.

Since we are halfway through the fiscal and pledge year (April 1- March 31), the office will send out the annual year-to-date giving statements in October, rather than in November.

Inspired by Dr. Bill Benyak's plea for blood donations, the board approved the use of All Faiths' parking lot

as a mobile blood bank donation site. The OneBlood bus is scheduled to be at All Faiths on Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Board expresses appreciation for all the people who came forward during this challenging time and who continue to inspire us all with acts of love.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at 3:45 p.m.. Members are welcome to attend.



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...."

October Sermons "Reason" by Rev. CJ McGregor

October 01 — **Until It's Disproved**

October 08 — **Who's the Boss?**

October 15 — **I Was the Reason My Mom Had Gray Hair**

by Kendra Maroon

October 22 — **The First Liberal**

October 29 — **Interdependence is Mutuality**

(There will be an animal blessing. Please bring a photo or trinket of your pet for the blessing)

(There will be a new member recognition ceremony)



I've just finished sending an email to my cousin in New York asking her to send apples, McIntosh apples to be specific. In July, I asked her to send corn. When she visits I ask her to bring cheese curd. All of these I miss from my birthplace on the St. Lawrence River with Canada in sight. It is this season that I desperately miss most in New York. Pumpkin picking, squash from the garden, the amazing foliage, the crunching of leaves on the sandstone sidewalks, fall festivals, sweaters, and the autumnal fare.

For some time I've been mindful of three of Buddhism's Four Noble Truths. They are stated in simple terms. Suffering exists, Suffering arises from attachment to desires, and Suffering ceases when attachment to desire ceases. My understanding wanes some days and not others. I'm learning that living in the moment and not being attached to outcomes I desire and cravings lead me to a better mood, freedom from anxiety, and an enthusiastic spirit.

The cause of suffering is called *samudaya* or *tanha*. It is the desire to have and control things. Attachment to material things or outcomes creates suffering because attachments are transient and loss is inevitable. Thus suffering will necessarily follow. Many of us experience the illusion that we

are in control of everything. The more you are under this spell, the greater the suffering when things don't go the way we wanted or crave what we don't have, like autumn in New York. If we demand a certain outcome, waiting for it causes us anxiety. When an outcome arrives and it's not the one we wanted, we suffer. If we are not grateful and satisfied with what we have and constantly focus on what we don't have, we suffer.

Living in the moment we are not attached to yesterday or tomorrow. We practice reminding ourselves to remain in the moment by not allowing our attachments control our happiness, openness to possibility, and freedom from desire. I call it a practice because I believe I will never become a master of mindfulness, but always a dedicated practitioner. When

we engage in this practice, we need to also practice self-compassion. That is, if we are not practicing mindfulness every second of every day, we need not be hard on ourselves. We're practicing.

I know if we are to live a better life and a meaningful life we need to address our desires, attachments, and cravings that lead us to suffering. One thing we are in control of is our choice to practice or not. The end to suffering is called *nirodha*. The mind experiences freedom, liberation and non-attachment. It lets go of any desire or craving. It is attaining dispassion. I'm not focusing on my apples arriving. If they do I'll be pleasantly surprised. As for the season, I'm focusing on the daily surprises living in paradise affords me. I am content. ■

– *Blessings, CJ*

The members of
All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

cordially invite you to the

Installation of the

Reverend CJ McGregor

as our congregation's settled minister.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

at three o'clock in the afternoon

at All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Boulevard

Fort Myers, Florida

Reception to follow

Please call or email to RSVP

239.226.0900/office@allfaiths-uc.org

SPECIAL DONATION COLLECTION FOR HOMELESS IMMOKALEE CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Immokalee, an extremely impoverished SWFL community consisting largely of migrant workers, was especially hard hit by hurricane Irma. Thirteen hundred children served by the *Guadalupe Center* in Immokalee are displaced, living in unsafe conditions or shelters. **There is an URGENT NEED for bottled water, diapers, wipes and non-perishable food.**

On **Sunday, October 22**, there will be a special collection of items that will be delivered to the *Guadalupe Center* on Monday October 23.

Please bring your donations of water, diapers, wipes, and non-perishables to service on **Sunday, October 22**.

Ongoing Events at All Faiths

Happy October Birthday to you!



October 4 Michael Pierre
October 7 Ellie Boyd
October 8 Karen Grabia
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 17 Larry Aguilar
October 22 Tim Brady
October 27 Donalie Benyak

And Coming Up...

November 1 Edith Rood
November 6 Steve Pennisi

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

You're Invited to Thanksgiving Dinner



Carol Siferd and Joe Gayton will be hosting Thanksgiving dinner at their home on Thursday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m.

All are welcome. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Book Club & Brown Bag - October 9 at 12pm

Meeting on the 2nd Monday of the Month

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

The Topic: **Reason.** Be prepared to give a brief talk about a book you're reading or you have read that is relevant to any kind of *discovery* - use your imagination.

Free Inquiry Group (FIG) - October 19 at 6pm

Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the Month

"Humanism and the progressive ideas of Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek" Contact: Sharon Gray, geema1@yahoo.com

FIG of SW Florida is a group of humanists, rationalists, skeptics, free thinkers, atheists, and agnostics. The first segment of each FIG meeting is a social time. Second segment, tons of insightful topics and discussions.

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

Wednesday Contact: Lisa Leonhardt, kindreds@aol.com

Friday Contact: Jeanne Ezell, jeannezell@gmail.com

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

McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, Oct. 15

Collection is on the third Sunday of every month.

Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

Please donate non-perishable foods such as cereal, peanut butter and tuna, and men's and women's clothing to help HIV/AIDS patients and their families. This month the clinic would appreciate CEREAL over other non-perishable foods.

Solos Group Events

Contact: Annely Hudanick, annelyblue@hotmail.com

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

Sat. October 7, 1pm - Potluck at Kendra Maroon's (518) 572-9221
(limited seating, please RSVP)

Sat. October 21, 1pm - Lunch w/wo a movie, Jamaican American
Cafe, 3559 Fowler St., Fort Myers

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum 10:30 am Service	2	3 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group 6:30 pm Teaching Tues. w. Rev. CJ	4 7:00 pm Meditation	5  All Faiths Booth at PrideFest 12-5 pm	6 10:30 am Meditation	7 1:00 pm Solos Potluck 7:00 pm ACMA Concert: Grant Peeples
8 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum 10:30 am Service	9 12:00 pm Book Club	10 10:00 am Membership Mtg 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group 6:30 pm (CAT) Climate Action Team Mtg.	11 7:00 pm Meditation	12 10:00 am Finance Mtg.	13 10:30 am Meditation	14 7:00 pm ACMA Concert: Danika Holmes and Jeb
15 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum 10:30 am Service McGregor Clinic Collection	16	17 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group	18 3:45 pm Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Meditation	19 6:00 pm (FIG) Free Inquiry Group Mtg.	20 10:30 am Meditation 1:00 pm Solos Lunch w/wo a Movie	21 10:00 am Newcomers Orientation 7:00 pm ACMA Concert: Hank Woji & Eileen Kozloff
22 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum 10:30 am Service Immokalee Collection	23 1:00 pm Exec. Comm.	24 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group 6:30 pm Teaching Tues. w. Rev. CJ	25 7:00 pm Meditation	26	27 10:30 am Meditation	28 7:00 pm ACMA Concert: Dave Massengil
29 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum 10:30 am Service (New Member Recognition) Pet Shelter Collection	30	31 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group HALLOWEEN (Candy Handout in the Parking Lot)	7:00 pm Meditation			

OCTOBER ADULT ED. FORUMS

Sundays at 9:15 am

Please joins us to learn more about the Great World Religions. We are currently studying Hinduism with discussions led by Joyce Ramay.

Sunday, October 1

Lecture 7 – Hinduism: The Way of Action

Sunday, October 8

Lecture 8 – Hinduism: The Way of Wisdom

Sunday, October 15

Lecture 9 – Hinduism: Seeing God

Sunday, October 22

Lecture 10 – Hinduism: The Way of Devotion

Fifth Sunday, October 29

Animal Ministry, led by Debra MacDonald

TEACHING TUESDAYS

with Rev. CJ McGregor - 6:30 p.m

October 3 - Facing Death with Life

During this session we will engage a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on the topic of death and dying. Drawing on a variety of contemporary religious and secular resources, we will move from viewing death as an abstract concept to developing a personal recognition of its meaning in our lives.

October 24 -Faith Like a River

This session invites us to place ourselves into our history and consider its legacies and lessons for today.



ODYSSEY

In the past, the newsletter offered us a short biography of one of our members each month. In October, Rev. CJ will begin hosting a program he calls an *Odyssey*. Each month Rev. CJ will schedule an Odyssey with the member chosen to be highlighted. He will host an evening program where he will “interview” the member. It will be a mix of interview, storytelling, and an intimate look at the life and story of our members. You will know who has been invited by Rev. CJ each month by looking at the framed wall plaque in the Community Room.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Joyce Ramay, Finance Chair

Summer contributions were down while snowbirds were away and more local members were traveling. Hurricane Irma closed our doors on 9-10 and left us without air conditioning and electricity for our 9-17 service, so donations were low. Thanks to a very positive response from our members who contributed enough funds for us to benefit from an offer of matching funds up to \$6,000, we were able to increase our September donations to just over \$17,000 to cover expenses – but the final month end reports for September are not yet available. That has put us back in a better financial position after our low contributions for August, shown below.

We look forward to better numbers in the coming months, as our people return and enthusiastic support grows in appreciation of our wonderful new minister and our excellent staff, who always step up to serve above and beyond the call of duty.

CASH ASSETS AS OF 9-26-17

100 · Iberia Bank General Fund	9,313.30
102 · Iberia Bank Operating Reserve	51,503.49
103 · Raymond James Legacy Acct	31,955.39
105 · Pay Pal	452.52
107 · 2017 Capital Fund Acct.	<u>4,535.61</u>
Total 9-26	97,760.31
Total 7-31	<u>120,215.61</u>
Net Decrease	-22,455.30

August P&L

Income	7,388.44
Expense	<u>15,068.29</u>
Net Loss	-7,679.85

5 months P&L *

Income	101,001.84 *
Expense	<u>105,545.19 *</u>
Net	-4,543.35

* These numbers include both capital and operating income and expenses. Special Capital donation of \$19,520 was applied to reduce mortgage principal.

ALL FAITHS WELCOMES JOSEPH BRAUER AS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joseph Brauer has been selected as All Faiths Music Director. Joseph is a performing artist specializing in Musical Theatre. Born on an Air Force base in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Joseph spent most of his childhood in Northern Manitoba, Canada. He recently relocated to southwest Florida this summer.

Joseph began studying the piano at the age of five and then picked up the trombone. He began classical vocal studies at the age of 8. As he entered high school, he was volunteered to fill some small singing roles in "A Christmas Carol" and immediately fell in love with musical theatre. In addition to performing, Joseph has always loved the visual arts, and discovered an interest in theatrical and operatic makeup design through a class at North Dakota State University.

Joseph is currently working as a music director at Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers. He previously served as a church accompanist and musician for his father's church in Canada, and holds a BFA degree in Musical Theatre with a minor focused in choral/vocal music from the Challey School of Music in Fargo, North Dakota.

Welcome, Joseph!

CHILDREN'S R.E. UNDERWAY, DOING WELL

It has been two months since we reinstituted children's programming at All Faiths. Children and their teachers meet every Sunday in the Robinson Room as they are sung out of the sanctuary and to their program. In August 2017, six children attended the program and in September 2017, seven children attended the program. Not worrying about numbers and making sure the congregation serves families and children by offering programs is our goal.

A big thank you to our volunteer teachers Mary Corrigan, Ed Kleinow, Karen Jolaine, and Donna Lieber. We need volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer call the office.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM NOTES OCTOBER 2017

October 8 - Welcoming others is a sign of our Unitarian Universalist faith. This Sunday, we will hear a story based on a Hawaiian tale in which Pele, the goddess of fire, visits two families in disguise to teach a lesson of welcoming. We will sing and discuss "Come, Come, Whoever, You Are," a popular Unitarian Universalist hymn based on words of the Sufi mystic, Rumi. We will brainstorm ways to make the group welcoming and accessible to everyone.

October 15 - This Sunday we will consider the importance of the communities to which we belong, especially our congregation. We will discuss ways to support the congregation and other communities, and learn about the ritual for accepting new members into the congregation.

October 22 - We will learn how worship with our UU faith communities is a sign of our faith. We'll learn some components of a Unitarian Universalist worship service and create a mini-worship together.

October 29 - We understand ourselves as "stewards"—that is, people with ability and responsibility to contribute to the care of people and places they love, such as family, friends, their school, our congregation, and the earth we share. We are generous people that share to help take care of the congregation. The ritual for this session is the offertory, and the story is a wisdom tale from Islam about generosity.



Getting to know each other. Children gather in the Robinson room with program leader, Mary Corrigan. Programs and resources are designed to nurture Unitarian Universalist identity and spiritual growth, creating a transforming faith and vital communities of justice and love.

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

by Fran Way, Member Services

Each month the newsletter will profile an All Faiths' veteran and/or new member. This month we feature Elaine and Ron Dorais.



Elaine & Ron Dorais Members Since September 2017

Cape Coral residents Elaine and Ron Dorais first visited All Faiths in July of this year. They will be officially welcomed as members at Sunday services on October 29th. Elaine and Ron were both born and raised in Saco, Maine. Both are of French/Catholic heritage whose parents spoke French in the home. Elaine is number 14 out of 16 children. She says that by the time she was born, her older siblings spoke fluent English, and she grew up comfortably bilingual. Her father died when she was 16. She says, "We were a close-knit family, and everyone pitched in" to help their stay-at-home mother.

Ron grew up in a small family just blocks away from Elaine. He married at 16 and had two children. Ron went to work for Ma Bell beginning as a lineman and moving into a foreman position. Nine years later he went to work for AT&T headquartered in Ocala, Florida, he traveled with his construction crew over many states. During this period he said he was home in Maine with his family only two to three times a year, and his marriage failed.

Ten years older than Elaine, Ron was acquainted with her older siblings, but he and Elaine did not meet until their late twenties and thirties. Ron had moved back to Saco and was single when they met at the Eagles Club. On their first date Elaine reports Ron brought her a roast instead of flowers because he felt it was a more useful gift for a single mother of three small children. Ron and Elaine married two years later.

A stay-at-home mother, Elaine didn't get a driver's license until she was 32 because she grew up terrified of her father's terrible driving. She somehow communicated her fear to her children, and they marched into their garage and put on their bike helmets when they took their first ride with her. Elaine admits she still refuses to drive over the Cape Coral bridges.

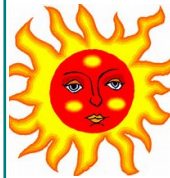
Employment opportunities in the Saco area were in decline and Ron listened to advice from his grown son that work was plentiful in Southwest Florida. Ron, Elaine and

family moved to Cape Coral in 1994, and Ron took jobs in excavation. A small-town girl close to her large family, Elaine found her new environment difficult at first. Once they bought their own home in North Cape Coral, she was able to indulge her love of fishing and crabbing on nearby Matlacha Pass. She also enjoys quilting and baking. Some fortunate All Faiths' members are enjoying gifts of fresh eggs from Ron and Elaine's flock of chickens.

Now semi-retired, Ron does remodeling and fine finish carpentry. His work for the Ezells resulted in Jeanne's inviting him and Elaine to visit All Faiths. Grieving over the recent loss of their son Jason, Ron and Elaine were struck by the friendliness of our congregation. In August Rev. CJ conducted a memorial service for Jason, and they were touched by the number of caring members who joined them. They attend the bereavement group that was formed in July for parents who have lost children. Elaine says, "I look forward to coming to church on Sunday!"

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM UPDATE

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



The September Climate Action Team meeting was cancelled because Hurricane Irma knocked out the power at All Faiths. Ironically, the unprecedented series of powerful storms this season have raised awareness of the terrible impact climate change is already having on our lives. People are finally beginning to understand that the need to act is urgent.

As part of our mission, the Climate Action Team is building strong ties to other groups working on environmental issues in our area. One of these, the Pachamama Alliance, is hosting a special program at our sister congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5th. Reverend James Reho will be speaking about his Pachamama Alliance Journey to Ecuador. We are all invited to learn more about this powerful spiritual alliance with the indigenous people of Ecuador who spearheaded this now international movement to rescue the natural world. This event promises to be an inspiring evening you'll be glad you were a part of.

At the October CAT meeting, which will be held at All Faiths on October 10th at 6:30 p.m., we will be formulating plans for fall events to reach out to both our congregation and the community with information and action-oriented programs. Our monthly meetings are open to everyone who wants to be a part of our efforts to make a difference. Won't you join us?

SHARING OUR GOOD FORTUNE

POST IRMA

by Beth Nightingale

Immediately before, during and after Irma, Steve, Sophia and I were extremely fortunate to seek refuge in my parents' comfortable vacant home in North Port.

During the days leading up to Irma's touchdown, Steve and I planned for a return to our uninhabitable home - having learned that we live in a flood zone. Unbeknownst to Sophia, we began planning to homeschool, relocate, and/or "start over." We discussed with my parents being able to live in their house and received much needed assurances that we would have any help that we needed. We did not need to worry- what a luxury that, I would soon learn, so many of those most affected by Irma did not have.

During all of the days leading up to and during Irma's touchdown, Sophia was well sheltered- physically and psychologically. This was possible because we had strong sturdy homes, independent resources available and the knowledge of shared family resources if necessary.

We were astounded to learn that we had been spared Irma's wrath. And we were all too aware that our good fortune was merely the result of a slight shift in path that devastated some of the most economically fragile areas in Southwest Florida.

Weeks after the hurricane when things were beginning to have a semblance of normalcy, Sophia's school ran a food drive. I explained to her that, unfortunately, those with the least resources were the most affected by Irma -- as they often are in times of natural disaster -- due to substandard housing. I told her that it is more important than ever to share and be generous. She then asked "Is our church doing something?" I responded that I really didn't know. To which she posited something like, "Well, being grateful is good, but it doesn't mean much if you're not doing something."

I reached out to Kendra Maroon and asked -- are we doing anything? What might we do? She responded that the Guadalupe Center in Immokalee is leading the quest for donations and that Bill Benyak had mentioned the importance of blood donation during Joys & Sorrows.

I learned from the Guadalupe Center's website that 1,300 children served by the Center in Immokalee are displaced, living in unsafe conditions or shelters. There is an URGENT NEED for the following items: bottled water, diapers, wipes and non-perishable food.

On October 22, we will take up a special item collection

for the Guadalupe Center of the urgently needed necessities including diapers, wipes, water and nonperishable food.

We also will be scheduling OneBlood's mobile blood donation bank to do a blood drive in All Faiths' parking lot on Saturday, December 9.

Please use some of your resources to provide urgently needed items for Immokalee's children and families on October 22. ■

JOYS & SORROWS

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

We hope that all of you got through Hurricane Irma safely and that you experienced little damage. Communications have been a problem in the past few weeks, so we regret deeply any omissions in this month's report.

Susan Anthony's dog, Skye, passed away. We share in her sorrow over the loss of her beloved pet.

Diane Chernow just became a great-great aunt. Her sweet little great-great niece, Frankie Ann, came into the world on September 3.

Jan Guardiano was hospitalized with severe sciatica pain. She is in the rehab unit of Calusa Harbour. We hope that she gets good treatment that relieves the pain.

Jolene Jeranson had nerve compression, leading to minimally invasive spinal surgery. We hope that it results in relief from pain.

Midge Magstadt continues to have treatments for cancer, which are having more side effects. We hope that the treatments are effective, so that she can enjoy life as she so well deserves.

Joan Marshall's sister had a heart attack and stent surgery while on vacation. Joan has gone out to drive her back home. We hope for a good recovery.

JoAnn Reece got married to Bob Hilliard while they were in Washington, D.C. We wish them great happiness in their new life together.

Linda Runkle's brother, Bob, passed away peacefully in Indiana after a brief illness. We send our condolences to Linda and her family.

A sneak peek HOLIDAYS AT ALL FAITHS



Sunday, November 19, 2017

Join us for our 10:30 am service. This is our Thanksgiving service and the sermon is titled *The Truth About Thanksgiving*. We will also have a cider and cornbread fellowship.



Sunday, December 3, 2017

During our 10:30 am service we will be reflecting on the story *The Cow and the Turkey* written by David Sedaris. Join us to hear the hilarious story of a greedy and scheming cow and a crafty Turkey. Prepare your heart and spirit for the season.



Sunday, December 10, 2017

Rabbi Bruce Diamond will be with us for our 10:30 am service. As Hanukkah nears he will present a service titled *Fading of the Light*. Rabbi Diamond and our Music Director, Joseph, will be collaborating to present special music.



Sunday December 17, 2017

Join us as we celebrate the Winter Solstice during our 10:30 am service. Winter Solstice has been celebrated in cultures the world over for thousands of years. This start of the solar year is a celebration of Light and the rebirth of the Sun. In old Europe, it was known as Yule, from the Norse, Jul, meaning wheel. Our celebration service will be led by Lee Page and others.



Sunday, December 17, 2017

Each year Rev. CJ opens his home to the children and youth of the congregation for cookie baking, a movie, and pizza. Children and youth can be dropped off at 12:15 pm and picked up at 2:30 pm.

A sneak peek at the Holiday (cont'd)



Tuesday, December 19, 2017

6:30 pm Join us for a HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG. Our Music Director, Joseph, will lead us in many of our holiday favorites. All voices are welcome. This promises to be a time for us to be together and celebrate. Rev. CJ will provide Figgy Pudding from his oven.



Sunday, December 24, 2017

10:30 am Join us for our Sunday service. Rev. CJ will offer his sermon *A Unitarian Christmas* in response to Garrison Keillor's claim that Unitarians ruined Christmas.

6:00 pm Join us for our evening Christmas Eve service. Rev. CJ will offer a sermon titled *Innkeeper*, we will have a children's choir, and a special choir and music program offered by our Music Director, Joseph.

INVITATION ALL FAITHS NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION

Hosted by the Rev CJ McGregor and the Membership Committee
Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m.

2756 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers

How much do you know about our All Faiths congregation? How much do you know about Unitarian Universalism? Did you know that UU congregations are self-governing, and that authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of the congregation?

At All Faiths we want our members and friends to understand what we believe in, what we strive for, and what we celebrate. We encourage every member to participate actively in their faith community.

If you are considering becoming a member, if you are a relatively new member, or if you're just curious, we invite you to come on Saturday, October 21 at 10:00 a.m. for snacks and informative workshop that will bring you up to speed on our faith community. Visitors are welcome, too.

**So that we can plan for your participation,
please sign up on Sunday
at the Activities Table in the Social Hall,
or RSVP Fran Way by email franwayrn@aol.com
or phone her at 863-675-7880**

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

October 2017 Concert Line-Up
Concerts Start at 7pm
\$15 General Public/\$10 ACMA Members

Saturday - October 7

Grant Peebles
w. Peg & Emery Williams opening

Saturday - October 14

Danika Holmes and Jeb
w. Scott Lee Dozier opening



Saturday - October 21

Hank Joji & Eileen Kozloff
w. Bob Williams opening

Saturday - October 28

Dave Massengill
w. Joe Virga opening



CLEANING CREW VOLUNTEERS OCTOBER 2017

Before Oct. 01 Ed Kleinow & Joyce Ramay
Before Oct. 08 **Super Cleaner Coming Soon**
Before Oct. 15 Sharon Gray & Bill Snider
Before Oct. 22 Cloyd & Jeanne Ezell
Before Oct. 29 Solos Super Clean

Thank you all for doing such a great job
all year. Your time is greatly appreciated.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Deadline for the **November** Issue of *Connection*:
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 12:00pm, Friday and Sunday.
Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin