

The Bulletin

April 2014 Bulletin@fculittle.org

Worship Services

“Freedom” is the theme for the month of April. What does it mean to live a life of *freedom*?

April 6

Theme: *Spiritual Development Sunday*

The Spiritual Development committee will lead this Multigenerational service and recognize the valuable contributions that we all make in providing a spiritual experience for our youth. Please join us as we reflect on the year and celebrate all those who make this program a success.

April 13

Theme: *Liberation - Or Why “Equality” Isn’t Enough*

What does the theme of “freedom” offer when we apply it to justice and social change? Join guest speaker Zr. Alex Kapitan for an exploration of what it means to hold liberation—not equality—at the core of our vision for a better world. Engage with how to live a life of personal liberation, to nourish and empower liberation as a congregation, and to center liberation in our vision of global Beloved Community.

April 17

Theme: *Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.*

The traditional First Church Unitarian communion service commemorating the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus with his Apostles prior to his crucifixion will be held in the Sanctuary. You are invited to join the Deacons in this community sacrament.

April 18

Theme: *Passover Seder at 5:30 p.m.*

Join us for our annual Passover Seder Ceremony and Supper. The ceremony starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner immediately following. See more explanation in the “Stuff to Do” section of this newsletter.

April 20

Theme: *Interfaith Sunrise Service at 5:45 a.m.*

Our ecumenical sunrise worship Easter morning with First Baptist Church of Littleton and the Congregational Church of Littleton will begin at 5:45 a.m. on telephone Hill. Larry Kaylor, Chair of the Deacons will be participating.

Directions: From Littleton Common, take Goldsmith Street (by the Baptist Church) 2-3 miles, than take the driveway on your right up the hill with the large tower.

April 20

Theme: *Easter Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.*

It is Easter and lo, my friends, the earth awakes again! This is a great time to decorate our egg tree and rediscover what about Unitarian Universalism grounds us in this very special time of the year. Let us join with the miracle that is springtime, and enter into new life with lightness and joy. All are welcome. Join us!

The Rev. Roger Peltier serves the UU Urban Ministry in the Office of Congregational and Volunteer Engagement. A popular preacher, Rev. Roger has served Florida's largest congregation in Sarasota, as well as the Mass Bay churches in Framingham, Grafton and Upton. He lives with his spouse, John Hickey, in Providence, RI.

April 27

Theme: Walking the Camino as a Pilgrimage

Verne McArthur will be sharing his reflections on walking the Camino, a world famous pilgrim road. Verne will tell us about his recent journey and lead us in singing.

Verne is a retired college teacher, a non-retired activist, singer and song leader. He is a regular “Musician of the Week” at Ferry Beach, where he also leads an annual choral singing workshop.

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**The Hospitality Crew is Looking for You**

[Hospitality@fculittle.org](mailto:Hospitality@fculittle.org)

Would you like to contribute to one of the most popular activities as FCU? Refreshments hosted in the Vestry following Sunday worship (often called Coffee Hour), offers a time of lively conversation and meaningful connection for the FCU community. The Sunday Hospitality crew gets credit for making this happen; and they do it with love. Please consider this opportunity to get to know other FCU members by joining the Sunday Hospitality Crew. The crew takes turns managing Sunday Hospitality during the church year. Each crewmember is responsible for only a few months each year. All it takes is a handful of hours during any month you serve. Those hours are flexible. At least three crewmembers are needed. Duties involve monitoring the Sunday Hospitality Volunteer Board and managing refreshment supplies. Duties **do not** include setup or cleanup. Please email the above address, contact Larry Kaylor, or email any of the FCU Deacons at [Deacons@fculittle.org](mailto:Deacons@fculittle.org) if you are interested in becoming a part of this crew.

~Larry Kaylor, Chair of the Deacons

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Virtual Candles of Caring

We hold in our hearts these candles of joys and sorrows shared this past month . . .

Candles of Sorrow

Our condolences go out to:

Kris Ersland and family at the death of her father, Carl Carlson

Ron Willet, Bill Mitchell and their circle of friends at the death of Robert Green

Our healing thoughts and prayers go out to:

Lorinda Morimoto’s daughter Melanie, having a hard time

Member of Jim Nehring’s family on a path of recovery

Luann Colombo’s former husband, just diagnosed with cancer

Candles of celebration

We celebrate with:

Melissa Baern and her husband on their 10th wedding anniversary

Prisl Dumka’s daughter Rachel due to graduate from college.

Louis Massauro’s mother on her 96th birthday

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**About Us**

***Path to Membership Orientation***

[MemberReach@fculittle.org](mailto:MemberReach@fculittle.org)

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 & Wednesday, April 30, 2014

7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room

Please come join us for our *Path to Membership Orientation*. There are two parts: Part 1 is Wednesday, April 23rd, and Part 2 is Wednesday, April 30th. At this gathering we'll share personal journeys, view a video about Unitarian Universalism, and provide an overview of First Church Unitarian. This program is strongly recommended for anyone wishing to become a member of FCU to attend both sessions. Please pre-register by contacting [MemberReach@fculittle.org](mailto:MemberReach@fculittle.org) or by adding your name to the signup sheet in the Vestry.

~*The MemberReach Team*

***Historical Trivia***

The stone bench in the side yard was placed in honor of Barbara Chapin on her retirement as church treasurer.

~*Joyce Williams, FCU Archivist*

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From the Church Office

Dear Beloved Community,

It is with great sadness that I now say goodbye to FCU. I have struggled with this decision, as FCU has been more than a job for me for the past 16+ years. Though it was heart-wrenching, I have accepted a position that is a great opportunity for me and for my family.

I have been blessed to work, celebrate and grow in this community. I have never been anywhere as long as I have with you all and leaving is very difficult however; I know I leave you in good hands with the rest of the staff here at FCU. You have a wonderful new Music Director in Molly who has settled in nicely. Your new Acting, Director of Spiritual Development, Gordon, is fired up and ready to challenge the youngest among you. Even though Rev. Marta is away at this time, she will return refreshed and renewed in just a couple months. Lastly, though you may not see him, Henry, your tirelessly hard-working Sexton is always here making sure your space is clean, safe and ready for you. Take the time to let your staff know how important their work is to you. You have no idea how far a few kind words can go.

I thank you all for the kind words I have received in the past two weeks, the gift at the service on March 23rd and the delicious cakes that followed. You will never know how much of a help you provided in the last act of kindness nor do you know how HONORED I felt on that day. I will miss you and hope to see you again in the future. I am truly grateful for the time we have spent together. I can say proudly that I would not be the person I am today if I had not come to work among you, with you and for you at FCU.

~*Sandy Leyenaar, your Church Office Administrator and Bulletin Editor*

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**Music Notes**

***FCU's Spring Choral Concert: A Celebration of Spring in Song***

[music@fculittle.org](mailto:music@fculittle.org) and/or [singing@fculittle.org](mailto:singing@fculittle.org)

Sunday, April 6, 2014

1:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

The Mixed Choir and the Artemis Singers are excited to invite you to our spring choral concert: *A Celebration of Spring in Song*. The choirs will greet the warmer weather and budding flowers with music by such composers as Abbie Betinis, John Rutter, and Gwyneth Walker, as well as FCU member Niela Miller. Several choir pieces will feature soprano soloist Lindsay Rinaldi and clarinetist Karen Luttik, who will also perform solo works with music director Molly Lozeau. A dessert reception will follow the concert.

Admission is free, but the Music Committee is seeking sponsors to help defray costs for music and musicians. Please contact Peggy Britton, Music Committee Chair at [singing@fculittle.org](mailto:singing@fculittle.org) with any donations.

**NOTE:** The Senior Youth Group (SYG) would usually have a breakfast, but have decided, in lieu of coffee hour, to move their Breakfast to a Brunch (with expanded menu) following service but before the concert. The charge will be \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids under 12. See details about the Brunch in the “Stuff to Do” Section of this newsletter.

***Molly Recommends***

[music@fculittle.org](mailto:music@fculittle.org)

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

7:00 p.m., in the Acton Congregational Church

*INTO A FAR COUNTRY: Musical Journey with the Prodigal Son*

In the Sanctuary of Acton Congregational Church, organist Liz Carley will present a lecture-recital on “The Prodigal Son.” Using music of the great organ composers, Liz will show how these composers wrote certain pieces to demonstrate the themes of this story: pride, jealousy, resentment, repentance, and God’s ever-faithful love. In addition to hymns (and with a little help from her friends), Liz will use a rollicking Irish drinking song, a Hank Williams song, a song from a 21st-century Christian composer, and an aria by Sir Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan fame). The program is intended to enrich the season of Lent.

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Spiritual Development News

Gordon Duke, Acting Director of Spiritual Development: DSD@fculittle.org

Spiritual Development Committee: SDC@fculittle.org

Senior Youth Group Advisors: SYG@fculittle.org

Junior Youth Group Advisors: JYG@fculittle.org

Youth Adult Council: YAC@fculittle.org

From Gordon’s Desk

Wisdom of the Month

This month’s source is Hinayana Buddhism

*“Holding onto thoughts of anger and vengeance is no different than holding onto a hot coal.
For in the end, you alone are being burned”
~Siddhartha Gautama*

CORI’s Needed

All adults who are involved in the Spiritual Development program, and have not completed a CORI within the past year, please pick up a blank copy in the envelope on the bulletin board to the right of the Spiritual Development office door. You can leave your completed form in the Standing Committee mail cubbie in the Volunteer Center. If you have any questions please contact Betsy Read at BetsyRead@verizon.net .

~Gordon Duke, Acting Director of Spiritual Development

Parents of School-Age Children

Sunday, April 27, 2014

4:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room

Babysitting in the Downstairs Dining Room

In an effort to build stronger connections with our FCU families, we are starting a Parents of School-Age Children group. This is not so much a support group, but more of an encouragement group. Please contact SDC@fculittle.org with any questions.

~Bobbie Dressel

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**Church Business**

***Sabbatical Team News***

[SabbTeam@fculittle.org](mailto:SabbTeam@fculittle.org)

It's hard to believe, but we are nearly halfway through Rev. Marta's sabbatical! Please mark your calendars for a service by the Sabbatical Team and a celebratory luncheon to welcome Rev. Marta back on Sunday, June 1.

In March we continued to enjoy outstanding services by guests and lay leaders within FCU, including Rev. Stephen Shick, Janice Marie Johnson of the UUA, our own Betsy Read, who led a multi-generational service focusing on the earth's vulnerability and a Parents' Day service led by FCU's Caring for Our Aging Parents group.

Information about all upcoming Sabbatical services may be found in the [Sabbatical Sundays](#) brochure, located along with the [Guide to Rev. Marta's Sabbatical](#), in the brochure rack next to the Sabbatical Team bulletin board at the foot of the stairs in the Volunteer Center. The guide has all the information you need about how church operations will work and who to contact in Rev. Marta's absence.

Please contact Lay Pastoral Ministers Linda Bracco or Larry Kaylor if you have any concerns for which you would ordinarily seek pastoral care from Rev. Marta. If needed, they will call upon the local minister who is covering for Rev. Marta.

Please don't hesitate to speak with any member of the Sabbatical Team about any other questions, feedback or concerns you may have.

*~The Sabbatical Team - Jeanne Anthony and Phyllis Terrey: co-chairs, Linda Bracco: Lay Pastoral Minister, Lynn Courtney: Worship Associate, Debbie Eston: Deacon, Betsy Read: Standing Committee*

***Executive Team News***

[ET@fculittle.org](mailto:ET@fculittle.org)

***Keeper of the Flame Award Nominations***

Since 2009 the Executive Team has awarded a *Keeper of the Flame* award to an FCU member for outstanding service to our community. Nominees for this award may be made by any FCU member or staff member.

The qualities we are looking for in a *Keeper of the Flame* nominee includes but are not limited to: service to FCU above and beyond the call, strong examples of personal ministry to our church community, leadership in performing a difficult but crucial body of work for FCU, longevity of service, and a consistent high quality of work.

Please submit the name of the nominee, along with a description of his/her accomplishments and contributions in service to FCU to any member of the Executive Team by the end of April. The Executive Team will review all nominations and decide on a recipient.

~Larry Kaylor, for the Executive Team

### ***Standing Committee Stuff***

[SC@fculittle.org](mailto:SC@fculittle.org)

#### *Administrative Support*

Sandy's last day in the office was March 28th. After that we are planning on hiring a temporary Administrator through the end of the church year, so that Rev. Marta will be available for input regarding the search for a permanent hire. A search team is in the process of being convened for both the temporary and permanent placement. In the meantime, we need the help of volunteers to ensure the continuity of some of Sandy's responsibilities, and to help the temporary staff person learn the ropes. Several people have already stepped up and volunteered their time and skills, and are really appreciated! If you are interested in joining them, please contact [SC@fculittle.org](mailto:SC@fculittle.org) or let any member of the Standing Committee know.

#### *Delegates for the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly Needed*

Are you interested in representing FCU at UUA General Assembly (GA) this year? GA 2014 begins June 25th in Providence, RI. Delegates are selected by the Nominating Committee and voted on at Annual Meeting, so contact the Nominating Committee at [nominating@fculittle.org](mailto:nominating@fculittle.org) if you would like to be a delegate. You can find more information about GA and serving as a delegate on the UUA website.

#### *Littleton 300*

Part of the Littleton 300th birthday celebration in September will be a parade through town on September 6th. It would be wonderful if FCU could have a float, but we need someone to pick up that ball and run with it. If designing and building parade floats is within your area of expertise, or you would like it to be, please let anyone on the Executive Team know. You can find more information on the Littleton 300 Parade at [www.littleton300.org](http://www.littleton300.org).

#### *Endowment Education*

The Standing Committee would like to express their appreciation to the Trustees for their informative presentation on "Understanding the Endowment" last month.

~Cally Henriques, for the Standing Committee

#### ***Deacons Notes***

[Deacons@fculittle.org](mailto:Deacons@fculittle.org)

#### *Be the New FCU Representative to the Joint Summer Services*

In a recent newsletter, we announced changes to the Joint Summer Services (JSS) with the Harvard and Acton/Stow UU churches. Elinor McCarthy Gentilman, our representative for the entire eleven years of the service, is ready to hand over the reigns. If you are willing to carry this wonderful tradition forward for FCU representative, please speak with Elinor or a deacon to learn more. The Deacons would like to extend a huge thank you to Elinor for all her efforts over the years to engage in the JSS.

#### *Passover Seder Potluck and an Another Opportunity*

The annual FCU Passover Seder Service & Potluck will be held on Friday, April 18th. This delightful event has been coordinated by Karen Reardon and Yuval Gonan for many years, but this year will be their last. If you would like to see this tradition continue, please contact Karen or Yuval to find out what is involved. To Karen and Yuval, we would like to extend a huge thank you from FCU and the Deacons for your all your efforts in making this event so special over the years.

~Larry Kaylor, Chair of the Deacons

### **Lay Pastoral Ministry Notes**

[LayPastoralMinistry@fculittle.org](mailto:LayPastoralMinistry@fculittle.org)

*“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things  
And now abide faith, hope, love, these three but the greatest of these is love.”  
~1 Corinthians 13:5,7*

During Rev. Marta’s sabbatical, the Lay Pastoral Ministers continue to be available with a non-critical listening ear for anyone experiencing the need for support or ministerial services. All conversations are held in the strictest confidentiality. To reach a Lay Pastoral Minister, please email to the above address, or, if there is a critical or emergency need, please call Linda Bracco at H:978/448-2544 or C:978/732-7150.

*~David Butz, for the Lay Pastoral Ministry Team*

### **Stewardship News**

[Stewardship@fculittle.org](mailto:Stewardship@fculittle.org)

We hope to see you at our annual Stewardship dinner on March 29th, at 6:00 p.m. in the downstairs dining room at FCU. You will be the first to see the video, *What Nourishes Your Heart?* starring many FCU members and friends. As we have been working on the video, we have found it so moving and inspiring to hear about the deep connections and spiritual nourishment that many of us find at FCU.

Please join us for a nourishing meal of "comfort food" and a time to appreciate the many gifts that individual members and friends bring to help create our abundant FCU community, as well as an opportunity to think about, and even complete, our financial pledges for the coming church year. Not to mention, a surprise or two. We have accomplished great things together, and with the generosity of spirit that so characterizes FCU, we will continue to do so.

If you have not already filled out the RSVP form, please use this link:

<http://www.fculittle.org/forms/StewardshipDinner.htm>

*~Lynn Courtney, for the Stewardship Team*

*Stewardship Team: Lynn Courtney, Kris Ersland, Eric Semple, Laura Semple, Sara Weeks and Deb Girard  
(Standing Committee Liaison)*

### **Message from the Committee on Ministries**

[COM@fculittle.org](mailto:COM@fculittle.org)

It has come to our attention that there is some lack of clarity about the role of the Committee on Ministries (COM) in the Congregation. Our mission is stated as follows:

*“The COM is designed to assess and support the heartbeat of ministries within the Congregation, with the ultimate purpose of strengthening the quality of ministries within the Congregation.”*

So we are there to support all the ministries and deal with issues that manifest. To that end we have in past years, and again this year, met with various committees to hear what is going well, and what are concerns of that ministry – to do a check in with them. If there are issues in a ministry that can’t be resolved within the ministry, or in consultation with the Deacons or the Standing Committee, these issues could be brought to the Committee on Ministries. Our ministry has been evolving well and we are thankful for your support.

*~Araya Fast, Chairwoman of the Committee on Ministries*

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Coffeehouse Information

Firehouse Coffeehouse Season 20

Coffeehouse@fculittle.org, Tix@fculittle.org

Firehouse Band, Lori Diamond & Fred Abatelli and The Firehouse Band

Friday, April 4, 2014

8:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Singer-songwriter Lori Diamond and musician Fred Abatelli and The Firehouse Band perform a split bill. Fans of Norah Jones, Sarah MacLachlan and Joni Mitchell, quickly become fans of Lori and Fred as they explore jazz, acoustic, folk, pop, gospel and blues influences and gently infuse them in a flavorful, compelling contemporary style. FCU's own Firehouse Band will also perform - enjoy their beautiful harmonies, in a wonderfully warm and folksy show!

Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance from Kris and Peter Erslund at coffee hour following Sunday worship, at www.BrownPaperTickets.com, by mail order via website <http://www.fculittle.org/fhch> or by calling 978/742-9957. This event is wheelchair accessible. Proceeds benefit First Church Unitarian, Littleton.

Coming in May - Inca Son.

Coffeehouse Goodies

Cookies, brownies, pies, cakes and other delectables are needed for the Friday, April 4th Firehouse Coffeehouse concert at FCU. Please bring baked items during the day to the church office or downstairs prior to the performance. Everything sells for \$1, so please size and wrap your creation accordingly and please indicate if it contains nuts.

~Firehouse Coffeehouse Goodies Crew

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**Stuff to Do at FCU**

***Collecting Donelan's Saver Stamps***

The Women's Alliance will be collecting "saver stamps" from Donelan's Markets until May 1, 2014.

We hope to collect and redeem enough stamps to donate bakeware to Household Goods Recycling and to the church for the kitchens.

We will place a coffee can for collecting loose stamps and a large envelope for stamp books on the desk in the Vestry. Thank you.

*~Elinor Gentilman, for The Women's Alliance of First Church Unitarian*

***No Breakfast, But Join Us for Brunch***

Sunday, April 6, 2014

11:15 a.m., in the Downstairs Dining Room

The Senior Youth Group would like to thank our FCU friends for your regular support of our monthly breakfasts this year. In April, we're planning something a bit different. In support of the choir concert at 1:00 p.m., the SYG is planning to offer brunch immediately following the service. Join us downstairs for an expanded breakfast menu. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, or \$20 for the whole family.

*~Peter Erslund for the Senior Youth Group*



**Passover Seder**

[seder@fculittle.org](mailto:seder@fculittle.org)

Friday, April 18, 2014

5:30 p.m., Downstairs Dining Room

Come one and all to the FCU Seder Service & Potluck Supper and come together to celebrate freedom. We'll read from the Haggadah, have some matzo ball soup, eat good food, and make sure the children have some fun. We ask everyone to bring some food to share (kosher for Passover means no wheat products or dairy. Don't panic. We have recipes.) Sign up in the Vestry, or contact us with any questions.

*~Karen Reardon, Seder Coordinator, Larry Kaylor, Chair of the Deacons*

**All-church Cook-off & Fun Game Night**

*Games, Goodies, and Giggles*

[FFF@fculittle.org](mailto:FFF@fculittle.org) and/or [Alliance@fculittle.org](mailto:Alliance@fculittle.org)

Saturday, April 12, 2014

6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Downstairs Dining Room

Bring your favorite board game and chili and corn bread to the annual *All-church Cook-off & Fun Game night*. The Adult Enrichment Committee and the Women's Alliance are co-sponsoring this multigenerational evening of Fun, Food, & Fellowship.

Singles, couples, families—all are welcome! Join us in the downstairs dining hall and relax with family and friends after a busy week. If you are new to the church, it is a fun way to meet members and friends of our church community. Also, you can vote for your favorite chili and cornbread. A \$25 donation will be made to each winning cook's favorite charity. The donations are offered by the Women's Alliance.

Sign up on the clipboard in the Vestry, so we can set up the appropriate number of seats and roughly coordinate the food (although last-minute surprises and arrivals are always welcome!). We will provide green salad and finger-food desserts.

We would love to see you, whether or not you bring a game or dish to share.

For more information or questions, please email the Food, Fun, and Fellowship Coordinator at [FFF@fculittle.org](mailto:FFF@fculittle.org) and/or the [eagmcc@aol.com](mailto:eagmcc@aol.com) for the Women's Alliance. We hope to see you there!

*~Elinor Gentilman, for the Women's Alliance; Lori Locascio, for Food, Fun and Fellowship*

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Adult Enrichment Activities

AEC@fculittle.org

Register for all Adult Enrichment events by signing up in the Vestry or emailing to the above address **unless otherwise indicated**. Lynda Kaylor leads the Committee.

Tech Day Success

The Adult Enrichment Committee would like to express thanks to all those who made our Tech Day a success on February 22nd. Special thanks to Thom Bently, Riana Bucceri, Ralph Griesenbeck, Larry Kaylor, Adam Leyenaar, Patricia McCauley, Mike Pilman, Ed Russell, and Brian Tarbox for helping to enlighten us on various aspects of technology and social media. We are hoping to do it again in the future.

Caring for Our Aging Parents

COAP@fculittle.org

Monday, April 7, 2014

7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room

Many of us are intimately involved with the emotional toll that it takes to care for an aging parent. This peer support group is a place where you can comfortably talk about the process with others who are going through the same challenges. Whether you are in the midst of dealing with it now or have had an experience in the past and have insights and resources to share, come be part of our group. We meet the first Monday of the month each month. Please email the above address for more information.

NOTE: Our May meeting will be Monday, May 5, 2014 7:00 to 9:00 in the Alliance Room.

Energy Medicine Study Group

EnergyStudy@fculittle.org

Thursday, April 10, 2014, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Alliance Room

Facilitated by Cerridwen, the Group seeks development of better health, cognition, emotional well-being, spiritual attunement, inner guidance, personal empowerment and interpersonal connections through work with subtle energy, imagery, movement, intention and touch. The Group is open, no experience is needed, and newcomers are always welcome. Please contact EnergyStudy@fculittle.org for more information or if you have questions.

Sacred Circle Dance

Circle@fculittle.org

Friday, April 11, 2014, in the Vestry

Easier Dances: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Community Circle: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

We made it to Spring! Let's celebrate and move forward with gentle dances that soothe, refresh, and renew the spirit. Circle dance builds community and enables personal healing and growth. NO experience is needed - all dances are taught - newcomers always welcome. Don't forget your water bottle and a willing attitude. Please email to the above address any questions you may have.

Easter Stories

Saturday, April 19, 2014

2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the Vestry

In our beloved community Easter means something different to each of us. Come and tell your Easter story and/or listen to the Easter stories of others. We can also discuss the growing historic information about the life and death of Jesus and the zeal of his followers after his death. Come and share your thoughts about how a tiny movement grew into the World Religion called Christianity.

Images of Multiculturalism Film and Discussion Series

Friday, April 25, 2014

7:00 to 9:30 p.m., in the Vestry

In this month's film, *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide. Please join us!

Finding Peace

Sunday, April 27, 2014

7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Vestry

What can we learn from Buddhist teachings that we can use in our everyday lives? Come explore with us the teachings of renowned American Buddhist, Pema Chodron. You will come to appreciate her wisdom and how it can help soothe to our stress-filled lives. We will listen, reflect and discuss her inspiring talks in a casual and comfortable group. No preparation is needed and you need not have attended previous meetings. Find out

why the insights of Pema Chodron resonate in our modern world. Contact the Adult Enrichment Committee at the above provided email with any questions.

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**Events to Save the Date For**

***FCU Plant Exchange***

Saturday, May 17, 2014

10:00 a.m. to Noon, in front of the Church

Perhaps you have a cluster of new-growth hostas or other ground plants that need separating and sharing?

OR fresh wet cuttings of plants that can be starters for someone?

OR an outdoor or indoor plant you'd like to exchange with someone or sell?

OR a garden feature (fountain, figurine, borders, etc.) you no longer need?

Come share, exchange, and visit with other Plant People, get a creative start on warm weather.

Open to the public! Please email [AEC@fculittle.org](mailto:AEC@fculittle.org) for more information.

***FCU observes LGBTQ Pride/Awareness Month***

Saturday, June 14, 2014

7:00 – 9:00 p.m., in the Vestry

For everyone, a potluck supper followed by a “special” game of Human Bingo (including a version for the kids). Please e-mail [AEC@fculittle.org](mailto:AEC@fculittle.org) for more information.

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FCU is Socially Active

CSJ@fculittle.org

Opportunities to Make a Difference:

Please watch for news on the listserve and during coffee hour about the *Jobs - Not Jails* campaign. The *Coalition for Jobs Not Jails* is sponsoring a rally on the Boston Common on Saturday, April 26th, and will submit petitions to our legislators and governor calling upon them to enact various criminal justice reforms, halt the construction of new prisons, and re-direct the \$2 billion dollar savings into a jobs program. *Sign a petition and attend the rally!* Our own Carolyn McCreary and Susan Tordella raised money to buy a copy of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* for each legislator!

The *Massachusetts Trust Act*, a state bill to provide immediate relief from deportations, strengthen public safety, and set an example that propels the national conversation on immigration reform toward inclusion. Specifically the bill sets a clear standard for local governments not to submit to burdensome requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain people for deportation who have otherwise been ordered released by the courts, will be coming out of committee and going to the floors of the House and Senate for a vote. Please sign the *Inter-faith Sign-On Letter* at coffee hour to support this legislation.

Ending Mass Incarceration

Carolyn McCreary and Susan Tordella were challenged by State Senator Jamie Eldridge to place a copy of the book *The New Jim Crow*, on the desk of each member of our state congressional delegation. *The New Jim Crow* refers to the current legal means of discrimination toward African Americans, and the book, *The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander, was chosen by the UUA as its common read book in 2012-2013. Its author spoke to an audience of over 600 people at the 2012 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. With the help of many of you and the support of the beloved conversations group, Carolyn raised \$2200 for the purchase of 200 copies of the book. The books will be

hand-delivered in conjunction with the programs of UU Mass Action and *Jobs Not Jails*.

You can help by joining the beloved conversations group at the rally to end mass incarceration and fund job creation on April 26th at 12:00 p.m. on the Boston Common. We are the generation that must stop this new form of discrimination.

Loaves & Fishes

Thank you to all those individuals and families who have donated to Loaves & Fishes (L&F) in the last month. As a community we were able to collect **5** bags of food items in the past month.

The FCU community is invited to bring one item (or more) per month to support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Devens. Please contact CSJ@fculittle.org with any questions you may have.

April Item: Baby Shower: Anything that has to do with babies except formula.

~Council on Social Justice

Other Items Needed This Month

Canned Meats/Stews/Hash	Rice-a-Roni/Boxed Flavored Rice	White Tuna
Canned Tomato Products	Beans: Garanzo & Re-fried	Feminine Care Products
Canned Fruit	Pork-n-Beans	Deodorant
Canned Pasta	Canned Beets/Spinach/Sauerkraut	Shampoo/Conditioner
Helpers/Pasta Sides	Mac & Cheese	Soap

Neighborhood Supper

Neighborhood@fculittle.org

Calling All Bakers!

FCU is cooking the Neighborhood Supper on Tuesday, April 15th. We offer Brownies for dessert after the supper. They are easy to bake ahead, easy to deliver, and tasty with ice cream for dessert (no nuts, please). If you would like to help us out, you can drop off brownies at the Congregational Church on the day of the supper, or contact the email address above for other arrangements.

~Kris Erslund, for the Neighborhood Supper Task Force

Share-the-Plate

STP@fculittle.org

Do you have a favorite local charity??

This year, the FCU Share-the-Plate program is focused on *local charities*. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, a local charity receives all undesignated offerings and checks made out to the charity as a contribution from the First Church Unitarian congregation. Please take a moment to nominate your suggestion by emailing to the above email address and have your favorite local charity receive a significant financial contribution from your church.

February Totals

On February 16th, the FCU congregation contributed \$1053 to the Restoration Project located in West Concord Massachusetts. Restoration Project is an award-winning, nonprofit vocational rehabilitation program, which teaches traditional methods of furniture restoration to adults with mental illness and head injuries, as well as at-risk adolescents.

March Totals

On Sunday, March 16, the FCU congregation contributed \$589 to *Littleton Conservation Trust* in response to the presentation made by Trustee Rick Findlay. The trust is a not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to preserve Littleton's "rural character" through conservation of natural resources, open space, wildlife habitat, and historic landmarks. The Trust serves as the town's environmental conscience.

April Recipient

The STP recipient for April is the Westford Food Pantry. The food pantry provides food to low income residents of Westford. The *Westford Food Pantry* is administered through the Cameron Senior Center. Please come prepared on Easter Sunday, April 20th to make a financial donation; checks may be made payable to the *Friends of the Cameron Senior Center*.

Multicultural Ministries Committee (MMC)

Multicultural@fculittle.org

The Renewing Our Commitment to *Multicultural Ministries: GRACE (Growing Racial and Cultural Diversity)* Summit will be held on Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In the past three years, the GRACE Team Summit has offered training about the stages organizations go through from being monocultural to becoming truly equitable, inclusive and multicultural— please speak to any member of the MMC if you are interested in attending.

The film *Traces of the Trade* will be shown on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Vestry. Please see *Adult Enrichment Activities/Images of Multiculturalism Film and Discussion Series* for more information. Please see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMJGGtnlTtw> to watch the trailer.

~*The Multicultural Ministries Committee*

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**FCU – FYI**

*Lay Pastoral Ministers:* [LayPastoralMinistry@fculittle.org](mailto:LayPastoralMinistry@fculittle.org)

The Lay Ministers offer a listening ear and pastoral attention to members of the congregation.

**Lay Pastoral Minister for this month: Bill Duston**

Lay Pastoral Ministers: Linda Bracco, David Butz, Bill Duston, Anna Fadden, Claire Farrell, Jim Nehring, Phyllis Terrey, & Barbara Whitcomb

***Communications Deadlines***

*Community Matters Notices:* [announce@fculittle.org](mailto:announce@fculittle.org)

The deadline is Every Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. These notices are printed each Sunday that church is in session September through June, in the Order of Service and then distributed on the FCU listserv.

*The Bulletin:* [Bulletin@fculittle.org](mailto:Bulletin@fculittle.org)

The deadline is 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd Monday of each Month. This publication is for articles about our church community to keep you in touch with the “Happenings” at FCU.

**Next deadline:** Monday, April 21st, at 9:00 a.m.

***Stay in Contact with FCU***

*Web Address:* [www.fculittle.org](http://www.fculittle.org)

*Mailing Address:* First Church Unitarian, 19 Foster Street, Littleton, MA 01460

*Email Address:* [Office@fculittle.org](mailto:Office@fculittle.org)

*Phone:* 978/486-3044

*FCU Community Listserv Signup:* <http://seven.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/fcu>

*FCU Facebook Page:* <http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchUnitarianLittleton>